



## *Reinventing Community*

It takes little observation to conclude that public spending for health and human services will most likely be reduced significantly in the coming years. Our local region is experiencing some of the worst economic conditions in the state as indicated by the number of residents living in poverty, unemployment and blight.

As your local Community Action Agency, we are charged with addressing both the impact and conditions that contribute to poverty. In addition to funding reductions, policy makers are debating the proper role of government in addressing human need. With respect to the agenda of addressing poverty we should reflect not only on human need but also on what opportunities the current realities create for rethinking our approach to addressing the conditions that support and perpetuate poverty.

The Community Action Agency network serves virtually every county in our country through a network of over 1,000 local agencies. This system of service delivery and opportunity creation has served local communities well for the past 45 years as catalysts for change and community improvement.

Yet in spite of the value and benefit of the system poverty has risen significantly over the past decade due to factors far beyond the capacity of any one system or agency alone to address. It is vital that locally we foster new thinking and practice among all residents about what it means to live in community and act to remove whatever stands in the way – whether interpersonal or systemic. We owe it to ourselves and our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Davis".

George Davis, CCAP

April 6, 2011



## *The Community Action Promise*

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

**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 and families who are low-income. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to help to meet the needs and goals of the entire family. Head Start also engages families and community partners in support of children's needs.

Head Start employs 92 full and part-time staff, 25 are former or current Head Start parents. Head Start is funded to serve 591 children, ages 3-5 years old. Early Head Start serves 12 pregnant women and 80 children, ages birth to three years old. Grant funds are primarily spent in the community, through salaries, materials and services.

In July 2009, we submitted a grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services for Early Head Start funding. In December of 2009 we were notified that our application was approved.

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.

**The Community Services Division** provides a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty with the goal to equip families and individuals with the tools and potential for becoming self-sufficient. Through our direct service programs, funding of external partners and our participation in area committees and projects, we are able to address problems unique to our community as well as those affecting our residents from a regional and national perspective.

In July of 2010 the Energy and Community Services Divisions were combined. After months of planning, the Community Services Division offices relocated to 555 N. Court St. Suite 301, phone 815-987-5711. This combining and restructuring has enabled us to offer more comprehensive and efficient services to the citizens in need of our programs.

Also in 2010, our Boone County office moved to, 130 N. State St. in Belvidere, 815-547-3800. Our new location at ALERTA, an organization that offers a variety of resources and services to area Latinos, offers our programs greater visibility and accessibility to that population.

The Community Services Division is comprised of five program areas: Community Health and Prevention, Community Action, Housing, Weatherization, and Energy Assistance. The programs are extensive and varied.

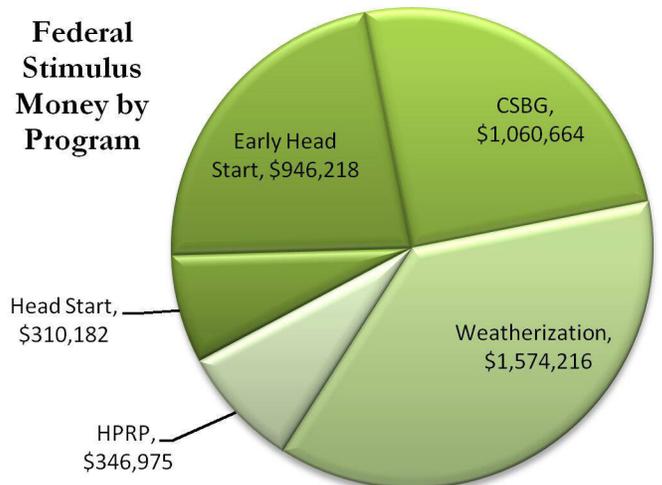
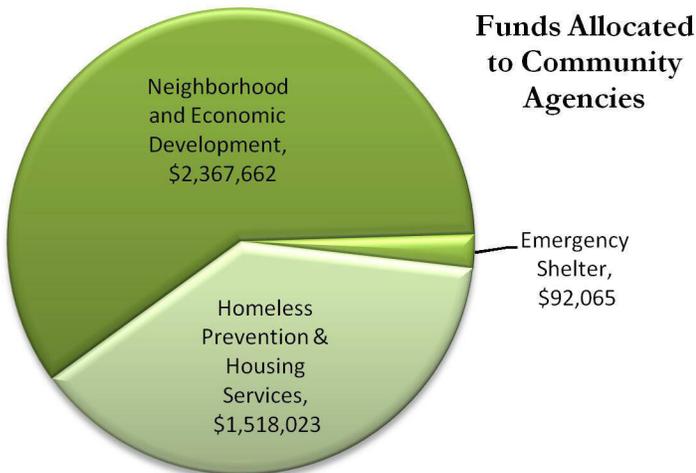
612 North Church Street Rockford, IL 61103  
(815) 987-5782 Fax (815) 987-5762  
TTY (815) 987-5520



For a complete copy of the 2010 Annual Report please visit our web site at  
<http://www.rockfordil.gov/government/human/index.cfm>

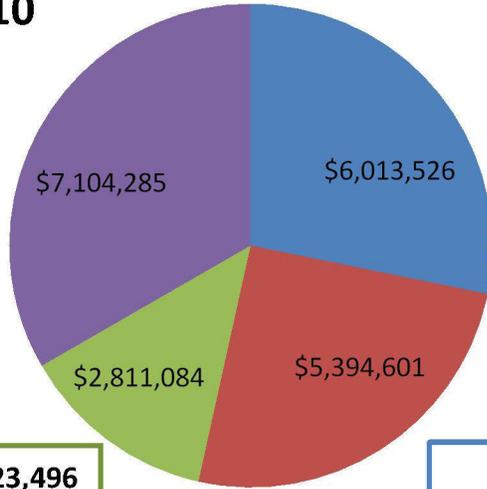
## *2010 Year in Review*

- **4** students were recipients of \$1000 scholarships for Illinois based post secondary education.
- **4** economically challenged youth assisted **34** seniors and disabled residents with exterior clean-up, mowing and received on the job training through the Sharing Work for Excellence Everywhere program (SWEEP).
- **15** economically challenged Hispanic youth in Boone County received leadership training, counseling, service projects, educational support and follow up to increase their long term success.
- **60** children and **50** families were served through the Early Head Start program.
- **61** households benefitted from Housing Advocacy Program.
- **64** households at 30% or less of area median income received rental housing support.
- **69** housing units received lead hazard abatement.
- **75** high school students attended the MYAC (Mayor's Youth Advisory Council) summit in April.
- **90** neighborhood groups were supported by Neighborhood Network.
- **168** households received assistance with life safety repairs.
- **255** homeless and at-risk households were assisted with permanent housing.
- **266** households were assessed and received Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance.
- **310** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Conklin, Stile, and Lewis Lemon Elementary Schools were involved in the Too Good for Drugs/Too Good for Violence 11 week program.
- **328** parents participated at **27** parent education events held during the Head Start program year.
- **462** families received social service referrals while enrolled in the Head Start program.
- **479** Households received temporary rent or mortgage assistance through the Homeless Prevention program.
- **667** children received early education and health services through the Head Start program.
- **1000** books donated to Head Start through a MYAC sponsored event.
- **1,424** relatives of enrolled children and community members volunteered for Head Start, totaling **12,748** hours.
- **3,744** children, ages 2-18 received nutritional lunches and snacks during the summer.
- **7,590** households received assistance toward energy bills.



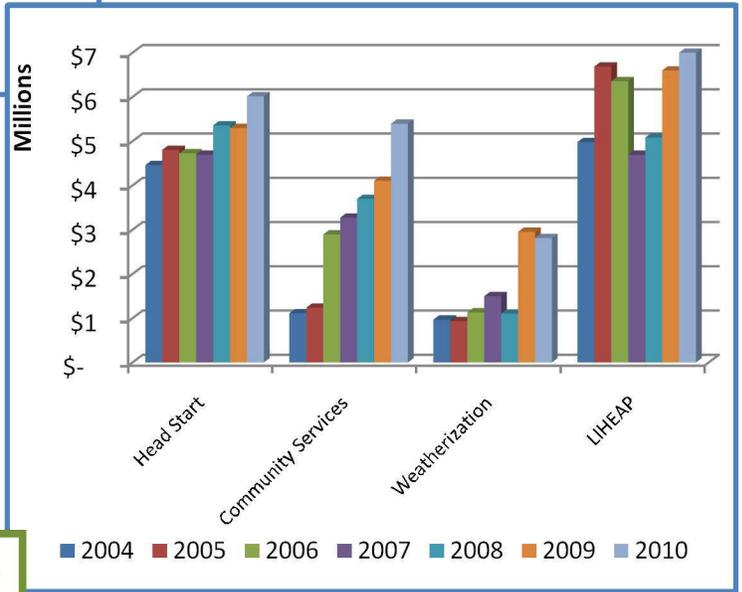
**2010**

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Community Services
- Weatherization
- LIHEAP

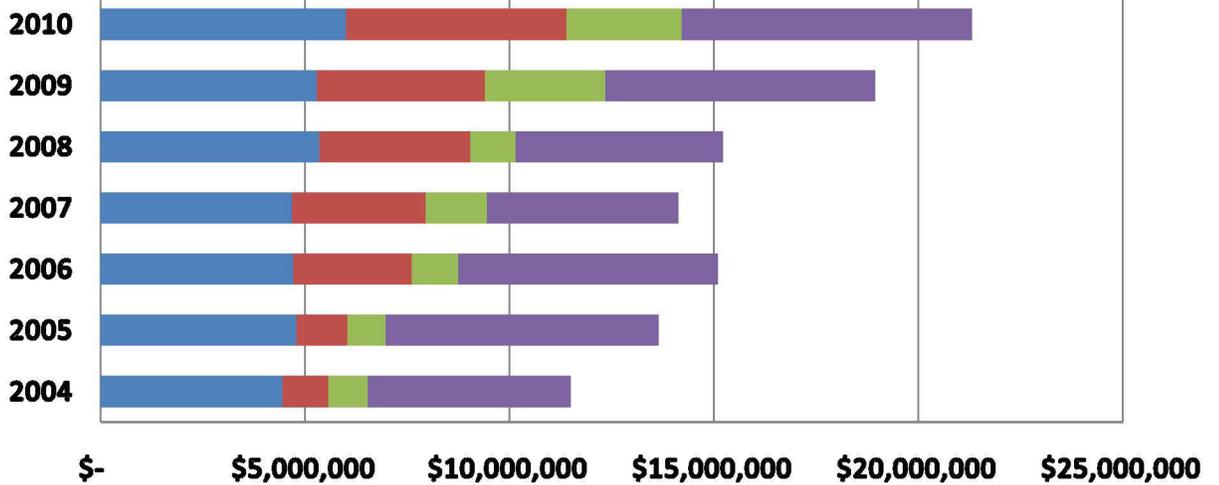


**Total Budget \$21,323,496**

## Uses of Funds



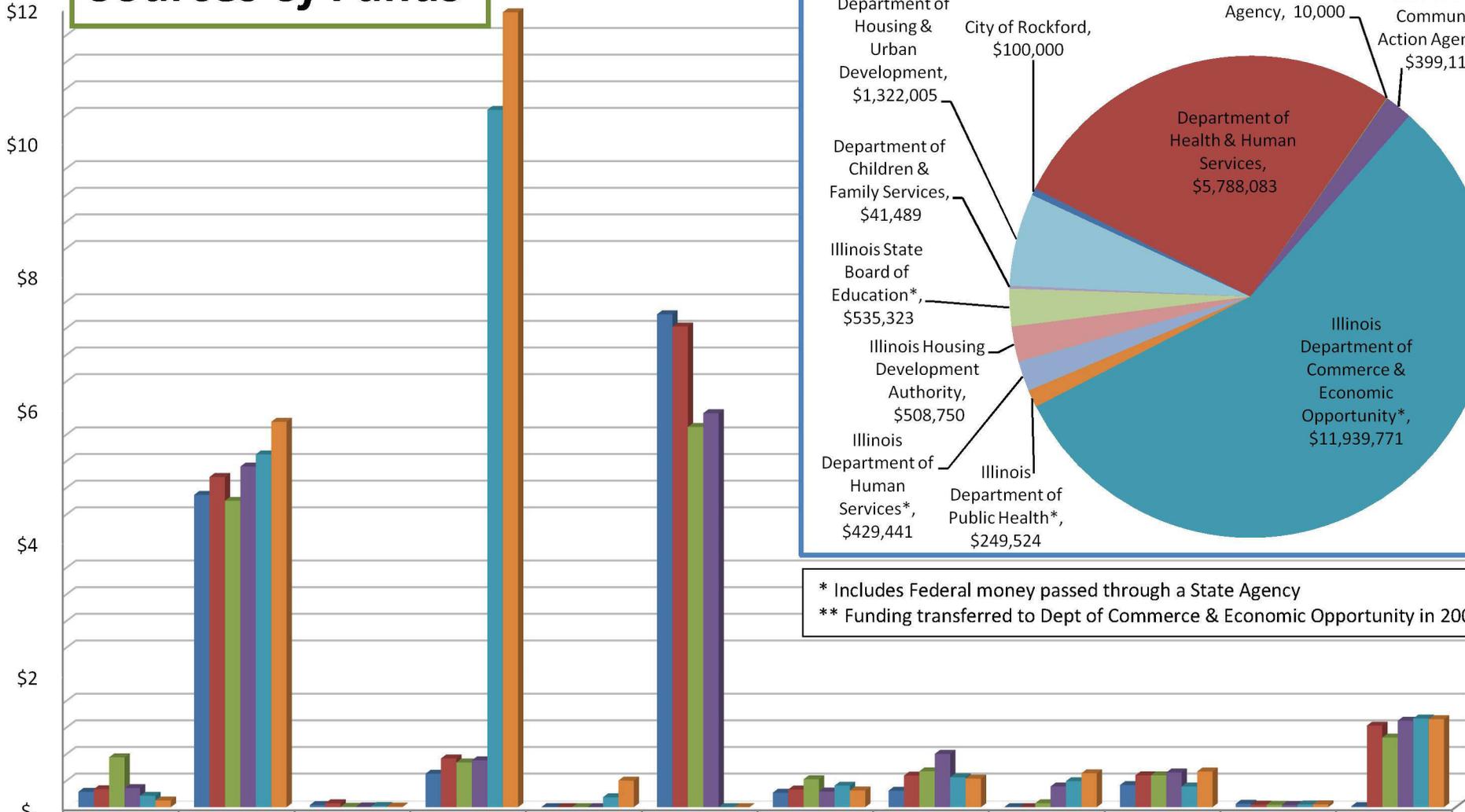
## Annual Expenses by Division



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
■ Head Start	\$4,459,852	\$4,803,323	\$4,726,527	\$4,692,348	\$5,354,285	\$5,298,919	\$6,013,526
■ Community Services	\$1,109,880	\$1,235,450	\$2,891,196	\$3,269,781	\$3,695,623	\$4,104,843	\$5,394,601
■ Weatherization	\$967,069	\$933,343	\$1,129,119	\$1,496,630	\$1,101,558	\$2,952,896	\$2,811,084
■ LIHEAP	\$4,978,102	\$6,686,866	\$6,355,881	\$4,692,071	\$5,081,720	\$6,596,726	\$7,104,285

# Sources of Funds

Millions



\* Includes Federal money passed through a State Agency  
 \*\* Funding transferred to Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity in 2009

	City of Rockford	Dept of Health & Human Services	Federal Emergency Management Agency	IL Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity *	Illinois Association for Community Action Agencies	IL Dept of Healthcare & Family Services *	IL Dept of Public Health	IL Dept of Human Services	IL Housing Development Authority	IL State Board of Education*	Dept of Children & Family Services	Dept of Housing & Urban Development
■ 2005	\$230,000	\$4,690,759	\$31,333	\$502,390	\$-	\$7,403,559	\$216,651	\$247,040	\$-	\$331,440	\$50,262	\$15,339
■ 2006	\$270,000	\$4,959,984	\$57,701	\$731,331	\$-	\$7,220,173	\$264,827	\$473,212	\$-	\$477,497	\$37,953	\$1,224,343
■ 2007	\$749,071	\$4,601,641	\$5,289	\$670,847	\$-	\$5,711,339	\$418,922	\$538,859	\$58,440	\$476,877	\$35,238	\$1,045,610
■ 2008	\$286,000	\$5,116,197	\$10,699	\$702,788	\$-	\$5,918,552	\$234,902	\$800,440	\$310,558	\$521,009	\$33,961	\$1,298,080
■ 2009	\$170,000	\$5,298,919	\$17,941	\$10,474,727	\$148,898	\$-	\$322,534	\$449,293	\$390,258	\$309,960	\$39,287	\$1,331,568
■ 2010	\$100,000	\$5,788,083	\$10,000	\$11,939,771	\$399,110	\$-	\$249,524	\$429,441	\$508,750	\$535,323	\$41,489	\$1,322,005



# 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](mailto:headstart2@rockfordil.gov) - Website <http://rockfordil.gov/government/human/index.cfm>



## Head Start Locations

### Head Start Annual Report 2009- 2010

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.

In July 2009, we submitted a grant application to the Health and Human Services Department for Early Head Start funding. Early Head Start is a program that serves pregnant women and children birth to three years of age. In December of 2009 we were notified that our application was accepted. Since that time we have designed the program and hired staff.

Head Start employs 92 full and part-time staff, 25 are former or current parents. Head Start is funded to serve 591 children, ages 3-5 years old. Early Head Start serves 12 pregnant women and 80 children, ages birth to three years old. Grant funds are 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  
City of Rockford Head Start

**Human Services Department  
Administration Office**  
612 N. Church Street, 61103  
Early Head Start Home Base  
Funded Enrollment: 84

**Fairgrounds Head Start**  
902 Acorn Street, 61101  
Funded Enrollment: 136  
Home Base Option: 24

**Henrietta Head Start**  
200 N. Johnston Ave, 61101  
Funded Enrollment: 224

**Orton Keyes Head Start**  
653 Ranger Street, 61109  
Funded Enrollment: 136

**Circles of Learning,  
Child Care Partner**  
2909 N Main Street, 61103  
Funded Enrollment: 51  
Early Head Start  
Funded Enrollment: 8

**Rockford Day Nursery,  
Child Care Partner, 61104**  
2323 S 6th Street  
Funded Enrollment: 20

### Head Start 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)

### Early Head Start Program Options

Two program options are available to families:

Home-base (Home visit 1.5 hours a week)	Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)
--------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Federal Review

Effective **February 1, 2010**, 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.

**Head Start**  
**Funded Enrollment: 591**  
**3—5 years of age**

- 667 - Children Served
- 618 - Families Served
- 117—Two Parent Families
- 501—Single Parent Families
- 29-Homeless Families Served
- 99.5% - Average Monthly Enrollment
- 86.64% - Average Daily Attendance
- 96% - Income Eligible Children Served

**Early Head Start**  
**Funded Enrollment: 92**  
**Birth - 3 years old and pregnant women**  
**Services started in Rockford May 2010**

- 60 - Children Served
- 50 - Families Served
- 9 —Two Parent Families
- 41 —Single Parent Families
- 1-Homeless Families Served
- 4 - Pregnant Women Served
- 90% - Income Eligible Children Served



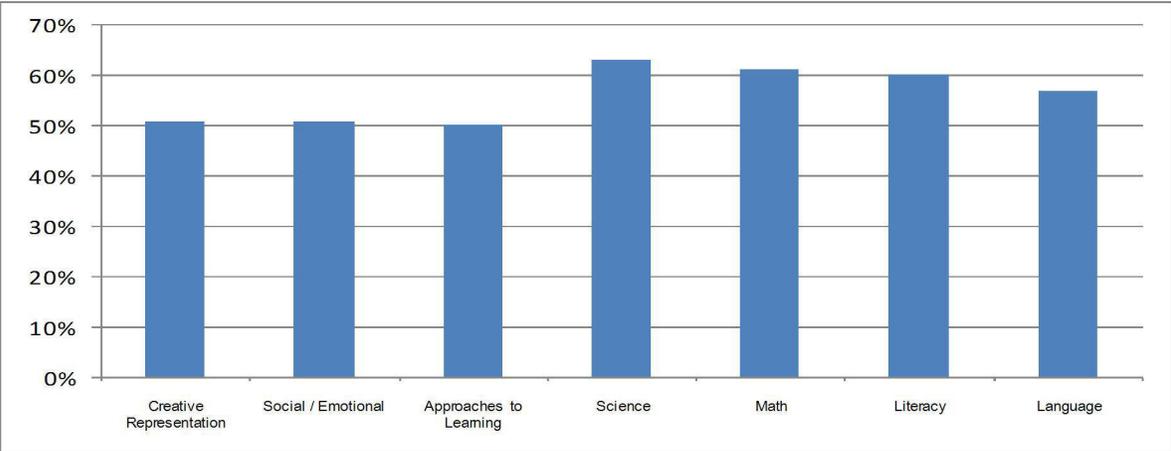
**Transportation**—Head Start provides door-to-door transportation for the majority of children attending part day, center based classes. All children are securely seated in safety vests.

<b>436</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>
Children transported in 2009 - 10	Bus Drivers employed by Head Start	Buses owned by Head Start	Routes run each day Monday - Thursday



**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 2009-10 demonstrate significant progress. The grid shows the gains during the program year. Assessments are completed three times during the school year: November, February and May.



We partner with many community organizations to enrich our children’s educational experiences. These include Discovery Center Museum, Burpee Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois Extension, Rockford Park District, Rockford Public Library and the Music Academy of Rockford College.

## Services for Children with Special Needs (IEP/IFSP)

Forty-two (42) children enrolled in Head Start have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), indicating they have been determined eligible by the Lead Education Agency (LEA) to receive special education and related services.

Six (6) children enrolled in EHS have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), indicating they have been determined eligible for services under the individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**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 2009-10 school year:

### In Head Start:

- 99% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 90% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 94% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 92% of children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

### In Early Head Start:

- 92% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 80% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 42% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 88% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary oral health care.

\* Note—children were enrolled for fewer than three months.

**Whoa, Slow & Go**—Head Start applied for and received a nutrition grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The purpose of the grant is to give families and children information about the benefits of healthy eating and activity. The grant award is \$20,000 for a two-year period.

At the end of the school year each child received a playground ball with their name written on it and an activity calendar. The playground balls were chosen for summer fun and to encourage physical activity. The calendar offered activity ideas and a place to log completed activities over the summer. The calendar also listed the “Go, Slow and Whoa” plan for making healthy food choices along with tips on how to buy fresh fruits and vegetables in season.

## 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. 27 parent education events were held during the program year and 328 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. 20 Family Fun Nights were held in 2009-10 and 2640 children and families participated in the events.

**Social Services**—Family Resource Workers and Home Visitor Teachers 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.

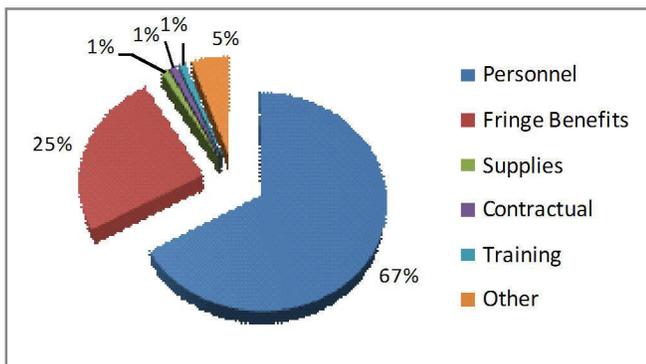
Total number of families receiving some level of services 462 (69%).

	Head Start	Early Head Start		Head Start	Early Head Start
Emergency/crisis intervention (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter):	179	13	Adult education (GED programs, college selection, etc)	121	6
Mental Health Services	16	2	Domestic violence services	7	0
Marriage education services	12	0	Child support assistance	15	1
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repair, etc)	71	5	Health education	74	8
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	80	2	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	1	0
Child Abuse and Neglect services	5	0	Parenting education	68	4
Job training	45	2	Substance abuse prevention or treatments	2	0

**2010—2011- Head Start  
Projected Budget  
Total \$5,000,616**

**Funding Sources**

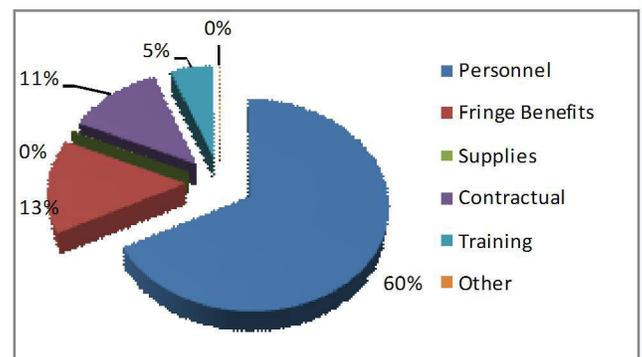
96% - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
3% - USDA via State Board of Education  
1% Miscellaneous



**2010—2011 Early Head Start  
Projected Budget  
Total \$1,149,057**

**Funding Sources**

100% U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
ARRA



**Audit**—Lauterbach & Amen conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2009. 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.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

### Community Health & Prevention

- Too Good For Drugs/Too Good for Violence
- Social Norms & Communication Campaigns
- Parent/Guardian Surveys
- Beverage & Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education & Training
- Compliance Checks
- Rockford Alcohol Free Teens Coalition
- Senior Luncheon

### Community Action Programs

- SWEEP
- LIHEAP
- 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
- Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing
- Area agency funding support

### Housing Programs

- Rental Housing Support Program
- Housing Inspections
- Housing Advocacy
- Mayors' Task Force on Homelessness
- Continuum of Care funding

### Weatherization

- Weatherization program
- PIPP
- Get the Lead Out

The **Community Services Division** provides a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty with the goal to equip families and individuals with the tools and potential for becoming self-sufficient. Through our direct service programs, funding of external partners and our participation in area committees and projects, we are able to address problems unique to our community as well as those affecting our residents from a regional and national perspective.

With the current economic situation, we find ourselves serving an increasing number of families and individuals who once held good paying jobs but whose resources have changed dramatically due to job loss and/or underemployment. More residents who face homelessness due to foreclosure also are seeking our services, as those filings have soared astronomically. Our community needs have grown in size and diversity, while our local social service agencies have experienced drastic cuts in funding. While the tasks at hand seem daunting, we are committed to serving those who need us, as well as maintaining our community relationships and collaborative efforts to strengthen the work all of us do on behalf of our residents.

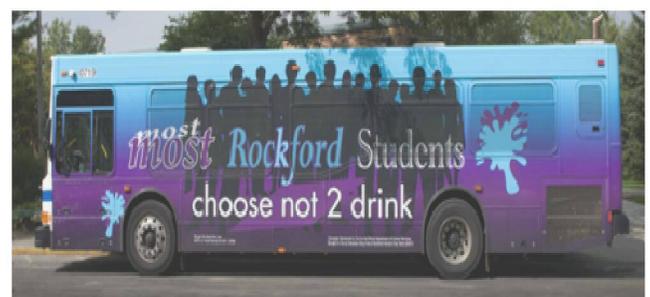
A significant event occurred in July of 2010 when the Energy Division was absorbed under the umbrella of the Community Services Division. After months of planning, the Community Services Division offices relocated to the Energy offices at 555 N. Court St. Suite 301, phone 815-987-5711. This combining and restructuring of programs and staff in one location, under the direction of one Community Services Director, enable us to offer more comprehensive and efficient services to the citizens in need of our programs.

Also in 2010, our Boone County office moved to the ALERTA office, 130 N. State St. in Belvidere, 815-547-3800. Our new location at ALERTA, an organization that offers a variety of resources and services to area Latinos, offers our programs greater visibility and accessibility to that population.

The Community Services Division is now comprised of four program areas: Community Health and Prevention, Community Action, Housing, and Weatherization. As you'll see from the list on the left, our programs are extensive and varied; this report will highlight just some of our programs and impacts in 2010. Please note that programs and eligibility can change depending on funding availability, legislation and need. If you have any questions about our services, don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

**Jennifer Jaeger, Community Services Director**

One of two RMTD bus wraps unveiled in August as part of the Community Health and Prevention Social Norms campaign



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

**Too Good for Drugs/Too Good for Violence** ♦ 310 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Conklin, Stiles, and Lewis Lemon Elementary Schools received this 11-week curriculum presented by our staff that addresses alcohol, tobacco, other drugs (ATOD) and violence prevention. Statistics taken from pre and post tests in 2010 show an average increase of 40% in the participants' knowledge, beliefs and behaviors regarding the use of ATOD and positive decision making. Additional staff time is spent in schools building relationships with students, parents, teachers and staff.

**Partnership for Success (PFS) and RAFT (Rockford Alcohol Free Teens) Coalition** ♦ 6,500 households received 4 rounds of mailings totaling 28,000 postcards that reinforce parents positive support of alcohol non-use by their children. 240 posters were hung at RESA, Ellis, Barbour, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Guilford, and Auburn schools as part of the Social Norms campaign that reinforces the statistics that the majority of students do NOT drink. Bus wraps were unveiled on two RMTD buses that also included the positive messages. With repeated exposure to a variety of positive, data-based messages, the misperceptions that help to sustain problem behavior are reduced, and a greater proportion of the population begins to act in accord with the more accurately perceived norms of health, protection and safety. RAFT participated in the IL Liquor Commission's 2nd annual statewide "Project Sticker Shock", where stickers, window decals, posters and proof of age signs were posted in liquor establishments with messages reminding customers that "Providing Alcohol to Minors is Illegal, Unhealthy and Unacceptable." For youth who begin drinking at age 15, more than 1 in 3 will become alcoholics at some point in their lives; for those who wait until 21, the rate is 1 in 10. In Illinois, the medical costs alone that result from alcohol-related injuries/deaths caused by underage drinking total more than \$260 million.

**Summer Food** ♦ 77,171 lunches and 32,297 snacks were provided to 3,744 children from 2 – 18 years old at area recreational and educational sites during the summer. This program ensures that adequate nutrition is available for those children most vulnerable when school is not in session. Staff coordinates and monitors this program.

**Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET)** ♦ 160 hours of training were provided by staff through this alcohol awareness program that is offered to businesses that sell and serve alcohol. Because of our staff efforts in working with local governments explaining the merits of BASSET, Roscoe passed an ordinance in 2010 that requires all sellers and servers to undergo BASSET.

**Community Action Programs** involve a broad number of community initiatives, pilot projects and innovative programs that address either the immediate need to alleviate poverty or the underlying causes of poverty.

**Homeless Prevention** ♦ 479 households received rent or mortgage assistance through this program for those who experienced a temporary crisis beyond their control that caused them to be at-risk of homelessness. Examples include a gap in employment, medical emergency, natural disaster, domestic violence or sexual assault. 87% of these households have remained stably housed.

**Community Gardens** ♦ 900+ volunteers were involved in 39 gardens sponsored by neighborhood groups that provided fresh produce for the community. Each garden included a "Plant a Row for the Hungry" for donation to local pantries and people in need. Over 5,000 pounds of food was donated. Our division helped provide funding and fiscal management and Neighborhood Network assisted with oversight and coordinated technical assistance, which included classes offered by the U of I Cooperative Extension on planning and planting, preserving yields, and pest and weed control.

**SWEEP (Sharing Work for Excellence Everywhere) Program** ♦ 34 senior and disabled residents were served through this program that provides exterior clean-up, mowing and repairs and 4 youth from economically challenged households were trained in skills to provide the work. Staff coordinated and supervised this program, in partnership with Rock River Training, Workforce Connection and the City Community Development Department.

**Boone Youth Program** ♦ 15 economically challenged Hispanic youth in Boone County received staff support and guidance which included leadership training, counseling, service projects, educational support and follow-up to increase long-term success. The City of Belvidere also approved the students' proposal to create and erect a cultural mural on a downtown building.

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) ◆\$5,000** was awarded to the YMCA, Owen Blue Bonnets 4-H, Illinois Jets and Tepeyac dance group to help support programming that provides healthy and/or educational activities for youth. MYAC sponsored the competition and selected the winners. **75** high school students attended the MYAC summit in April where they learned ways to affect positive change for themselves, their families and their community. MYAC sold **500** tickets and received nearly **1,000** books donated to Head Start as part of the MYAC sponsored special premier showing of "Twilight Eclipse" at ShowPlace theater. MYAC is comprised of area high school youth committed to civic engagement who advise Mayor Morrissey of new and emerging issues facing area youth and plan related projects and events. Our division provides funding and staff provides mentoring and organizational support.

**Scholarships ◆\$4,000** was awarded to **4** students who were recipients of our annual Scholarship competition for qualified students attending or planning to attend an Illinois post secondary accredited school or training program. Recipients were Daniel Wright, Vickeisha McAdory, Carrie Stenerson and Fredex Hudson.

**Life/Safety Home Repair ◆168** households benefited from this program that provides assistance for life/safety repairs for qualified homeowners. Examples include furnace, water heater, structural repairs, ramps, etc.

**Neighborhood Network ◆90** neighborhood groups (up from **59** in 2009) were supported by Neighborhood Network, which provides start-up information, training and support to neighborhood associations in the Rockford area. Community Services helps provide funding and in-kind support to Neighborhood Network, plus partners on projects such as the Community Gardens. By strengthening these groups with resources, needed community information and special programming, residents take more ownership and pride in their neighborhoods, increasing civic volunteerism and commitment. Cyndie Hall is the Executive Director.

**Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) ◆255** homeless and at-risk households were assisted with permanent housing through this ARRA stimulus program. Participants receive case management follow-up to ensure stability and to review goals toward self sufficiency. Janet Wattles, Careers, etc., and MELD also partnered in providing HPRP assistance.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ◆7,590** households, out of 8,860 applications, were approved for this program that offers one time assistance to be applied toward energy bills. LIHEAP also includes a consumer education component, and often in the intake process, other needs are identified that may be met by one of our or other community programs.

**Area Agency Funding Support ◆\$2,367,662.00** in funds were provided in 2010 to local agencies to provide a variety of services from neighborhood revitalization to housing services.

**Housing** programs focus on providing safe and affordable housing. 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 to moderate income persons to become self-sufficient. To ensure housing is safe, clean and decent, we inspect all housing we fund utilizing the Housing Quality Standards process.

**Rental Housing Support Program ◆64** households of Winnebago and Boone County received housing from this program in 2010 where tenants need only pay 30% of their income towards rent in apartment units located throughout the two counties. **40%** of these residents were homeless before being housed in this program. Participating residents are served with a team approach between staff and landlords to help stabilize their living situation as they work towards self-sufficiency. A total of **117** households are currently participating in this program and funds were recently awarded to add up to **30** more units.

**Housing Advocacy ◆61** households benefited from the Housing Advocacy Program where staff provides case management to families involved in DCFS to help ensure housing and related needs are met before children are returned. Out of the 57 households, 40 are stably housed; out of the 17 remaining, 11 are either working with housing programs and looking for housing or they are working through their goal plans and compliant with DCFS. **9** young people received services through the Youth Housing Advocacy Program that provides case management for youth aging out of DCFS foster care and ensures housing and related needs are met.

**Mayors' Task Force on Homelessness** ♦ **30** agencies that work with the homeless or those at risk of homelessness comprise this Task Force that has developed and is actively implementing a strategic plan to help reduce homelessness in Winnebago and Boone Counties. Through monthly meetings and committee work, these agencies not only work to address homeless issues, but their networking and information sharing process has helped coordinate, streamline and enhance the provision of services to this population in our community. The task force also serves as the mechanism by which funding is determined for HUD's Continuum of Care projects. We provide staff support, coordination and advisement to the task force.

**Emergency Solutions Grant** ♦ **\$92,065** was awarded through this U. S. Dept. of HUD program to agencies that provide emergency shelter or homeless prevention services. Agencies that benefited included Salvation Army, Children's Home and Aid (MotherHouse), Shelter Care Ministries and Prairie State Legal Services. Our staff provides grant management and support.

**Continuum of Care Grant** ♦ **\$1,518,023** was awarded through this U. S. Dept. of HUD program that provides funding to agencies that provide housing and prevention services for the homeless or those at-risk of homelessness. Agencies awarded were Janet Wattles Center, Shelter Care Ministries, Carpenter's Place, and Careers, etc. Our staff coordinates the application submission and provides grant oversight and support.

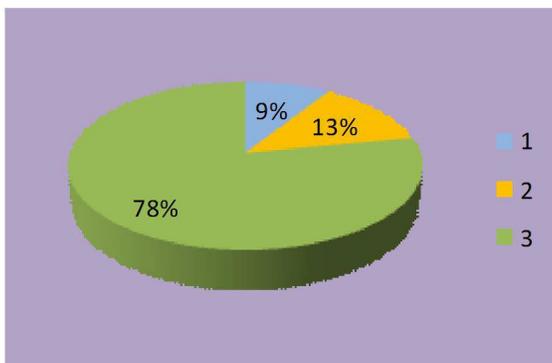
**Weatherization** includes those programs involved in home energy evaluation, weatherization services, client education, lead mitigation and utility payment plans.

**IL Home Weatherization Assistance Program** ♦ **266** households were assessed and approved for this assistance, with work either completed or in the process of completion in 2010. The work received may have been on heating systems, insulating, caulking, weather stripping, window repairs and other necessary improvements to minimize heat loss to create energy savings. Weatherization of the home is performed by qualified licensed contractors.

**Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)** ♦ **56** households were re-certified in this program that allows low-income consumers to make payments each month on their utility bill. 95% of these households are making on-time payments. As long as the required payments are made each month, their utility service remains connected and they are eligible for a reduction of outstanding balances on their account. This project supports self-sufficiency by requiring monthly on-time payments which are being reported as part of their credit history.

**Get the Lead Out (GLO)** ♦ **69** households received assistance from this program that identifies and mitigates lead paint hazards in housing occupied by children under 6 years of age. Exposure to lead can have a wide range of effects on a child's development and behavior. Even when exposed to small amounts of lead levels, children may appear inattentive, hyperactive and irritable. Children with greater lead levels may also have problems with learning, reading, delayed growth and hearing loss. At high levels, lead can cause permanent brain damage and even death.

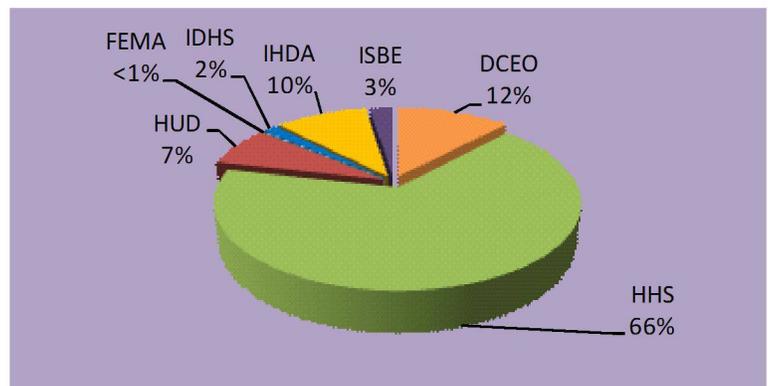
**2010 Use of funds**



- 1 Salaries & Benefits\*
- 2 Grants to community organizations
- 3 Payments to vendors and contractors

\*The Community Services Division employs 24 full time employees, and five contracted employees.

**2010 Community Services Funding by Source**



- IDHS—IL Dept. of Human Services
- FEMA— Federal Emergency Management Agency
- HUD—U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
- DCEO—IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- IHDA—IL Housing Development Authority
- HHS—U.S Dept. of Health & Human Services
- ISBE—IL State Board of Education