



City of Rockford
HUMAN SERVICES

A Community Action Agency

The Human Services Department is the designated public Community Action Agency for Winnebago and Boone Counties. Assistance is offered to individuals, families and neighborhoods in Rockford as well as in greater Winnebago and Boone Counties. Community Action agencies exist to break the cycle of generational poverty and to mitigate the immediate affects of poverty on individuals, families and communities. This is accomplished by

addressing systemic, community and individual factors. Key strategies include provision of direct services, partnering, collaborations and advocacy.

Services are administered under three Divisions with input from a community advisory board and the Head Start Policy Council:

- **Head Start** (comprehensive services including early childhood education, health and family support)
- **Community Services** (asset building, drug free education and prevention, crisis assistance, housing advocacy, emergency housing assistance, homeless prevention, business loans, self sufficiency, scholarships, neighborhood outreach, and economic development)
- **Energy** (energy assistance, housing rehabilitation, home weatherization/conservation assistance, and lead paint mitigation)

The Policy Council is the Head Start governing body, which shares responsibility for the operation of the Head Start Program. A majority of the members must be parents or legal guardians of current Head Start children.

Parent Members:

Kathleen Bershell Brandy Brown*
Audrey Burks* Brandon Hardin* Dana
Jones* Tania Lama* Erica Martinez**

Community Members:

Darryl Kessler Sandra Mulligan *
Kammi Pearson * Kim Philbrook **

The Community Action Agency (CAA) Board functions in an advisory capacity representing the community it serves. The members assist in the overall program planning and setting of priorities, reviewing program strategies and budgets, and ensuring compliance with all conditions of funding sources. The fifteen member, tripartite board is composed of representatives from the client, public and community-at-large sectors.

Marcia Blascoe Lisa Brown*
Teresa Brown* Betty Cleary*
Kim Ellingson* Lisa Gonzalez*
Karen Hoffman* Dana Jones*
Linda McNeely* Donny Parham*
Kim Philbrook* Joshua D.
Pickens* John Slattengren*
Ann Thompson-Kelly*
Crystal Walker**

**612 North Church Street
Rockford, Il 61103**

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For a complete copy of the 2009 Annual Report please visit our web site at
<http://www.rockfordil.gov/government/human/index.cfm>

Community Action in Boone and Winnebago County

Report to the Community

April 30, 2010

Acknowledgements:

To our Mayor, City Manager, City Council members and our state and federal elected officials, Board members, Head Start Policy Council members, service recipients and residents of Boone and Winnebago County and our State and Federal partners at ILDHS, ILDCEO, ILDPH, ILHDA, ILDCFS as well as the Federal HUD, FEMA, HHS and DOE, Regional Office of Education. Also to our local agency partners and our state and national network collaborators at IACAA, NCAP, IHSA and NHSA and a host of local collaborators, agencies volunteers. I continue to be humbled by the deep level of dedication and commitment to the work of Community Action exhibited on a daily basis by our staff who are the backbone of our Department. To each one of you we all own a special debt of gratitude. In keeping with our historic mission as a Community Action Agency in 2005 Department staff adopted the vision statement "Engaging All Citizens in Building Stronger Communities" which harmonizes not only with Community Action but also with the Mayor's call for "Excellence Everywhere" and the A.C.T.I.O.N. values he has encouraged us to model as City staff. All of us collectively make possible whatever any one of us has been able to achieve.

Toward Reaffirming our Historic Mission

The purpose of local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) as, created in 1964 and reaffirmed in the federal Community Services Act of 1998, is to bring together representatives from the public, private and consumer segments of the community to mobilize resources that address both the effects and underlying causes of poverty based on the local community's unique features and challenges. Federal funding provided to CAAs through the Community Services Block Grant is designed to be flexible allowing for local planning based on an annually updated community assessment. Additionally, local CAAs are expected to leverage other public and private dollars to broaden the impact and reach of anti-poverty efforts. These intents are currently reflected in the tri-partite board structure required of agencies who receive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. This board structure requires that up to 1/3 of the Board members must be elected or appointed public officials or their designates, up to 1/3 of the Board is to include "private sector" representation and a minimum of 1/3 must be "democratically selected" among individuals living in areas targeted for services based on income and economic factors. CSBG dollars have been used effectively over the 46 year local

history of Community Action to start up and seed programs, services and small businesses that have become self sustaining as well as to leverage private and other public resources.

Continuing this proud legacy of collaboration and leveraging on behalf of the most disadvantaged residents of Boone and Winnebago County the past year has witnessed an impressive list of impacts and accomplishments which are contributing to the overall quality of life for all local residents.

Impact of our efforts over the past year

With the influx of Federal Stimulus dollars available to our Department new resources became available to the two county service area to assist with activities that contributed to local projects, services and organizations that are improving both individual and family outcomes as well as community and neighborhood impacts while also bringing money into the local economy. Over the period between 2009 and 2012 we expect that additional federal resources to our Department alone will total 5-6 million new dollars.

Our focus and priority in allocating new resources over the past year has been to channel these new resources as much as possible to and through local business and organizations rather than toward new positions and infrastructure within the Department or City. Recognizing that federal stimulus many will be short lived our commitment has been, with the support of the City Administration, to keep our current foot print to a minimum recognizing that sustainability is critical to our long term capacity to serve the community effectively. While some staff positions have been added we have only added those which have the best chance of being sustained post stimulus and are most likely the greatest impact on our ability to address local needs. At the same time we have participated fully in efforts by the City Administration and Council to hold down the growth in salary and benefit costs. Historically, our Department has demonstrated capacity and commitment to expanding and making effective use of available state and federal resources with minimum reliance on local tax dollars and has in fact contributed to holding down growth in the local cost of services.

In reviewing the impact of our services on the community each of the current three service Divisions can cite a list of impressive accomplishment over this past year in response to the severe down turn of our local economy and our long term needs and opportunities for growth:

- In the Energy Division we saw a record 130% increase in the number of homes weatherized resulting in increased energy savings to 459 local households
- The Energy Division was also able to increase the number of households receiving utility assistance through the LIHEAP program by 27% - the highest % increase state wide – resulting in over 16,000 local households receiving a credits on their utility bills or direct cash payment that helped ensure they would have heat and lights during the winter.

Several hundred local household also received emergency furnace repairs or replacements. The importance of this program in terms of ensuring the health and safety of thousands of local families cannot be overestimated. Approximately 70% of those assisted on an annual basis are seniors or people with disabilities living on limited incomes. We look forward to sustaining the pace of both LIHEAP and Weatherization in the coming year as well as participating new opportunities to extend the benefits of energy retrofits to a growing number of local residents. We also look forward to the opportunity to pilot with some of our LIHEAP customers a new option (PIPP) that will help break the cycle of growing energy costs leading to an increasing number of customers with larger and larger unpaid and unaffordable bills.

- Our local Head Start program was a successful applicant for the first time in being awarded a grant to serve 92 infants and toddlers and their families under the Early Head Start program. Recruitment and start up activities are well underway and we expect the new program to be fully operational by fall of this year. The demonstrated and well researched impact of high quality, intensive birth to three services on long terms health, learning and social outcomes for children makes this accomplishment particularly significant given the systemic social and economic challenges faced by our community. A recent report commissioned by the Rockford Early Learning Council highlights that, while we have made relatively strong progress in expanding pre-school services to the most at risk children in our community (85%), we have only reached 10% of these same families and children with the kind of services that research tells us make the most long term difference in breaking the poverty cycle.
- A point of pride for us as a Community Action Agency and City Department is the written acknowledgement of our Head Start Federal Review team in 2009 of the high quality and effectiveness of our local partnerships and collaborations cited by the Review Team as making a meaningful and positive difference in the lives of children. As we implement Early Head Start we also look forward to continued partnerships with the Early Learning Council, the Rockford School District and other local partners in expanding these gains to more children and families and to the improved ability to measure and improve our collective impact over time.
- Our Community Services Division continued during the past year to expand both the range and sophistication of its reach with a list of accomplishments to numerous to cite in detail. Some outstanding highlights included:
 - o Reaching 12,000 youth with positive social norming messages and health and prevention training
 - o Successfully initiating a campaign to ensure that BASSET training is a requirement of local bars and alcoholic drink sellers to increase responsible sales and reduce dangerous behavior associated with abuse.

- Funding a host of new and/or expanded community initiatives including Neighborhood Networks, Community Gardens, Alignment Rockford, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing, SWEEP, rental housing support services and other housing and neighborhood programs impacting hundreds of local residents
- Sustaining and reviving the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and supporting the N-Center/N-Factor projects
- Supporting community and neighborhood organizations and projects and small business start ups or expansions as well as special projects in the areas of juvenile justice, senior safety, health planning, small home repairs, crisis assistance, Weed and Seed activities and condemnation relocation services
- Expanding our scope in the area of economic development by financially supporting the work of Rockford Area Economic Development Council

Further detail about these and other accomplishments is available at the web link printed on our one page handout. We also have made available a limited number of copies on CD . You can also look forward to our quarterly reports at City RockStat meetings addressing our Department and City strategic goals and can go to Recovery.gov for details on our use of stimulus dollars. Additionally, I invite you to view our slide show that tells the story in pictures of our work in during this past year.

Looking Ahead

State budget cuts loom as a threat to an already deeply challenged local economy. The prospect of these cuts brings with it the specter of increasing need and demand for many services already in short supply if social service providers are forced to close their doors or drastically decrease eligibility. A community already challenged to meet the needs of its residents could find itself slipping further into economic poverty and unable to respond to rising demands as City, County and private agency resources are reduced without hope of replacement.

Against this backdrop, our state of desperation as a community appears to be prompting us to a new movement as expressed in new initiatives by local leaders and residents to align local efforts and resources between and among those in the public and private sectors. It is our intent as a Department and Community Action Agency to support this renewed spirit of civic engagement both by better aligning our own services internally in order to find efficiencies and improve customer impact and by continuing to extend our resources both financial and human to support a new Rockford and regional narrative regarding who we are as a community. This narrative will be written by those who are willing to look beyond our challenges and problems in addressing the short and long term needs of our children and youth and those who are most vulnerable. Those of us who wish to contribute a chapter or even a line or word must be willing to give up our sometimes comforting attachment to our belief that our community's problems

and challenges are someone else's fault. We must be willing to look at our past and present for the good we are capable of doing for the benefit of all and refuse to let our inadequacies define us. We will have to convince ourselves by our own example that we are a noble community and that every member of that community beginning and ending with our children deserves to grow up with a sense of their value which is each person's birth right. There are no laws, no reforms, not formulas, no plans, no experts who can replace the power of willing partners working for the good of each other. In this coming year may we each rededicate ourselves to making it so. Such is my pledge to you in the spirit of Community Action.

Thanks to you all for the privilege of serving with you in serving our community.

George E. Davis, CCAP

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Community Health & Prevention Projects:

- Too Good For Drugs/Too Good for Violence
- Social Norms Campaign
- Communications Campaign
- Parent/Guardian Survey on attitudes towards underage drinking'
- Beverage & Alcohol Servers and Sellers Education and Training
- Town Hall Meetings
- Compliance Checks
- Rockford Alcohol Free Teens
- Senior Luncheon

Community Services Block Grant Projects:

- SWEEP
- Boone Tutoring & Leadership
- Small business loans
- Scholarships
- Homeless Prevention
- Life/safety home repair
- Emergency Assistance
- Disaster Assistance
- Condemnations
- Community Gardens
- Summer Food
- Neighborhood Improvement projects
- 6 weeks of summer
- Family & Community Development
- Mayor's Youth Advisory Council
- Over \$500,000 in program funding for 15 local agencies

Housing Programs:

- Rental Housing Support Program
- Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing
- Housing Inspections
- Housing Advocacy
- Mayors' Task Force on Homelessness
- Over 1.8 million in funding for local agencies to operate permanent, supportive and emergency housing programs

To the citizens of Boone and Winnebago Counties,

The **Community Services Division** is comprised of three main program categories, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Housing Services and Community Health and Prevention. The Community Services Division began with the CSBG, which is the legacy program of the original War on Poverty and the program that qualifies the Human Services Department as a Community Action Agency. The purpose of CSBG is to identify community needs and create innovative solutions to address these issues. Our Housing program began with the HUD Continuum of Care program and has now added the Rental Housing Support Program and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program. Community Health and Prevention originally began as Drug Free Rockford and has grown into a program that offers a variety of community health and prevention activities in the local schools and the community. Over the past ten years, the programs and projects of Community Services have changed and grown to meet the needs of our community. As a result Community Services provided over \$2.5 million in funding to over 20 community agencies in 2009 with the remainder of the budget primarily spent in the community through salaries, materials and services. Community Services is designed to maximize citizen input and provide opportunities for self sufficiency for citizens through both direct service programs as well as through the external partners we fund. Because Community Services programs are not entitlement programs, our goal is to increase participant stabilization and self sufficiency.

The Community Services Division employs 14 full time staff and 3 contractors and has a budget of \$5.3 million.

Jennifer Jaeger, Director



In 2009 , funded 7 community gardens, in 2010 that grew to 40.



Conducted over 400 housing quality standard inspections last year.



Reached over 10,000 youth in a campaign to reduce underage drinking.



Support and host Neighborhood Network



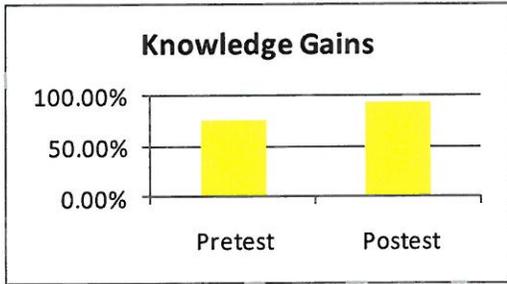
Staff, mentor and fund the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council



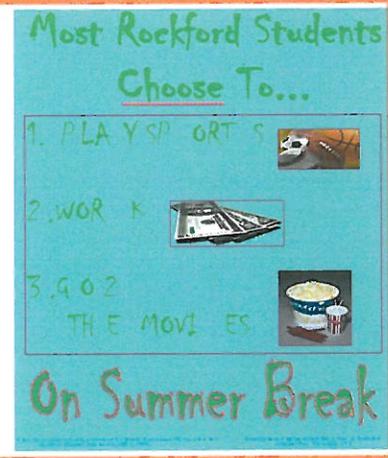
Staff , support and advise the Mayors' Task Force on Homelessness

Community Health and Prevention is about reducing negative health and social behaviors and increasing positive ones. To accomplish this, a variety of methods are used including direct instruction, social norms campaigns, surveys and events.

Too Good for Drugs/Too Good for violence works directly with 4th and 5th graders at Stiles, Conklin, Lewis Lemon and Ellis Schools to teach them why alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are harmful.



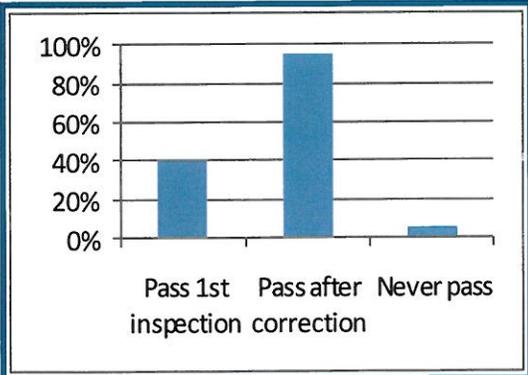
Posters like this one were marketed and displayed at local high schools as a way to convey positive peer messages. Student focus groups helped develop messages that work.



BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training) is a new initiative of Community Health and Prevention. BASSET is designed to train and educate sellers and servers to engage in responsible beverage service, prevent DUIs and alcohol related fatalities, create safer communities and establishments where alcohol is served, educate owners, managers and staff on state and local laws regarding alcohol service. We are working with local governments to establish BASSET ordinances. Roscoe passed the first area ordinance in March, 2010.



Housing services focus on providing safe and affordable housing. To do this, a combination of programs and grants are provided in order to meet the housing and supportive service needs of a wide variety of populations. Housing programs work on the proven principle that housing stability increases the ability of low-moderate income persons to become self sufficient.. To ensure housing is safe, we inspect all units we fund utilizing the Housing Quality Standards process.



2009 Funded Emergency, Transitional and Permanent Housing Programs

Janet Wattles Shelter Plus Care	\$786,096
Carpenter's Place Transitional and Permanent Housing	\$287,101
Careers, Etc.	\$115,773
Shelter Care Ministries	\$64,947
Homeless Mental Health Access Project	\$148,127
Remedies	\$20,000
Total	\$1,422,044.00

As part of the recent economic stimulus plan, \$1,902,780.00 in funding for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing was provided to Human Services to assist people who are suffering economically due to recent job losses and other stresses of the poor economy. We partner with Jericho House, Janet Wattles, Careers, Etc. and MELD to get these funds into the community so that people maintain stable housing until they can recover from job losses and return to self sufficiency.

When President Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, he created the legislation that allowed local communities to create systems that would address local poverty. Today, the **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** is one of the few remaining programs that allows for local flexibility and community input in addressing community needs. It's this flexibility that has allowed us to respond with resources and services to the local floods of 2006 and 2007, as well as respond to the current economic crisis with increased emergency assistance, local jobs programs and funding, and creation of forty community gardens operated and managed by local neighborhoods to assist in cutting food costs. Community Services supports a broad number of community initiatives, pilot projects and innovative programs through CSBG. These programs address either the immediate need to alleviate the conditions of poverty or the underlying causes of poverty.



SWEEP is a local employment program for youth that teaches them basic work skills and benefits senior and disabled homeowners by providing exterior clean-up, mowing and repairs.

A new program in 2009, the Life/Safety Home Repair program provides repairs by licensed contractors to low-income homeowners who cannot afford these repairs. In 2009, 34 homeowners were assisted.

In 2009, CSBG dollars were used to make loans to local businesses that will result in 18 full time jobs.

Every year, CSBG supports the Summer Food Lunch Program. This program serves over 4,500 kids each summer who participate in local community programs. This project uses a local vendor and creates local jobs. In 2009, there were 36 sites; in 2010, there will be 40.

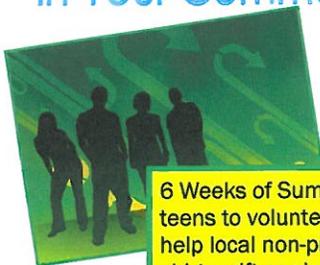


Started in 2009, the community garden project has quickly grown from seven gardens to forty. Operated by local neighborhood groups, this project provides fresh produce for neighborhoods, supports beautification projects and each garden includes a "plant a row for the hungry" for donation to local pantries. The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension provides education and Neighborhood Network provides neighborhood support.

In 2009, CSBG also gave grants to the following local community organizations to operate needed programs.

Veteran's Administration	Transportation for healthcare & medication
Neighborhood Network	Operating support
States Attorney	Elder abuse prevention and youth intervention programs
Diversity	Health Education
Remedies	Domestic violence shelter support
Weed and Seed	Prevention programs
Rockford Urban Ministries	Work camp operating support
Rockford Health Council	Healthy Community Study
Boone County Pantry	Food
Rockford Area Economic Development Council	Job creation
Rockford Youth Initiative	Youth programs

Make A Difference in Your Community:



6 Weeks of Summer is a new project that asks local teens to volunteer just one week of their summer to help local non-profits. In exchange, teens receive t-shirts, gift cards and other rewards. With many local non-profits struggling due to state budget issues, this partnership with the United Way will support local agencies in a time of need.

Community Services 2009 Number Served & Financial Information

2009 Program participation:

CSBG Programs: 7,435 persons

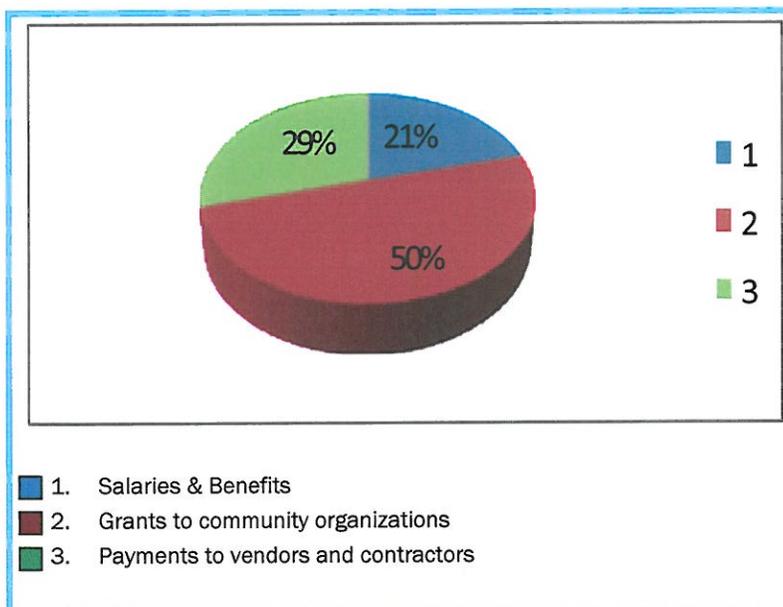
Housing Programs: 777 housing units

Community Health & Prevention: 12,000 families

2009 Community Services Funding Sources

\$ 1,688,850.00	IL Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
\$ 2,094,443.00	Housing & Urban Development
\$ 27,000.00	IL Dept of Children & Family Services
\$ 416,760.00	IL Dept of Human Services
\$ 639,938.00	Illinois Housing Development Authority
\$ 413,304.00	Illinois State Board of Education
\$ 10,000.00	Rockford Township
\$ 10,000.00	FEMA
\$5,300,295.00	TOTAL

2009 Use of funds



2009 Energy Division Annual Report

Energy Programs

Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Weatherization Get the Lead Out (GLO)

The **Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** works diligently in serving the needs of the community in both Winnebago and Boone counties. We continued to provide quality service through the loss of three major community volunteer intake sites by adding temporary staff in our office so that there would be no interruption of service to our customers. Our Division has received many accolades from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), which oversee our programs, and we rank number one in the State for job performance among DCEO energy programs. DCEO has also informed us that our agency had the highest intake/production growth (27%) in the State of Illinois last year .

The Energy Division employs 11 full time staff and has a budget of \$6,244,524. Energy also received an additional \$2,016,434. in American Reinvestment & Recovery Act funds this past year.

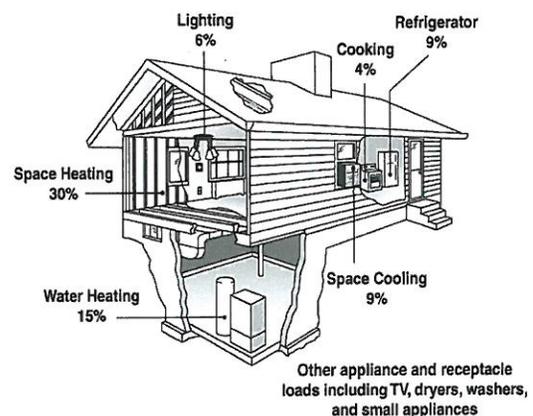
Gwynda Dunklin, LIHEAP Coordinator



Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Provides an offset to the high cost of heat-related utilities for low-income families, this program provides a one-time direct vendor payment on behalf of the client to the utility vendor(s). The emergency furnace program provides assistance to eligible homeowners with a non-operational furnace. In the past program year, LIHEAP served 10,183 households in Winnebago County and 1,053 households in Boone County. Of these applicants, 78% of Winnebago County's applications were from senior/disabled households and 79% of Boone applications were from senior/disabled households.

Typical Household Energy Use





Weatherization

Weatherization results in energy savings through home modifications that may include items such as insulation, doors, windows, repaired furnaces, etc. Weatherization reduces average annual energy costs by \$218 per household. For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$1.80 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization produces “non-energy” benefits as well. Weatherization improves local air quality, reduces risk of fires, increases the durability of affordable housing, and much more... For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.40 in total benefits!

WEATHERIZATION STATISTICS

	Funding Source	2009 Program Year			Total of 172 homes helped with Federal funds (some homes funded from multiple federal sources)	2010 Program Year			Percentage of change 2009-2010	
		funding	% used	homes served		funding	% used	homes served	Total of 395 homes helped with Federal funds (some homes funded from multiple federal sources)	
Federal	Department of Energy	\$199,969	100%	110		\$326,613	100%	134	229% more Federally funded homes weatherized in 2010	
	Stimulus Act of 2009 (DOE-ARRA)	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$1,296,670	84%	230		
	Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	\$498,324	100%	164		\$477,466	100%	141		
State	State of Illinois	\$172,788	100%	32		\$129,591	100%	20	62% reduction in number of 2009 homes State	
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS		\$871,081				\$2,230,340			Funding increase is 256% in 2010	203% increase in homes weatherized in 2010



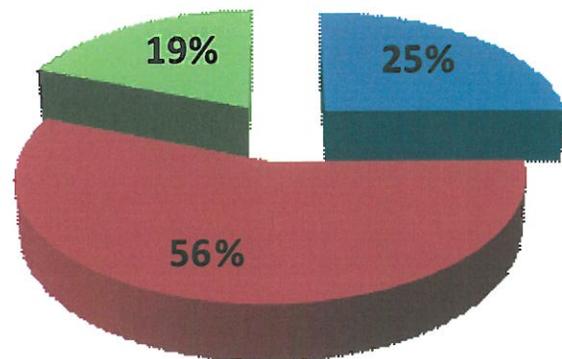
Get the Lead Out (GLO)

GLO is a lead abatement program for homes with children under six who have elevated lead blood levels.

September 2008 - April 2010

Homes completed between 9/08 and 12/09:	44
Homes Completed in 2010 through April 15, 2010:	12
Homes in Progress as of April 15, 2010:	3
Total Grant Funding:	\$640,000
Average cost per home	\$9,500

Energy Division Funding Sources



■ Dept of Energy ■ Health & Human Services ■ State of Illinois



City of Rockford Human Services Department Head Start

612 N. Church Street | Rockford, IL 61103

Phone 815.987.5480 | Fax 815.987.8279

E-mail headstart2@rockfordil.gov

Website <http://rockfordil.gov/government/human/index.cfm>



Head Start Annual Report

2008- 2009

To the Citizens of Winnebago County:

Head Start services have been provided to families in Winnebago County since 1965. In 1975 the City of Rockford received the federal award from the Department of Health and Human Services to operate Head Start in Winnebago County. Each subsequent year continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive education and health services to children from low-income families. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to help to meet the needs and goals of the entire family.

City of Rockford Head Start employs 82 full and part-time staff, 28 are former or current parents. The annual budget of \$4.7 million is primarily spent in the community through salaries, materials and services.

Eligibility for Head Start services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a child's strengths, provide a rich learning environment and prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

Joanne Lewis, Director

**Funded enrollment:
591 children**

669- Children Served

602- Families Served

112—Two Parent Families

490—Single Parent Families

41-Homeless Families Served

99.5% - Average Monthly Enrollment

85% - Average Daily Attendance

Head Start Locations

**Human Services Department
Administration Office**
612 N. Church Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Fairgrounds Head Start
902 Acorn Street
Funded Enrollment: 136
Home Base Option: 24

Henrietta Head Start
200 N. Johnston Ave
Funded Enrollment: 224

Orton Keyes Head Start
653 Ranger Street
Funded Enrollment: 156

Circles of Learning, Child Care Partner
2909 N Main Street
Funded Enrollment: 51

Health Services

Children must be healthy to grow and learn. Head Start works with each family to provide medical and dental services, immunizations and other health assessments.

With support during the 2008-09 school year:

- 99% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 95% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 96% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 76% of children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

Social Services

Family Resource Workers support families' goals and needs. Families make their own decisions concerning resources they choose to utilize and options they choose to exercise. In some cases, support is provided to families in crisis.

75% of families (452) received at least one of the services listed.

The number of families who received the following services during the 2008 – 09 program year:

Emergency/crisis intervention (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter):	136	Adult education (GED programs, college selection, etc)	181
Mental Health Services	19	Domestic violence services	10
Marriage education services	27	Child support assistance	21
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repair, etc)	61	Health education	181
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	88	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	4
Child Abuse and Neglect service	14	Parenting education	69
Job training	79	Substance abuse prevention or treatments	6

Parent Involvement

Head Start parents:

- Participate in their child's education and development
- Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Develop their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate

Additional opportunities are available to all parents:

Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the program. Parent participants are elected at the site or program options and make up the majority of the membership.

Parent Committees are organized at the site level, the committee keeps parents informed about activities and makes recommendations for program plans.

Family Partnerships identify and support the interests, goals, needs and strengths of the family.

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency. Nine parent education events were held during the program year and 124 parents participated.

Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level. Family-centered events are fun and informative. All members of the family are welcome to participate. Eighteen Family Fun Nights were held in 2008—2009 and 505 family members participated in the events.

Program Options

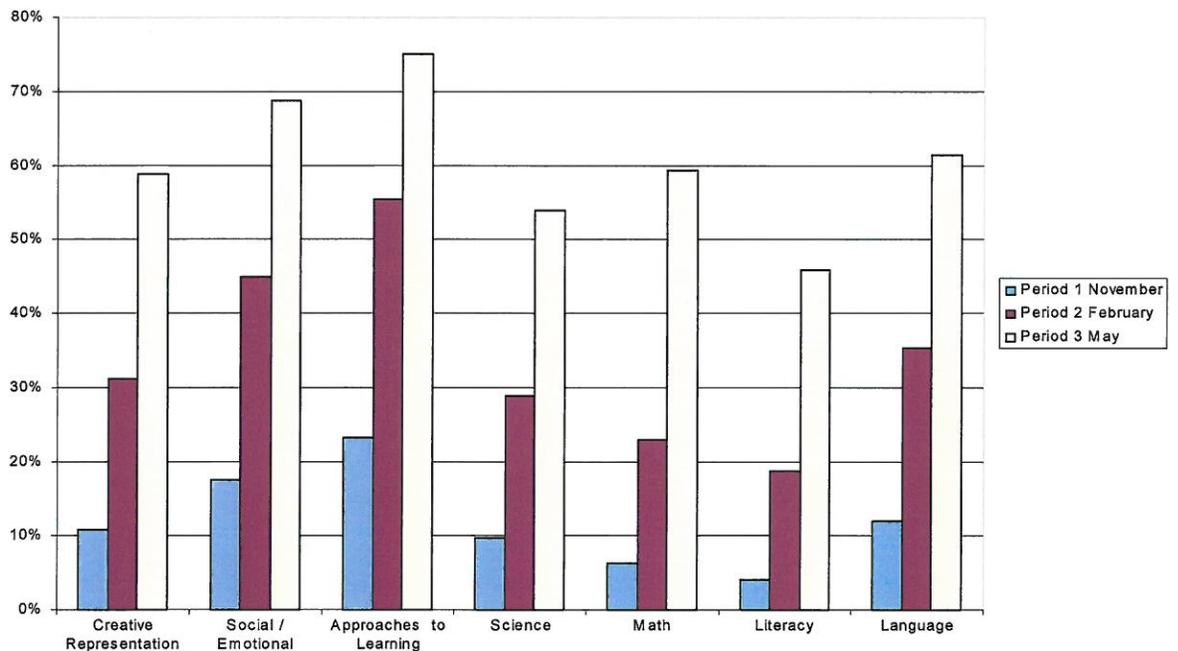
Four program options are available to families:

Part-day (3.5 hours per day, four days a week)	Home-base (Home visit 1.5 hours a week)
Full-day center based (8 hours per day, five days a week, during the school year)	Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)

Education

Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child's individual development. Ongoing child assessments are shared with parents to review progress and set goals. A variety of experiences and materials promote children's development in key areas.

Child Outcomes in 2008-09 demonstrate significant progress. The grid shows the increase in the percentage of children who scored at the highest level of competency. Assessments are completed three times during the school year: November, February and May.



Transportation

Head Start provides door-to-door transportation for the majority of children attending part day, center based classes. All children are securely seated in safety vests.

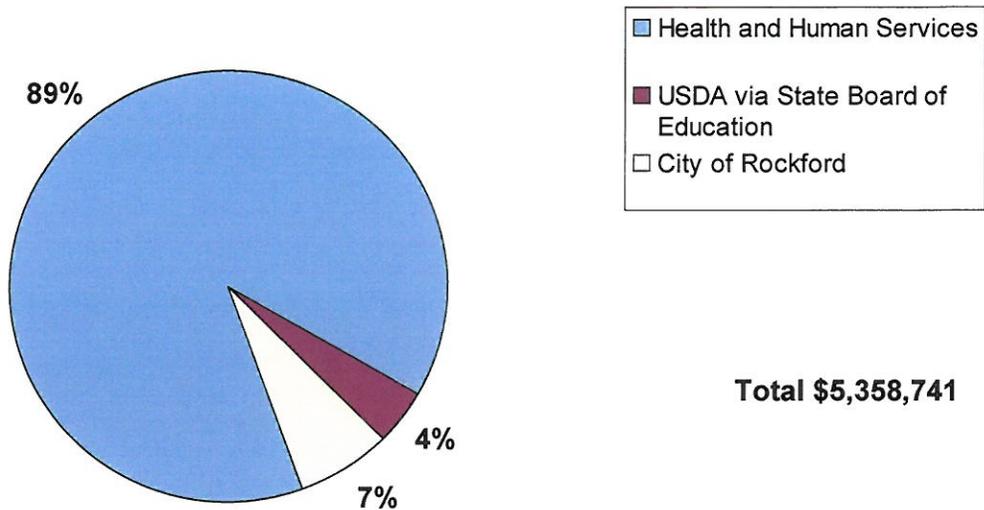
435	15	19	34
Children transported in 2008 - 09	Bus Drivers employed by Head Start	Buses owned by Head Start	Routes run each day Monday - Thursday

Transition—310 children were eligible to enter kindergarten the following year.

Services are offered to families with children who are transitioning to kindergarten.

- Families are assisted in registering their child for kindergarten
- Children take field trips to kindergarten classrooms.
- Parents participate in field trips to kindergarten buildings to meet staff and view classrooms.

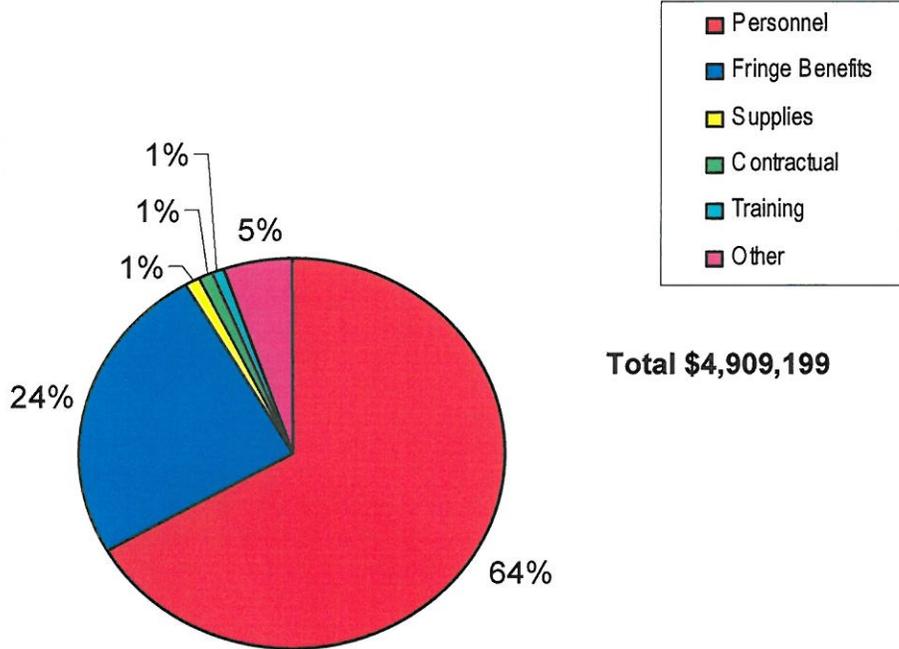
Head Start Sources of Funds



Federal Review

Effective December 2007, the Office of Head Start acknowledged that the City of Rockford Human Services Department, Head Start is in full compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

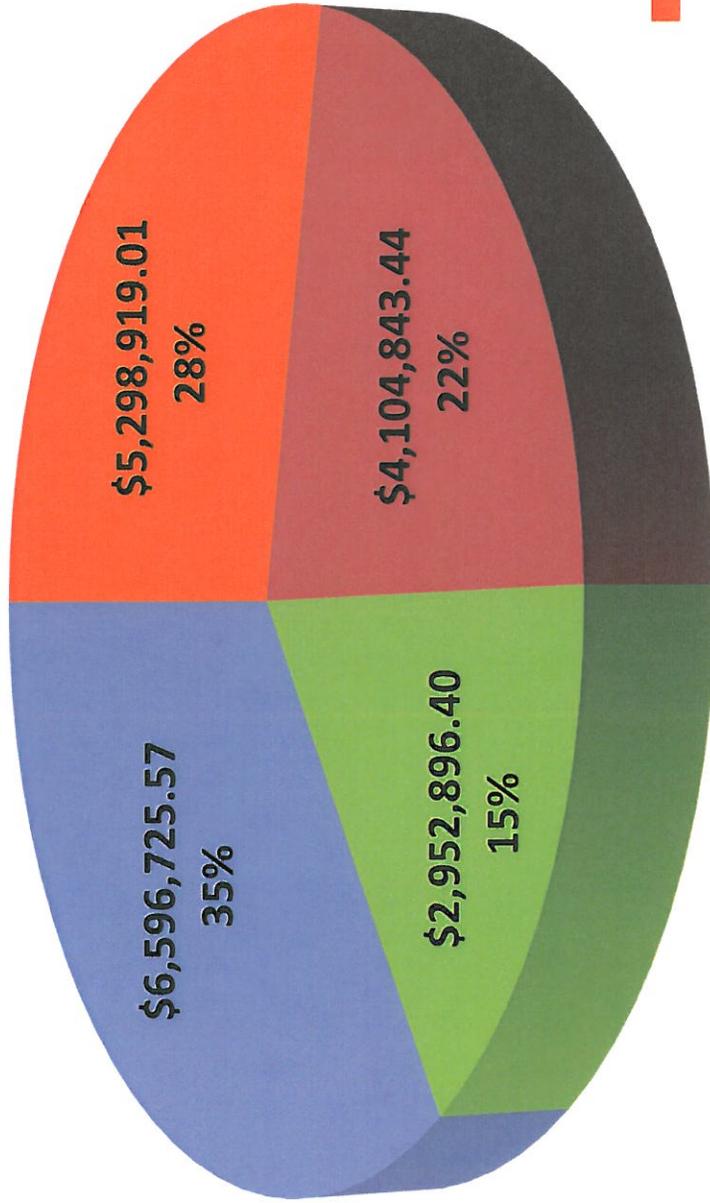
Projected Budget 2009 - 2010



Audit

Lauterbach & Amen conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2008. City of Rockford is in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. There were no findings specific to the Head Start program.

USES OF FUNDS 2009



HEAD START

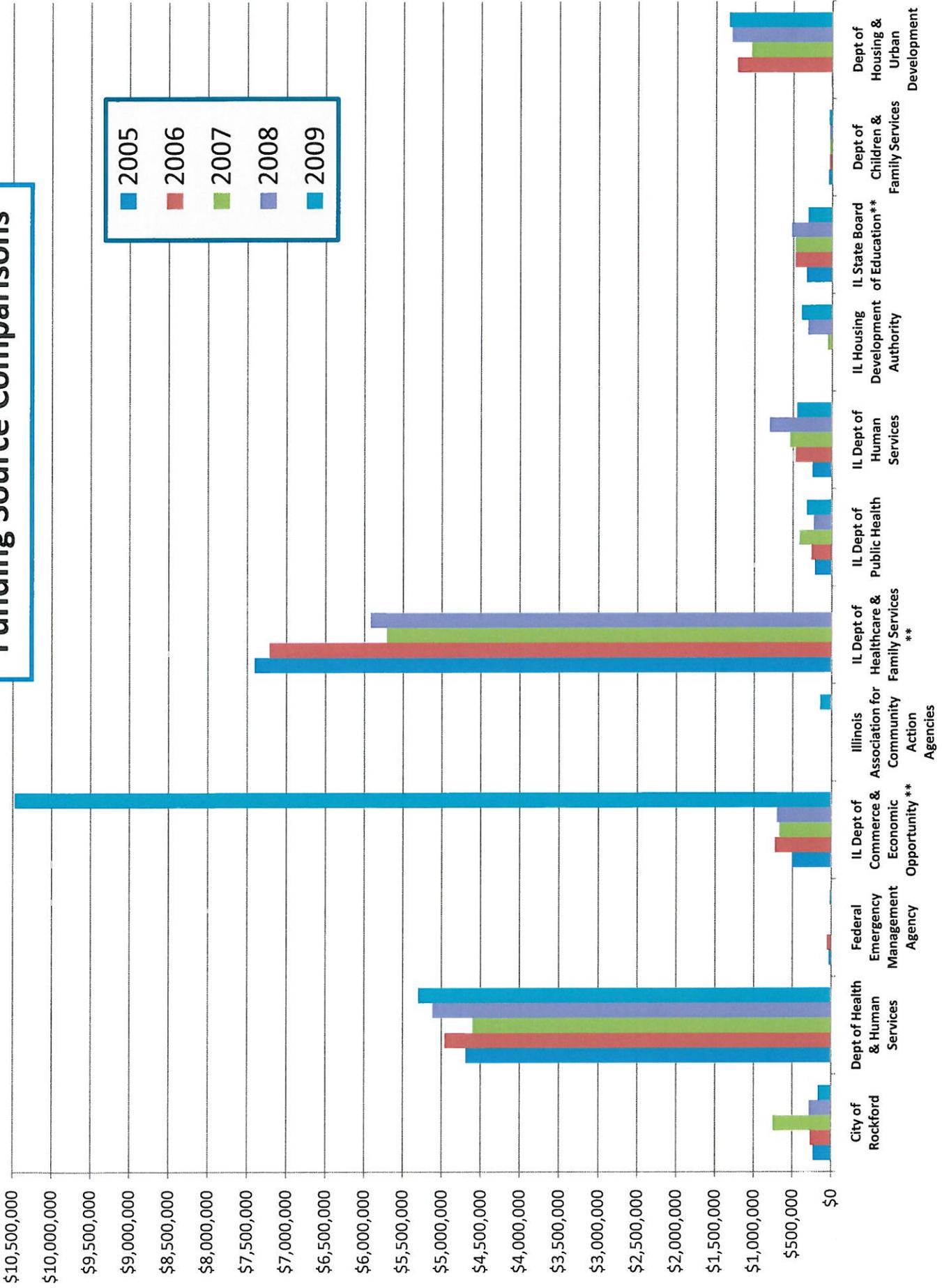
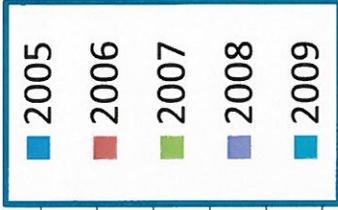
COMMUNITY SERVICES

WEATHERIZATION

LIHEAP

TOTAL \$18,953,384.42

Funding Source Comparisons



Division Comparisons

