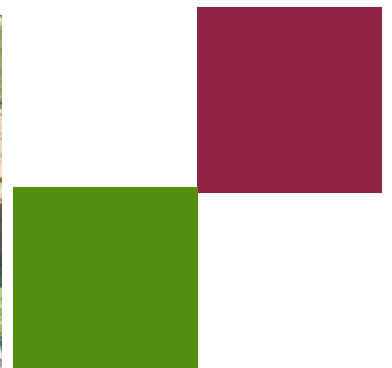


Annual Report 2024

*Community
Action*
OF SOUTHEAST IOWA



From our Executive Director

We had another successful year. Amazingly, 128 employees significantly impacted the lives of over 14,000 people. The commitment of our volunteers and donors was crucial to this accomplishment.

The agency provides various services to each community depending on their needs and support. Local donations provided food, rent assistance, hygiene items, shoes for children, and more.

Our Weatherization program improved homes; including insulation, furnace replacements, and safety checks. They provided senior home repairs, made possible by a Milestones Area Agency on Aging contract.

The WIC program provided services in six counties and expanded the Breast Feeding Peer Counseling Program. Mothers, infants, and children received nutritional counseling, education, and healthy food. Our WIC Director, Christine O'Brien, retired after 41 years of dedicated service.

Head Start continued to provide safe, interactive learning experiences for infants and children up to age five. They overcame staffing, enrollment, and attendance challenges to serve families.

At our Centers, people seeking help were welcomed and found assistance. Specialists in our FaDSS program met with families to set goals and were able to provide their families diapers through a pilot project.

We could not have accomplished all we did without the support and guidance of our Board of Directors and community partners. Thanks to everyone for another great year.

Sheri Wilson

JD, CCAP, NCRT



Agency Overview



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.

We are a local non profit that has been helping people and changing lives for 58 years. We are one of 16 Community Action Agencies in Iowa and a part of national network of over 1,000.

We cover Southeast Iowa, including:

Des Moines County, Lee County, Henry County, Louisa County.

We provide WIC also in Muscatine & Washington Counties
Preschool Scholarships also in Muscatine County

Organization

- 12 Volunteer board members
- 127 Employees
- 8 Management directors



We have over 20 different programs and services to affect change in the lives of those in economic poverty.

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 on Housing, Education, and Nutrition.

Housing

- Energy Assistance
 - LIHEAP
 - Crisis
 - Local Utilities
- Emergency Rent
- Homeless Assistance
- Rent Reimbursement/Rebate (HHS) Form Assistance
- Furnace Repair and Replace
- Senior Home Repair
- Weatherization

Nutrition

- WIC, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- Food Pantry

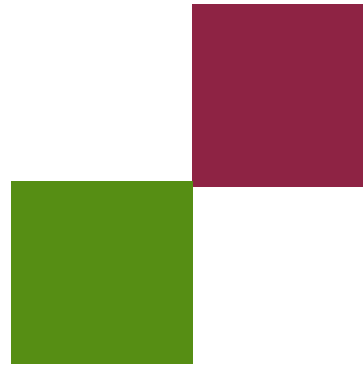
Education/Support

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

Other

- Hygiene Assistance
- Clothing Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Disaster Assistance





In fiscal year 2024 we served **14,026** individuals in **6,541** households; that's **14%** of the population of southeast Iowa. Around **32%** of the population struggles with poverty.

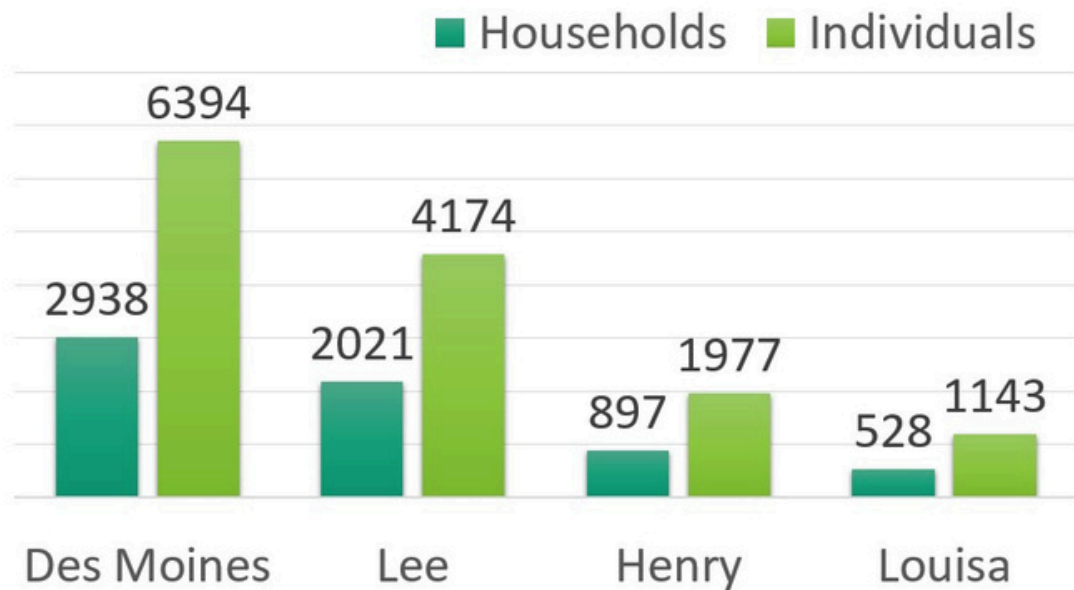
Words from our Clients

- Community Action provided assistance and a sense of relief during a time of hardship for my household. - Response 139
- You helped me with energy assistance which made a big difference in being able to make it through winter. Thankyou! - Response 108
- Head Start has helped my children grow emotionally. They've learned a lot and love the program. - Response 241
- You helped keep my family fed and kept the lights on. - Response 325
- You have allowed me to stay in my home and keep my dignity. - Response 177
- You lifted a lot of stress off my shoulders. - Response 44
- [With your help] I am better able to afford food and medical bills. - Response 87

- 2024 Client Satisfaction Survey



Clients by County Served



Fiscal Year '24 Expenditures


Head Start/Early Head Start	\$ 5,062,251
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	\$ 2,823,619
WIC Program	\$ 3,804,599
Weatherization Assistance	\$ 1,205,608
Child Care Food Program	\$ 609,933
Other Programs	\$ 856,239
Family Development & Self Sufficiency	\$ 351,636
Iowa Disaster Assistance	\$ 251,065
Community Services Block Grant	\$ 385,874
Total Agency Expenditures	\$ 15,350,824

Some programs receive large grants, others depend on donations. Each program must spend their dollars according to their grant rules. Local donations stay in our community and meet people's basic needs. Donations are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit.

A few numbers from 2024

14,026	Individuals served in 6,591 Households
6,953	Volunteer hours supported agency programs
5,991	Food baskets provided to 2,907 unique households
4,880	Participants in the WIC program
4,540	Utility assistance payments
1,431	Individuals provided with hygiene items
407	Donors who supported our food pantries
342	Volunteers in our Head Start and CSBG programs
339	Mothers receiving breastfeeding support in WIC
317	Children in Head Start and Early Head Start
283	Agency partnerships to help people and change lives
260	Households provided disaster assistance
218	Renters assisted with HHS forms for reimbursement
184	Rent payments to keep people safely housed
128	Households supported in self sufficiency with FaDSS
126	Households provided home repairs
118	Individuals assisted with transportation
67	Homes improved with energy efficiency
47	Furnaces repaired or replaced
44	Homes Weatherized
25	Children provided preschool scholarships

More details, information, and reports available on our webpage: <https://caofseia.org/about-us/reports/>





Head Start Objectives

Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start

are programs where children and families are educated, challenged and empowered to embrace their potential in school and 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.

Head Start Commitments

- 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.

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.



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, engage parents in 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.

Children 0 - 4 in Poverty

There are 1,217 children below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level in Southeast Iowa. - 2019-24 American Community Survey

Our **Head Start** program served 26% of those children, 317 kids.

Head Start Support

- 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.
- 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.



Early Head Start Funded Enrollment: **86**

Number Served:

- 18 Prenatal mothers
- 106 Families
- 109 Children

- 97 children are up to date on scheduled dental visits
- 94% are up to date on their immunizations
- Average Monthly Enrollment: 93%
- Average Monthly Attendance: 79.9%

Head Start Funded Enrollment: **188**

Number Served:

- 188 Families
- 208 Children

- 181 children received preventative dental care
- 92% are up to date on their immunizations
- Average Monthly Enrollment: 97%
- Average Monthly Attendance: 78.4%

Head Start Program Review

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

- Compliance in program design, governance, staffing, and data-driven improvement, with a strong practice in building community relationships.
- Adherence to standards in research-based curricula, assessments, effective teaching, supportive learning environments, and staff development.
- Meeting standards in mental health support, positive discipline, child nutrition, safe environments, and services for expectant families.
- Alignment with standards in family engagement, partnerships, and parenting support, highlighting strong practices in economic mobility assistance and strategies to promote parenting skills and community partnerships.
- Effective management of the fiscal infrastructure through transparent budget processes, adherence to financial regulations, and robust facilities and equipment management systems.
- Successfully oversees eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, and attendance processes, meeting regulatory requirements and employing strategies to assist vulnerable families while ensuring full enrollment.



Head Start Program Year September 2023 - August 2024

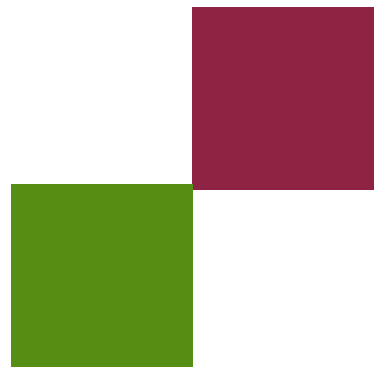
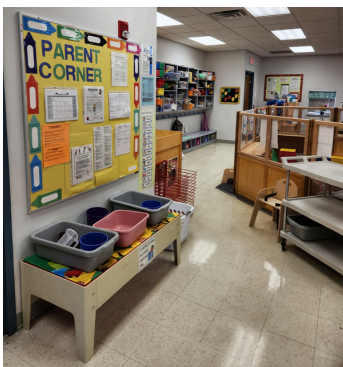
Federal Head Start Grant Funding

	Proposed Budget	Expenditures
Personnel	\$2,261,834	\$2,221,417
Fringe Benefits	\$1,051,929	\$980,699
Travel	\$3,500	\$18,017
Supplies	\$25,045	\$158,744
Contractual	\$83,500	\$89,862
Other	\$318,450	\$291,819
Indirect Costs	\$483,809	\$467,509
Totals	\$4,228,067	\$4,228,067

Additional Funding

Child Care Food Program, CACFP	\$214,634
Donated Space, Services, and Materials	\$579,043

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



Central Office

2850 Mt. Pleasant St., Suite 108

Burlington, IA 52601

319-753-0193

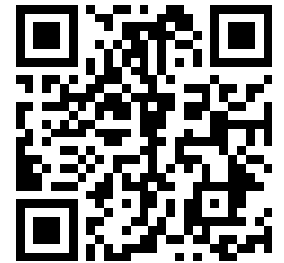
Community.Action@caofseia.org

<https://caofseia.org/>

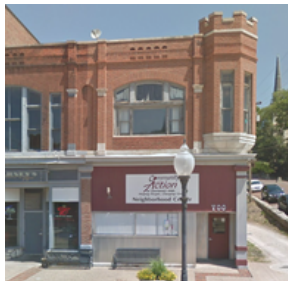
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm



Locations in Burlington, Mount Pleasant,
Fort Madison, Keokuk, Columbus Junction
WIC also in Washington and Muscatine
Preschool Scholarships also in Muscatine County



Head Start, Centers, and WIC location details, contact
information, and more can be found on our website:
<https://caofseia.org/about-us/locations/>



Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
Feb 2025 Community Action of Southeast Iowa