


Helping People. Changing Lives.

**community**  
**Action**<sup>®</sup>

**PARTNERSHIP**

**AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK**

Serving Boone and Winnebago Counties

# Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties

City of Rockford Human Services Department

## Annual Report to the Community 2014



## Mission Statement

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

## Executive Director Message

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The social reality of our two county region (Boone and Winnebago) is that poverty and economic dependency experienced by too many of our residents continues to threaten the well being and future prosperity of both those directly impacted as well as those who are relatively better off. The challenges are too great to ignore and the social consequences unavoidable. The shift in approach by our Community Action staff and Board involves learning to measure impact and effectiveness not just by counting the number of services delivered as a measure of success. It means more targeted efforts with clear goals and measurable outcomes. This past year has included more systematic efforts toward ending chronic homelessness, targeted neighborhood engagement, expanded services to young children and families, job creation and other outcome based initiatives. We look forward to the opportunities ahead to join with other community partners and our local residents to achieve true collective impact together.

Executive Director George Davis

## CAA Board Chair Message

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2015 promises to be a year of seminal change and pivotal progress for the Community Action Agency of Boone and Winnebago Counties. Forward thinking and engaged leadership from the Executive Committee and the entire Board is essential to the process of rethinking our mandates to the community we are charged to serve. Our essential goals are to strengthen core services and expand communication to our constituents regarding accessibility to these services. Board member visibility in the community will now be a requisite for all members. The time has come to meet the challenges of the new economy head-on.

The significant increase in poverty demographics in Winnebago and Boone Counties cannot be ignored.

We have always mandated to interdict the poverty spiral and work to provide an achievable remedy for all multi-generational economic and social displacement.

Since inadequate funding continues to be endemic to our task, a sweat equity partnership with those we are charged to assist becomes the realistic road to accomplishing our mission. Simply put, we will do more to achieve more. A new “can do” attitude will set the tone for measurable improvement in Community Action leadership, hands-on community participation and recognition, as well as finding ways to do more with the limited assets at our disposal.

Board Chair Mayor Chamberlain

## CAA Board Members

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Alderman Frank Beach

Cristina Gloria

Carole Santiago

Victory Bell

Catherine Gray

Roxanne Sosnowski

Sherry Branson

Joseph Hanley

Maurice West

Mayor Chamberlain

Fred Hoople

Ron Clewer

Alderman Jeanne Oddo

# Family of Distinction

The Community Action Agency of Boone and Winnebago Counties nominated the Turnage family for the Family of Distinction Award in recognition of their many accomplishments. Milton and Lakyira have two daughters Zaliyah (3 years old) and Zaniya (8 months old). The family had recently moved from Chicago and were looking for employment and housing, with limited income at that time.

The family enrolled in Early Head Start in June 2014 and at the time of enrollment were living with relatives in a public housing development. The Early Head Start Home Visitor Teacher supported the family's needs with a local resource for clothing and assisted the family in setting incremental goals. The first goal was to obtain their own apartment and one became available in July 2014. The second goal was for one of the parents to obtain employment and the Home Visitor Teacher recommended local businesses that were hiring. Both parents were applying at several businesses, and Lakyira was able to secure a job interview. The teacher made suggestions to enhance her interview skills and Lakyira was hired at Swedish American Hospital. Milton was able to begin cutting hair in their home.

During that time, Lakyira was elected as an Early Head Start Representative to the Policy Council. Through this participation, Lakyira became more directly involved with Head Start, sharing her skills and knowledge in a decision making role.

The family decided to purchase a car and the Home Visitor Teacher assisted with creating a budget including consideration for car payment, insurance, gas and maintenance. In February 2015, the family was



able to purchase a car and the teacher helped the family install new car seats.

In February 2015, their older daughter transitioned from Early Head Start to Head Start and started attending Dennis Early Childhood Center. The younger daughter remains enrolled in Early Head Start.

The family has completed their goals of acquiring an apartment, gaining employment and purchasing a car. During weekly Early Head Start visits, both parents are fully engaged in the activities. They are also actively involved in Dennis Early Education Center with their older daughter, participating in parent/teacher conferences and attending family events at the school.

Both parents continue to be engaged in setting individual goals for themselves as well as educational goals for their daughters. The family continues to grow and enjoy their lives as productive members of the Rockford community.

## Services Provided...

The City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency serving Boone and Winnebago Counties includes the Head Start/Early Head Start Division. The collaborative work of the agency's staff were able to assist the Turnage family with the following:

- ◆ Early Head Start
- ◆ Head Start
- ◆ Goal Setting
- ◆ Housing Support
- ◆ Community Linkages
- ◆ Life Skills

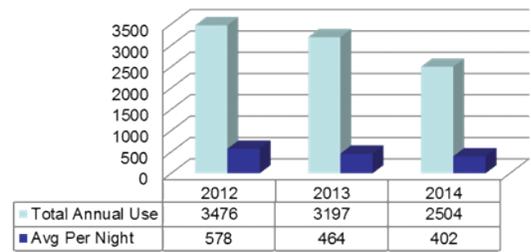
*With the assistance of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, the Turnage family have completed their goals of acquiring an apartment, gaining employment and purchasing a car.*

# Community Services Housing Assistance

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. The graph demonstrates the decrease in emergency shelter use and an increase in permanent supportive housing.

In December 2014, the Community Services Division successfully piloted the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) for the homeless. SPOE officially opened January 2, 2015, and 44 homeless individuals were served the first week who were either sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation or fleeing violence.

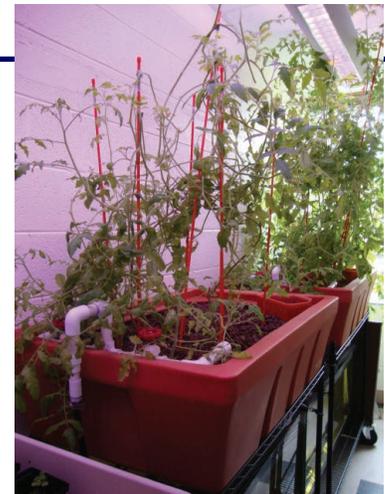
**Emergency and Transitional Shelter Use 2012-2014**



# 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 2014, there were 23 gardens producing 4,969 pounds of food for those in need, with 861 adult volunteer hours and 1085 youth volunteer hours.

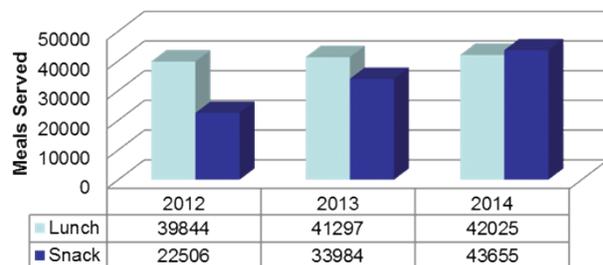
**BASSET** (Beverage Alcohol Sellers & Servers Education & Training) Program is the State of Illinois' seller and server training program. The BASSET Program is designed to encourage sellers and servers of alcoholic beverages to serve responsibly and adhere to the law. BASSET trained 84 individuals within Winnebago County in 2014.



**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. Illinois, and specifically several cities including Rockford, has been identified as an area where Summer Food needs to expand due to the number of eligible children. Staff made an extensive effort to recruit new sites and were able to significantly increase the number of meals served. Over 42,000 lunches were served to children in 2014.



**Summer Food Program 2012-2014**



## Energy Assistance

- ◆ Served 8,726 individuals in Boone and Winnebago Counties during the last program year with LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Program). PIPP assists households with a budget plan to lower utility costs. There was a 62% increase in households participating in PIPP.
- ◆ 5,017 of those individuals served were senior and/or disabled citizens.



## Weatherization

**W**eatherization provides air sealing, and heating and ventilation services in order to make homes more energy efficient and reduce utility costs. In 2014, 139 homes were weatherized and 47 emergency furnaces were installed. The state of Illinois commissioned a study of Weatherization performance. The auditor reviewed energy savings based on actual bill reduction and on pre and post Weatherization readings.

Rockford Weatherization Performance:

- ◆ Average savings for electricity cost in homes weatherized across a year is 22%.
- ◆ This agency's Weatherization program ranks 6th statewide for energy savings after work is completed.
- ◆ The reduction in air leakage after Weatherization is 26%.

## Head Start/Early Head Start

**E**arly 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** (Three to five years of age)

Funded Enrollment: 557  
Children Served: 613

**Early Head Start** (Birth to three years old, and pregnant women)

Funded Enrollment: 92  
Children Served: 143  
Pregnant Women Served: 5

**Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program**

(Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old)  
Children Served: 34



# Head Start/Early Head Start Health Services



- ◆ 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care
- ◆ 99% 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
- ◆ 100% of Head Start children and 88% of Early Head Start children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care
- ◆ 98% 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. 25 parent education events were held during the program year and 360 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.

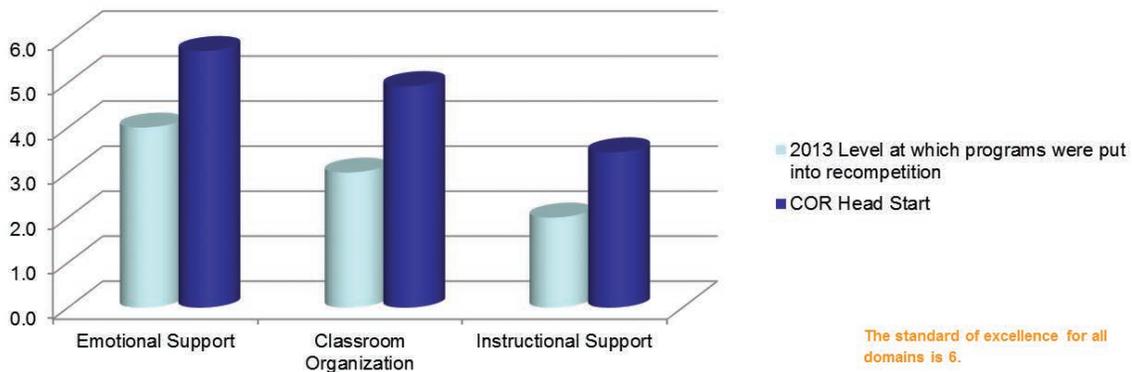
**Family Fun Nights** are held regularly at the site level; they are family-centered, fun and informative. 18 Family Fun Nights were held and 2187 children and families participated in the events.

**Family Jamboree** is a yearly event held at the Discovery Center Museum. 654 children and families attended the 2014 event.



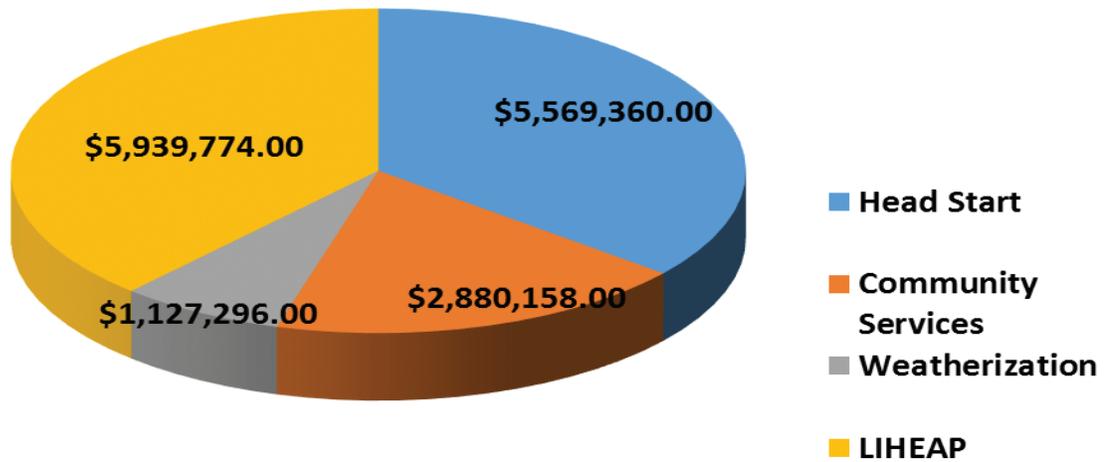
# Head Start/Early Head Start Classroom Assessment

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).

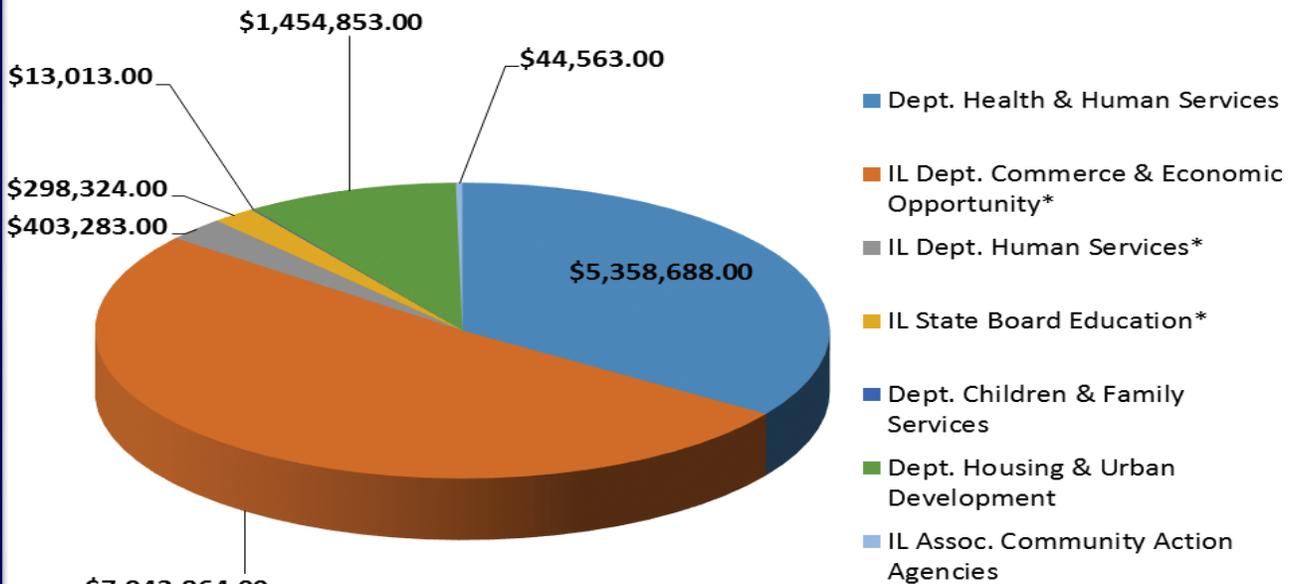


## Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties City of Rockford Human Services Department

### Uses of Funds for Calendar Year 2014



## Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties Sources of Funds for Calendar Year 2014



\* 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...

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- ◆ Community Health & Prevention: Drug Free, Social Norms, Rockford Alcohol Free Teens (RAFT), Beverage Alcohol Sellers & Servers Education & Training (BASSET), Summer Food
- ◆ Housing Assistance & Support: 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

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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