



Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties

City of Rockford Human Services Department

Annual Report to the Community 2015



Mission Statement

We are the Community Action Agency for Boone and Winnebago Counties, engaging all citizens in building stronger communities

Executive Director Message

In 2015, the Community Action Agency serving Boone and Winnebago Counties made significant contributions towards reversing negative economic and social indicators in our city and region — including targeted efforts to address veteran and other chronic homelessness, employment of ex-offenders, and expansion of high quality early care and education to children and families facing the greatest barriers to progress. These targeted initiatives each featured a focus on measurable outcomes and the application of collective impact principles.

As we look ahead to 2016 and beyond, we will be challenged to sustain and extend the effectiveness of our contributions towards addressing family and neighborhood violence and increased economic opportunity. Along with our sister Community Action Agencies across the state and country, we will be aided in these efforts by the roll-out in 2016 of a new set of national performance measures and a revamped planning and accountability process called ROMA — Results Oriented Management and Accountability. These tools along with the growing vision and commitment across our city and region to apply collective impact principles hold great promise for our collective future.

Executive Director George Davis

CAA Board Chair Message

2015 was indeed a year of challenge and change for the Community Action Agency of Boone and Winnebago Counties. As promised in our 2015 Annual Report letter, our goal to strengthen core services was met enthusiastically and significant community wins resulted.

Community Services realized the end of veteran homelessness in Rockford resulting in recognition from both Michelle Obama and Community Solutions. In addition, the needs of the homeless were met more successfully through the implementation of a Single Point of Entry metric.

The Barber Colman project placed twenty high risk individuals into training, work experience, and employment. Nineteen of the twenty participants are now employed.

Head Start provided additional high quality extended day learning and development services to preschool children, allowing low income parents to participate in work, school, and job training. All three Head Start sites met the eligibility requirements for ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality.

These are just some of the highlights of the Community Action Agency's 2015 achievements. Our strengthened and engaged Board demonstrated the "can do" attitude as promised. We are continuing to move forward on focused initiatives to provide additional deliverables to our communities.

Mayor Chamberlain
Board Chair

CAA Board Members

Alderman Frank Beach	Alderman Pam Connell	Fred Hoople
Victory Bell	Kelly Galluzzo	Roxanne Sosnowski
Sherry Branson	Seneca Gordon	Maurice West
Mayor Chamberlain	Catherine Gray	
Ron Clewer	Joseph Hanley	

Family of Distinction

The Community Action Agency of Boone and Winnebago Counties nominated Mr. Gerald Pedersen for the Family of Distinction Award in recognition of his many accomplishments. Gerald, a lifelong resident of Rockford, started work as a skilled machinist at a local company. Within ten years, Gerald owned his own home and was in pursuit of the “American Dream”. However, this changed as Gerald is a recovering addict and in relapsing, his life took a turn for the worse. He lost his career, home and all his worldly possessions. Gerald was living on the streets and committed crimes to fund his drug habit. He was arrested and charged with armed robbery and sentenced to fourteen years with the IL Department of Corrections.

Our Community Action Agency used economic development funds to create Project 100 which was an employment and training program for special populations (i.e. homeless and ex-offenders) who faced substantial barriers to receiving skills and services to become gainfully employed. Participants were engaged in construction, rehabilitation, and deconstruction and repurpose work, and obtained the required certifications to complete this type of work.

As a participant of Project 100, Gerald exhibited strong leadership skills as he helped establish a strong bond among all participants. At the end of the project, staff worked closely with all participants to transition them to employment; nineteen of the twenty obtained employment. Gerald now has a new job with Ingersoll as a CNC machinist.



By facing and overcoming all challenges that life has presented, Gerald has shown his resiliency for life and emulates the creed to “never give up”. He has shown determination by sharing his story with others and his message “a person doesn’t have to make his own mistakes, they can learn from mine”.

Gerald continues to strive in both his personal and professional life. In addition to working, he is a current student at Rock Valley College studying health and nutrition. Gerald has set personal goals of completing a Bachelor’s Degree and returning to home ownership within the next few years.

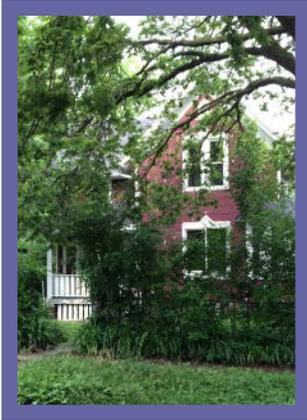
Services Provided...

The City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency serving Boone and Winnebago Counties, includes the Community Services Division. Project 100 was created with economic development funds to provide employment and training services to special populations (i.e. homeless and ex-offenders). Participants were engaged in construction, rehabilitation, deconstruction and repurpose work, and obtained appropriate certifications including Lead & Asbestos Abatement, OSHA 10, Repair & Painting, and CPR/First Aid training. The collaborative work of the agency’s staff were able to assist Gerald Pedersen with the following:

- ◆ Job Training & Employment
- ◆ Community Linkages
- ◆ Housing Support
- ◆ Life Skills & Goal Setting

Gerald stated that Project 100 provided him the ability to “stand on his own feet and help him regain hope”.

Community Services



SPOE (Single Point Of Entry) for the homeless was officially piloted by the Community Services Division in January 2015. As the lead applicant and grantee for HUD Homeless Grants, the Community Services Division has been working with the Rock River Homeless Coalition to increase permanent housing capacity so individuals are in emergency shelters for less time or not at all. Staff successfully transitioned 170 households from being homeless to being permanently housed in 2015. Additionally, the Community Action Agency ended functional Veteran's Homelessness in Rockford achieving national recognition by rapidly and permanently housing 82 veterans.

SWEEP (Sharing Work in Excellence Everywhere Program) provides exterior clean-up, repair and support to elderly and disabled homeowners who have difficulty maintaining their property. The program hires low income youth and trains them to provide services. SWEEP assisted 20 youth in employment and training, and cleaned up 42 properties within the community.

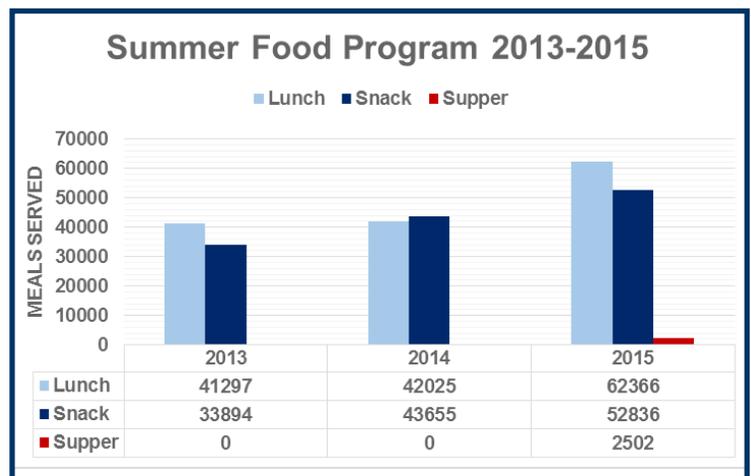
Community Health & Prevention

Community Gardens are located in both Winnebago and Boone Counties. Several of the gardens were learning gardens teaching children how to cultivate the soil, plant, water and harvest the product. In 2015, there were 16 gardens producing 2,784 pounds of food for those in need, with 491 adult volunteer hours and 926 youth volunteer hours.



BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers & Servers Education & Training) program is the State of Illinois' seller and server training program. The BASSET Program is designed to encourage sellers and servers of alcoholic beverages to serve responsibly and adhere to the law. BASSET trained 319 individuals at 59 businesses in 2015.

Summer Food Services Program provides nutritious meals to children during the summer months when school is not in session. Participating sites, located in both Winnebago and Boone Counties, are non-profit organizations and local recreation centers either in close proximity to a school where over 50% of children receive free/reduced lunch, or the sites serve a group of children where most of them are low income families. Staff made an extensive effort to recruit new sites resulting in transitioning the program from a Tier One federal priority (urgent to increase sites) to a Tier Two priority (has unserved children, but has made significant progress). Over 60,000 lunches were served to children in 2015.



Weatherization

- ◆ Weatherization provides air sealing, and heating and ventilation services in order to make homes more energy efficient and reduce utility costs. In 2015, 73 homes were weatherized and 43 emergency furnaces were installed.
- ◆ 91% of all homes weatherized met or exceeded the air sealing target resulting in this Community Action Agency being one of the top seven Weatherization programs in the state of Illinois.



Energy Assistance

- ◆ Served 9,391 households in Boone and Winnebago Counties during the last program year with LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). Of those households, 6,185 had at least one member that was a senior or disabled.
- ◆ 1,619 households participated in the PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Program). PIPP assists households with a budget plan to lower utility costs.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Early Childhood Education - Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child's individual development, and 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.

Head Start (Children three to five years of age)

Funded Enrollment: 591

Children Served: 626

Early Head Start (Children birth to three years of age and pregnant women)

Funded Enrollment: 92

Children Served: 134

Pregnant Women Served: 12

Early Head Start/Child Care Collaboration (Children six weeks to three years of age) Children are served in partnerships with two child care centers.

Funded Enrollment: 40

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (Children ages birth to three years of age and pregnant women)

Funded Enrollment: 20

Children Served: 34

Pregnant Women Served: 1



Head Start/Early Head Start Health Services



- ◆ 99% of Head Start and 87% of Early Head Start children are up-to-date on age appropriate preventive and primary health care.
- ◆ 97% of Head Start and 93% of Early Head Start children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- ◆ 99% of Head Start children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible dental care.
- ◆ 95% of Head Start children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Involvement

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, childhood development and self-sufficiency. 36 parent education events were held during the program year and 481 parents participated. Head Start parents participate in their child's education and development, make decisions and offer suggestions, and volunteer in the classroom and on field trips. 1,283 parents and community members volunteered during the school year.

Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level; they are family-centered, fun and informative. 17 Family Fun Nights were held, and 1754 children and families participated in the events.

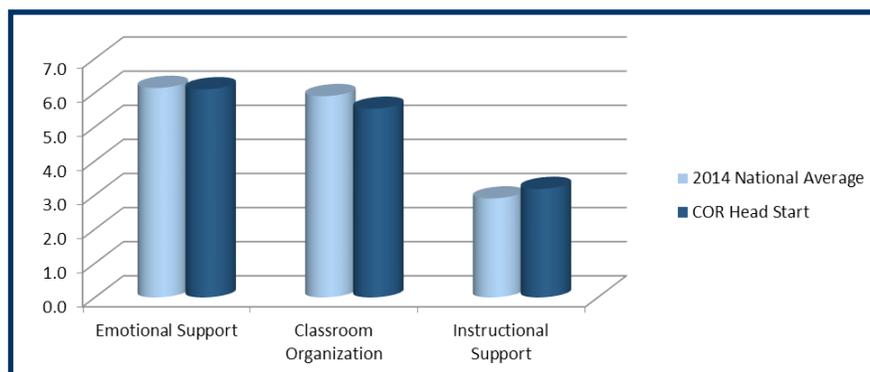
Family Jamboree is a yearly event held at the Discovery Center Museum. 1273 children and adults attended the two events held.



Head Start/Early Head Start Classroom Assessment

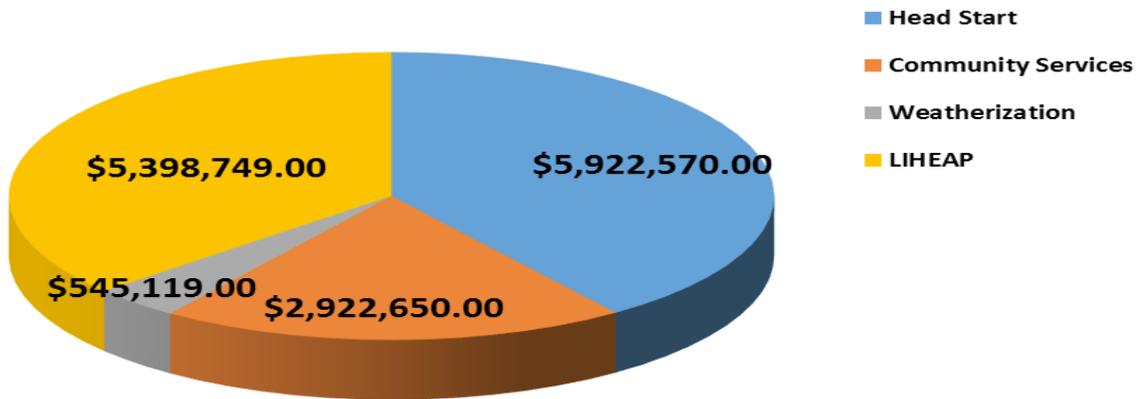
The Classroom Assessment (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess quality in three specific domains in early childhood classrooms: emotional support (positive/negative climate, teacher sensitivity), classroom organization (behavior management, productivity, instructional learning formats) and instructional support (concept development, quality of feedback, language modeling, literacy focus).

2014 – 2015 School Year

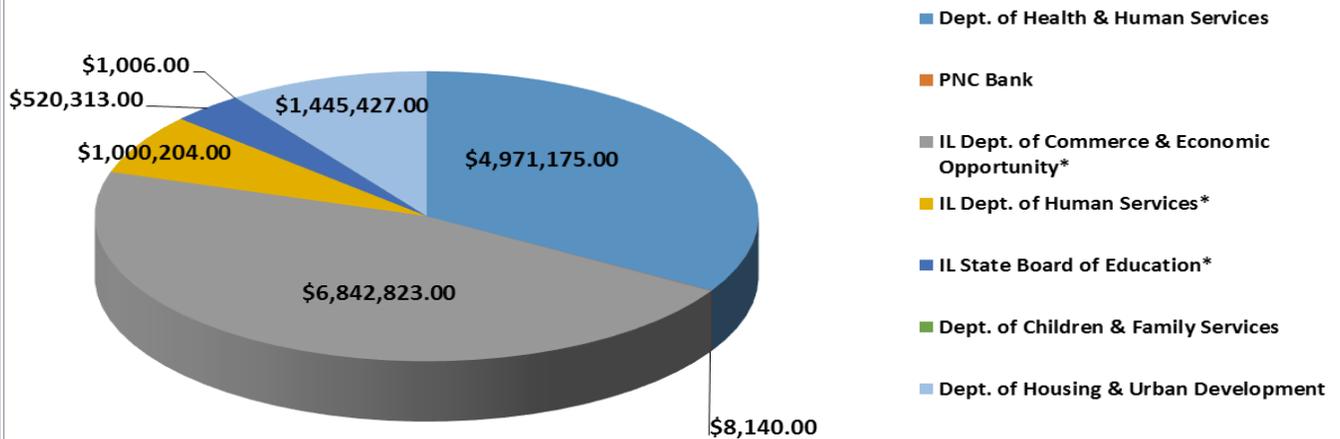


Financial Report

Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties City of Rockford Human Services Department Uses of Funds for Calendar Year 2015



Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties City of Rockford Human Services Department Sources of Funds for Calendar Year 2015



* Includes Federal pass through funds



612 North Church Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Contact the office at:
Administration - 779.348.7170
Community Services - 844.710.6919
Head Start/Early Head Start - 779.348.7169

Or visit our web link:
<http://www.rockfordil.gov/human-services.aspx>

The City of Rockford Human Services Department is the designated Community Action Agency for Winnebago and Boone Counties. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are multi-faceted human service delivery systems capable of locally administering short term and long term human services programs. CAAs work to engage elected and appointed public officials and agencies, private sector representatives and organizations, and low income residents in collaborative efforts to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

Services we provide...

- ◆ **Community Health & Prevention:** Drug Free, Social Norms, Beverage Alcohol Sellers & Servers Education & Training (BASSET), Summer Food
 - ◆ **Housing Assistance & Support:** Single Point of Entry for Homelessness, Continuum of Care, Homeless Prevention
 - ◆ **Community Action Programs:** Community Gardens, Scholarships, Self-Sufficiency, Case Management, Neighborhood Engagement, Home Maintenance & Repair, Information & Referral
 - ◆ **Energy Assistance Programs:** LIHEAP/PIPP, Weatherization, Client Education, Home Energy Evaluation
 - ◆ **Child development and education, family social services, health and nutrition, special needs services, parent/family education**
 - Head Start:** Pre-school children ages three to five years old
 - Early Head Start:** Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old
 - Early Head Start/Child Care Collaboration:** Children six weeks to three years old served in partnership with two child care centers
 - MIECHVP (Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program):** Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old home visiting program
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