



# NEWS

Community Action Project • 4606 S. Garnett Road, Suite 100 • Tulsa, OK 74146

Contact: Linda Brock, Communications Specialist • 918.382.3241

[lbrock@captc.org](mailto:lbrock@captc.org) • [www.captc.org](http://www.captc.org)

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## **CAP awarded grant for public benefit coordination solution**

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TULSA--Community Action Project (CAP) will receive \$750,000 from the Ford Foundation for a new one-stop public benefit coordination solution called EarnBenefits Online®.

EarnBenefits Online is a consolidated application and screening process to determine eligibility for benefits available to low-income families. CAP's objective for offering EarnBenefits screening is to leverage the agency's Head Start client relationships and provide clients with a one-stop solution for access and advocacy. Through a custom developed toolbox of software and work processes, CAP will be able to access multiple benefit provider databases, engage more effectively and knowledgeably with clients, and better track family outcomes.

Technological innovation is a key to helping clients qualify for and retain benefits. CAP's project will allow benefit applications to be submitted electronically and allow community organizations to monitor application status. Additionally, CAP will create software that will use benefit screening results to enroll for Early Head Start and Head Start, reducing costly system redundancy while adding value and streamlining services for clients.

CAP's project will enhance national understanding of and capabilities in benefit coordination by demonstrating the value and ease of sharing data electronically, by creating systems that are immediately transferrable to hundreds of federally-funded Head Start agencies and early childhood providers, and by documenting program achievements and challenges.

"We've found over the years that Head Start families are the most vulnerable and least able to access crucial public assistance and benefit programs," said Steven Dow, executive director for CAP. "With this grant, we can develop a breakthrough to be leveraged throughout the country for families in need."

"We are grateful to the Ford Foundation for recognizing the severity of need and supporting this innovative approach to breaking the cycle of poverty."

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“Supporting CAP fits well within Ford Foundation’s overarching goal to help more low-income families move toward economic security by improving access to benefits and work supports that provide stability to vulnerable families,” said Helen Neuborne, director, quality employment for Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For 75 years it has worked with courageous people on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

EarnBenefits’ program partners include Seedco, Inc., the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority (OHCA) and ChildPlus Software.

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*Community Action Project (CAP) of Tulsa County is the largest anti-poverty nonprofit in Oklahoma and a nationally recognized provider of research-based, high-quality early childhood programs for low-income children from birth through age 5. CAP combines early childhood education of the highest caliber with innovative family financial and health services and targeted community improvement efforts, with a strategic vision to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving the prospects of long-term economic success for very young, low-income children, their families, and the communities in which they live.*