

Tri-County Opportunities Council
A Community Action Agency
Fact Sheet – 2007

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

<u>Total 2007 Funding:</u>	\$16,883,267	<u>Estimated 2008 Funding:</u>	\$17,295,874
Federal	\$11,069,427	Federal	\$11,270,000
State	\$ 4,109,312	State	\$ 4,318,346
Local & In-Kind	\$ 1,704,528	Local & In-Kind	\$ 1,707,528

Total 2007 Staff – 433
Total Volunteer Hours – 40,286 (19+ FTE)

Total 2007 Payroll/Fringe - \$6.8 million
Volunteer Savings - \$302,484

Major Programs, Activities, Results and Outcomes

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):

Economic Development – Created one job for a low-income person through the Small Business Loan Program, and sponsored the Microenterprise Development Program that led to self-employment opportunities for three entrepreneurs.

Emergency Assistance – In 2007, we ameliorated the emergency needs of 1,963 low-income persons through the provision of service vouchers and /or food. Also, seven families obtained transitional housing with supportive services enabling them to move toward self-sufficiency and away from future homelessness.

General Outreach Services – During 2007, 4,210 poverty level people were assisted in locating and receiving appropriate resources by an outreach staff of 9 workers. Outreach is a function not performed, except for seniors, in our area by other organizations. Transportation to medical and other resources is offered as is budget counseling. Also, a targeted outreach effort assisted 83 elderly Homemaker Program clients in maintaining independent lifestyles.

Scholarship Program – 20 scholarships were awarded in 2007 to low-income students who are pursuing post-secondary educations. Seven previous recipients also received degrees in 2007.

Family and Community Development Services – Increased the lifestyle skills and self-sufficiency of 78 low-income families who desired to improve their financial and employment situations. These services include incentives for both adults and youth.

Homeless Programs - Utilizing grants from the Department of Human Services, CSBG and the Emergency Food & Shelter Program, we helped 931 individuals obtain shelter or prevent eviction.

Bureau County Food Pantry – Using volunteers, donated funds and food, plus EFSP and the United Way, we assisted 1,380 families (3,629 people) during 2007 with their nutritional needs. The pantry also distributed donated school clothing and supplies to 247 needy children.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program – Funded by HHS, DOE and State of Illinois funds, we made 257 homes more energy efficient, during 2007, for their low-income residents. Weatherization includes such measures as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, set back thermostats, replacement of sashes and doors 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 homeowners who may be without heat or whose furnaces are in dangerous operating conditions. We expect to serve over 10,500 households this year using federal and state funds. Financial literacy and energy conservation information are also provided to program participants.

Head Start – A comprehensive child and family development program, Head Start annually provides center and home based services to 761 three and four year old low-income children. The program directly operates 22 licensed centers that include 27 part-day center-based classes, 11 extended day center-based classes, one full day/full year center-based class, and three home-based locations. The program also partners with three community childcare centers for collaborative full day/full year comprehensive services. 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 involvement opportunities. In addition, a summer Head Start Program is offered in Mendota for 23 infant, toddler and pre-school-aged children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Foster Grandparent Program – Provides stipended volunteer opportunities for low-income persons age 60 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 102 depending on placement.

Homemaker Program – In-home care as an alternative to nursing home placement is the outcome of this program which assisted 667 frail, homebound elderly persons during 2007. 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; 11 families were sheltered during 2007.

Utilizing funding from the federal HOME program, the agency rehabilitated seven owner-occupied homes in 2007. Also during the year, the Homebuyer Assistance Program enabled 10 lower income families to become homeowners.

