



BUILDING A BOLD FUTURE



**Anne Arundel
Connecting
Together**

A POWER Organization

Overview

In 2024, ACT celebrated wins on attainable housing, descendant communities, and state-level policies. We are excited about our work with our sister organizations to create the **Maryland Just Power Alliance**, and we are also thrilled to welcome a new ACT organizer.

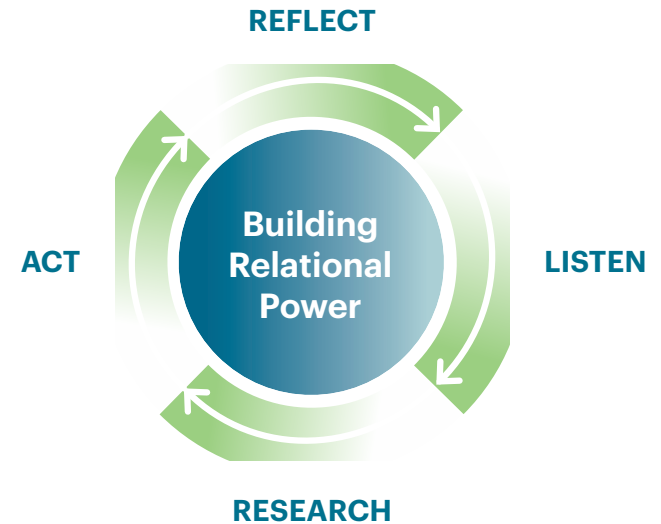
About Us

ACT is a nonpartisan, multiracial, multi-faith community power organization representing 18 congregations and over 20,000 residents in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. We invite everyday people to build relationships, develop as leaders, and take collective action to make change for a more livable, equitable county and state.



How We Organize

Everything we do starts with relationships and listening. Through listening sessions with community members, we identify common issues that we decide to organize campaigns around. We develop leaders who can organize their communities. We bring everyday people to meet with their state and local elected officials to advocate for just policies. We achieve tangible victories, and we always evaluate our work and how we can improve moving forward.



Our Core Values

- JUSTICE**
We ACT to create a just and peaceful society by advocating for just laws and fair treatment for all people.
- RELATIONSHIPS AND POWER**
We ACT to build power through diverse, multicultural, and inclusive relationships.
- ACCOUNTABILITY**
We ACT to create accountability. We hold each other accountable and hold those with power accountable to creating just and equitable outcomes for all people.



Our Impact in 2024

Attainable Housing Act in Anne Arundel County

In October, after over a year of organizing, the Anne Arundel County Council voted to pass the Attainable Housing Act! This policy will require all new housing developments to set aside 10 to 15% of units for people with moderate incomes and expand the types of housing that can be built in the county. This new law is a huge win for making housing more affordable in our county and ACT played a key role in getting it passed. Our 200-person action in April and countless meetings and emails kept up the pressure on the County Council to introduce and pass this improved version of the bill.



Standing with Descendant Communities

ACT stood with residents of the Shot Town Road and Mulberry Hill historic African American communities so that their intentions for their land were honored in the County's Comprehensive Zoning process. As a result of our work together, the County adopted zoning that allows families in these communities to build and pass on generational wealth. Work still remains so that families have the ability to fully use their land in the way their ancestors intended so they can pass on their legacy. We will continue to organize in solidarity to help overcome barriers for descendant landowners with land use permitting and more in 2025.

Statewide Victories

This year, ACT strategically organized with our sister organizations AIM and PATH in the Maryland State House to help pass key pieces of legislation for climate equity, affordable housing, and tenants' rights. Over 400 people were involved in the campaign and over 100 people attended our advocacy days in Annapolis. We achieved recognition from our legislators because of our ability to turn out everyday constituents who are directly impacted by the issues we work on. The new legislation we helped pass will:

- Help protect tenants from wrongful evictions and excessive security deposits.
- Allocate millions in funding to help apartments upgrade to cleaner and healthier, gas-free appliances.
- Increase the availability of affordable housing near transit stations.



Leadership Development

Summer Training Series

This summer, we held a successful training series, “Building Diverse Teams for Justice,” to help leaders learn how to organize core teams in their congregations and communities. A total of 199 people from ACT, PATH, and AIM participated. We had fun together and connected with each other between and across organizations through one-on-one and small group conversations.

As a result of the series, many leaders said they feel equipped to build stronger teams in their congregations, host listening sessions, and more. Stacy Burvant from Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church shared, “With the assistance of ACT, I am now more optimistic than ever in our potential to form core teams in the near future!”



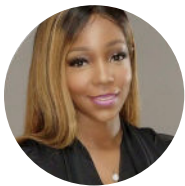
Leader Spotlights

Curtis Coates **Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church**



“ACT has a great team of people working together on the state and local level. The issue of housing and zoning is personal for me and I’m very motivated to change it. With ACT, we fought so hard for the Attainable Housing bill and finally got the bill passed by the County. When that passed, I was elated inside my soul and body.”

Keisha Monique **Descendant Property Owner**



“Gratitude and perseverance illuminate our path to preserving heritage. Thanks to ACT’s unwavering support, landowners of the Broadneck Peninsula can now transform their legacy into a lasting future. Together, we safeguard the dreams of generations.”

Spotlight: Statewide Action and Maryland Just Power Alliance



Statewide Action for a Just Democracy

On Sunday, November 17th, 729 of us from ACT, AIM, and PATH gathered at St. John the Evangelist Church in Columbia for our Statewide Action for a Just Democracy! Everyone in attendance committed to standing in solidarity with marginalized people and participating in our democracy to make it work for all of us.

We presented the 4 policies we’re advocating for this year in Annapolis– climate, housing, renters’ rights and pre-K expansion. We gained commitments from the Maryland Comptroller, the Maryland Department of Housing, and 12 state senators & delegates to work with us this year on these issues.



The Maryland Just Power Alliance

At the action, we announced the Maryland Just Power Alliance, our new statewide collective with ACT, AIM, and PATH! This alliance will enable us to gain more recognition, have a greater influence on statewide policies, and form new partnerships with other statewide organizations.



Welcoming Our New ACT Organizer

Carlos Childs



We are thrilled to welcome Carlos Childs as our new ACT Community Organizer! Carlos is a seasoned community organizer with a proven track record of success in advocating for social justice and civil rights. He has dedicated his career to empowering directly impacted communities, leading impactful campaigns on critical issues such as police accountability, legal justice, students' rights, and tenants' rights.

Carlos will be diving in by meeting our leaders and listening to identify potential new issues for ACT to work on. He looks forward to meeting everyone in ACT. You can contact Carlos at: carlos@actaaco.org.

Katie Zinler is excited to welcome Carlos to our team and looks forward to working with him to build more power in Anne Arundel County. Katie will continue her work with ACT as Lead Organizer part-time. In addition, she will be transitioning into a new role with the Maryland Just Power Alliance, leading our statewide campaigns with our sister organizations AIM and PATH. We're excited to be entering this new chapter of ACT with you!

Looking Ahead



Looking ahead to 2025, we will continue to organize in an effective way in uncertain political times. We plan to develop leaders within our member organizations and reach out to potential new allies. We will engage in our democracy to make it work for us, as we pursue state-level campaigns with the Maryland Just Power Alliance and continue our local campaigns. Our statewide work strengthens our local and countywide work through leadership development, addressing issues that need to be addressed at a higher level, and developing relationships with new allies.

ACT Member Organizations

Annapolis Friends Meeting House, Annapolis
Anne Arundel Muslim Council, Annapolis
Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church, Odenton
Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church, Arnold
Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis
Broadneck Baptist Church, Annapolis
Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church, Cape St. Clair
First Christian Community Church, Annapolis
First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis
Islamic Society of Annapolis, Pasadena
Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, Edgewater
NAACP of Anne Arundel
St. Andrew by the Bay, Annapolis
St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Annapolis
United Church of Christ Annapolis, Edgewater
Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park

Become A Member Organization

Our member congregations and community organizations benefit from community organizing training to build the capacity to act for justice. Members are part of a diverse coalition across the county and state with the power to make change at a scale bigger than any individual organization could on their own. Our member organizations commit to paying 1% of their operational income annually as membership dues, allowing us to maintain our independence and accountability.

Contact **Katie Zinler** (katie@actaaco.org)
to learn more about joining ACT.

ACT 2024 Donors

ACT is funded by individual donors, grants, and dues from our member institutions. A sincere thank you to each of our donors in 2024!
Your support helps create a more equitable Anne Arundel County and state.

ACT Allies

Barbara Arthur	Charles Gross	Kristen Maxwell
Maurita Bowie	Susan Gross	Chelsea McCracken
Alana Buie	Beth Hadley	Sharon McElfish
Kathryn Burke	Abby Hailey	Moira McGuire
Julie Carlson	Linda Hanifin Bonner	John Merrick
Tina Coleman	William Hatchl	Deborah Beth Mitchell
Rev. John Crestwell	Dave Heimann	Peter Morse
Steven Debus	Tricia Hopkins	Lynn Mortoro
Jodi Delaney-Yates	Rev. Karen Johnson	Sj Murdock
Scott Eden	Orion Jones	Shana Oshiro
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The Energy Foundation

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Together, we can build a future
where everyone belongs and thrives.

Give a one-time gift of \$25, \$100, \$500 —
or any amount that's meaningful to you.

Or, become an "ACT Ally" by signing up for
a monthly recurring gift of as little as \$5.

Your gift makes a difference.

Make your tax-deductible donation, today!

ONLINE

ACTaaco.org/donate



MAIL

PO Box 6053 Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact **Katie Zinler** (katie@actaaco.org)
to learn more about joining ACT.

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Anne Arundel Connecting Together

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