POWERED BY COMMUNITY

2025-2026 Annual Report

Bucks County
OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL
Connecting people with resources to thrive.





















A message from the

Executive Director

Dear Friends of BCOC,

This past year was a powerful reminder that the work of the Bucks County Opportunity Council is truly *Powered by Community*.

Every day, BCOC works alongside individuals and families facing challenges created by economic instability. Our impact is made possible by the staff, donors, volunteers, funders, businesses, and community partners who come together around a shared belief that people should have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. BCOC experienced a record year in private fundraising, allowing us to respond to immediate needs while continuing to invest in programs and solutions that create lasting change. We are grateful to everyone who chose to invest in our mission, as well as the volunteers who gave their time and talent.

During fiscal year 2025–2026, BCOC served more than 27,000 people through direct financial services, while thousands more were reached through our food network and other programs. Behind every number in this report is a person or family working toward greater stability, opportunity, and a stronger future.

In November 2025, we concluded our 60th anniversary year with our *Changed for Good* gala, a magical evening which recognized decades of service and celebrated the people and partnerships that have shaped BCOC.

Looking forward, we continue to strengthen pathways to economic self-sufficiency, develop innovative approaches to preventing homelessness, expand our capacity to address food insecurity and health equity, and invest in partnerships, infrastructure and systems needed to serve our residents.

To all our supporters, thank you! You are what makes BCOC Powered by Community.

Warm regards,

Erin A. Lukoss

Erin Lukoss
Chief Executive Officer



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Over 60 Years of Care

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





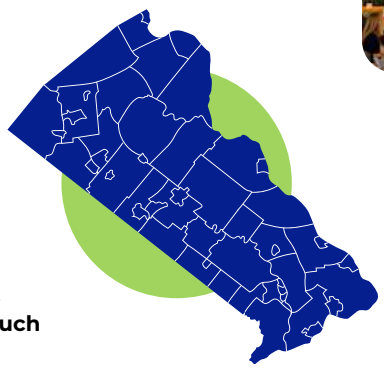





Poverty in Bucks County

6.1% (38,900)

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.










Changed for Good

BCOC celebrated over 60 years of service to Bucks County with an extraordinary gala at the Rose Bank Winery in Newtown, PA. In attendance were nearly 200 people including dedicated donors, community partners, former clients, staff, board members, and volunteers who all share a passion for the mission of the Opportunity Council. The event highlighted key moments throughout the decades of impactful work.

The theme of the event, Changed for Good, was spotlighted throughout the program. Ashley, an Economic Self-Sufficiency graduate spoke of how with the guidance and support of her coach, she went from being a homeless single mother, to a successfully employed, valued member of her community. She spoke of living with purpose and confidence and was thrilled at the ability to now be someone who could help others.

BCOC gave out three awards to honor those who go above and beyond to support them in their work. Delaware Valley University was awarded the Building Brides: Community Impact Award, Calvary Church was the recipient of the Community Connector Award, and Dr. Tobi Bruhn was awarded the Ambassador of the Year Award.

The gala raised $184,000 much needed dollars to help continue BCOC's work and affect positive changes for Bucks County residents.

Food Program

BCOC is proud to be the main food bank for Bucks County

With a network of over 70 pantries/partners, four Fresh Connect* weekly produce distributions, Senior Food Box delivery, and a school distribution program, we strive to eliminate food insecurity and improve health equity throughout the county.

**Fresh Connect is a collaboration among BCOC, Philabundance, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, and St. Mary Medical Center, with funding provided by the United Way of Bucks County.*



Focus–Fall Crisis & Donation Day

In the fall of 2025, BCOC supporters jumped in to help when there was uncertainty surrounding funding of food assistance programs due to a federal government shutdown and a Pennsylvania state budget impasse. Local food drives and collections helped to fill the gap faced by families and pantries, contributing over 28,500 pounds of food valued at over $73,000 from October 2025 through December 2025. Our Food Program Donation Drop-Off Day was a shining example of the generosity of this community! You showed up, donated, volunteered, and made an incredible difference!

We are also beyond grateful for our pantry partners; this network of kind and caring souls continually goes above and beyond for their neighbors! We couldn't do this without them.

Additional Support

Crisis Grants included: Genuardi Family Foundation, WW Smith Charitable Trust, Afzal Family Foundation, Foundations Community Partnership, Philadelphia Foundation, Bucks County Foundation, BLBB Charitable, and the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia.



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



Partner Spotlight

Rolling Harvest Food Rescue is committed to connecting local farmers with neighbors in need. As a partner, they glean food for BCOC, offer nutrition education, volunteer at Fresh Connect, have a distribution day for our pantry network, and help bring in donations. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, they donated 57,910 pounds of food which equates to a value of $114,082 and 44,586 meals.

Partners

Fresh Connect

- United Way of Bucks County
- Philabundance
- Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
- St. Mary Medical Center, Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic

HELP Center

- United Way of Bucks County
- St. Mary Medical Center, Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic
- Penn Community Bank

Hope of the Harvest

- Delaware Valley University

Retail Rescue

- Wegmans Warrington & Yardley
- Acme Doylestown
- Target Doylestown
- Giant Warrington
- Applegate Natural and Organic Meat
- Sharing Excess
- Amazon Fulfillment Center Tacony

Statistics

3,002,996 pounds of food distributed

4,544 monthly senior food boxes

35,300 people utilized pantries in our network

1,285 BCOC and pantry volunteers

4,982 households received food through our school distribution program



Housing and Emergency Services

Housing and Emergency Services Guiding Principles

Each day in Bucks County, families face the devastating possibility of eviction. Often, a temporary financial hardship can quickly become a life-changing crisis. According to the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Bucks County has the sixth highest eviction filing rate in the state, with 14 renter households facing an eviction filing daily.

Avoiding eviction means avoiding trauma... homelessness, missing work, changing schools. The well-being of everyone in a household is affected when facing eviction. Through creative solutions, BCOC strives to address housing instability. Our Housing and Emergency Services program focuses on ways 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. This assistance may take the form of paying utilities when a shut-off notice is received, security deposits, move-in costs, and late rent including overdue fees.

In collaboration with the Housing Alliance of PA, BCOC conducted an Eviction Prevention Incubator meeting with representatives from the community, legal aid, landlords, and others along the continuum of care. This think tank explored diversion strategies to avoid homelessness, including identifying available resources, investing in social capital, and working through difficult challenges.

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

861 Residents prevented from eviction

246 Residents transitioned from homelessness to stable housing

238 Households prevented from utility shut off

152 Households received transportation assistance for work or school

250 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

Weatherization Services

Our Weatherization Services facilitate home repairs and energy conservation projects that reduce the utility costs for people on fixed and low incomes. These services might include air sealing, insulating homes, addressing ventilation/other air issues, and assessing major appliances to make sure they are energy efficient.

Insulation is a crucial factor of weatherization. Owen Beuerle, Weatherization Program Manager explains it this way, "Insulation slows the transfer of heat. Heat naturally moves from warm areas to cold ones. Insulation creates a thermal barrier that keeps heat inside during the winter and outside during the summer. This and air sealing work together to cut down the workload of heating and cooling systems in the home."

The Weatherization Assistance Program remains one of the most impactful federal programs for reducing energy costs and improving home safety for low-income families.

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

275 Households were assisted with energy-saving measures

$283 Average household savings per year after weatherization







Michael says Thank You

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the entire Bucks County Opportunity Council for accepting me into the Weatherization Program and for the outstanding work completed on my home.

The improvements made, including adding insulation to the upstairs, installing a new chimney, and upgrading my electrical panel, have already made a tremendous difference.

My home is noticeably more comfortable and warmer, and everything is functioning perfectly. These upgrades have eased many of my worries and have improved the overall safety and efficiency of my home.

I am truly appreciative of the support provided through this program. Your professionalism, dedication, and the positive impact you bring to residents like me do not go unnoticed. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the care and effort put into helping improve my home and quality of life.

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

10 Participants graduated this year

430 Households since 1997

$62,928 new average annual income post program





Kelsi's Story

Kelsi and her husband, Joseph came to BCOC for holiday help in 2025. Kelsi was working part time at a hospital as a Personal Care Assistant, while attending St Luke's School of Nursing full time. Due to a period of unemployment and the expense of raising three children, they fell behind with their bills and Kelsi feared losing her home because of delinquent mortgage payments.

She joined ES in January, just one month after receiving holiday assistance. The ES program helped with her vehicle inspection and gas, ensuring a reliable vehicle for her schooling and employment needs. Kelsi received the UMBB Foundation donation to help with other transportation needs and to help pay her mortgage. Kelsi also participated in Adopt A Family, which helped relieve the stress of holiday expenses.

Within a year, Kelsi became an RN working at St Luke's Hospital ER. The household income has since doubled. Kelsi just kept shooting for the stars and never gave up on her career dream to become a nurse.

Hope Study

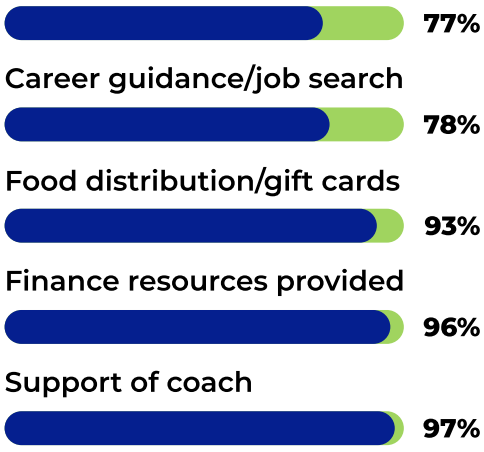
In 2025, the Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) commissioned The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs at Temple University to conduct a survey of graduates of BCOC's Economic Self-Sufficiency Program (ES). In addition to the survey, The Hope Center also conducted focus groups and one-on-one interviews with a select group of graduates to understand their experiences in depth. The goal of the project was to learn how ES graduates and their children have been doing since graduation.

Since graduation from the program, 83% of the graduates said they did not require additional help from BCOC. Regardless of what year they graduated, 80% reported having stable housing and 35% reported purchasing a home.

Graduates reported an improvement in their mental health and well-being from before program enrollment to graduation. They also believe that the lives of their children improved in several key areas because of their parents' growth and influence.

Graduates overwhelmingly said that they would recommend this program to anyone who needs this type of assistance.

Percent of respondents who thought services were helpful



Graduate Feedback

"The ES program changed my life and my sons' lives significantly. We would have been homeless if not for the training and scholarship I received to help me further my education and find a higher paying job. Because of these improvements, I have been able to find suitable housing. I am so grateful to have participated in the ES program at BCOC because of the additional education I received to find a better employment position. I would not have had the emotional well-being to help my son through his medical challenges otherwise. I greatly appreciate the support and guidance I received from my coaches at BCOC and humbly express my thanks to all parties who contributed to make the ES program available."

"ES was a great program that gave me the support that I needed to make sure that my children were taken care of. It provided support where I could not. Coach M was great and my biggest cheerleader during this difficult time. I cannot thank the program enough!"

The full study is available to read on the BCOC website, Our Impact – Bucks County Opportunity Council.



Back to School and Adopt A Family drives are fantastic opportunities for ES participants to receive support.

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

VITA & Volunteers

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The BCOC VITA program has been in operation for over 20 years. This IRS initiative is designed to support free tax preparation services for low-income individuals and families who often cannot afford the fees associated with professional tax return assistance. This year, with more people utilizing MyFreeTaxes.com access through our website, the number of returns completed through BCOC options increased dramatically! This nearly doubled the amount of money which was returned to the Bucks County economy.



Statistics

2,508 tax returns completed by 55 volunteers *(a record number)*

$4,020,348 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

BCOC Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of BCOC. They generously shared their time and skills with us across our programs. In addition to our VITA volunteers, hundreds of community members supported Fresh Connect, Hope of the Harvest, staffed information tables at events countywide, and participated in other initiatives. Corporations and organizations joined us for group service days, bringing enthusiasm and a can-do mentality. Community partnership is central to our mission, and we truly appreciate every volunteer who works with us to achieve our goals.

Statistics

2,154 volunteer opportunities filled through BCOC

122,197 hours were donated by volunteers in a wide range of roles

Groups that Volunteered

Pine Run Village, QNB Bank, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Youth Group, Johnson & Johnson, Bucks County Intermediate Unit Sequel, Gamry Instruments, Univest, Magellan Behavioral Health, Syensqo, NJM Insurance, Toll Brothers, Precision AQ, Wegmans Warrington, KeyBank, National Charity League, Charles River Labs, Boys Team Charity, BLBB, DVL Group, The Next Step Program, Dow, Poretta & Orr, Delaware Valley University, Reed Technology, Amazon, BCHIP, Grace Point Church, PECO, and Robern.



Financial Overview

Consolidated Statement of Activities*

Year Ended June 30, 2026

	2026			2025
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Support and Revenue Support				
Government	$6,168,111	$1,835,559	$8,003,670	$ 9,276,013
Community	$798,605	$2,701,954	$3,500,559	$1,549,841
Donated Materials, Facilities, and Services	$71,420	$3,955,287	$4,026,707	$3,757,038
Special Events, Net of Expenses	$103,840	$89,170	$193,010	$92,765
Total Support	$7,141,976	$8,581,970	$15,723,946	$14,675,657
Revenue				
Financial	$66,801	$180	$66,981	$51,460
Other	$39,349	$1,831	$41,180	$143,026
Change in Value of the Bucks County Foundation - Economic Self-Sufficiency Fund	$0	$90,798	$90,798	$50,004
Total Revenue	$106,150	$92,809	$198,959	$244,490
Subtotal	$7,248,126	$8,674,779	$15,922,905	$14,920,147
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	$7,426,084	-$7,426,084		
Total Support and Revenue	$14,674,210	$1,248,695	$15,922,905	$14,920,147
Expenses				
Program Services	$12,717,888	$0	$12,717,888	$13,400,055
Management and General	$1,191,771	$0	$1,191,771	$1,160,174
Fundraising	$399,997	$0	$399,997	$345,310
Total Expenses	$14,309,656	$0	$14,309,656	$14,905,539
Net Assets				
Change in Net Assets	$364,554	$1,248,695	$1,613,249	$14,608
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	$2,227,141	$2,290,569	$4,517,710	$4,503,102
Net Assets - End of Year	$2,591,695	$3,539,264	$6,130,959	$4,517,710

*as of 10/26/26

Of Interest

Neighborhood Assistance Program

BCOC actively participates in the Pennsylvania Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), a state sponsored tax credit program to encourage businesses to invest in projects which improve distressed areas. These projects must serve distressed areas or support neighborhood conservation and must fall under one of the following categories: affordable housing programs, community services, crime prevention, education, job training or neighborhood assistance.

Tax credits from corporate partners contribute real dollars to local non-profit initiatives:

- Tax credits offset majority of costs while making a big impact
- Can offset personal income tax, corporate net income tax, bank shares tax, insurance premiums tax, and more
- Counts toward CRA credits



2025-2026 NAP Contributors

C&N Bank

Parx Casino (Greenwood Gaming & Entertainment, Inc.)

QNB Bank

WSFS Bank

Hatboro Federal Savings Bank

Customers Bank

Peoples Security Bank and Trust

Looking Ahead

Coldest Night Of The Year (CNOY)

February 27, 2027

ES Graduation

April 29, 2027

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...

For over 60 years, our community of supporters, volunteers, partners, and donors have worked with us to improve the lives of Bucks County residents. BCOC is proud to share this journey with all of you!

