

Leveraged Energy Advocacy Through the Community Action State Association – Example, Oregon

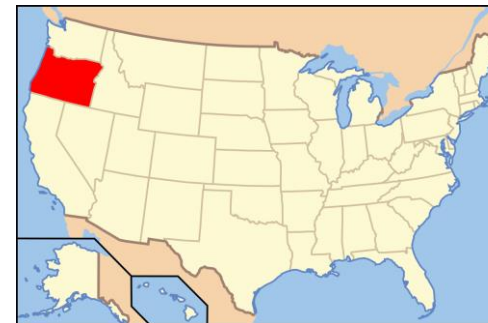
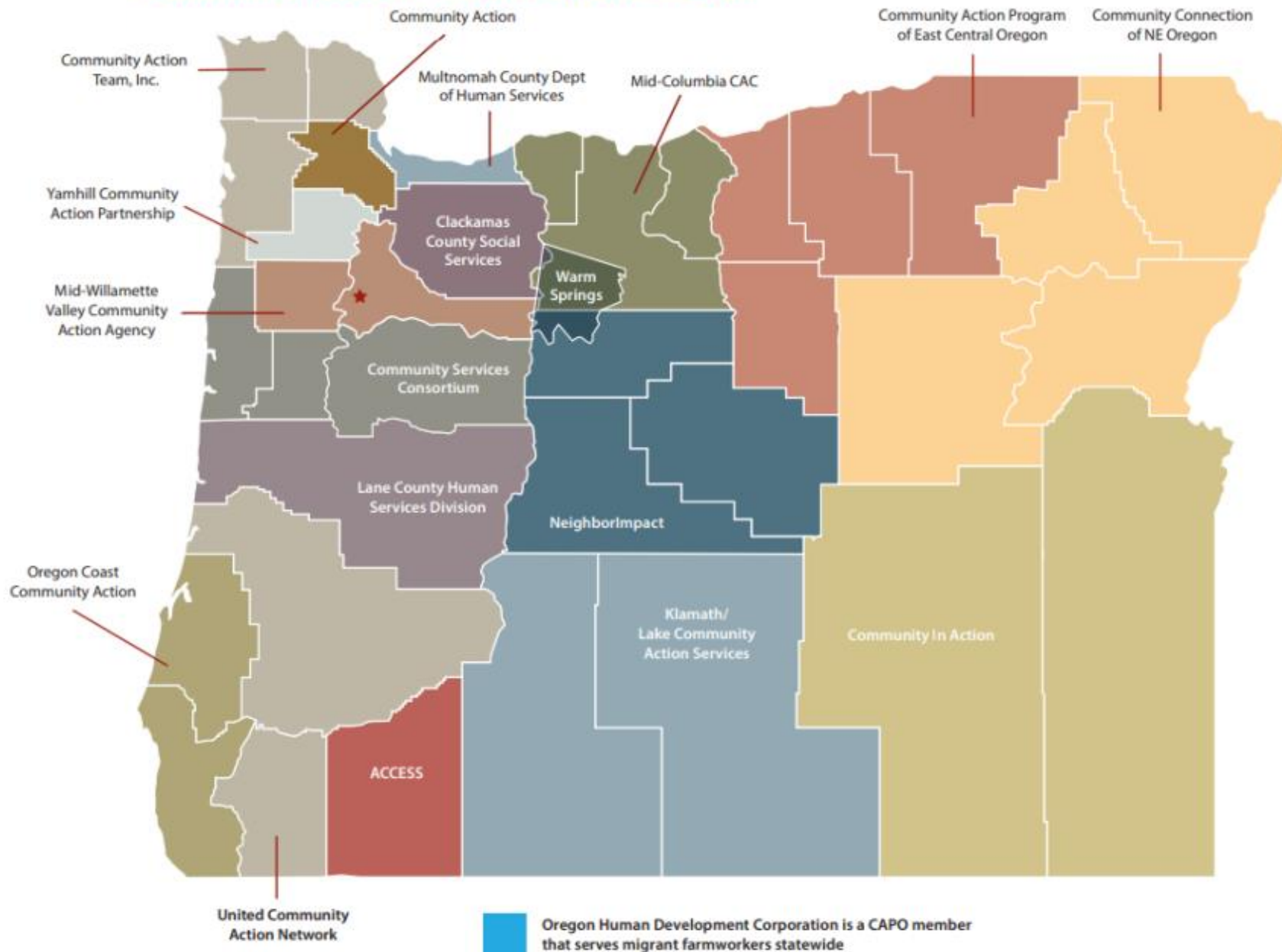


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Community Action Partnership of Oregon



- 18 member organizations
- Oregon Population (4.2 million) below 200% (100%) of FPL: 28% (12%)
- Households served with energy assistance: 69,000 – 13% of eligible (21-22)
- Households weatherized: 972 (2022)

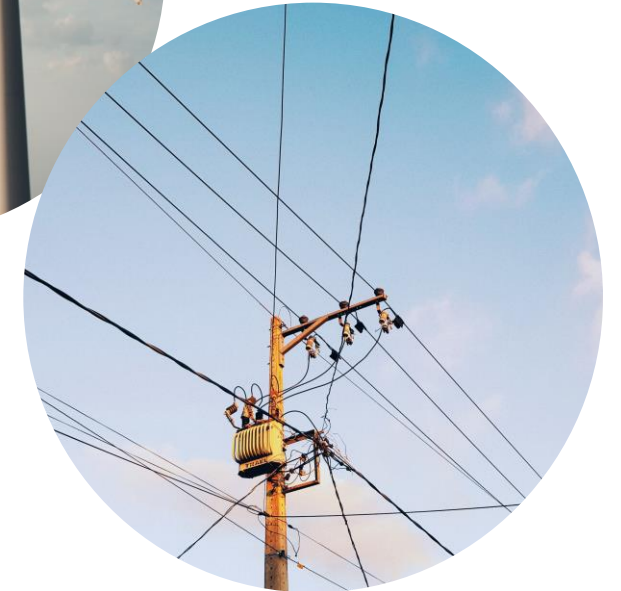
Our Activities

- (1) Education and Networking
- (2) Funding Opportunities
- (3) Program-specific Advocacy
- (4) General Advocacy
- (5) Training and Technical Assistance



(1) Education and Networking

- Get to know like-minded organizations
- Show up in relevant spaces
- Let people know what Community Action programs do
- Examples: PCEF, PUC



(2) Funding Opportunities

- Monitor opportunities, e.g. legislation
- Partners that know you will reach out
- Support funding applications of partners
- Connect them to Community Action agencies
- Example: ODOE Heat Pump Rebates



(3) Program-specific Advocacy

- Show state-administrators that you care about program improvement
- Know about and avert risks to network funding streams
- Multiple roles conflict: administrator, stakeholder, low-income advocate



(3) Advocacy Entry Point: Administrative Processes

- Many administrative processes require public input and hearings – always show up and submit comments in writing
 - DOE/LIHEAP State Plans
 - Operations Manuals = administrative rules
 - Other administrative rules
- Notice of proposed rule making
- Rules advisory committee
- Example: LIHEAP State Plan



(3) Advocacy Entry Point: Relationships with Utilities

- Many additional weatherization and energy assistance programs are funded by utilities (voluntary/mandatory)
- Ask for program improvements
- Example: CNG tariff revision



(4) General Advocacy

- Complementary action to your programs likely happens in Utility regulation at a Public Utility Commission or similar
 - Quasi-judicial proceedings are often hard to access
 - Build partnerships or create own expertise
- Lobby for or support legislative action
- Federal lobbying is best left to national advocacy organizations
- Example: General Rate Case



(5) Training and Technical Assistance

- Your network already has the expertise – need to make the connections
- Mentoring
- Exchange of best practices
- Produce training materials
- Example: conferences

