

Tri-County Opportunities Council
Community Action Agency
FACT SHEET – 2013

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

TOTAL 2013 FUNDING:	\$ 21,846,279	*TOTAL 2013 STAFF: (W-2's)	432
Federal:	\$ 14,430,283	TOTAL 2013 PAYROLL/FRINGE:	\$7.7 million
State:	\$ 4,268,063	TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:	149,934
Local & In-kind:	\$ 1,520,474	VOLUNTEER SAVINGS:	\$1,583,303

*Total staff between the time periods 1/1/2013-4/20/13 was 432. After relinquishment of the Homemaker Program on 4/21/2013, staff employed was reduced to 249.

Major Program Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Economic Development: In 2013, Project Employment was created and results in 11 individuals who completed vocational training and found jobs.

Emergency Assistance: In 2013, we ameliorated the emergency needs of 1,524 low-income persons through the provision of service vouchers and/or food.

General Outreach Services: During 2013, 1,962 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: 15 scholarships were awarded in 2013 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations at Illinois institutions.

Family & Community Development: Increased the lifestyle skills and self-sufficiency of 219 low-income persons who desired to improve their financial and employment situations. These services include incentives for adults and 225 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 322 households obtain housing or prevent eviction.

Bureau County Food Pantry: Using volunteers, donated funds and food, plus EFSP and the United Way, we assisted 1,880 households during 2013 with their emergency needs. The pantry also distributed 143 Easter Food Baskets and 170 Thanksgiving Food Baskets. 42 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. 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/Migrant Head Start

Head Start: A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center and home-based services for 646 three and four year old, low-income children. The program operates 19 licensed centers with 25 part-day classes, 10 extended day classes, and one full-day/full-year class. 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 86 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.

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 expect to assist over 12,500 households this year using state, federal and utility company funds. 2,100 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 242 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. 13 families were sheltered in the transitional units during 2013. Also, utilizing funding from the federal HOME program, the agency rehabilitated, modified or retrofitted 3 homes in 2013. And, during the year, the Homebuyer Assistance Program enabled 18 lower income families to become homeowners, the Rental Housing Support Program assisted 31 very low-income households with subsidized housing, and the Hardest Hit Program has helped 228 families apply for mortgage relief. 1 house was rehabilitated and sold under the CHDO Program.

