

ADVOCACY PLATFORM

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MARIN

Our work at Community Action Marin centers the people and community we serve as we take action to address the causes and consequences of poverty.

WE ADVANCE THIS WORK THROUGH FOUR LEVERS FOR CHANGE

by providing community-responsive services, shifting the narrative and creating new mindsets, building power with people, and advocating to change systems. Together, we are building a powerful and sustainable anti-poverty movement to achieve our vision of a Marin County where all can live with dignity and respect.

Our advocacy takes the form of deliberate action to inform changes to policies and systems that advance racial and economic justice. The following strategic target issues anchor our advocacy work:

HOUSING STABILITY

Housing is a human right

- Prevent homelessness and expand resources for those who are unhoused
- Strengthen tenant protections to keep people housed
- Preserve existing affordable housing
- Increase production of new affordable housing

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Early childhood education serves a public good

- Increase public funding for ECE across public, nonprofit, and community settings
- Expand access to high-quality early learning and child care options for families
- Expand access to direct economic relief for those of lowest income via public benefits and other programs to address community need
- Expand access to community-driven behavioral health services and supports

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

All work deserves respect and a fair wage

- Increase the wages of early childhood educators through structural compensation reform to achieve pay equity with K-12 educators
- Strengthen investments in workforce development for the lowest paid workers
- Raise the minimum wage for all workers until it reflects a living wage
- Ensure fairness for the lowest income tax payers

In addition, we work in support of policies that further strengthen the Community Action movement, the nonprofit sector, and our agency's ability to fulfill its mission as well as those that promote civic engagement among individuals and organizations.

2024 ADVOCACY AGENDA

We advocate for specific policy proposals at the local, state, and federal levels to advance racial and economic justice. Leveraging our service-based expertise, we will deploy our Levers for Change toward the following proposals in 2024:

STRATEGIC TARGET	POLICY PROPOSAL	SERVICE EXPERTISE
<p>HOUSING STABILITY Housing is a human right</p>	<p>Generate significant new funding for affordable housing in Marin by passing the BAHFA (Bay Area Housing Finance Authority) housing bond measure and ACA-1 voting threshold for housing bond measures.</p> <p>Enact local tenant protections policies with the County of Marin, City of San Rafael, and other local jurisdictions to strengthen rent stabilization, eliminate unjust eviction, and create a rental registry.</p> <p>Increase federal appropriations for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).</p> <p>Protect state and local funding for homeless outreach services in Marin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental Assistance • Homeless Outreach • Housing Case Management • Transitional Aged Youth • Energy Assistance • Safety Net Services
<p>INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY WELL-BEING Early childhood education serves a public good</p>	<p>Strengthen Marin's school readiness through implementation of Community Schools and UPK (Universal Pre-Kindergarten) via a Mixed Delivery System with models that include Head Start as a central component.</p> <p>Strengthen early childhood education program standards and resources, including federal Head Start Performance Standards and state-level quality benchmarks.</p> <p>Build an equitable food and farm system to include school food kitchen infrastructure investments, California's Farm to School initiative, and ensure equitable access to the Child and Adult Care Food Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center and Home-Based Early Childhood Education • Family Child Care Network • Public Benefits Enrollment • Food and Climate Justice • Central Kitchen and Production Farm
<p>ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY All work deserves respect and a fair wage</p>	<p>Achieve pay equity for early childhood educators via structural compensation reform in state and federal funding streams.</p> <p>Increase Marin's minimum wage by passing a local county-wide ordinance.</p> <p>Expand the federal Child Tax Credit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center and Home-Based Early Childhood Education • Financial Coaching • VITA Tax Preparation