

**TRI-COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

AGENCY PROGRAM DIRECTORY



BUREAU, CARROLL, LASALLE, LEE, MARSHALL, OGLE, PUTNAM, STARK & WHITESIDE COUNTIES

405 Emmons Avenue

Rock Falls, IL 61071

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www.tcohelps.org

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OFFICE LOCATIONS

Main Office

405 Emmons Avenue
 Rock Falls, IL 61071
 PH: 815/625-7830
 PH: 1-800-323-5434

LaSalle Office

308 N. 30th Road
 LaSalle, IL 61301
 CSBG: 815/224-0028
 CSBG: 815/224-3939
 LIHEAP: 815/223-2333
 HEAD START: 815/224-2533

Princeton Office

1019 N. Main Street
 Princeton, IL 61356
 CSBG: 815/875-6064
 LIHEAP: 815/879-6035



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OUTREACH SERVICES

Purpose of Program:

Provides comprehensive assessments, information, short-term case management and advocacy, to eligible customers.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customers will receive comprehensive needs assessments, information, referrals, and follow-up services which will lead to a more stable lifestyle.

PROJECT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides customers the opportunity to obtain certification and/or training in order to achieve employment with a living wage or higher.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customers will enroll in case management with an Outreach Specialist to help work with the customer through a certification program and be assisted in securing employment.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides customers with assistance to obtain necessary employment supplies to either begin employment and/or increase career advancement.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customers will enroll in case management with an Outreach Specialist to help guide the customer to obtain maintain employment.

TWO GENERATIONS PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides the opportunities to support individuals into furthering their skills and education in order to break the generational poverty cycle.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days, and interested in pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education.

Services Provided:

Customers will enroll in a 4-week class that will focus on Workforce Employability, Parenting & Child Development, Financial Planning, and Personal Care and Internship Orientation. Once completed, customers will participate in a 48-hour paid internship working in a Head Start/Early Head Start classroom

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides opportunities for youth to participate in community, school, and family wellness activities.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Program participants will participate as a family in case management activities and develop goals.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides 12 CSBG eligible customers with a scholarship for a post-secondary education at an accredited Illinois institution.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days. They must be planning to attend an Illinois post-secondary institution as full-time or part-time students in the fall.

Timeframe: Applications are taken between February and March of each calendar year. Winners are announced in April.

Other Information:

Twelve scholarships are available per year on a competitive basis. Scholarship applications are reviewed and scored by the Board Scholarship Committee and winners are chosen and approved by the full Board of Directors.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides eligible customer the opportunities to gain the required skills to complete Adult Basic Education, GED, or English as a Second Language.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customers will enroll in case management with an Outreach Specialist and work on developing goals in order to gain required skills for the program.

HOME SAFETY PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides assistance to homeowners who are in need of home repairs to maintain a safe home.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days, and own the current home.

Services Provided:

Provide eligible homeowners with up to \$500 in financial assistance to keep the home safe and to remain housed.

EMERGENCY UTILITY PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Purpose of Program:

Provides direct utility assistance towards a water/sewer bill to eligible customers who have had an economic hardship to meet basic needs.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customer will enroll in case management and provide a financial crisis within 30 days that has caused the need for assistance.

HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides assistance to customers seeking health assistance to meet their medical needs.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Provide eligible individuals with up to \$300 in financial assistance with medical assistance.

DENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides assistance to customers seeking dental assistance to meet their dental needs.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Provide eligible individuals with up to \$300 in financial assistance with medical assistance.

ID PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides assistance to customers seeking necessary identification documents in order to improve a level of self-sufficiency.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at least 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Customers will enroll in case management with an Outreach Specialist and work on developing goals in order to gain required skills for the program.

FAMILY REWARDS PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides case management services to help customers stabilize and achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Customer must be at 125% of federal poverty level for the past 90 days.

Services Provided:

Eligible customers will begin to earn rewards based on the activities they participate in while working towards goals in order to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

DISASTER SERVICES

Purpose of Program:

Provides direct emergency assistance to customers affected by a disaster beyond their control in order to meet basic needs.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

No guidelines.

Services Provided:

Must provide a proof of disaster within 30 days that has caused the need for assistance.

BUREAU COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Purpose of Program:

Provides food to meet meal gaps families residing in Bureau County in the following communities: Dover, Kasbeer, Malden, Manlius, New Bedford, Ohio, Princeton, Tampico, Tiskilwa-VanOrin.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Must provide proof of residency.

Timeframe: All year; Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Services Provided:

Food and personal products.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) – Rapid Re-Housing Program

Purpose of Program:

Assist homeless individuals and families to quickly transition to stable housing.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Must be literally homeless (staying in an emergency shelter, safe haven, motel/hotel supported with government/charity funding, street/place not meant for human habitation, or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence).

Services Provided:

Provide financial assistance and case management to eligible individuals.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

Purpose of Program:

Assist individuals with a one-time assistance with rent/deposit to prevent homelessness.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Income must be under 200% of federal poverty guidelines; proven financial crisis within the last 90 days; rent must be affordable and no more than 50% of income; must not have received previous help within the last 2 years, and lack financial resources to prevent homelessness without assistance.

Services Provided:

Provide financial assistance and case management to eligible individuals.

VOUCHER SHELTER

Purpose of Program:

Provides voucher shelter in an emergency situation to prevent homelessness.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Income must be under 200% poverty level; must be literally homeless and unable to stay at a homeless shelter; must lack financial resources to obtain shelter on their own; must not have received help in the last two years.

Services Provided:

Provide financial assistance to prevent homelessness.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides assistance to those disabled and chronically homeless with supportive services in order to maximize housing stability and prevent return to homelessness.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Must be disabled and chronically homeless; must agree to work with a case manager on an ongoing basis.

Services Provided:

Provide financial and supportive services to prevent homelessness. The ultimate goal of the program is to help those chronically homeless find permanent housing with needing support.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

Provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for those in the lower income range who are 55 years old and older. The Foster Grandparents program offers supportive person-to-person services to at-risk and children with special or exceptional needs in reading, math, spelling, art and other constructive projects.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Foster Grandparents need to be 55 years old or older and have incomes that do not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. They should be able to work 15-40 hours a week depending on assignment.

Timeframe: This is a year-round program for the volunteers that are in day care facilities and the Exceptional Care Facility in Sterling. Those in the public and private school assignments and the volunteers in Head Start classrooms follow the school-year calendar. Some Foster Grandparents volunteer for summer school programs and special summer park district program, or area libraries that offer a summer reading program for children.

Services Provided:

The Foster Grandparents make a service commitment to youngsters and individuals who are struggling with learning needs and provide personal guidance in order that the children or individuals can grow more fully. Besides assisting the child and the site teacher or supervisor, the Foster Grandparents also expand their own personal lives with friendships and experiences in addition to utilizing their special talents.

Other Information:

The program serves Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside counties in the public and private schools, preschools, Head Start program, day care facilities, and at the Exceptional Care Facility in Sterling, Participant receive a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per hour, transportation or reimbursement for transportation, meals during service time, annual physical examinations, 10 paid holidays, sick leave, vacation days and training.

HEAD START PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

To promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. Services and a variety of programming options are provided to eligible children and their families in Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, and Whiteside counties. The program provides several programming options including half-day, full-day and full-year options.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Children ages 3-5 years of age (birthdate is figured on an August 31st cut-off date) who are from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines, experiencing homelessness, and/or receiving public assistance such as TANF or SSI are eligible. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income. In addition, ten percent of enrollment is reserved for children with qualifying diagnosed disabilities, regardless of income, if that child will benefit from enrollment in an inclusive classroom setting.

Timeframe:

Most center-base classes operate during the school year, or September through May annually. The program does provide full-day, full-year classrooms in Ottawa and Streator (LaSalle County) and Sterling (Whiteside County). The full-year classrooms are funded with a combination of Head Start and Illinois Child Care subsidy funding. Center-based classroom schedules and days of operation vary depending on community and family needs.

Services Provided:

Comprehensive school readiness services in the following domains: approaches to learning; social and emotional development; language and literacy; cognition; and perceptual, motor, and physical development. Supportive services to children and their families in the areas of medical health, dental health, nutrition, and disabilities. Opportunities are provided to parents in the areas of parent education, program participation and decision-making roles. Transportation to and from the center is provided for the majority (but not all) classes.

Other Information:

All program classrooms are licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services. All program centers are staffed by qualified Bachelor Degree teachers. Each family is assigned a Family and Community Service Worker who works collaboratively with the teaching staff to promote, support and empower families to set and meet expressed family goals which move them toward self-sufficiency.

EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

To provide quality, comprehensive care and experiences for infants, toddlers, and expectant mothers. This programs' mission is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children and promote healthy family functioning. Service options are available in Bureau, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Pregnant women and children birth to 3 years of age who are from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines, experiencing homelessness, and/or families receiving public assistance such as TANF or SSI are eligible. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income. In addition, ten percent of enrollment is reserved for children with qualifying diagnosed disabilities, regardless of income, if that child will benefit from enrollment.

Timeframe:

Early Head Start services are provided full-year.

Services Provided:

Services are offered in home-based and center-based settings based on the respective communities and the needs of each individual family. Early Head Start center-based classrooms are located in Sterling, Ottawa, and Streator and are funded with a combination of Early Head Start and Illinois Child Care subsidy funding. Center slots are reserved for parents who are working and/or in school or job training on a full-time basis. All other services are provided in a home-based model. Services include early education services within

developmentally appropriate settings and supportive services in the areas of medical health, dental health, mental health, nutrition and disabilities. Opportunities are provided to parents in the areas of parent education, program participation and decision-making roles.

Other Information:

All program centers are staff by qualified Associates Degree infant/toddler teachers. Parent/child educators have degrees and credentials as per federal requirements.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Purpose of Program:

To assist income eligible households with their utility bills in the winter months.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Income must be at or below 150% of the Federal poverty guidelines.

Timeframe: September 1 – May 31 (depends on the funding)

Services Provided:

LIHEAP – If a household meets the income guidelines, LIHEAP makes a one-time payment to his/her utility company. Bills must be in the name of the applicant at the address in which they reside. The payment is determined by using a matrix given by the State. Some applicants may qualify for emergency funding if a utility has been disconnected.

PIPP – The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) program is designed to help client's pay their own bill with a manageable budget bill. Eligibility for this program includes being within the LIHEAP guidelines and must have a participating utility company. As of now Ameren, Com-Ed, and Nicor are participants within the nine-county service area.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR – Neighbor to Neighbor funds are for Jo-Carroll energy clients. The income cannot exceed 300% of poverty level and can use up to \$500 in benefits in a rolling year depending on when they applied.

COM-ED HARDSHIP – This program helps households that may be having a hardship crisis situation. Examples of a hardship qualification are as follows: disabled (must have Social Security Disability or SSI), loss of income (unemployment, job closing or illness), outstanding medical bills, prescription costs, military deployment, death of an immediate family member living in the home at the time of death or property damage due to a natural disaster not covered by insurance. Guidelines are 250% of the poverty level or less. Past due balance can be requested up to \$1000 if they are not shut-off.

AMEREN SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM – Ameren donated \$15,000 for the 2017 program year to use for clients. The criteria that we have established is 200% of poverty level and a benefit amount no more than \$200.

Other Information

If a household is eligible for LIHEAP, owns their own home and has a property tax bill in his/her name; the program may also be able to help with a furnace repair or replacement throughout the LIHEAP program. There is only help with this providing the furnace is not working.

ILLINOIS HOME WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Purpose of Program:

To make homes more energy efficient, provide safe heating equipment, if needed, may replace furnace if necessary and provide customers with safety equipment.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Based on the household's gross income for the past 3 or 12 months.

Timeframe: July 1 through June 30 of the following year

Services Provided:

Possible items to be taken care of: furnaces, doors, repair or replacement, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, insulation, carbon monoxide detectors, caulking.

Other Information:

This program is open to both homeowners and renters (if the owner agrees to the program terms). All nine counties have waiting lists, some as long as a year. Home weatherized after September 30, 1994 are not eligible to be re-weatherized at this timer per the Department of Energy regulations.

RENTAL HOUSING

Purpose of Program:

To provide decent, safe and affordable housing to low-income customers.

Income/Eligibility Criteria:

Family must be at or below 50% of the area median income.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Services Provided:

Six single-family families, 32 subsidized units and 16 apartments are available for rent in Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon and Wyanet. There is a waiting list, but customers are welcome to fill out an application to get on the list at any time. Referrals to other programs which may be helpful are also made.