

Tri-County Opportunities Council
Community Action Agency
FACT SHEET – 2015

SERVICE AREA: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, and Whiteside Counties in Illinois
5454 square miles

TOTAL 2015 FUNDING:	\$ 14,471,868	TOTAL 2015 STAFF: (W-2's)	268
Federal:	\$ 11,518,868	TOTAL 2015 PAYROLL/FRINGE:	\$6.4 million
State:	\$ 2,627,542	TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:	138,024.5 hrs.
Other:	\$ 324,917	VOLUNTEER SAVINGS:	\$1,391,276
INKIND & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:	\$ 171,086		

Major Program Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Economic Development: In 2015, Project Employment resulted in 23 individuals who completed vocational training and found jobs. In addition, the program provided some type of financial assistance to 12 individuals for clothing, safety equipment, transportation assistance, for those beginning new jobs.

Emergency Assistance: In 2015, 82 individuals received direct emergency aid to meet their basic needs as a result of an emergency crisis.

General Outreach Services: During 2015, 949 individuals were provided with comprehensive assessment, short term case management, information, advocacy and referral services.

Scholarship Program: 12 scholarships were awarded in 2015 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations at Illinois institutions.

Family & Community Development: 144 eligible clients received case management services to support the movement of the family or the individual to a higher level of stability and self-sufficiency. 8 clients received funding for minor home repairs to address safety issues and remain stably housed. 114 low-income youth received funding to enroll in extra-curricular school and community activities. 16 income-eligible clients were provided financial assistance to address medical and/or dental health issues.

Homeless Programs: Utilizing grants from the Department of Human Services (Homeless Prevention, Supportive Housing, Voucher Shelter) CSBG (Emergency Services), HUD (Transitional Housing), DCEO (Emergency Solutions Grant) and FEMA (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) we were able to help 199 households obtain housing or prevent eviction.

Bureau County Food Pantry: Using volunteers, donated funds and food, plus EFSP and the United Way funds, the agency assisted 1,994 households during 2015. The pantry also distributed 98 Easter hams and 183 Thanksgiving food baskets. 36 children received school supplies and 25 received winter coats, gloves and hats as a result of our annual school supply and coat drives.

Foster Grandparent Program

Provides stipend volunteer opportunities for low-income persons age 55 and over who give supportive mentoring services to at-risk children. Impacts on the children are measured throughout the year. In 2015, the program had 79 Foster Grandparent volunteers working in 33 different volunteer station sites and providing mentoring services to a total of 217 children.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start: A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center based services for 585 three and four year old, low-income children. The program operates 21 licensed centers with 25 part-day classes, 10 extended day classes, and two full-day/full-year classes. Key components of the program are: school readiness skills; social and emotional development; medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services; support to children with disabilities and special needs; family supportive services; and parent education and involvement opportunities.

Early Head Start: Comprehensive Head Start services are provided for 116 pregnant women, infants or toddlers through both center and home-based options. This is a full-year program with the same services as those in the Head Start Program. This program option serves 32 children in three licensed centers and 84 children in the home-based programming option.

Low-Income Home Emergency Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This program assists households at or below 150% of poverty with their home energy needs. Applicants were given the choice between the PIPP Program (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) and/or the LIHEAP Program. (The State of Illinois suspended the PIPP Program on July 1, 2015). In 2015, 5,296 clients were assisted with LIHEAP funding and an additional 1,984 clients were enrolled in PIPP. The agency also assisted 239 clients with intake/application for the Jo/Carroll Neighbor to Neighbor Program and 276 clients intake/application for the ComEd Hardship Program. Financial literacy and energy conservation tips are provided to clients at the time of application.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

Funded by HHS, DOE, and the State of Illinois funds, we made 102 homes more energy efficient during 2015. Weatherization includes such measures as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, set-back thermostats, replacement of windows, doors and refrigerators, if needed. There is also a furnace repair/replacement component. The outcome of this program is to reduce the amount of fuel needed to heat the home.

Housing Program

The agency owns 14 buildings located in Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon and Wyanet with a total of 29 rental units. 22 units are affordable housing for low-income individuals and families and 7 units are for transitional housing. 13 families were sheltered in the transitional units during 2015. Also, utilizing funding from the federal HOME program, the agency rehabilitated, modified or retrofitted 3 homes in 2015. The Homebuyer Assistance Program enabled 4 lower income families to become homeowners. The Trust Fund Homebuyers Program enabled 2 lower income families to become homeowners. The Rental Housing Support Program assisted 31 very low-income households with subsidized housing. 6 homes were completed under the Trust Fund Rehabilitation Program and 3 homes were completed under the Trust Fund Home Modification Program.

