

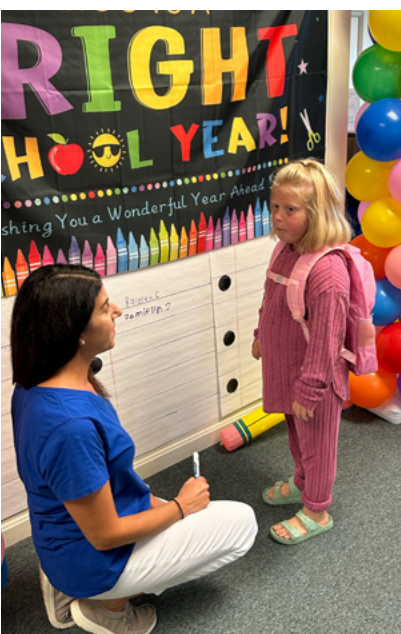
CHANGING LIVES,
IMPACTING COMMUNITY

2024-2025 Annual Report



CELEBRATING
60
Years

Bucks County
OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL
Connecting people with resources to thrive.



We are grateful for your continued **commitment to our mission.**



Dear Friends of BCOC,

At the Bucks County Opportunity Council, every number tells a story – a story of resilience, partnership, and progress. This year, BCOC served 60,718 people through all our programs and pantry network partners, each representing a neighbor striving for stability and opportunity.

In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, our focus remained clear: to fulfill our mission while strengthening the programs that make lasting change possible. We continued to grow Coaches on Campus, expanding access to education and support for students pursuing brighter futures. BCOC also continued to provide critical food assistance to tens of thousands of people and focused heavily on creative solutions, including prevention and emergency assistance, to help families avoid crisis and keep them moving toward long-term financial independence.

None of this work happens alone. We are deeply grateful to our participants, who trust our team to walk beside them during life’s most challenging times; to our community partners, who join us in breaking barriers; and to our donors and supporters, who choose BCOC among so many exceptional nonprofits in Bucks County. Your belief in our work fuels everything we do.

As we close out our 60th year and look ahead, we do so with gratitude and determination. Despite the uncertainty that lies ahead, BCOC remains steadfast in our commitment to help people and change lives. We will continue to lean into our strategic goals and objectives, further engage the community, and diversify our funding so that BCOC itself can be more self-sufficient, ensuring that we can serve Bucks County for decades to come.

Thank you for your support.

Warm regards,

Erin Lukoss

Chief Executive Officer



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Bucks County Poverty Snapshot



Our mission is to reduce poverty and partner with our community to promote economic self-sufficiency.

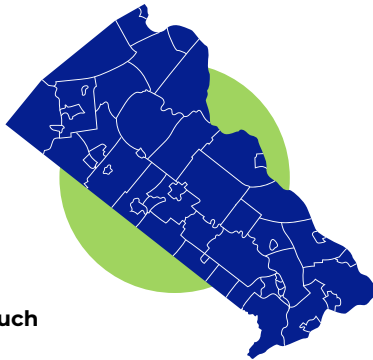
Poverty in Bucks County

 **6.7% (43,281)**

of Bucks County residents live in poverty.

 **64,000**

residents are food insecure. More than 60% make too much money to qualify for SNAP.



Value Statement

At BCOC, we are grounded in empathy, driven by innovation, and strengthened through collaboration. We lead with courage to advocate for others, take responsibility for our impact, and serve our community with pride, purpose, and heart.



Advocacy at BCOC

Advocacy is a vital part of BCOC's work; amplifying the voices of low-income families, shaping policies that strengthen our community, and advancing systems change that supports long-term stability. Through public education, community engagement, and strategic policy efforts, BCOC helps ensure that the needs of our neighbors are heard and prioritized. This work not only raises awareness but also builds broader support for lasting solutions to poverty in Bucks County.

This year we went to Harrisburg, Washington D.C., State College, Philadelphia, and other locations to advocate for mental health, homelessness, food insecurity, health inequity, and a host of other issues. There is a great deal of work to do to ensure that we continue to progress towards growth and change for the betterment of this community.

Food Program



BCOC is proud to be the lead food agency in Bucks County.

With a network of over 70 pantries/partners, four Fresh Connect weekly produce distributions, and an emergency pantry for clients of the HELP Center in Lower Bucks County, we strive to eliminate food insecurity and improve health equity throughout the county. We also distribute senior food boxes monthly and support several school districts with outreach programs.

Focus-Retail Rescue

Retail Rescue involves the recovery and distribution of surplus food to local hunger relief organizations. BCOC currently works with several local grocery stores to reduce food waste.



Funding

Support also comes from public and private funds, food drives, local farms, and more. *This year KeyBank made a large, four-year investment in our food program which significantly impacts our ability to provide important resources throughout Bucks County.*

We also participated in the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), which is a tax credit program to encourage businesses to invest in projects which improve distressed areas, and received several contributions from area corporations.



Fresh Connect • Pantry Programs • Senior Food Box • Prepared Meals
HELP Center • Retail Rescue • Hope of the Harvest • School District Support



Partner Spotlight

Carversville Farm Foundation has been an incredible partner in our hunger relief efforts. In FY 24-25 they provided over 22,116 pounds of fresh, organic produce grown right here in Bucks County. It is amazing to be able to share locally grown, organic food with our neighbors who are facing hunger; it truly makes a difference in both nutrition and dignity.

Partners

Fresh Connect

- United Way of Bucks County
- Philabundance
- Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
- St. Mary's Medical Center

HELP Center

- United Way of Bucks County
- St. Mary's Medical Center
- Penn Community Bank

Hope of the Harvest

- Delaware Valley University

Retail Rescue

- Wegmans Warrington & Yardley
- Amazon Fresh Warrington & Bensalem
- Acme Doylestown
- Target Doylestown
- Giant Feasterville & Warrington

Statistics

 **3,081,295** pounds of food distributed

 **4,838** monthly senior food boxes

 **35,073** people utilized pantries in our network

 **1,346** BCOC and pantry volunteers

 **64,000** food insecure people in Bucks County



Housing and Emergency Services



Housing and Emergency Services Guiding Principles

According to the Eviction Lab, *“Today, the majority of poor renting families in America spend over half of their income on housing costs, and eviction is transforming their lives.”*

BCOC strives to address housing instability through creative solutions. The focus of our Housing Services program is to help people overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and limit future need for help. Individuals and families with annual household income at or below 200% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Income may be eligible for one-time assistance to prevent or stabilize an emergency situation. An experienced Self-Sufficiency coach works with participants to assess the situation and develop a plan to prevent future crises, trauma, and homelessness.

During the past several years, BCOC saw an increase in the number of people seeking rental assistance to prevent eviction and/or move into permanent housing from homelessness, as well as the number of families struggling because of increases in rent. *A significant, sustaining investment from Bristol Gardens, Inc. has made a substantial impact on our ability to help these families.*

Highlight

“Eviction functions as a cause, not just a condition of poverty.”

– Matthew Desmond, Princeton University Professor, author, and leading expert on poverty in America.

Specialty Housing Services

Specialty Housing Services are also available when needed. These include Pathways to Housing for mothers with children, Bridge and Transitional Housing for families with children, Mental Health Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Housing for Reentry population (HORP), and Rapid Rehousing for chronically homeless individuals.

Statistics

 **469 Households**

prevented from eviction
(nearly 20% increase from last year)

 **93 Households**

transitioned from
homelessness to stable
housing

 **170 Households**

prevented from utility
shut off

 **255 Households**

received transportation
assistance for work

 **382 Households**

utilized LYFT rides through
our concierge program



Housing Planning • Eviction Prevention • HORP • MH TBRA • Rapid Rehousing
Bridge Housing Program • Housing Location • Pathways • Utility Assistance
Holiday Support • Transportation



Weatherization Services

Weatherization offers two types of help for homeowners and renters in Bucks County through BCOC. Our Weatherization Services facilitate home repairs and energy conservation projects that reduce the utility costs for people on fixed and low incomes.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

BCOC also works with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to provide grants for fuel and heater repair during the colder months.

Statistics

 **358 Households**

were assisted with energy-saving measures.

 **\$372 Average**

savings per year after weatherization

“ Doug’s Story

Doug, a disabled homeowner living on a fixed income, struggled to keep his home warm during the winter despite running his furnace and sealing doors and windows. After learning about BCOC’s Weatherization Program, he applied and received a comprehensive home energy assessment and multiple efficiency upgrades coordinated by BCOC staff.

The improvements made Doug’s home significantly warmer and more energy efficient, reducing his heating costs and improving his comfort. Doug expressed gratitude for the professionalism and respect shown by the team throughout the process, noting that the assistance provided changes he could not have afforded on his own.



Economic Self-Sufficiency Program (ES)



Guiding Principles

The ES Program is our keystone program, designed to help participants acquire the education, skills, and employment to permanently leave poverty. This program transforms lives and often ends years of generational poverty that has existed within families. Our graduates are gainfully employed and contribute to the economy and the culture of their communities.

Statistics

 **18 Participants** graduated this year

 **420 Households** since 1997

 **\$65,948** new average annual income post program

“ Kelly’s Story

While completing her RN program at Bucks County Community College, Kelly faced financial challenges that threatened her ability to finish her studies. Through BCOC’s Coaches on Campus program, she received rental and utility assistance, along with food and gas support, allowing her to stay enrolled and focus on her education. In June 2024, Kelly graduated as a registered nurse and secured a full-time position at St. Luke’s Hospital. With her new income, she achieved financial stability, purchased a car, and continues to work toward long-term goals like homeownership.



Coaches on Campus

BCOC and Bucks County Community College have a partnership that jointly supports Bucks students who are facing economic hardship. These students recognize the value of education and are working hard to juggle work, family, and other challenges while still pursuing a degree, certification, or additional training. Their car breaks down or their hours at work are reduced. Childcare falls through. Unexpected expenses such as a lab fee or required book purchases set them back and they fall behind in their assignments. Students have different challenges, but with financial support and coaching, the Coaches on Campus Program can keep them on the path to college success. With the goals of preventing dropouts and improving graduation rates, this partnership helps not only the students, but the entire community, which benefits from a more highly skilled workforce.

Since July 1, 2022

- There have been 532 inquiries or information/referral “touches” at Coaches on Campus (approximately 20 per month if you factor in a 9-month school year over 3 years)
- 97 students have enrolled in the Coaches on Campus program
- 50 Coaches on Campus students have transitioned into the Economic Self-Sufficiency program
- Over 70 households have received financial assistance, including but not limited to assistance with tuition, rent, utilities, transportation, and basic needs



“ ES Grad Quotes

“Wow, thank you so much! I’m so excited. I can’t believe how different my life is from just 1 year ago. I can’t wait for the next steps in my journey. Thank you for believing in me.”

– K.C. (ES client that BCOC assisted with getting into school & with tuition/scrubs)

“School is going great. My overall grade I got today-95.8!! I start clinicals next Monday! This really gives me the confidence to possibly try for my LPN in the future. Thank you so much, Jen. Couldn’t have done it without you!!”

– L.M. (ES client that BCOC assisted with tuition & supplies for her school classes)



Economic Self-Sufficiency • Family Self-Sufficiency • STEPS • VITA
Coaches on Campus • Adopt a Family • Wheelz2Work • ES Matched Savings



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

For 20 years, BCOC has been offering the VITA program, an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved. This year, BCOC's VITA site at the Epstein Campus of Bucks County Community College, more than tripled the number of returns they completed, all while providing a hands-on learning experience for students. Najet, a student volunteer said, *"This experience is helpful for building resumes, brushing up on people and problem-solving skills, and building compassion and empathy for different social or financial situations."*



BCOC Volunteers

We have had an outstanding year of volunteer engagement across BCOC programs. In addition to our VITA volunteers, hundreds of community members supported our Fresh Connect, Hope of the Harvest, and other initiatives. Corporations and organizations joined us for group service days, and dedicated supporters staffed information tables at events countywide. Community partnership is central to our mission, and we're grateful for every volunteer who makes our work possible.

Statistics

 **1,964** people volunteered with BCOC last year

 **115,253** hours were donated by volunteers in a wide range of roles

Statistics

 **1,577** tax returns completed by 54 volunteers (a record number)

 **\$2,385,776** returned to the local economy in refunds, credits, and saved fees

Key Partners

IRS

Bucks County Foundation

First National Bank & Trust of Newtown

Bucks County Community College

Groups that Volunteered

Pine Run Village, Peoples' Security, QNB Bank, CarMax, Fulton Bank, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, J&J, Bucks County Intermediate Unit Sequel, Gamry Instruments, Univest, Magellan Behavioral Health, Syensqo, Inspire Federal Credit Union, NJM Insurance, Toll Brothers, M & T Bank, Precision AQ, KPMG, Wegmans Warrington, KeyBank, National Charity League, Charles River Labs, The Broker Network

Financial Overview



Consolidated Statement of Activities*

Year Ended June 30, 2024

			2025	2024
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Support and Revenue Support				
Government	\$6,810,165	\$2,465,848	\$9,276,013	\$10,268,911
Community	\$487,870	\$1,061,971	\$1,549,841	\$1,425,135
Donated Materials, Facilities, and Services	\$55,544	\$3,701,494	\$3,757,038	\$3,517,076
Special Events, Net of Expenses	\$0	\$92,765	\$92,765	\$49,500
Total Support	\$7,353,579	\$7,322,078	\$14,675,657	\$15,260,622

Revenue				
Financial	\$51,254	\$206	\$51,460	\$24,982
Other	\$27,599	\$115,427	\$143,026	\$100,373
Change in Value of the Bucks County Foundation – Economic Self-Sufficiency Fund	\$0	\$ 50,004	\$ 50,004	\$27,798
Total Revenue	\$78,853	\$165,637	\$244,490	\$153,153
Subtotal	\$7,432,432	\$7,487,715	\$ 14,920,147	\$15,413,775

Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$7,688,744	-\$7,688,744		
Total Support and Revenue	\$15,121,176	-\$201,029	\$14,920,147	\$15,413,775

Expenses				
Program Services	\$ 13,400,055	\$0	\$13,400,055	\$13,405,661
Management and General	\$1,160,174	\$0	\$1,160,174	\$1,112,510
Fundraising	\$345,310	\$0	\$345,310	\$287,042
Total Expenses	\$14,905,539	\$0	\$14,905,539	\$ 14,805,213

Net Assets				
Change in Net Assets	\$215,637	-\$201,029	\$14,608	\$608,562
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$2,011,504	\$2,491,598	\$4,503,102	\$3,894,540
Net Assets – End of Year	\$2,227,141	\$2,290,569	\$4,517,710	\$4,503,102

*as of 11/7/25



Coldest Night Of The Year (CNOY)

February 28, 2026

ES Graduation

April 29, 2026

Ways to Get Involved



Check our website at www.bcoc.org
or sign up for our regular emails for
ways to get involved or donate.

Thank you...

To all our supporters, volunteers, partners,
donors, and community. BCOC could not fulfill
our mission without each and every one of you!

