

Trend Analysis of Community Action Network's Outcomes in Asset Development Initiatives, 2008-10

Asset Development Outcome Indicator (NPI 1.3)

The Community Services Block Grant network collects performance data on a variety of outcome indicators through its National Performance Indicators (NPIs), but the indicator most closely tied to asset development activities is NPI 1.3 (Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization). NPI 1.3 measures Community Action Agency (CAA) clients' success in reaching goals like increasing savings through an Individual Development Account (IDA), capitalizing a small business, or purchasing a home. The following list includes all sub-indicators measured and tracked by NPI 1.3:

NPI 1.3: Economic Asset Enhancement

- E1. Participants in tax preparation programs receive Federal or State tax credits for which they qualify.
- E2. Participants obtain court-ordered child support payments.
- E3. Participants enroll in telephone lifeline and/or energy discounts.

NPI 1.3: Economic Asset Utilization

- U1: Participants demonstrate ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.
- U2: Participants open an Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings account.
- U3. Participants increase their savings through IDA or other savings accounts.

Of Participants in Community Action assets development programs:

- U4a. Participants capitalize a small business with accumulated savings.
- U4b. Participants pursue postsecondary education with accumulated savings.
- U4c. Participants purchase a home with accumulated savings.
- U4d. Participants purchase other assets with accumulated savings.

This report will look closely at each of these asset development-related sub-indicators and evaluate the Network's progress and accomplishments for the period of 2008-2010.

CAA Clients' Asset Utilization

Table A: Utilization of Acquired Assets	2008	# CAAs	2009	# CAAs	2010	#CAAs
U4a. Began Small Business	654	115	675	129	1,234	203
U4b. Pursued Post-Secondary Education	1,059	149	1,298	168	1,904	222
U4c. Purchased a Home	1,359	202	1,167	198	1,527	257

Figure 1: 2008-10 Trends in CAA Clients' Utilization of Acquired Assets

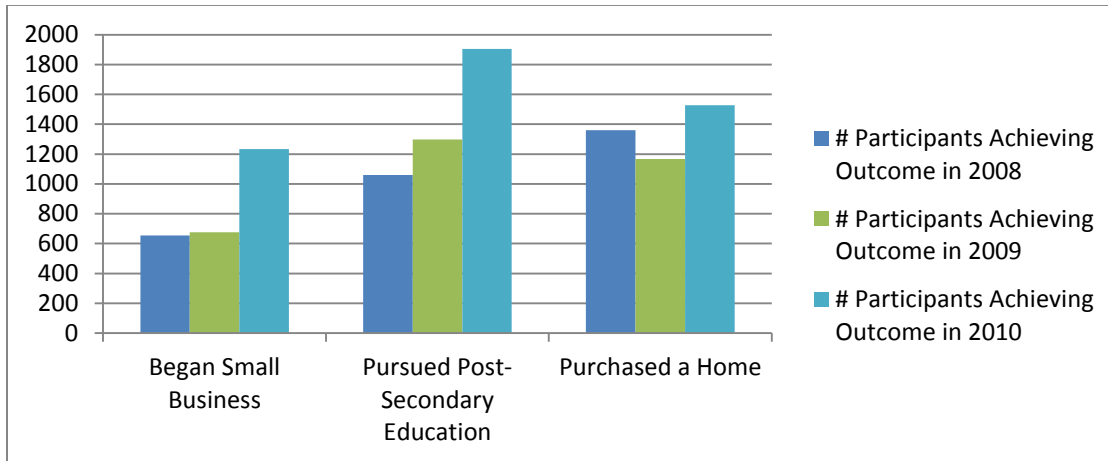


Figure 1 represents CAA participants' ability to purchase life-sustaining assets with their savings in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Beginning a small business, obtaining a college education, or purchasing a home are all events that significantly impact a family's ability to not only become self-sufficient, but to maintain this level of economic stability through later years. Latest data reveal a steady increase in families' purchasing of these assets since 2008. The number of families starting small businesses, as well as family members pursuing postsecondary education, both consistently increased in each of the last three years. However, the number of families purchasing a home with savings decreased in 2009, but rose higher than 2008 numbers in 2010. These trends are mirroring the dismal state of the economy, where mortgage lending was scarce and business prospects were grim in 2009.

CAA Clients' Asset Enhancement

Table B: Enhancement of Assets	2008	# CAAs	2009	# CAAs	2010	#CAAs
E1. Received Tax Credits	362,813	486	345,866	488	394,274	540
E3. Telephone Lifeline Programs/Energy Bill Discounts	411,704	280	636,188	291	536,492	359

Figure 2: 2008-10 Trends in CAA Clients' Enhancement of Assets

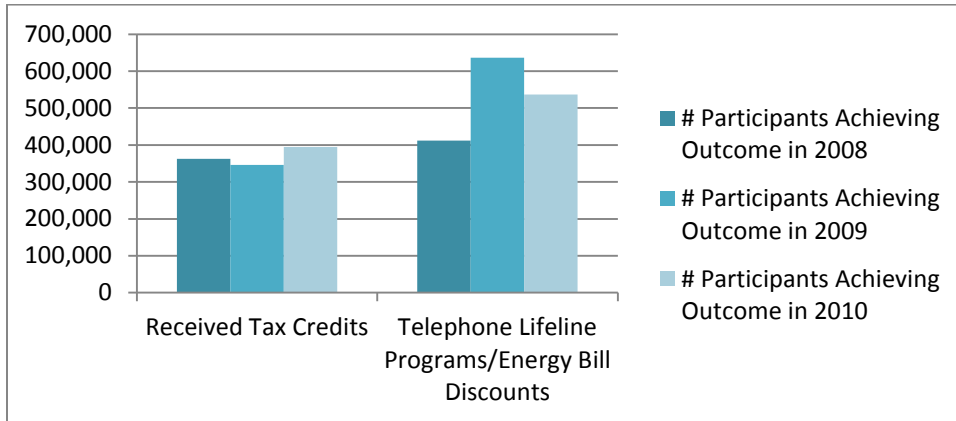


Figure 2 represents a three year trend in two of the three asset enhancement sub-indicators. These data reveal an increase in tax credits received and the number of individuals enrolled in telephone lifeline programs and energy bill discounts since 2008. The most dramatic increase was in the telephone lifeline program and energy bill discounts category. Energy bill discounts can make a significant improvement in a low-income family's economic well-being. On average, low-income families spend 18% of their monthly income on energy bills. This is disproportionately high when compared to families with moderate and high incomes, and significantly constraints budgets of families with lower incomes. These data show that CAAs have significantly increased the number of qualifying families receiving these benefits.

Figure 3: 2008-10 Trends in CAA Participation in Asset Enhancing Initiatives

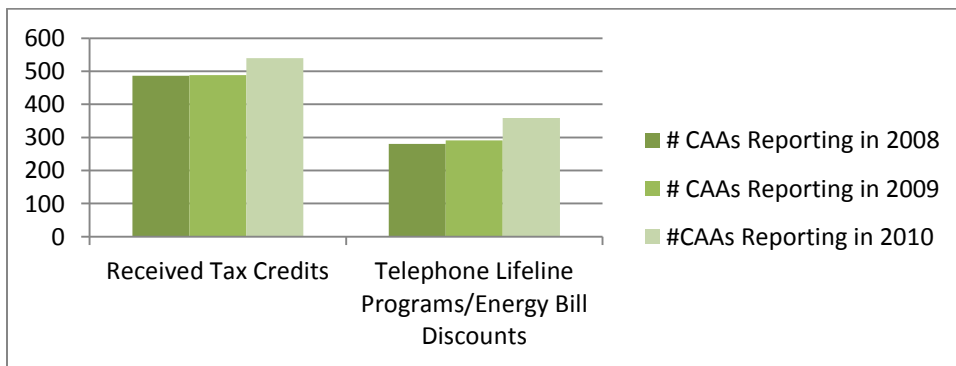
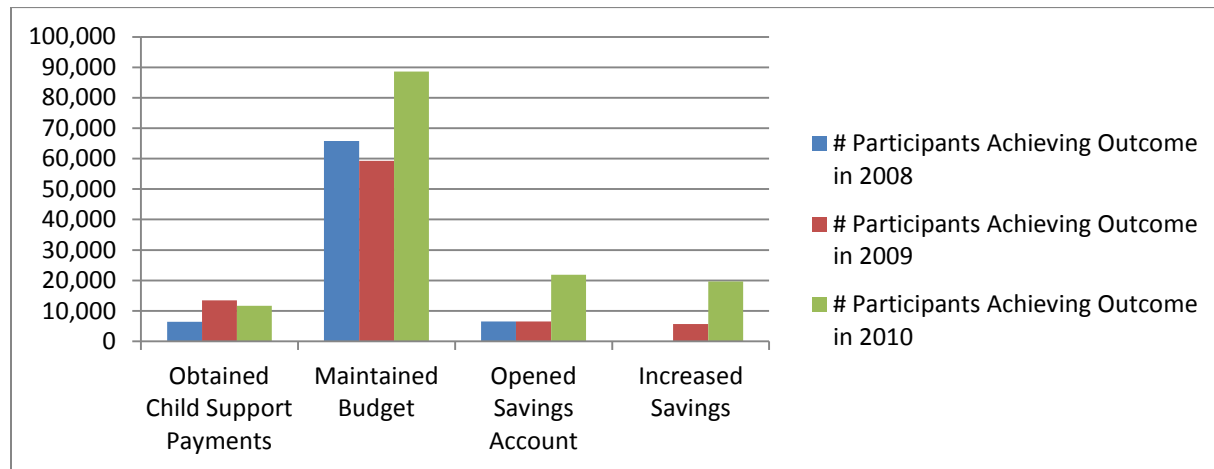


Figure 3 demonstrates that each year more CAAs are reporting data for each of these asset enhancement indicators. For example, in 2010, 540 CAAs reported being involved in free tax preparation initiatives. This means that over half (50.9%) of all CAAs in the 52 States and Territories were involved in such asset development initiatives in 2010. This is an increase over the 45% involved in 2008.

CAA Clients' Asset Enhancement and Utilization

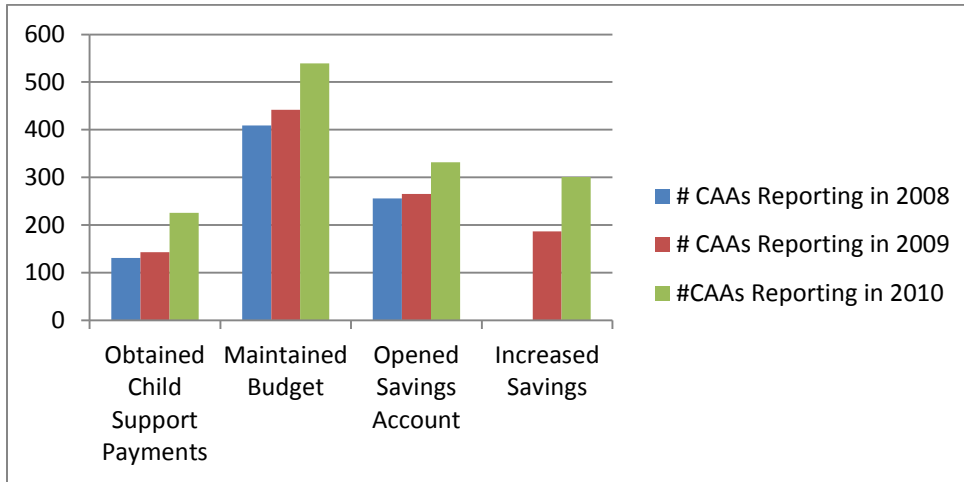
Table C: Asset Enhancement & Utilization	2008	# CAAs	2009	# CAAs	2010	#CAAs
E2. Obtained Child Support Payments	6,389	131	13,495	143	11,670	226
U1. Maintained Budget	65,801	409	59,230	442	88,619	539
U2. Opened Savings Account	6,479	256	6,486	265	21,860	332
U3. Increased Savings	N/A	N/A	5,676	187	19,631	301

Figure 4: 2008-10 Trends in CAA Clients' Asset Enhancement



Latest data also reveal a jump in the number of families showing improvements in asset building in the following categories: successfully maintaining a budget, opening a savings account, and increasing savings. The number of families opening a savings account and increasing savings has more than tripled over 2009. Note that increased savings data were not collected in 2008.

Figure 5: 2008-10 Trends in CAA Participation in Asset Enhancing Programs

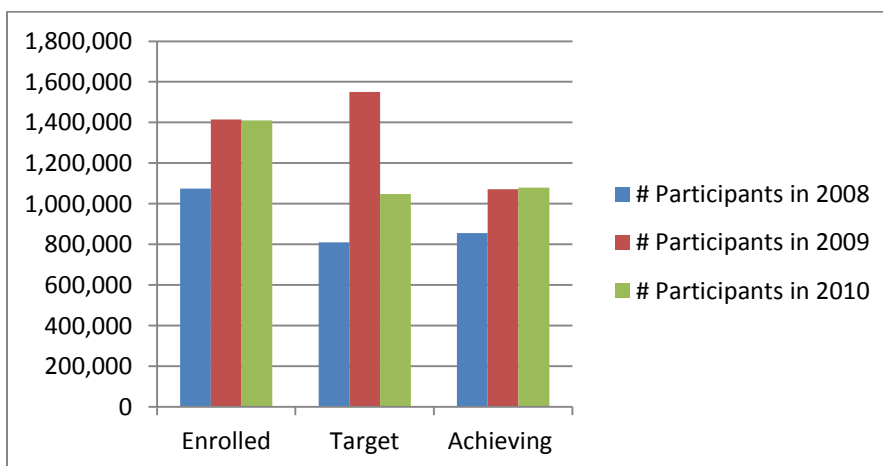


The number of CAAs involved in these specific asset development activities has consistently increased every year from 2008 to 2010.

CAAs' Overall Performance and Outcome Targeting Ability

Table D: Totals	2008	2009	2010
Enrolled	1,074,778	1,414,630	1,410,679
Target	809,607	1,550,211	1,048,409
Achieving	856,258	1,070,596	1,078,491

Figure 6: 2008-10 Trends in CAAs' Performance Targeting for NPI 1.3



Aggregate data reveal that in 2008 CAAs slightly underestimated their success in enhancing clients' assets and helping them use those assets effectively. In 2009, however, CAAs set higher, over-estimated

targets, but also made greater achievements. In 2010, CAAs targeting abilities have seemed to improve as they collectively reached 103% of their Asset Development indicator targets.

Conclusion

Overall, all NPI 1.3 sub-indicators demonstrated an increasing trend in the number of individuals achieving an asset enhancing or asset utilization outcome from 2008 to 2010. All sub-indicators increased in 2010, as compared to 2008 values.

The greatest increase in the number of clients achieving an outcome between 2008 and 2010 is in the number of individuals enrolled in telephone lifeline programs/energy bill discounts (an increase of 124,788 individuals). The number of individuals receiving tax credits has increased by 31,461 since 2008, and the number of individuals demonstrating ability to complete and maintain a budget increased by 22,818 since 2008. The smallest increase from 2008 to 2010 was in the number of individuals purchasing a home with acquired assets, which only increased by 168 individuals since 2008.