



Community Action for Improvement, Inc.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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From the Desk of

Executive Director, *Jennifer Corcione*

SPRING INTO SPRING

During the month of January, CAFI saw an incredibly high number of clients needing emergency assistance with utility costs. With the winter temperatures low and heating costs incredibly high, most families struggled just to keep the costs manageable.

Looking forward to the Spring season, CAFI is dedicated in its efforts in continuing to assist low income families with emergency energy assistance. With warmer weather on the horizon, Community Action for Improvement is actively brainstorming ways to expand its services to those who are greatly affected by inflated energy costs through client education, advocacy and direct client benefits.



Spotlight on Services- Homeless Stability Services

Depending on fund availability and client need, Community Action for Improvement provides short-term rental assistance for income eligible clients facing homelessness. Eligibility for assistance is based on a variety of factors including client circumstance, family composition and client income. The approval of rental assistance is not guaranteed for all CAFI clients and clients must be seen during an intake appointment to be deemed eligible for services.

At this time, assistance is available for clients residing in Carrollton, Coweta, Heard, and Meriwether county only. Appointments for services can be requested at any of the service center locations and walk-in appointments are not allowed.

LIHEAP UPDATE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Appointments for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program are currently underway. Due to a limited amount of client benefits and overall staff capacity, appointments have been handled on an appointment only basis with a waiting list of clients for each county. Due to an extremely high call volume, CAFI kindly request that clients are patient during the next few weeks as we are trying to accommodate all eligible clients. During the LIHEAP season, no walk-in clients for LIHEAP benefits will be served at any of the CAFI Service Center locations as intake for the LIHEAP program is operated on an appointment only basis. If additional funding for the LIHEAP program is available, clients will be seen on an "as needed" basis, with priority given to clients who are over 65 years of age. To make an appointment, clients are encouraged to contact their county Service Center.



Keeping it Real

30 MINUTE MEALS ON A BUDGET

TACO SOUP

- 2 CANS OF DICED TOMATOES
- 1 TBS GARLIC
- 1 LB OF GROUND BEEF
- 1 CAN OF CORN
- 1 CAN OF PINTO BEANS
- 1 CAN OF BLACK BEANS
- DICED PEPPERS
- CHEESE TO TOP
- 1 PACK OF TACO SEASONING

1. COOK GROUND BEEF AND DRAIN FAT
2. IN A LARGE POT, ADD GROUND BEEF, DICED TOMATO, DRAINED CORN, DRAINED, BEANS, GARLIC, STIR ON MEDIUM HEAT.
3. SEASON WITH PACKET OF TACO SEASONING
4. COOK ON MEDIUM HEAT FOR 45 MIN
5. SERVED WITH SHREDDED CHEESE ON TOP AND TORTILLA CHIPS IF DESIRED.

CAFI Neighborhood Services

WHAT'S NEW?



Food Pantry

CAFI offers a monthly food commodity program at its LaGrange location. Food Commodity is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and is distributed on a first come, first served basis. To be eligible for monthly food commodity, residents must bring their ID, social security card and verification of income.

If interested in receiving food assistance please contact Valerie Goss, Food Security Coordinator at (706) 882-6412

You Should Know

COOKING WORKS CLASS

CAFI Neighborhood Service Centers

Troup: (706) 882-6412

Coweta: (770) 253-3864

Carroll: (770) 838-0511

Meriwether: (706) 882-6412

Heard: (770) 253-3864

The Cooking Matters series is a 6 week course designed to teach parents and caregivers how to cook delicious, healthy meals on a \$10 budget. Beginning in Spring 2018, CAFI is excited to partner with Cooking Works to offer this series at its Carrollton Service Center location.



CAFI is proud to announce that it has a **BRAND NEW WEBSITE!** The new website is user friendly and features up to date contact information and a menu of services.
www.cafi-ga.org

Community Partner Spotlight

DASH NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

DASH (Dependable Affordable Sustainable Housing) was formed in 2002 to address growing concerns of inadequate, unsafe housing in LaGrange and the decline of its once thriving mill villages. Today, DASH provides a holistic array of housing services including homeownership opportunities, safe and affordable rental options, home improvement loan programs, community building programs and neighborhood leadership development.

