

Tri-County Opportunities Council
Community Action Agency
FACT SHEET – 2014

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

TOTAL 2014 FUNDING:	\$ 19,647,557	TOTAL 2014 STAFF: (W-2's)	274
Federal:	\$ 14,465,159	TOTAL 2014 PAYROLL/FRINGE:	\$7 million
State:	\$ 3,663,240	TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:	141,991.75 hrs.
In-kind& Professional Services	\$ 1,608,186	VOLUNTEER SAVINGS:	\$1,497,751.43

Major Program Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Economic Development: In 2014, Project Employment resulted in 14 individuals who completed vocational training and found jobs.

Emergency Assistance: In 2014, we ameliorated the emergency needs of 1,391 low-income persons through the provision of service vouchers and/or food.

General Outreach Services: During 2014, 1,654 poverty level people were assisted in locating and receiving appropriate resources by the outreach staff. Transportation to medical and other resources was offered as was budgeting counseling.

Scholarship Program: 13 scholarships were awarded in 2014 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations at Illinois institutions.

Family & Community Development: Increased the lifestyle skills and self-sufficiency of 173 low-income persons who desired to improve their financial and employment situations. These services include incentives for adults and 212 youth who were able to enroll in community and school activities.

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 359 households obtain housing or prevent eviction.

Bureau County Food Pantry: Using volunteers, donated funds and food, plus EFSP and the United Way, we assisted 2,023 households during 2014 with their emergency needs. The pantry also distributed 104 Easter Food Baskets and 183 Thanksgiving Food Baskets. 47 children received school supplies and 20 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. The program is funded to serve 74 grandparents per year but can enroll up to 100 depending on placement and hours volunteered.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start: A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center and home-based services for 679 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. There are also 11 home-based slots available for those who wish that option. 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 100 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 68 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 are given the choice between the PIPP Program (percentage of income payment plan) and/or the LIHEAP Program with benefits based on a calculation sheet. LIHEAP also offers furnace repair and reconnection assistance. We assisted 12,600 households this calendar year using state, federal and utility company funds. 2,217 clients are currently enrolled in the PIPP program. Financial literacy and energy conservation tips are given to program participants.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

Funded by HHS, DOE, and the State of Illinois funds, we made 166 homes more energy efficient, during 2013, for their low-income residents. 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; 29 are rental units with 22 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families, and 7 that are transitional housing with supportive services for homeless families with children. 14 families were sheltered in the transitional units during 2014. Also, utilizing funding from the federal HOME program, the agency rehabilitated, modified or retrofitted 4 homes in 2014. And, during the year, the Homebuyer Assistance Program enabled 8 lower income families to become homeowners, the new Trust Fund Homebuyers Program enabled 6 lower income families to become homeowners, the Rental Housing Support Program assisted 34 very low-income households with subsidized housing, and the Hardest Hit Program has helped 27 families apply for mortgage relief. (This program was discontinued in April, 2014).

