

NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana



HELPING PEOPLE.
CHANGING LIVES.

SINCE 1966

Quarterly Highlights

- New Grants Strengthen Our Mission and Community Impact
- RAMP UP Program Offers Accessibility Support to Homeowners
- Head Start Celebrated National School Bus Safety Week in October

Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors



CAPWI is now accepting applications for the Joan E. Cline Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 per year for up to four years to graduating high school seniors. Established in 2005 in memory of Joan E. Cline, CAPWI's Executive Director from 1970 to 2004, this scholarship honors her dedication to helping young people achieve their educational and career goals.

If you have—or know of—a high school senior in Benton, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion, or Warren counties, please encourage them to apply. Eligible students must:

- Be enrolled in an accredited institution for at least 12 credit hours (or full-time equivalent)
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Preference is given to applicants from low-to-moderate income families

Important Dates:

- Application Deadline: March 2 (by close of business)
- Announcement of Recipient: April 3

Please note: The scholarship application has been updated. Only the new application will be accepted. The updated form can be accessed here: [2026 Joan E. Cline Memorial Scholarship Application](#).

For questions or additional information, you may contact Julie Pettit at 765-793-4881 or jpettit@capwi.org.

New Grants Strengthen Our Mission and Community Impact

CAPWI was recently awarded several grants to support and expand our programs. These funds will strengthen our ability to assist individuals and families across our communities, providing essential resources and creating new opportunities for growth and stability. Below is a list of the grants we have received. See page 3 for the Ramp Up grant!

Head Start

- Vermillion County Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,200
 - This special project will give our trikes, balls, and outdoor learning materials a cozy, weather-safe home – keeping everything organized and ready for playtime adventures. Parents and volunteers will join in the fun of building the shed, showing how teamwork and heart can make big things happen for our children.

MAC Van

- Warren County Community Foundation’s Don and Marry Ann Akers in the amount of \$851.10
 - This grant will assist with providing transportation to elderly Warren County residents.

Covering Kids and Families (CKF)

- Warren County Community Foundation in the amount of \$5,000
- Parke County Community Foundation in the amount of \$9,000
 - These grants will help provide support and healthcare navigation for families in the community.



Thank You!

We are grateful for our grant partners—your support makes it possible to expand opportunities and create lasting impact!

RAMP UP Program Offers Accessibility Support to Homeowners

We are excited to continue our RAMP UP program, funded through the \$50,000 Development Funding Grant administered by IHCD. This program provides funding for the construction or rehabilitation of accessibility ramps, helping homeowners maintain independence and improve safety in their homes.

RAMP UP serves residents in Benton, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, and Vermillion counties. It's important to note that eligibility does not require applicants to be totally or permanently disabled or in a wheelchair. Homeowners who are elderly, have a debilitating disease, or experience other disabilities are encouraged to apply. Rental properties are not eligible for this program.

Income guidelines vary by county and are based on household size and total income, ensuring support goes to those who need it most. The grant will remain in effect for 18 months, giving homeowners ample opportunity to apply.

We are currently seeking potential applicants in all counties! If you or someone you know could benefit from an accessibility ramp, now is the time to take advantage of this program and improve safety and mobility at home.

For more information or to apply, please contact Terri Oakley at 765-793-4881 or tpoynter@capwi.org.



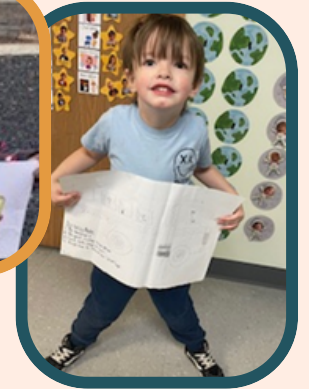
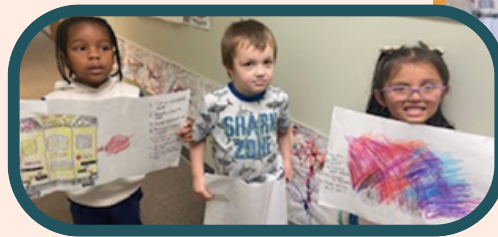
Head Start Celebrated National School Bus Safety Week in October

October 20–24 marked National School Bus Safety Week, a time to highlight the shared responsibility of keeping students safe on and around school buses. This public education campaign involves students, parents, and drivers alike. Our Head Start program was excited to participate!

Head Start requires annual School Bus Safety and Pedestrian Safety training, and our program already provides school bus safety education year-round. This includes: distributing safety packets to children and parents on screening day, teaching parents proper child seat and seatbelt use, conducting monthly bus drills, and reinforcing safety messages during transportation

During National School Bus Safety Week, all Head Start centers were encouraged to incorporate bus-related activities in the classroom. Activities ranged from reading bus-themed books and discussing bus behavior to creating lists of bus rules and role-playing bus routines with chairs. For centers without buses, we invited local bus drivers to be guest readers. We also love getting parents involved! Our Fountain/Warren Center sent home sheets of paper and asked families to create posters about bus safety with their children. The results were fantastic. Parents reported having fun while helping their children learn more about staying safe.

At Head Start, the safety of our children is everyone's top priority, and the National School Bus Safety Week is a wonderful opportunity to reinforce that mission.



Our Mission: CAP of Western Indiana empowers individuals and families toward self-sufficiency by addressing challenges through comprehensive services, support, and education.

Our Vision: CAP of Western Indiana believes in the value, dignity, and worth of all people, with the goal of helping people help themselves.

All services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, familial status, or status as a veteran.