



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

*Community*  
*Action*  
**OF SOUTHEAST IOWA**

<https://caofseia.org/>

# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Action of Southeast Iowa is proud of the services our staff have provided during 2023. It has been a challenge to be fully staffed so we can continue to provide quality services to 14% of the population in southeast Iowa.

During the past year, our Head Start Program has worked on a new classroom building project in Mount Pleasant. They focused on classroom attendance and provided recognition for the top classes.

Our WIC program has steadily increased the participation of women, infants, and children in our six-county service area. They also started a Breast-Feeding Peer Counselor Program.

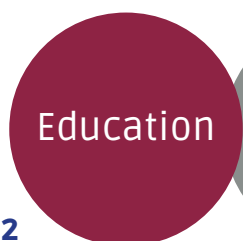
The Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FADSS) has had full enrollment throughout most of the year. They accepted the challenge of participating in a pilot diaper project for participants.

The Weatherization program has been busy training new staff, insulating homes, and completing senior home repair projects.

We have continued to provide early childhood services including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) home providers and pre-school scholarships.

Our Family Development Specialists have been busy at our centers. They completed over 4,500 Energy Assistance applications, assisted with the increasing needs seen in our five food pantries, and provided disaster assistance to hundreds of households in Lee and Des Moines Counties.

It has been a busy 2023 and 2024 is already off to a great start.



**Sheri Wilson**  
**Executive Director**  
**JD, CCAP, NCRT**

# 1 OF 16 IN IOWA

We are a local non-profit but a part of a larger network of Community Action Agencies across Iowa and the nation.

# 57 YEARS

of programs and services helping people and changing lives in southeast Iowa.

# 120 EMPLOYEES

who share and accomplish our mission every day in our 20+ programs and services.

# 4 MAIN COUNTIES

- Des Moines County
  - Lee County
  - Louisa County
  - Henry County
- 
- WIC in Muscatine and Washington County
  - CACFP in Muscatine County



Helping People, Changing Lives



# SOUTHEAST IOWA

About **32%** of the population struggles with economic poverty.  
In fiscal year 2023 we served 14% of the population.  
We touched the lives of **14,657** Individuals in **6,770** Households.

- ACS 2015-19, 200% FPL

## MISSION

Community Action of Southeast Iowa is dedicated to alleviating the conditions and causes of poverty by building partnerships and strengthening people through quality services.

Our **VISION** is for people in southeast Iowa to have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

All agency programs and services are aligned with our mission. Program details, eligibility, and more can be found on our website or by calling one of our centers. Programs focus in three areas:

### Education

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Preschool Scholarships
- Family Development and Self Sufficiency (FaDSS)
- Employment Counseling
- General Information and Referral
- Budget Counseling

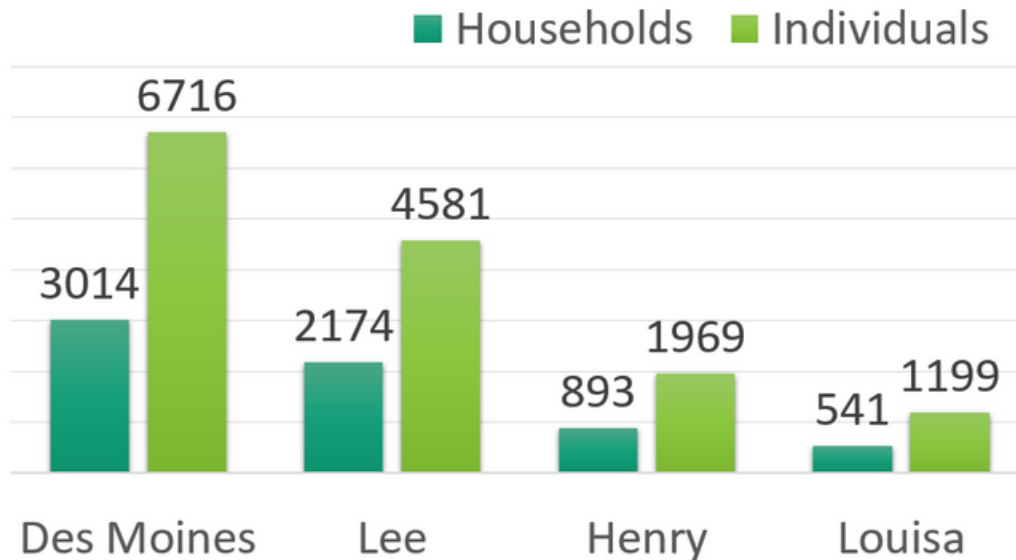
### Nutrition

- Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Food Pantries in Burlington, Fort Madison, Mt Pleasant, Columbus Junction, and Keokuk
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to reimburse childcare providers for serving nutritious meals to children.

### Housing

- Furnace Repair and Replacement
- Homeless Assistance
- Eviction Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- Rent Assistance
- Rent Reimbursement Form Assistance
- Senior Home Repair
- Weatherization

# CLIENTS BY COUNTY SERVED



Local donations stay in your community and meet people's basic needs. Donations are tax deductible. We are a local 501(c)3 non-profit.



## 2023 EXPENDITURES

<b>Head Start/Early Head Start</b>	<b>\$4,595,191</b>
<b>LIHEAP &amp; LIHWAP Programs</b>	<b>\$4,280,200</b>
<b>WIC Program</b>	<b>\$3,493,364</b>
<b>Weatherization Assistance</b>	<b>\$1,147,978</b>
<b>Child Care Food Program</b>	<b>\$669,472</b>
<b>Other Programs</b>	<b>\$456,610</b>
<b>Family Development &amp; Self Sufficiency</b>	<b>\$359,368</b>
<b>Iowa Disaster Assistance</b>	<b>\$278,963</b>
<b>Community Services Block Grant</b>	<b>\$273,698</b>
<b>Total Agency Expenditures</b>	<b>\$15,554,844</b>

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- 7,299** Food boxes provided through our food pantries
- 5,835** Volunteer hours provided support
- 4,756** Households received utility assistance
- 4,569** WIC participants helped with nutrition & support
- 4,430** Hours of staff training
- 1,093** Individuals helped with hygiene assistance
- 977** People supported with case management
- 285** Partnerships to help people and change lives
- 243** Households helped with natural disasters
- 184** Households avoided eviction with rent assistance
- 109** Families provided support with goals in FaDSS
- 77** Childcare providers trained through CACFP
- 52** Scholarships for preschoolers
- 46** Senior's homes repaired
- 44** Weatherized homes
- 27** Volunteer board and policy council members
- 16** Furnaces replaced

More detailed information and reports available on our website:  
<https://caofseia.org/about-us/reports/>

# WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS

If it wasn't for Community Action, my kids and I would literally not have water, lights, or heat. Thank you Community Action!  
- Response Q9.141



Community Action saved me a lot of money.  
- Response Q9.32

The schooling is amazing and so are the teachers. I appreciate the great experience for my son!  
- Response Q9.203



They have made it easier as a first time mom and being able to feed my child.  
- Response Q9.231

Community Action helped when I really needed it!  
- Response Q9.242

Community Action gave me a chance ... to get a job.  
- Response Q9.27

They kept me from living on the streets while I got back on my feet.  
- Response Q9.162





# OBJECTIVES

Head Start and Early Head Start are programs where children and families are educated, challenged and empowered to embrace their potential for success in life. One child, one family at a time.

Head Start is a federally funded, non-profit program dedicated to providing quality school readiness and family support services to those of low income.

## Parent Involvement

We encourage family members to be involved in any and all aspects of their child's experiences throughout the school year.

Families plan and participate in special events at the centers. Family Nights are events that local center committees plan to support family learning and togetherness.

Families are involved in the decision-making process as members of their local center committees where they make decisions about the program.

## We are committed to:

- Excellence in the preparation of our children for school and life.
- Ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to learn.
- Each student having access to an effective teacher.

## School Readiness

- Assessments help establish a baseline, identify goals, and identify areas of growth for each individual child.
- Kindergarten transition activities help prepare children to transition from our program to a school district kindergarten classroom.
- Family Specialists assist families in finding kindergarten round-ups, learning how to advocate for their child, activities to help prepare for this transition, and more.
- Research shows attendance patterns and habits formed when children are in preschool and kindergarten continue later in their school careers; these same patterns are indicators of future success in school and conversely school drop-out rates.







# 2022-2023



## Early Head Start

Funded Enrollment: 70

Number Served:

- 18 Prenatal mothers
- 82 Families
- 86 Children
- 52 children are up to date on scheduled dental visits
- 83% are up to date on their immunizations
- Average Monthly Enrollment: 91%
- Average Monthly Attendance: 78%

## Head Start

Funded Enrollment: 264

Number Served:

- 186 Families
- 206 Children
- 184 children received preventative dental care
- 79% are up to date on their immunizations
- Average Monthly Enrollment: 65%
- Average Monthly Attendance: 79%

## Children 0 - 4 in Poverty in Southeast Iowa

There are 1,482 children below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

-2017-21 American Community Survey

Head Start/Early Head Start served 9% of those children (137)





**Head Start  
& Early Head Start**  
Community Action of Southeast Iowa

# Program Year: September 2022 - August 2023

## FEDERAL HEAD START GRANT FUNDING

	Proposed Budget	Expenditures
Personnel	\$1,916,702	\$1,827,792
Fringe Benefits	\$1,016,662	\$849,075
Travel	\$2,750	\$11,800
Equipment	\$35,700	\$0
Supplies	\$17,528	\$143,874
Contractual	\$60,000	\$78,053
Construction	\$2,157,862	\$258,966
Other	\$486,637	\$432,759
Indirect Costs	\$417,956	\$389,882
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,111,797</b>	<b>\$3,992,201</b>

Our audit, completed by Meriwether, Wilson & Company, P.L.C., showed 100% compliance!

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

COVID Funding	\$365,547
CACFP	\$188,199
Children's First Grant	\$8,000
Keokuk Area Grants	\$5,723
Donated Space, Services, and Materials	\$437,629
Miscellaneous Monetary Donations	\$462
Program Income (Equipment sales)	\$30,420

Volunteers and donors provide crucial support for our programs. Professionals donate their time in their specialties in classrooms, maintenance, and in various areas across the program.

Donated items come from individuals, community groups, and local businesses. Contact us about how you can contribute this coming year to support local children and communities.



## Our Head Start program is in compliance in all areas.

In our most recent review, we were specifically commended for our:

- Management, oversight, and governance within our program.
- Curricular alignment, strategies to ensure school readiness, and supporting teachers to implement the curriculum.
- Ensuring delivery of high-quality health services and maintaining safe, healthy environments.
- Purposeful approach to develop families' self-sufficiency and strengthening their parenting skills.
- Attendance initiative to promote attendance as a pathway to improve long-term successful outcomes for children.
- Budget development and revision processes.



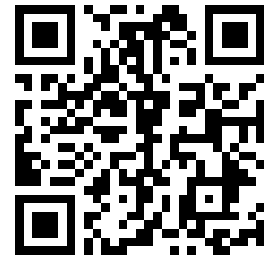
We are committed to providing the highest quality programming. We encourage our staff to continuously elevate their credentials using resources such as T.E.A.C.H., CDA Navigator, and WAGE\$ to facilitate professional growth.

# LOCATIONS

## Central Office

2850 Mt Pleasant St,  
Suite 108  
Burlington, IA 52601  
319-753-0193

Community.Action@caofseia.org  
<https://caofseia.org/>



Centers listed below are open:

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

## Des Moines County Neighborhood Center

700 Jefferson St,  
Burlington, IA 52601  
319-753-2893



## Tolson Community Action Center

1303 West Washington St.  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641  
319-385-2310



## Eichacker Community Action Center

3433 Avenue O,  
Fort Madison, IA 52627  
319-372-4471



## Marie Tallarico Community Action Center

220 S. 22nd St,  
Keokuk, IA 52632  
319-524-6383



## Louisa County Community Action Center

202 E. Access Road, Suite D/PO Box 29  
Columbus Junction, IA 52738  
319-728-2314



Only open Tuesday & Wednesday

Head Start and WIC location details on our website:  
<https://caofseia.org/about-us/locations/>