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# SERVING THROUGH GOVERNANCE

STEP's mission is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.



# COMMUNITY

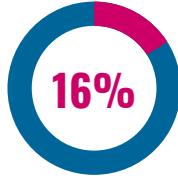
## OUR LOCAL NEED

In Lycoming and Clinton counties, poverty hides in plain sight. While many see **vibrant college campuses, bustling baseball fields and quaint weekend farmers markets**, thousands of individuals and families quietly struggle to meet basic needs.

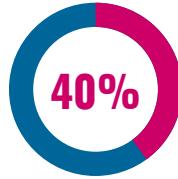
### QUICK LOCAL SNAPSHOT:



**13%** **13,456 people** live in poverty in Lycoming County



**16%** **5,114 people** live in poverty in Clinton County



**40%** of households live paycheck to paycheck.

### WHY

## THE WORK MATTERS

One of the standout successes this year was a participant who came to the Work Ready program with a goal to complete her HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) and start nursing school. She not only met her goal, but she exceeded her expectation and completed her HiSET all on her own before she was scheduled to start GED classes. She obtained her diploma, applied to the Pennsylvania College of Technology, and was accepted into their nursing program with classes scheduled to start in January 2026.

### VISION STATEMENT:

At **Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP)**, our vision is to be a positive community and economic force, recognized as a leader in the services we provide or through the navigation of services provided by our community partners. This vision can be achieved by focusing on our mission.

## OUR PATHWAYS & PROGRAMS

### Early Learning Pathway

**Programs:** Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Early Learning Resource Center, Substitute Aide Pool Program

STEP's Early Learning Pathway builds the foundation for lifelong health and success by connecting families to quality early education, nutrition, and developmental supports—from prenatal care through preschool. Each program addresses key Social Determinants of Health—stable childcare, early intervention, and family engagement—that shape school readiness and strengthen community well-being.

### Housing Options

**Programs:** Utilities Assistance Program, Weatherization, and Housing and Building Initiatives

STEP's Housing Options Pathway strengthens community stability by helping families stay safely housed and financially secure. Through programs like Utilities Assistance, Weatherization, and Housing & Building Initiatives, STEP improves home efficiency and safety and supports affordable housing access. These efforts ease financial strain, reduce energy costs, and protect vulnerable households—especially seniors and individuals with disabilities—while reinforcing the overall health and economic resilience of the region.

### Community Collaboration

**Programs:** Service Navigation, Supportive Housing, Master Leasing Program, Youth Enrichment for Success

STEP's Community Collaboration Pathway provides a variety of case management services and connects customers to referral partners to improve community well-being. The specific programs under this pathway, like all of our services, are adaptable and tailored to demonstrated community needs.

### Workforce Development

**Programs:** Work Ready, Employment Transportation Assistance Program

STEP's Workforce Development Pathway empowers individuals to overcome barriers and achieve lasting employment. Through programs like Work Ready and the Employment Transportation Assistance Program (ETAP), participants receive personalized case management, life skills and career training, GED preparation, counseling, and reliable transportation support. Together, these services help residents move from instability to steady, family-supporting work and long-term economic stability.

### Independent Living

**Programs:** Office of Aging, STEP Transportation

STEP's Independent Living Pathway helps older adults and individuals with disabilities remain safe, healthy, and independent in their homes and communities. Through the Office of Aging and STEP Transportation, participants access vital supports such as health screenings, nutritious meals, social activities, home modifications, protective services, and reliable transportation to medical care and essential destinations. These services address mobility, preventive care, social connection, and home safety, strengthening independence, dignity, and long-term well-being across the region.

## ANNUAL AGENCY IMPACTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### THE POWER OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT:

**19,379** individuals served through STEP programs.

**97** individuals obtained or kept employment by accessing reliable transportation options.

**107** households avoided eviction or foreclosure.

**2,742** adults age 65+ and **538** individuals with disabilities maintained independent living situations.

### WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

- ✓ Strengthened local workforce
- ✓ Reduced public assistance dependence
- ✓ Vibrant, stable neighborhoods
- ✓ New contributors to local economy

# I JOIN US!

## THE HEART OF COMMUNITY ACTION:

*Community Action is uniquely positioned and structured to respond to the specific needs and characteristics of our service area.*

*To maintain this perspective, it is important for us to have governing bodies that reflect the private, public, and low-income populations of Lycoming and Clinton counties.*

## WAYS TO ENGAGE:

- Learn more about STEP
- Visit a monthly public board meeting
- Join a committee
- Talk to a board member



**LEARN  
MORE HERE**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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DURING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS,  
WE WORKED TOGETHER TO OBTAIN  
STABLE CHILDCARE, TRANSPORTATION,  
AND EMPLOYMENT.

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Together, we can break  
cycles of poverty and build  
lasting change right here in  
Lycoming and Clinton  
counties.

Your involvement creates  
an impact and drives  
transformation.

“

**POVERTY IS MAN-MADE,  
AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE  
THE POWER TO END IT.**

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