

**Tri-County Opportunities Council
A Community Action Agency
Fact Sheet – 2010**

Service Area: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam,
Stark, Whiteside Counties, Illinois – 5454 square miles

Total 2010 Funding: \$24,553,300
Federal \$16,925,172
State \$ 5,684,710
Local & In-Kind \$ 1,943,418

Total 2010 Staff – 433
Total 2010 Payroll/Fringe - \$8.4 million
Total Volunteer Hours – 84,569
Volunteer Savings - \$693,466

Major Programs, Activities, Achievements, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):

Economic Development – In 2010, Project Employment was created and resulted in 30 individuals who completed vocational training and found jobs.

Emergency Assistance – In 2010, we ameliorated the emergency needs of 4,675 low-income persons through the provision of service vouchers and /or food. Also, six people obtained transitional housing with supportive services enabling them to move toward self-sufficiency and away from future homelessness.

General Outreach Services – During 2010, 7,030 poverty level people were assisted in locating and receiving appropriate resources by the outreach staff. Transportation to medical and other resources was offered as was budget counseling. And, 129 veterans were assisted in applying for and/or receiving needed benefits.

Scholarship Program – 31 scholarships were awarded in 2010 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations at Illinois institutions.

Family and Community Development Services – Increased the lifestyle skills and self-sufficiency of 281 low-income persons who desired to improve their financial and employment situations. These services include incentives for adults and 233 youth who were able to enroll in community and school activities.

Homeless Programs - Utilizing grants from the Department of Human Services, CSBG, HUD and the Emergency Food & Shelter Program, we helped 469 households obtain shelter or prevent eviction.

Bureau County Food Pantry – Using volunteers, donated funds and food, plus EFSP and the United Way, we assisted 2,183 families during 2010 with their nutritional needs. The pantry also distributed donated school clothing and supplies to 307 needy children.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program – Funded by HHS, DOE and State of Illinois funds, we made 667 homes more energy efficient, during 2010, for their low-income residents. Weatherization includes such measures as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, set-back thermostats, replacement of windows, doors and refrigerators, if needed. There is also a furnace

repair/replacement component. The outcome of this program is to reduce the amount of fuel needed to heat the home.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – This program assists households at or below 150% of poverty with their home energy needs. Payments may be direct vendor payments or emergency service payments if a utility is disconnected. LIHEAP can also assist with furnace repair or replacement for eligible homeowners. Other energy saving programs through ComEd and Ameren are offered for customers of those utilities. We expect to serve over 11,000 households this year using federal, state and utility company funds. Financial literacy, energy conservation information and energy kits are also provided to program participants.

Head Start – A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center and home-based services for 722 three and four year old low-income children. The program operates 22 licensed centers with 29 part-day classes, 9 extended day classes, and one full-day, full-year class. There are also 11 home-based slots available for those who wish that option. The program partners with two childcare centers for collaborative full-day, full-year services for working families. Key components of the program are: school readiness skills; social and emotional development; medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services; support to children with disabilities and special needs; family supportive services; and, parent education and involvement opportunities.

Early Head Start – In 2010, comprehensive Head Start services were provided for 97 pregnant women, infants or toddlers through both center and home-based options. This is a full-year program with the same services as those in the Head Start Program.

Migrant Head Start – Services are provided in Mendota for 28 children (6 weeks through 5 years) of migrant and seasonal farmworker families. Families come from Mendota, Rochelle and the surrounding areas. The program generally runs from June through August.

Foster Grandparent Program – Provides stipended volunteer opportunities for low-income persons age 55 and over who give supportive mentoring services to at-risk children. Impacts on the children are measured throughout the year. The program is funded to serve 74 grandparents per year but can enroll up to 103 depending on placement and hours volunteered.

Homemaker Program – In-home care as an alternative to nursing home placement is the outcome of this program that assisted just over 700 frail, homebound elderly persons during 2010. Homemaker services are funded by a combination of state, county, private pay, United Way and donated monies that, together, allow these individuals to remain in their own homes longer than would otherwise be possible. A respite program for caregivers was, and is, also available.

Housing Program – The agency owns 14 buildings located at scattered sites in Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon and Wyanet. Of these, eight are apartment buildings and six are single-family homes. Together, there are 29 rental units with 22 units devoted to affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. The additional seven are transitional housing with supportive services for homeless families with children; 13 families were sheltered during 2010. Also, utilizing funding from the federal HOME program, the agency rehabilitated, modified or retrofitted 11 homes in 2010 . And, during the year, the Homebuyer Assistance Program enabled 12 lower income families to become homeowners.

