THE CYCLE OF POVERTY
From housing to health care, and from education to employment, the United States is plagued by opportunity gaps. These opportunity gaps are deeply intertwined and effectively cause and reinforce poverty. Research has shown that the U.S. is one of the least generationally mobile countries in the developed world, speaking to the cyclical nature of poverty. In other words, the likelihood of children growing up to have higher income than their parents is much smaller in the U.S. than in other developed countries.

People living near and below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) tend to live in areas with limited food, housing, and employment options. With limited options, it’s more difficult for people to meet their basic needs. When basic needs are not met, serious health issues may arise. It can be a challenge to pay regular bills, much less build assets for the future.

Children living in poverty are less likely to reach their full cognitive potential. As adults, these children who were left behind may not qualify for higher-paying jobs. As parents, their children are likely to go through the same cycle.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE CYCLE
What if we could break the cycle? What if we could bridge opportunity gaps for individuals and families living at or near the FPL? Our work at Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAP-HC) is designed to do exactly that.

Poverty is a complex issue requiring multi-faceted solutions. CAP-HC is one of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the U.S., and one of 24 agencies and 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota, dedicated to community-specific solutions for eradicating poverty. We listen to our communities. We design programs and services to address their immediate needs to help them stabilize. Beyond basic needs, we provide educational opportunities, teaching people how to make budgeting, housing, and asset-building decisions that increase self-sufficiency now and generational wealth for the future.

CAP-HC is proud to serve the Hennepin County community. We know that together, we can break the cycle of poverty.