

**Tri-County Opportunities Council**  
**Community Action Agency**  
**FACT SHEET – 2016**

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

<b>TOTAL 2016 FUNDING:</b>	\$ 14,974,381	<b>TOTAL 2016 STAFF:</b> (W-2's)	256
Federal:	\$ 11,109,792	<b>TOTAL 2016 PAYROLL/FRINGE:</b>	\$6.2 million
State:	\$ 3,583,201	<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:</b>	130,147.75 hrs.
Other:	\$ 281,388	<b>VOLUNTEER SAVINGS:</b>	\$1,250,194
<b>INKIND &amp; PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:</b>	\$ 1,114,488		

*Major Program Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes*

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

Economic Development: In 2016, Project Employment resulted in 31 individuals who completed vocational training and found jobs. In addition, the program provided some type of financial assistance to 7 individuals for clothing, safety equipment, transportation assistance, for those beginning new jobs.

Emergency Assistance: In 2016, 105 individuals received direct emergency aid to meet their basic needs as a result of an emergency crisis.

General Outreach Services: During 2016, 884 individuals were provided with comprehensive assessment, short term case management, information, advocacy and referral services.

Scholarship Program: 13 scholarships were awarded in 2016 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations at Illinois institutions.

Family & Community Development: 168 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. 13 clients received funding for minor home repairs to address safety issues and remain stably housed. 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) we were able to help 117 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 1,876 households during 2016. The pantry also distributed 135 Easter hams and 165 Thanksgiving food baskets. 34 children received school supplies and 21 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 2016, the program had 84 Foster Grandparent volunteers working in 32 different volunteer station sites and providing mentoring services to a total of 235 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 19 licensed centers with 16 part-day classes, 16 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. The PIPP Program (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) was re-instated September 1, 2016. Applicants were given the choice between the PIPP Program or the LIHEAP Program. In 2016, 6,809 clients were assisted with LIHEAP funding and an additional 1,032 clients were enrolled in PIPP. The agency also assisted 259 clients with intake/application for the Jo/Carroll Neighbor- to -Neighbor Program, 300 clients intake/application for the ComEd Hardship Program and 125 applicants with Ameren Supplemental Funding. 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 122 homes more energy efficient during 2016. 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.

10 families were sheltered in the transitional units during 2016.

The Rental Housing Support Program assisted 35 very low income households in the amount of \$224,040.

