

Putnam Community Action Partnership (CAP)/Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.

121 Main Street

Brewster, NY 10509

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Description of Agency:

Putnam CAP is a component of WestCOP, Inc. Founded in 1965 under the Economic Opportunity Act, WestCOP is a private not-for-profit multi-service organization serving the lower Hudson Valley. Established in 1986, Putnam CAP provides services to Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Services Provided:

Putnam CAP provides a myriad of services to Putnam's low-income community members. Those services include:

- **Food Pantry**- registered clients can access twice monthly
- **Soup Kitchen**- prepared hot, nutritious meal is provided 3 times weekly (increases to 4 times per week from December – April) to anyone in need of a meal
- **Emergency Financial Assistance**- assistance with utility or rental/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs, medical bills, camp tuition, etc. All recipients of this form of assistance must agree to meet with an agency Case Manager monthly for 12 consecutive months to assist with budgeting/financial literacy, development and implementation of both short and long term goals toward self-sufficiency and to provide wrap around support/connection to other community resources available.
- **Emergency Services**- \$100 or less assistance, in the form of a gift card, for needs such as gas for a vehicle, prescription co-pay, food for a dietary restriction, clothing, etc.
- **Miles of Hope**- grant of up to \$1,000 to assist anyone currently undergoing breast cancer treatment. Assistance is not restricted to just medical needs/bills, can also be used toward personal expenses.
- **Barret Lending**- provides up to \$1,200 in financial assistance with business expenses and up to \$900 in financial assistance with personal expenses to low-income business owners (offered in partnership with the Barrett Lending Corporation).
- **Information, Referrals & Advocacy**- Information and referrals are provided to

guide clients toward community resources. Assistance is also offered to connect clients with the appropriate organizations to access the services that meet their needs.

- **Children's Car Seats**- Offered in collaboration with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, low-income parents are provided with a new child safety seat and instruction on how to properly install the seat.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program**- Contracted through Putnam County, Putnam CAP assists low-income youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to secure entry-level employment during the summer months. Youth are mentored in work ethic, appropriate work behavior, effective communication, and in career exploration activities.
- **Special Programs**
 - **School Supplies**- parents are provided with new backpacks and gift cards to purchase school supplies & clothing for their school-aged children.
 - **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**
 - **December Holiday Toy Program**
 - **Children's Winter Coats**

Mission Statement:

Putnam CAP's mission is to mobilize and efficiently manage resources, through partnerships and collaborations, to help low-income and at-risk populations in Putnam County achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Population Served:

Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2025:

- 12,873 food insecure individuals received monthly supplemental food
- through the food pantry program. During the months of October & November 35% more individuals accessed Putnam CAP's food pantry program due to the delay in SNAP benefits.
- 9,813 individuals received a hot nutritious meal through the soup kitchen program.
- Due to its small staff size, Putnam CAP relies greatly on volunteers to assist with the operation of its food pantry and soup kitchen programs. In 2025, 6,231 hours were donated to the agency by our dedicated community volunteers. This was a savings in staff costs of \$210,288.
- Through partnerships with ShopRite, TOPs, Stop & Shop in Mahopac, DeCicco's and Trader Joe's, Putnam CAP received a total \$493,245 worth of food donations from their respective stores. These donations not only supplemented Putnam CAP's food budget, but enabled the agency to expand our offerings of

fresh produce, organic meats and whole grain breads. Food donations received from these stores would have otherwise been discarded.

- \$51,019 was provided in client financial assistance with needs such as utility and rent/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs & medical bills.
- 343 low-income children received needed school supplies to arrive to begin the school year equipped to learn
- 22 low-income youth between the ages of 14 – 20 were provided with summer employment for 9 weeks, financial literacy instruction (offered in partnership with Tompkins Community Bank), mentorship and workforce skill development support.
- 1531 at-risk individuals were connected with community resources (i.e. health insurance, mental health services, child care services, SNAP, HEAP) to help stabilize their families
- 372 families received Thanksgiving food
- 513 children were serviced through our December Holiday Toy Program
- 307 individuals were provided with individualized budget review/financial literacy support
- Putnam CAP is currently partnering with Aurelia's Organic Garden to reduce food waste. Aurelia's Organic Garden accepts the leftover bread and produce, that is no longer appropriate for client distribution, at the time of closing each day that the food pantry is open. We are proud to help to reduce the amount of food that ends up in landfills.
- Putnam CAP held its Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction fundraiser in April 2025, and raised over \$28,000 to support our operations

Staffing:

Putnam CAP struggled to retain a qualified bilingual Receptionist, as the position is part-time and only pays \$17.00/hour; however, we were finally able to hire someone for the position in January 2025, who currently remains in the position.

Sources of Revenue:

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| • Department of State (Community Service Block grant): | \$279,450 |
| • Putnam County: | \$12,917 |
| • Grants/Foundations: | \$77,712 |
| • Private/Fundraising: | \$146,377 |
| Total: | \$516,456 |

Goals for 2026:

- Explore opportunities for a physical presence on the Western side of the County to better serve individuals with transportation barriers.
- Secure additional cold storage to increase capacity of perishable items that can be offered