

Tri-County Opportunities Council
Community Action Agency
FACT SHEET – 2018

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

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|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| TOTAL 2018 FUNDING: | \$ 16,018,624 | TOTAL 2018 STAFF: (W-2's) | 259 |
| Federal: | \$ 12,343,512 | TOTAL 2018 PAYROLL/FRINGE: | \$6.51 million |
| State: | \$ 3,376,801 | TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: | 133,313 hrs. |
| Other: | \$ 298,311 | VOLUNTEER SAVINGS: | \$1,459,324 |
| INKIND & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: | \$ 151,400 | | |

Major Program Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

- **Skills Training & Opportunities:**
 - ✓ **Project Employment** provided 34 customers opportunities to obtain certification and/or training in order to achieve employment with a living wage.
 - ✓ **Two Generation Pilot Project** provided 2 customers with training and an internship to move them toward living-wage employment and support towards breaking the generational poverty cycle.
- **Family & Community Development:**
 - ✓ 266 customers were provided case management services to assist them stabilization and achievement of a higher level of self-sufficiency.
 - ✓ 11 customers received assistance to obtain necessary employment equipment/supplies.
 - ✓ 42 household received assistance with school supplies for their children.
 - ✓ 32 youth were provided with assistance to participate in school, community or wellness activities.
 - ✓ 1 customer was provided with support to complete a GED.
 - ✓ 35 customers were provided with assistance towards payment of water and sewer bills.
 - ✓ 16 homeowners were provided funding for minor home repairs to maintain a safe home.
 - ✓ 30 customers received assistance for medical needs and 11 customers received assistance for dental needs.
 - ✓ 20 seniors received grocery vouchers to address the gap in meal service.
 - ✓ 29 families received assistance to purchase hygiene products.
 - ✓ 18 customers were provided with transportation financial assistance to maintain employment or attend school.
 - ✓ 17 customers were provided with assistance to obtain necessary identification documents.
- **Scholarship Program:** 14 scholarships were awarded to eligible customers pursuing a post-secondary education at an accredited Illinois institution of higher learning.
- **Emergency Assistance:** 14 customers affected by a disaster beyond their control were assisted with direct emergency assistance to meet basic needs.
- **Outreach Services:** 904 customers were provided comprehensive needs assessments, information and referrals.

Homeless Programming:

189 households were able to obtain/maintain housing as per funding provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Bureau County Food Pantry:

The pantry provided 1,694 households (4,154 individuals) with emergency food assistance to meet their basic food needs. 50,531 pounds of food was donated to the pantry in 2018.

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 2018, the program had 72 Foster Grandparent volunteers working in 33 different volunteer station sites and providing mentoring services to a total of 315 children.

Head Start/Early Head Start

- **Head Start:** A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center-based services for 517 three and four year old, low-income children. The program operates 17 licensed centers with 8 part-day classes, 19 extended day classes, and three full-day/full-year classes. Key components of the program are: school readiness; 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 2018, 7,128 clients were assisted with LIHEAP funding and an additional 1,067 clients were enrolled in PIPP. The agency also assisted 280 clients with intake/application for the Jo/Carroll Neighbor- to -Neighbor Program, 225 clients intake/application for the ComEd Hardship Program and 81 applicants with Ameren Supplemental Funding. Financial literacy and energy conservation tips are provided to clients at the time of application. The LIHEAP also assisted 40 households with furnace repairs/replacements.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

Funded by HHS, DOE, and the State of Illinois funds, we made 100 homes more energy efficient during 2018. 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. Total program expenditures were \$1,012,875.13.

Housing Program

The agency owns 14 buildings located in Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon and Wyanet with a total of 29 rental units. All 29 units are now affordable housing for low-income individuals and families.

The Rental Housing Support Program assisted 33 very low income households in the amount of \$194,251.

