Most Recent Management Team review: November 30, 2023 Most Recent Leadership Team review: December 7, 2023 Most Recent Board of Directors review: January 25, 2024

Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc.

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Program, Planning & Evaluation (PP&E) Committee Approved – November 10, 2022 Board of Directors Approved – December 8, 2022



Introduction

The 2023-2027 strategic plan is rooted in the national Community Action Theory of Change and informed by the Board of Directors' 2022 reaffirmation of CAPCO's mission and values:

Mission

CAPCO is dedicated to providing and advocating for community-wide actions and programs that increase individuals' dignity and self-reliance and improve community conditions, engaging all sectors of the community in Cortland County's fight against poverty.

We Value

- The voices and experiences of the people we serve, and their full participation in our community.
- Respect for ourselves and all those we come in contact with in our work.
- Accountability for our resources and results to our participants and our community.
- Cooperation and partnership within CAPCO and with the individuals and organizations that support our mission.
- A commitment to understanding our own and others' strengths, and using these strengths to support our program, management and governance activities.

Plan Focus

The 2023 plan's format has been updated to support CAPCO's agency-wide impact in the key community needs identified in the 2021 Community Needs Assessment: mental health services, educational disparities, risk factors related to adverse childhood experiences, increasing cultural diversity, deficit in available childcare/early childhood education opportunities, and nutrition/food assistance. This plan maintains some strategic priorities found in the former strategic plan while responding to emerging community needs.

The plan further establishes CAPCO's leadership role in community-wide dialogue toward a common understanding of poverty and the very real barriers that people face in moving out of poverty. It introduces best and promising program practices and promotes collaborations with local, statewide and national partners that extend CAPCO's program and advocacy impact beyond what one organization can accomplish on its own. The goals and strategies included here also assume continued improvements to existing programs and partnerships, based on the ongoing monitoring of outcome data, customer feedback, and management discussion.

Planning Activities and Timeline

Formal planning activities began in March 2022, following the approval of the 2021 Community Needs Assessment. NYSCAA staff met with the Executive and Deputy Director to design a timeline to ensure the agency-wide strategic plan be completed by December 2022. On June 1, 2022 a full-day planning meeting was held with management and leadership staff and the Board's Program Planning and Evaluation Committee members to review the current plan and discuss opportunities for CAPCO based on emerging needs identified in the needs assessment and by CAPCO staff. NYSCAA staff reviewed the needs assessment report and the summaries of the listening sessions with staff in the spring of 2021, which captured feedback on CAPCO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). Additional work took place in All Staff and Management meetings, as staff identified the program and service development, partnerships, funding opportunities, and internal efficiencies that will drive CAPCO's impact in these need areas during the next five years.

NYSCAA met with the Executive and Deputy Directors on August 11, 2022 to review the draft plan and make revisions. The plan was updated to reflect the revisions and was presented to the Board's Program and Planning Committee on November 10, 2022, and was voted on by the entire board on December 8, 2022.

Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) in Strategic Planning

The importance of ROMA in the agency's strategic planning process can be traced back to IM 49, issued by the federal Office of Community Services (OCS) in 2001, which replaced the original Office of Economic Opportunity. OCS set the ROMA framework clearly within the compliance context set by the Government Performance and Accountability Act. IM 123, issued in 2011, emphasized further the importance of building a performance management structure using ROMA and the National Performance Indicators (NPIs). IM 138 issued by OCS in January 2015 with the release of the CSBG Organizational Standards, highlighted the importance of performance management using the Standards, ROMA and state and federal accountability measures.

CAPCO implements ROMA's performance management framework to not only monitor and track program-based delivery systems and outcomes, but also to assess how programs work together to promote changes for the customer and community. CAPCOs Strategic Plan reflects CAPCO's commitment to improving communities and the lives of people living in poverty, as well as its management processes. To underscore

the importance and use of ROMA in the strategic planning process, the facilitator of the board/staff planning session on August 11 and one of the drafters of this document is a nationally certified ROMA Trainer.

Customer Satisfaction

The purpose of reviewing customer satisfaction data is to help ensure that CAPCO's strategic plan is directly connected to the community needs assessment (CNA) and responsive to its customers and communities. Customers provide essential insights on such issues as the effectiveness of service delivery strategies, changes to policies and processes that can increase efficiency, and problems with access caused by where programs are physically located in the community. Customer feedback is also a key element of evaluating programs and services and is another core component of the ROMA cycle.

In CAPCO's most recent needs assessment completed in 2021, the responses to a series of questions asked about CAPCO services were overwhelmingly positive: 91% reported that staff listened and treated them with respect, 97% would recommend CAPCO to family and friends, and 97% would go back to CAPCO for additional services if needed.

CAPCO also conducted an agency-wide customer satisfaction survey in 2022. Customers from various programs, including Early Head Start/Head Start, WIC, Healthy Families, Energy Services, and Family Essentials, among others, completed the survey. Mirroring the results of the survey done in 2021, 94% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they were treated with respect by CAPCO staff, and 92% agreed or strongly agreed staff listened and responded to concerns. Additionally, 82% of respondents indicated that CAPCO staff told them about other CAPCO programs that could be helpful, and 81% noted that CAPCO staff provided information about other community programs that could be of assistance.

Format and Accountability

Three of the plan's four impact areas (Individual and Family Stability/Security, Community Conditions and Opportunities, and Community Engagement) reflect the three national Community Action goals and the fourth, included in previous plans, emphasizes CAPCO's capacity as an effective mission-based not-for-profit corporation and community partner. Within each of the four goal areas, outcomes, strategies, measurements, and timeline to be able to document progress on achievement of the goals.

<u>Key:</u>	
Green	Strategies in-progress, completed, or current plans to move strategies forward.
Yellow	Strategies not yet started, re-evaluation may be needed.
Red	Strategies not started with no current plans to move strategies forward. Re-

IMPACT AREA: Individual and Family Stability/Security

Goal 1: People with low incomes are stable and have economic security.

Strategic Priority: Explore avenues to address homelessness in the community.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAP understands the extent of homelessness in the community and the available services	Conduct an inventory of homelessness needs and what resources are currently available in the community to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families Assess service gaps	Inventory completed and services gaps determined	2023 & Ongoing	Green	CAPCO actively participates at the County-level Homelessness & Housing Coalition with key human service providers and publicly elected officials. CAPCO's role remains supportive with emergency services solutions while housing entities assess housing stock and housing projects.
CAPCO determines its role in addressing homelessness in the community	Depending on inventory data, consider CAPCO's role in addressing homelessness, such as, but not limited to: • Act as a convener to bring service providers together • Expand the family advocate (or another position(s))	Clearly defined role for CAPCO with specific goals for addressing homelessness moving forward	2023 & Ongoing	Yellow/Green	CAPCO has not moved to clearly define our specific goals around homelessness but continue to assess and analyze the growing problem through our programmatic data and experiences. CAPCO's role has been and will likely remain supportive services to housing providers, but our work on County coalitions continues to help us share our role and response.

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CAPCO determines its	Explore funding		Green	CAPCO is not a place of exploring funding specific to housing given
role in addressing	sources to meet the			our current funding and service
homelessness in the	identified need(s)			delivery and the supportive
community (Cont.)				services and collaboration we
				offer to housing providers in our
				community. However, our current
				funding and future funding
				opportunities continue to center
				around building capacity and
				emergency needs. We work with
				Agencies who are currently
				offering housing solutions to help
				expand offerings and capacity.

Strategic Priority: E	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO determines its role/capacity to offer fee-based child care opportunities in the community, specifically focused on wrap-around services	Reach out to school districts and other partners to discuss childcare needs and opportunities	Outreach/meetings held/conducted	2023 & Ongoing	Yellow	CAPCO is only funded to offer a finite number of Head Start & Early Head Start slots, and just underwent a Change in Scope. We are connected closely with feebased childcare options, including partnership with the YWCA Cortland. Initial discussions have been initiated to look at partnering with the YWCA Cortland to offer wraparound services at 1 more Head Start locations.
	Research and study the community need and determine the necessity for wrap- around child care	Study completed and decision made	2024	Yellow	CAPCO is not currently at a place to move forward with offering a fee-based wrap-around option, but discussions and possibilities will continue to be explored with fee-based providers, including the YWCA Cortland.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Residents with low incomes have increased options for healthy food	Provide options to buy local, seasonal food directly through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	An increase in the CSA options and the number of residents who take advantage of the opportunity	Ongoing	Green	CAPCO has long operated the EBT procedures and functionality for the City of Cortland Farmer's Market. In 2023, Main Street construction and hot spot challenges limited EBT use, but ware working with our local partners to improve this as we look to start planning for 2024.

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Residents with low	Provide outreach to	The number of	Ongoing	Green	Our NOEP Coordinator does
incomes have	vulnerable	SNAP applications			ongoing outreach at local events
increased options for	communities through				and food pantries/emergency
healthy food (Cont.)	the Nutrition				food providers, including but not
, , ,	Outreach and				limited to Loaves & Fishes and the
	Education Program				Salvation Army weekly as well as
					The Chapel Fresh Food Giveaway
	(NOEP)				monthly. Our Family Development Family Advocate tables at least
					monthly at the Marathon Food
					Pantry providing all CAPCO
					resources, including NOEP
					information. CAPCO also serves as
					the sponsoring entity for the
					Marathon Food Pantry under a
					CAPCO Board Member's direction.
					CAPCO Board Member's direction.

Expand gardening opportunities at Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS)	The number of families who access garden produce	2023 & Ongoing	Yellow	We maintain our garden for Head Start & Early Head Start at our South Main Facility. We have reinvigorated this and are identifying the capacity to maintain this on a more consistent basis for child learning and nutritional use. As we get to a better place in our current garden's use, we will look at ways to expand its use programmatically and in the community.
Continue to promote the farmers market especially through the WIC program	Increased WIC Farmers Market redemption rates	Ongoing	Yellow	CAPCO's Cortland County WIC Program continued to partner with our local Farmer's Market and issued 991 booklets to our WIC participants in 2023, each valued at \$25 for fresh fruits and vegetables. However, we do not have access to redemption rates and do not have a good gauge on overall usage. This is something we will continue to work with our partners at the Farmer's Market to capture.

	Explore partnerships with local producers/farm initiatives	Increased partnerships for families to access fresh fruits and veggies	Ongoing	Green	We continue to receive donations for emergency food response from local providers, including working with the Seven Valley Health Coalitions' Farm Rescue program. We have official partnerships with Main Street Farms and operate the EBT for the yearly Farmer's Market.
Strategic Priority: I	mprove family hea	Ith and stability.		1	
Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Families have improved health and are stable	Promote Community Action Angels initiatives	The number of initiatives that were held Number of people helped	Ongoing	Green	CAPCO holds several events for families and program participants throughout the year, including Everybody's Baby Shower, the Pajama Party, our Annual Coat Giveaway, and our Holiday Extravaganza. In 2023, we had over 545 participants at these events as of November 2023.

1	Increase volunteer	Number of drivers	2023 &	Yellow	We continue to pursue the build-
	drivers to expand	INGITIDEL OF ULIVELS	Ongoing	TCHOW	up for our Volunteer
	·	Mooting systems	Cligoling		Transportation Program to limited
	transportation	Meeting customer			success. We currently have 2
	program to meet	needs			consistent drivers and have
	customers' basic				provided 153 rides as of
	needs (food, social,				November 2023.
	etc.)				We have been awarded the 5310
					Transportation grant as a
					collaborative with Seven Valley's
					Health Coalition and Access to
					Independence. This will help
					support the operational expense
					of the Program and assist with accessible rides. We continue to
					work through the specifics of this
					grant and with our partners to
					develop the program going
					forward.
					We will continue to assess the
					effectiveness of the Program and
					financial impact as we work into
					2024 and continue to try to
					recruit drivers and build this
					mission-focused Program.

Families have improved health and are stable (Cont.)	The Energy Services Department will continue to expand and build partnerships and conduct focused outreach in Tompkins County	Number of partnerships gained or enhanced Number of households served	Ongoing	Green	Our footprint in Tompkins County has expanded beyond the Weatherization Assistance Program since CAPCO took on the additional County in 2021. We have increased NYSERDA/EmPower work and limited HEAP work. The Program's capacity has been reassessed structurally with the additional of an Assistant Director and reorganization of crew and auditing teams as we balance increased work across funding sources in both Cortland and Tompkins Counties.
	Enroll more families in the Healthy Families program and increase families' active engagement in the Healthy Families program.	Number of families served and The number of families that engaged in 3 or more home visits in the past 6 months	End of contract period / Ongoing	Yellow	We continue to pursue new and traditional strategies for participant recruitment in HFNY, much of which has been hindered by staffing patterns in the program. Currently, we remain at approx. 50% of the targeted caseload. We are working with our contracting entity to look at a change of scope for our funded caseload, which will be monitored throughout 2024.

Families have improved	Expand WIC's	The number and	2023 &	Green	Cortland County's WIC numbers
health and are stable	footprint throughout	location of women	Ongoing		have increased and remained
(Cont.)	the county	and children served	Oligonig		solid as we have come out of the
(cont.)	the county	and emarch served			pandemic, averaging over 1,000 participants being issued benefits
					each month. We have utilized
					remaining contract dollars to look
					at targeted social media content as well as the new digital
					billboards throughout the
					community.
					As of October 2023, CAPCO was awarded Chenango County as an
					additional service area. We have
					opened a new office in Norwich,
					NY with 3 Nutritionists and
					support staff. The targeted caseload in Chenango is 1,100
					participants per month, and we
					have started targeted campaigns
					for the area to increase Chenango
					County numbers that have been
					historically underserved.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Clients' adult literacy and education levels are improved.	Explore a dedicated and expanded space to house HSE, Adult Literacy, and Getting Ahead activities to continue the expansion accomplished with CARES funding.	Grant writing: number of grants written and success rate Additional funding sources	2023 & Ongoing	Green	CAPCO wrote for and received several supplemental grants in 2022/2023 to support the Adult Literacy function in addition to our base CSBG funding. CAPCO received new funding from the Key Bank and ProLiteracy foundations. We also received funding that is expected to be executed in 2024 from NYS Senator Lea Webb to support classroom rent and expenditures for Adult Education and HSE/GEI attainment. We received continued funding from the Cortland County Youth Bureau, the Dollar General Foundation, as well as increased funding for the United Way for Cortland County. CAPCO was als selected to receive funding to support our Adult Education classroom from the Town of Cortlandville COVID ARP funds.

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Clients are more employable.	Be intentional about a "whole family approach" working comprehensively with parents and children through partnership with Head Start parents	Number of Head Start parents sought further education and training	2023 & Ongoing	Green	It remains an Agency priority to integrate Program services in the whole-family approach. Collaborative efforts to better engage Head Start/Early Head Start parents as well as potential adult learners across all programs continue to be evaluated and improved upon with a targeted approach for HS/EHS parents and families. Specific family advocate meetings across Programs have increased in frequency to better provide collaborative services.
	Be purposeful about focus on workforce development supports along with educational supports	Number of individuals that received workforce development or educational supports – referrals, webinar, class, resume building, interviewing prep, dress for success, etc.	2023 & Ongoing	Green	CAPCO's Family Development Adult Education Program completed its 3rd year of the Certified Nurse's Aide program in collaboration with Tompkins Cortland Community College. The Program continues to look at ways of expanding secondary education and job training opportunities with our local community college as well as SUNY Cortland. Grant applications were submitted to the Mother Caprini Foundation to expand micro-credentialing offerings. The program intends to apply again and through other sources as we work into 2024. The Program graduated 11 students through the High School Equivalency Program in 2023 and has over 100 students working to both improve literacy skills and attain a high school diploma.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Children of families impacted by traumatic events are assisted by CAPCO	Reengage internal trauma-informed workgroup	Group reviews internal policies, practices, etc. to ensure traumainformed practices with clients	2023	Yellow / Green	CAPCO remains committed to the work of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), traumainformed care, resiliency, and the foundational concepts of N.E.A.R Science. We have a certified N.E.A.R Science trainer, and we conducted a N.E.A.R Science training to our sister Community Action Agency in Tompkins County as well as to our staff in 2023. CAPCO is working with the trauma-informed workgroup at our State-association level through the New York Communit Action Association (NYSCAA) to enhance the training, expand its offering, and streamline statewide trainings. CAPCO will be looking to do more work in this area in 2024, and as we reinvigorate our trauma-informed care work in our community and beyond, we will be looking internally at our internal traumainformed workgroup and its mission and goals within our Agency.

	Convene the trauma- informed care committee that reflects staff, community partners, and families served to increase trauma understanding and determine appropriate shifts in service delivery to decrease further trauma	Trauma-informed committee in motion. Committee members increased understanding of trauma Shifts in service delivery	2023 & Ongoing	Yellow / Green	CAPCO paused our Trauma- Informed Practice (TIP) committee during the pandemic and focused efforts of the committee on employee wellness. As the Agency leading discussions of trauma and N.E.A.R Science in our community, we will be looking to re-engage this group in 2024 and to better define its goals and mission for the internal processes, policies, and practices of our Agency as we serve our community.
Governance Strate	egic Priority				
Board members	Board members are	Annual board	2023 &	Green	CAPCO's Board and committee
provide meaningful	prepared to review	assessment/survey	Ongoing		structure remains solid with active
review of proposed	CAPCO's proposed				engagement of all committees throughout 2023. Committee
program/services,	and ongoing				rosters and structure were re-
intended program	programs, results,				visited as part of the 2023 Annual
results, and tracked	and outcomes				Meeting and from the Board
outcomes	through committee				survey that was conducted at the
	structures, such as				end of 2022.
	 Executive committee PP&E committee Finance/audit committee Board development committee 				A full Boad Self-Assessment was completed at the end of 2021 and reviewed in 2022 with new practices implemented. The Board Development Committee in consultation with the full Board decided the frequency will be less than annual with full assessments conducted every few years as decided on by the Board Development Committee and full Board.

The board is able to understand connections among plan goals and strategies and program services to meet customer needs	conduct regular review of plan strategies	Annual board assessments and reviews of strategic plan as well as programmatic reports, goals, and metrics.	Ongoing	Green	The Board's Program, Planning & Evaluation (PP&E) Committee reviews monthly program reports, including Head Start/Early Head Start reports. The Board reviews and approves the Agency-wide Work Plan and progresses on a quarterly basis through Period Program Reports (PPRs) and the Annual Progress Report (APR). The layout and follow-up on this Strategic Plan were enhanced for the new 5-year plan in 2023 to minimally review the entirety of the Strategic Plan on an annual basis. Annual meetings are held each January and the Agency's Annual Report is reviewed at the PP&E and full Board levels.
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IMPACT AREA: Community Conditions and Opportunities

GOAL 2: The communities that people with low income live in are healthy and offer economic opportunities.

Strategic Priority: Expand access to safe and secure housing. **Outcome Strategies** Measurement of **Target Progress** Comments //Green Red/ Success Date **Explore** New funding 2024 Red CAPCO continues to assess and analyze the growing problem through our programmatic opportunities for received data and experiences. CAPCO is not a housing new funding to provider but has provided a supportive services Access to safe meet increased role to housing providers, which is an area we and secure need will work with our partners to enhance to housing is address this critical community need. expanded CAPCO actively participates at the County-level Explore resources Locating potential 2023 & Yellow Homelessness & Housing Coalition with key and CAPCO's role in resources and Ongoing human service providers and publicly elected assisting homes in CAPCO's role is officials. CAPCO's role remains supportive with need of work prior defined emergency services solutions while housing entities assess housing stock and housing to Weatherization projects. services CAPCO's Energy Services Program has potential opportunities for Weatherization Readiness Funds that are being explored in addition to our base Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding to assist in bringing residences to a state that is acceptable for potential WAP, BIL, and/or NYSERDA projects, which could increase production and overall community impact.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Services in rural communities are enhanced/ expanded to meet resident needs.	Research mobile services, and potential collaboration with current mobile providers	Research conducted	2023 & Ongoing	Green	Research and connections continue, including the Family Health Network Mobile Medical unit that has parked at CAPCO locations. CAPCO continues to look at ways to best partner and be present to reach participants most effectively.
	Assess client and staffing needs in rural locations	Rural needs and staffing assessed	2023 & Ongoing	Green	CAPCO has consistent monthly hours at the Marathon Food Pantry for which CAPCO is the 501(C)3 sponsor. CAPCO has re-started our rural WIC clinic sites in both Cortland and the expanded Chenango County. With the addition of Chenango County WIC, we are at 4 rural locations to fill-in service gaps across the spread out County. CAPCO's Family Development Advocate provides tabling and emergency resources monthly at the Marathon Food Pantry and the Family
					Development unit, including Programs across the Agency, prioritize rural events and being present to connect with rural families in our community. CAPCO continues to identify and assess our presence in rural pockets of our County. We have a longstanding relationship with Cincinnatus Rural Services, and we are
					continuing to look at ways of enhancing this relationship. We also have been approached about future possibilities with the former Virgil Elementary School that are in initial discussion stages of what programming, or a presence may look like in the future.

Services in rural communities	Explore co-location with community and business partners (doctors' offices, federally qualified health center, etc.)	Potential locations explored Determination made as to feasibility	Ongoing	Yellow	Currently providing outreach services at the Marathor Civic Building for the Marathon Food Pantry, and we continue to leverage connections with local health centers for our Healthy Families outreach as well as general Program operations and outreach, including WIC and Head Start services. However, we are not currently co-locating with other services outside of CAPCO programming.
expanded to meet resident needs (Cont.)	Reimagine staffing in rural centers to meet client needs	Explore creative solutions/survey staff to overcome identified challenges	2023 and ongoing	Green	CAPCO transitioned to a model of Family Development staffing having hours on a consistent basis at rural centers (i.e. Marathon) opposed to hired staff specifically for rural sites. We continue to assess this impact, which thus far has worked well for overall capacity and rura impact.

Board	Strategic Priority The board	The board	Ongoing	Green	The Board Development Committee is a
members with knowledge and expertise are cultivated and recruited	development committee has overall responsibility for the recruitment and cultivation of new board members	Development Committee has a structure and process in place which is reviewed regularly	5.185.116	G. G. G.	standing monthly committee to the Board of Directors assessing Board needs, including vacancies, training needs, and structural assessments.
	Board members are sought who have particular skills/expertise/knowle dge in the following areas: Businesses & economic development Housing and real estate Transportation systems Health, mental health, and substance abuse policy/service provision Legal/law Human Resources Local government	Current board member composition is recorded at the beginning of 2023. Board member composition is noted at the end of 2023.	Annually	Green	The Board Development Committee developed a tracking mechanism for upcoming Board vacancies and needed areas of expertise. Board positions with expertise in needed areas are currently solidly filled through 2026 with the reseating of two members in 2023 and one resignation that is currently being filled as of November 2023.

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IMPACT AREA: Community Engagement

GOAL 3: People with low incomes are active in building opportunities for themselves and others in the community.

Strategic Priority: Engage people with low incomes and community leaders in identifying and addressing barriers to moving out of poverty.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Residents are active in addressing poverty in the community	Reengage the community in strategies from Opportunity Community and Getting Ahead Establish mentoring relationships	Number of community gatherings Number of successful mentoring relationships formed	2023 & Ongoing	Yellow	CAPCO did not hold an Opportunity Community in 2023 following the initial event in 2019. However, the Agency is reviewing alternate models for another Opportunity Community as part of our 50th anniversary and Community Action's 60th anniversary in 2024. This model may include an Opportunity Conference for the low-income community coupled with an overall community poverty symposium for leaders across sectors. The model for mentoring relationships is being reviewed following initial challenges.
The community is educated about the effects of poverty	Train and develop staff to provide poverty simulations CAPCO increases the number of poverty simulations provided to the community	Staff are trained in facilitating poverty simulations CAPCO provides at least one simulation per year	Annually	Green	CAPCO got back into our community and beyond to conduct the State of Poverty Simulation in a big way in 2023! We have conducted a total of 3 simulations as of November and will conclude the year with a total of 4 simulations. Simulations were conducted for Tompkins Cortland Community College, the Cortland County Department of Social Services, as well as a joint session for the Cortland County Health Department, Cortland County Office for Mental Health, and the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging. We will be conducting a simulation for our sister Agency in Tompkins County, TC Action before the end of the year.

Strategic Priority: Recruit CAPCO customers/former customers for volunteer and paid positions in CAPCO's programs.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Meaningful employment opportunities within CAPCO for participants are developed and enhanced	Utilize the following programs for outreach: • Head Start/Early Head Start • WIC Peer Counselors • Family Essentials • CDPAP	Number of former/current customers who are volunteers Number of job opportunities developed/enhanced Number of former customers employed by CAPCO	Ongoing	Green	CAPCO actively advertises open positions, both volunteer and employment, directly to Program participants with candidate considerations based on qualifications, position, and needs, building both Agency and family capacity. New and unique ways of connecting with candidates, including participant candidates, have been employed during the difficult time of staffing as we work out of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes new ways of looking at filling positions and meeting candidates where they are with new flexibilities around work/life balance to meet both family and employment needs.
Recruit with a special emphasis on volunteer drivers	Provide training and support for volunteer drivers	Number of volunteer drivers	Annually and Ongoing	Yellow	Reinvigorating and operating the Volunteer Transportation Program has been a strategic priority as we have worked out of the pandemic. Driver recruitment has remained a challenge with an average of 2 drivers over the past year providing 153 rides. The Program changed and enhanced marketing materials and has advertised in new publications and locations. The Program has also connected with the Cortland County Planning Department to educate our community on the Program for both drivers and ridership. CAPCO was awarded the 5310 Transportation Grant through the NYS Department of Transportation as a collaborative with Seven Valley's Health Coalition and Access to Independence. This will help support the operational expense of the Program and assist with accessible rides and outreach as we continue to build this Program back.

Develop board/staff advocacy strategies to promote realistic policy change and public awareness	Board members educate the community about poverty in the County and about CAPCO: who we are, what we do, mission, programs/service s, etc.	Develop a process for board members	Ongoing	Green	CAPCO's Board of Directors serve as representatives of the Agency and are provided ongoing training and education not only on their roles and responsibilities, but on CAPCO programs and resources. Board members, as part of other clubs/associations/affiliations, invite CAPCO staff to speak and collaborate, including but not limited to the Cortland Rotary chapters and Kiwanis Club.
	Work in partnership with NYSCAA, NCAP, and NCAF to identify high-priority issues for education/advoca cy consistent with CAPCO's mission and values		Annually and as needed	Green	CAPCO remains active members of our Stateassociation, NYSCAA, with Board representation on NYSCAA's Board of Directors as well as the weatherization-specific association through the New York State Weatherization Director's Association (NYSWDA). CAPCO is an active participant with the national network at the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP). CAPCO will be putting forth 2 candidates in 2024 for the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential. We are donating members for the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), staying actively engaged in lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. during turbulent political times.

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IMPACT AREA: Agency Capacity and Partnerships

GOAL 4: CAPCO has the human and financial resources, partnerships, and influence to assure positive individual, family & community outcomes.

individual, family & community outcomes. Strategic Priority: Recruit and retain qualified staff. **Target Strategies** Measurement of **Progress Comments** Outcome Red/Y v/Green Success Date Survey staff as to Survey developed, Yellow / Green The Agency has not yet completed a 2023 survey specific to recruitment; however, disseminated, and their there have been employee wellness & **CAPCO** increases opinions/ideas completed engagement surveys conducted to the number of about recruitment enhance Wellness Committee efforts and qualified staff and retention Survey responses assess ways to improve workplace who are hired summarized wellness for retention. A Staff Satisfaction and retained Review and Survey is conducted bi-annually and is scheduled to be conducted in 2024. summarize responses

	Engage	Management team	2023 &	Green	The CAPCO Management team in
		_		Green	collaboration with the Board of Directors
	Management	will review workforce	Ongoing		changed and added a series of Personnel
CAPCO increases	team to review	options			Policies & Procedures to enhance work/life
the number of	and consider				balance, flexibility, and overall work
qualified staff	options				structure. Some of these include:
who are hired	including, but				Adaptive work schedules
and retained	not limited to:				Relaxed processes for remote work
(Cont.)	Hybrid/remote				authorizations.
	work				Front-loading Personal Leave
	Workweek hours				opposed to the accrual system.
	Tuition				Increased annual leave rollover
	reimburseme				balances.
	nt				Addition of a floating holiday at the
	Wage increases				employee's discretion.
	Professional				
					Programs across the Agency were able to
	developme				provide retention bonuses and incentives
	nt				with staff pay rate increases issued across
	 Incentives 				the Agency based on Program funding cycles.
	Time-off policies				cycles.
	 Program 				
	support				

Strategic Priority: Coordinate and promote professional development and leadership skill building for CAPCO staff.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO staff develop leadership skills and necessary credentials	Develop a consistent approach to tracking training participation at the Agency and Program levels.	Tool developed and put into practice	At the end of every year: 12/31/2023 12/31/2024 12/31/2025		Staff training and development is tracked through various platforms with data reported on the Work Plan and through the PPR and APR. The Human Resource Department keeps official records of training that can be accessed and tracked by supervisors and employees alike through the Advanced HR platform for self-service. The Agency continues to look at ways to better streamline tracking and utilize our existing database for tracking and reporting.

CAPCO staff develop leadership skills and necessary Credentials (Cont.)	Make ongoing updates to new hire orientation	Update evaluation tool to determine the value of orientation developed and put into practice	2023 2024	Yellow	While the HR department has updated content on the New Hire Orientation self-driven process, the process in whole continues to be a strategic priority to revisit and enhance for enhanced staff onboarding and initial training.
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Assist staff in gaining skills/credentials to provide training on mission-related topics (core competencies, such	A mechanism developed to determine what staff require what skills/ credentials	2023 & ongoing	Green	The Agency offers our own Family Development Credential (FDC) with 2 certified trainers. In 2023, CAPCO is putting 11 staff through the process along with staff from community partners. The Agency is entering the 3 rd year of our collaboration with the YWCA Cortland to offer the Child Development Associate credential. CAPCO
as FDC)	An increase in the number of staff who have gained skills/credentials	At the end of each 12/2023 12/2024 12/2025		runs the Program as a subrecipient and has certified trainers to instruct the class. These opportunities are possible due to "train the trainer" certifications that CAPCO leverages for our Agency and our community.
				The Energy Services Program provides ongoing training and credentialing opportunities for weatherization credentialling requirements through both the NYSERDA/EmPower and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which is tracked through the NYS Housing & Community Renewal (HCR) database as well as internally through HR.
				The WIC Program has leveraged a partnership with CAI global for coaching with department transitions and the addition of Chenango County. We also maintain WIC training logs and CLCs that we will continue to track both programmatically and look for better ways to capture in HR records.
				In addition to these internal opportunities, CAPCO participates in the NYSCAA Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI), putting an unprecedented 7 staff through the Program as we acclimate new staff not only to CAPCO but the Community Action statewide network.
				The Agency continues to look at enhanced ways to better streamline the tracking and assessing of staff needs. Much of this happens through the ongoing and annual Employee Performance Appraisal process.

CAPCO staff develop leadership skills and necessary credentials (Cont.)	Open staff training to the community to extend mission-related best practices and generate revenue	An increase in the number of community members who attended trainings An increase in unrestricted revenue	At the end of every year: 12/31/2023 12/31/2024 12/31/2025	For the first time since 2018, CAPCO opened our FDC training to the community with the Child Development Council sending staff from both Cortland and Tompkins Counties. The ongoing CDA credential with the YWCA Cortland has both YWCA childcare and CAPCO Head Start/Early Head Start staff in the course under CAPCO's instruction.
	Support new program and best practice approaches with training opportunities (i.e., Two-Generation, Pyramid Parenting, Trauma Informed Care)	An increase in the number of staff members who attended these specific trainings	At the end of every year: 12/31/2023 12/31/2024 12/31/2025	An Ace Interface N.E.A.R Science training was conducted for staff in April 2023. The Head Start/Early Head Start Program provides ongoing Pyramid Model training with special emphasis as part of the preservice training during the 2-weeks preceding the start of the new Program Year in September. The Agency returned to in-person training for All-Staff Training days at the end of 2022. All-Staff training committees offered new perspectives and ways of looking at training days, including training structures, topics, and locations. A mechanism for soliciting feedback for training offerings was developed and has been utilized to improve trainings and identify overall staff training needs.

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Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Succession	Build leadership skill- building into job descriptions and performance evaluations	Leadership skill building is included in performance evaluations	2023 2024	Red	This has not been integrated into all job descriptions other than already identified leadership positions. This needs further departmental discussions to define the positions (if not all) that should have this built in to position descriptions.
planning is successfully integrated into CAPCO	Develop succession plans for all supervisory positions	Formal succession plans are developed and updated as necessary	ccession plans oped and 2024 Is necessary Red While the Execution Succession Director attention Some for leadersh formalize Resource goal for 2024 the control of the Execution Succession Director attention Direct	While the Agency has a succession plan fo the Executive Director and broad succession language for Program & Agence Directors, these documents need further attention. Succession plans have taken some form for broader programmatic leadership positions but have not been formalized and maintained with Human Resources. This is a Management Team goal for each Director as we work into 2024 that will need to be implemented to broader leadership roles.	
	Identify growth and advancement potential for all positions	Growth and advancement opportunities are documented in performance evaluations	Ongoing	Yellow / Red	While this is done informally with position across the Agency and across Programs, this process has not been formalized and inot done consistently. This is an area that will continue to be a strategic priority for our human and talent resources and capacity.
	Develop management operation "binders" that support succession planning	Management operations "binders" are developed	2023-2024 2024 - 2025	Red	The Agency underwent training for this model that has not yet been implemented This system (or a system like this) will take form as part of the broader succession planning process.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Employee well- being and personal growth is supported	CAPCO will use the following initiatives to support staff wellbeing and mental health: • Health and nutrition initiatives • Wellness challenges • EAP • Self-care and wellness training	Initiatives developed, and number of staff who participates	Ongoing	Green	The Wellness Committee has an intentional mix of leadership and non-leadership staff. The committee develope and implemented several initiatives over the past year, including but not limited to Penny Wars fundraising, an interactive Agency-wide walking challenge, and other social initiatives. The Head Start/Early Head Start Program began Wellness Wednesdays for staff engagement and recognition as well as a monthly book clul a model that is being implemented by the broader Wellness Committee. Agency training days had an intentional focus on wellness with team building activities and presentations centered on being in nature for self-care and training traddress burnout put on by our partners at lthaca College. The Agency was also able to leverage resources to bring the Emotion into Art performance to our staff and community for entertainment and reflection on the difficult work that we do and our impact.

Surveys will be done periodically to gather staff input and evaluation	Surveys developed, disseminated, and responses considered in ongoing initiatives	2023 and Ongoing	The Wellness Committee put out an Employee Engagement Survey to assess wellness needs and initiatives of interest. This survey was widely completed and has helped drive the direction of the committee and initiatives both programmatically and Agency-wide.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO has successfully responded to the decision about the CDPAP Program	CAPCO will continue to investigate changes to the CDPAP program Contingent upon state-level changes, CAPCO may need to: • evaluate needs • explore risk • redesign program • consider staffing structure • explore becomin g a joint employe r	CAPCO moves forward with the most applicable options as more clarity is rendered	Date 2023	Yellow / Green	Following the passage of the 2022 NYS budget, the NYS Department of Health put out communication overriding the original RFO process and allowing ongoing providers who put in an RFO to complete an attestation to remain providers for thei defined service areas. CAPCO put in our attestation and received approval. However, little communication and clarity has come since in terms of the potential joint employment relationship with Consumers. The CAPCO Consumer-Directed Services department has put a new structure in place with the addition of additional support staff, adding a Billing Specialist under Fiscal, and Human Resource process enhancements. These efforts have helped with overall capacity and allowed for more Consumer relations and support. CAPCO intends to continue to operate this program in light of the current lack of clarity on several key challenges surrounding the Program's operation. Looking ahead, the Program will need to identify a more streamlined way to address EVV requirements and billing needs as all MLTC's move in this direction.

Strategic Priority: Establish a secure intake system to streamline the customer experience, drive coordinated internal/external referrals and improve service responsiveness.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Intake system meets the needs of CAPCO and its customers	Assess and evaluate CAPCO's current intake systems	System assessment	2024 & Ongoing		The use of an Agency-wide database continues to be a challenge with programmatic hurdles in terms of information that can be shared and capacity to maintain multiple systems per funding source requirements. There have been several discussions across programs to improve this with little traction due to funding source restrictions. CAPCO continues to maintain a CAPTAIN database that is utilized, but mist be utilized in piecemeal with other programmatic databases (ChildPlus) and tracking mechanism for overall Agency data tracking and reporting.
	Streamline and enhance the use of the database	Staff trained	2023 & Ongoing		Appropriate staff have been trained, but consistent utilization and programmatic restrictions continue to inhibit our ability to use as a centralized system alone without supplemental methods of tracking and referrals.

Strategic Priority: CAPCO regularly reviews, recommends, and plans changes to existing and potential new spaces/facilities.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO's facilities are reviewed on a regular basis Include staff an commit the ann Look fo co- local	Utilize SAFE Committee review process	SAFE Committee meets and analyzes facilities and makes recommendations	Ongoing	Green	The Safety and Facilities Enhancement Committee (S.A.F.E) meets monthly under the direction of the Deputy Director and has a mix of leadership and non-leadership staff per the NYS HERO Act. The committee reviews accident reports as reported by Human Resources, conducts routine facility audits at every location. This committee helps identify needed training areas with the Management Team.
	Include executive staff and finance committee input to the annual budget	Facility needs are considered when developing the annual budget	Ongoing	Green	The building budget is approved by the Board with our Administrative and overall Agency budget. This budget is developed with S.A.F.E. committee insights and input from the Building/Maintenance Director and the Building Superintendent.
	Look for possible co- location possibilities	Partners/organization s reached out to	2024	Red	Intentional co-location considerations have not happened following the transition away from the Parker Project due to feasibility. Currently, there is not an identified need for colocation but remains a possibility as we work with our community partners for service and program delivery.
	Consider balance: centralized locations vs. spread-out in the county		2023 & Ongoing	Yellow	CAPCO's model of being spread throughout the community has worked to our advantage in meeting participants where they are, but as trends and needs continue to evolve, along with logistical and cost challenges of leasing and being spread apart, centralization will continue to be reviewed and considered into the future.

Strategic Priority: Maintain and expand CAPCO's network through staff participation on the Boards of community and industry organizations.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO's presence on community and industry Boards is maintained and/or expanded	Consider staff and agency priorities when considering or maintaining board presence	Number of boards where CAPCO has a presence: community and/or industry	Ongoing		CAPCO is well represented throughout the community with Management and Leadership members sitting on numerous Boards, associations, advisory councils, etc. This continues to be updated and reflected in our Work Plan and APR.

Strategic Priority: Build CAPCO's fund development capacity at both Board and staff levels.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO's fund development and fundraising capacity has increased	Initiate an annual fund development planning process that quantifies goals, activities, internal costs, and staff/Board roles and workload for all activities that raise unrestricted dollars	Annual fund development plan and process established	2023 & Annually 2024-2025		CAPCO has not yet developed an intentional fund development plan, though our fundraising efforts have increased over the last several years, initiated by our annual and growing CAPCO Golf Tournament.

CAPCO's fund development and fundraising capacity has increased (Cont.)	Assess and improve internal systems for tracking fundraising contacts, donors, donations, and other data to support effective fund development Explore more "creative/innovative" fundraising	Internal systems assessed and improved Board and staff consider opportunities	2023-& Ongoing 2023-and Ongoing	Yellow	While the Agency has systems for tracking donation and fund development efforts, this is not a formal system, and we have not moved to utilizing internal databases to track this other than our normal accounting/fiscal software. The Agency will continue to look at this to determine need. CAPCO's primary focus for fundraising has remained the annual golf tournament.
	opportunities Plan and execute an annual campaign	Campaign donations	2023 and Ongoing 2024- 2025	Red	CAPCO has not yet moved to an annual fundraising campaign aside from our annual gold tournament. This will remain a strategic priority as we work into 2024/2025.
	Plan annual fundraising events and evaluate the value of the events	Donations received and assessment of event's value	2023 and Ongoing	Green	The Golf Tournament continues to be a growing success with the event evaluated and enhanced each year by an identified Golf Tournament committee comprised of leadership and non-leadership staff across all Program-areas. Evaluation of the tournament has led to changes in tournament structure and may lead to alternate ways of attaining sponsorship and the location of the tournament in 2024. The staff Wellness Committee implemented a new initiative for staff emergency needs. The initiative was Penny Wars that was well received to raise funds for staff wellness and needs while providing meaningful staff engagement.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO strengthens community partnerships to meet increased demand for services	 Substance abuse Mental health Housing Literacy Youth Nutrition Child Care Employment Disability rights, advocacy School Districts 	Number of new and maintained community partner MOU's or contracts established in the past 12 months	Annually / Ongoing	Green	CAPCO maintains deep-rooted partnerships for effective serviced and program delivery and has forged new collaborative efforts as reflected in our Work Plan and reported through our PPR and APRs.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO utilized outside resources to maintain up-to-date on best business practices	 CAPLAW WIPFLI Bonadio Goetzman Business Council OCFS ESI EAP NYSCAA NCAP 	CAPCO evaluates these resources and explores other relevant resources.	Ongoing / Annually		CAPCO is an active member of CAPLAW and WIPFLI for administrative, financial, and legal guidance in addition to our intricate involvement in our state and national associations. We leverage our relationship with our auditors as well as our funding source entities for effective compliance and service delivery.

Strategic Priority: Maintain and expand CAPCO's use of external resources to drive best program practices and advocacy.

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Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of	Target	Progress	Comments
		Success	Date	Red/Yellow/Green	
CAPCO utilized outside resources to maintain up-to-date on best program practices and advocacy	 NYSCAA NCAP NCAF Coalition on Human Needs National WIC Association NYS WIC CDPANYS National HS Association NYS HS Region II Hunger Solutions Healthy Families America Healthy Families 	CAPCO evaluates these resources and explores other relevant resources.	Ongoing / Annually		CAPCO and our Program-areas are actively engaged in our associations and our broader Agency network for effective Agency and Program operations. As we have attained some further clarity on the future of CDPAP services, there will be further consideration to rejoin CDPANYs as there remains no consistent resource for this Program with CAPCO's involvement unique in the CAP network.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
Internal systems are upgraded	 Enhance process for CDPAP timesheets Mobile-friendly tech/equipment Online employment application Employee recruitment database Expanded options in Complete Payroll 	System utilization and process development	Ongoing	Yellow / Red	CAPCO has maintained and worked to maximize the systems we have. As we work into the future, there is an identified need to look at a new EVV system for CDPAP for more streamlined billing efforts. The Human Resources department will look to explore alternate HRIS systems for better payroll integration; however this is priority that may change as other systems and processes are re-assessed and are interdependent of one another.

Strategic Priority: Become a Trauma-Informed Organization to help employees, participants, community members, and community organizations build resilience.							
Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments		
CAPCO is a trauma-informed Agency	Provide professional development for CAPCO staff re: resilience, trauma- informed care, wellness	Number of TIC learning opportunities offered. Number of staff participating	Annually	Green			

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Engage community in	Number of community	Annually	Green	
trauma-informed	partnerships formed			
work/ACEs	and/or participation in			
	trauma-informed			
	community efforts			

Strategic Priority: CAPCO will use Social Justice principles (access to resources, equity, participation, diversity, and human rights) in its management and operating principles.

Outcome	Strategies	Measurement of Success	Target Date	Progress Red/Yellow/Green	Comments
CAPCO Intentionally considers Social Justice principles	Staff are trained in social justice principles	Staff demonstrate increased knowledge through pre-post surveys/customer interactions	Annually		Internal staff training has had a continued focus on social justice challenges, which remain key concepts of our poverty education. The Agency worked with our local LGBTQI+ center for an all-staff training in 2023.

Governance St	rategic Priority				
	Engage in a periodic Board assessment process	Process and tool is determined	Tri- Annually	Red	The Board of Directors worked through this process at the end of 2021 and into 2022, implementing new practices and enhancing those that have worked well.
The Board and Policy Council are aware of and are exercising their	Regular in-house orientation and training for Board and Policy Council members	Re-assess board orientation and training process Develop process	2023 & Ongoing	Green	Our Board orientation process remains informative and efficient for new Board members for which CAPCO has had limited new members with our current roster and Board terms.
representational, governance oversight, and developmental responsibilities.	The committee structure advances strategic priorities (advocacy, community engagement, fund development, etc.)	Determine committee goals	Annually	Green	Committee structure and participation is reassessed annually. Committees report out at each Board of Directors meeting with information shared relevant to the specific committee.

Work with staff to determine and advance opportunities to increase unrestricted funds	Create fund development plan with staff	2023 and Ongoing		The Board actively participates in our Golf Tournament fundraising efforts. As we look at more fund development initiatives, the Board will remain engaged in that process.
Provide periodic opportunities for board and policy members to network	Develop calendar of opportunities/events	2023 and Ongoing	,	The Board maintains a representative to the Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council with a Policy Council rep to the Board. The Board and PC alike will look at more opportunities for integration as appropriate and overall connecting/networking.