The Community Action Commission of Belmont County is a private, nonprofit agency that provides programs and services to county residents. CAC was founded in May 1965 as a local response to President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. The Agency’s mission is to combat poverty and its causes. Programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency and to help low income individuals and families. Listed below are programs offered to county residents.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program designed to help low income families meet the rising costs of home heating bills. The program operates from July through March. The Community Action Commission provides assistance in completing applications. The processing of applications and the payment of benefits are managed by the Ohio Department of Development. Eligibility is set at 175% of the federal poverty level.

Emergency HEAP is a one-time per year emergency assistance program provided locally by the Community Action Commission. The program provides financial assistance for household heating utilities in danger of being shut off and for the purchases of bulk fuels such as heating oil, propane, coal and wood. Households whose income fall below 175% of the federal poverty level are eligible for services. The program operates from November through March.

The HEAP Summer Cooling Program is designed to help with the costs of cooling homes during the summer months. Income eligibility is 175% of the federal poverty level. Funds are used to pay for electric bills and in certain circumstance for the purchase of an air conditioner for an applicant.

PIPP The PIPP program is available to customers who are serviced by a regulated utility (American Electric Power and Columbia Gas). To qualify for enrollment a customer must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. Payments are based on gross monthly income. Total electric households pay a monthly percentage of 10%. A household that heats with both gas and electric or bulk fuel pay 6% per utility. This program is available year-round.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds are provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and may be used to prevent heating utility disconnections, bulk fuel purchases and to help with rent and mortgage payments. Eligibility is determined in the same manner as HEAP.

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is a federally funded program intended to help people reduce energy consumption thereby lowering their heating and cooling costs. Services includes the insulation of sidewalls, attics, and floors, weather-stripping doors and windows, inspection and repair of heating units and hot water tanks, the sealing of duct work, and repairing doors and windows.

The American Electric Power Community Assistance Program (AEP CAP) & the Universal Service Fund Energy Audit Program (USF) are non-emergency electrical partnership
programs funded by PUCO regulated electric utilities. The program includes an audit of electric consumption, consumer education, and the installation of energy conservation measures aimed at helping households to lower their electric bills. Eligible households must be customers of AEP.

The Warm Choice Program is an energy conservation program funded by Columbia Gas of Ohio. The program’s services parallel those of HWAP and are intend to help customers who live in the Columbia Gas service territory and who heat with natural gas.

The American Electric Power Community Assistance Program (AEP CAP) & the Electric Partnership Program (EPP) is an energy conservation program funded by American Electric Power. The program’s services parallel those of HWAP and are intend to help households who are AEP customers, who heat with electricity and have moderate to high usage.

Outreach Services are offered through the Community Action Commission’s Outreach Office.

Head Start is a preschool child development program for 3 to 5 year olds. Enrollees are from families whose income is at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. Services focus on education, nutrition, social services, health, and parent involvement. Head Start Centers are located in Powhatan Point, Bellaire, Martins Ferry, St. Clairsville, Flushing, and Barnesville.

The John and Margareta Kelsey Memorial Fund provides monthly financial assistance to widows and their dependent children who live in Belmont County and Ohio County, West Virginia. The program is funded by the Columbus Foundation. Income guidelines have been established at 200% of the federal poverty level.

Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program services are provided to area youth (14 to 24 years of age). Services are for both in-school and out of school youth, and include adult mentoring, leadership, work readiness skills, job development, and paid and unpaid work experience, tutoring, financial literacy and adult mentoring. Income eligibility limits apply. WIOA and TANF funds are received from the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services.

The Summer Food Service Program provides free lunches to children (1 to 18 years of age). Four food service sites are currently operated in the river front communities of Bellaire and Martins Ferry. The program period runs from June through August. Funding is provided by the USDA and the Community Services Block Grant.

Bridges/Getting Ahead is a 16-week workshop used by organizations across the United States to help people living in poverty learn about how poverty impacts them and their communities. Sessions are one day a week, 3-hours a day, lunch is provided, day-care for children of participants, as well as workbooks, supplies, and other incentives.

Re-Entry Program – CAC serves as the fiscal entity for this program funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Funds are distributed to service providers for Belmont, Harrison, and Monroe residents that were previously incarcerated.
COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT:

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amanz@cacbelmont.org

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Head Start Office
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Bridges/Getting Ahead
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CCMEP, Summer Youth
Ohio Means Jobs
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Martins Ferry, OH 43935
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Home Energy Assistance Program ( HEAP)
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Summer Food & Kelsey Programs
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