Iowa Community Action

#AWiseInvestment

District 4
**ICAA Member Agencies**

We are a network of 17 local Community Action Agencies serving all 99 counties in Iowa. The agencies all embrace a similar mission and together aim to create sustainable opportunities and provide valuable resources for Iowans with a low income. We continue to grow and develop new services to help people realize a greater sense of self-sufficiency. The agencies assist individuals and families in need and build stronger, thriving communities all across Iowa.

**ICAA’s Mission & Vision**

ICAA's mission is to be a forceful advocate in support of policies and services that address the needs of individuals and families striving for economic security. Our vision is to be the premier force ensuring those with less achieve more.

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IMPACT Community Action Partnership
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Mid-Iowa Community Action
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North Iowa Community Action Organization
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Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation
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Operation Threshold
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West Central Community Action
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Serving: Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie and Shelby Counties
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
CSBG is a federal, anti-poverty block grant which funds the operations of a state-administered network consisting of more than 1,000 agencies that create, coordinate and deliver programs and services to Americans with a low income in 99% of the nation’s counties.

- **$4.67** Average amount leveraged from non-federal sources for every $1 of Iowa CSBG
- **31,379** Households served by the CSBG network in District 4

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
LIHEAP helps eligible households with a portion of their residential heating costs.

- **20,972** Households served in District 4
- **$470** Average annual utility payment in Iowa
- **Priority Populations**
  - 19.2% had a child under 6
  - 37.2% had an elderly member
  - 50.1% had a disabled member

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
WAP improves a home's energy efficiency as well as the health and safety of people with a low income.

- **$293** Average first year savings per Iowa household
- **1,522** Iowa homes weatherized in FFY 2016
- **$1.68** Average amount leveraged from Iowa utility companies for each $1 of DOE funds
A requirement of CSBG is to conduct a community needs assessment to identify challenges faced by community members. Community Action Agency of Siouxland identified a gap in services for homeless women with children and secured funding through HUD and local funds. Crossroads Shelter began serving the community in 1998 and has served over 770 women and children in the past decade. Participants have experienced barriers such as mental/physical health problems, history of alcohol/substance abuse, and/or domestic violence. Crossroads helps women connect to other services in order for them to become self-sufficient and transition to stable housing.

Who We Serve

- 95 Veterans
- 5,614 Families
- 3,484 Individuals with a disability
- 2.7 Average family size
- 44% High School Grad/GED
- 19% Some Post-Secondary

Household Income Sources

- 47% Employed
- 25% Received retirement benefits
- 227 Received TANF
- 635 Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
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Dominique Francis is a resident within IMPACT Community Action Partnership's service area. She first connected with IMPACT Community Action Partnership after an illness left her unable to work for three months, which resulted in her losing her job. Dominique tried starting her own business but continued to struggle financially. IMPACT Community Action Partnership worked with Dominique and her experience was nothing short of stellar as she said, "IMPACT was awesome!" Dominique qualified for LIHEAP, assisting her in heating her home in the winter as she continued to work towards self-sufficiency.

Who We Serve

- **115** Veterans
- **1,167** Families
- **2.4** Average family size
- **616** Individuals with a disability

% by age

- 55+ 21%
- 0-17 35%
- 18-54 43%

% served

- Up to 50% FPL 40%
- 51% - 100% FPL 30%
- 101% - 200% FPL 10%

Household Income Sources

- **44%** Employed
- **43%** Received retirement benefits
- **28** Received TANF
- **159** Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Howard Manos is a retired resident in Mid-Iowa Community Action’s service area that qualified for LIHEAP in 2013 and received utility assistance. In April 2016 he had his home weatherized. When a weatherization technician inspected his home he found the walls to have very little insulation. Thanks to WAP, Howard’s home is more energy efficient and he will be less reliant on heating assistance for years to come. Howard expressed his gratitude by saying, “I'm very appreciative of what MICA did in insulating my house. I can live comfortably in my house.” Not only is he warm in the winter, but WAP also implemented health and safety measures.
Dawn is a loving mother of three and was a nurse until she pulled the tendons in her knee and cracked her knee cap. Due to seven months of bed rest Dawn lost her job. Dawn wishes she could work, “I have a degree. [Not working] doesn’t mean that I’m not trying to work. I would love to [work] but I can't.” When Dawn went to Mid-Siou Opportunity for help she was connected to other resources including a program that helped her acquire a car as well as utility assistance through LIHEAP.

Who We Serve

- 189 Veterans
- 3,204 Families
- 921 Individuals with a disability
- 2.7 Average family size
- 58% High School Grads/GED
- 29% Some Post-Secondary

Household Income Sources

- 54% Employed
- 35% Received retirement benefits
- 43 Received TANF
- 164 Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
New Opportunities, Inc.

Counties served in District 4: Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Greene and Sac

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Annie is a resident of Carroll who cannot work due to vaccine-related polio. Although she says she "hates being disabled" she strives to find joy in life. When Annie's furnace went out she called New Opportunities and was connected with the WAP. Through WAP she was able to secure a new furnace, water heater, and much needed insulation that has drastically decreased her energy bills. She couldn't be more grateful: "This program is awesome...they were very nice and very considerate. They worked around my schedule and around my disability. I couldn't have asked for anything more. I am so grateful to New Opportunities for everything they did!"

Who We Serve

189 Veterans
2,520 Families
921 Individuals with a disability

% by age

55+ 21%
0-17 36%
18-54 43%

% served

50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Up to 50% FPL
51% - 100% FPL
101% - 200% FPL

58% High School Grads/GED
28% Some Post-Secondary

Household Income Sources

46% Employed
48% Received retirement benefits
62 Received TANF
413 Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

FY 2017
North Iowa Community Action Organization

Counties served in District 4: Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Floyd, Kossuth and Winnebago

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North Iowa Community Action Organization teamed up with local partners to address a barrier in their service area - transportation. The Wheels for Work program helps local families in need by providing reliable vehicles and financial literacy. One participant, Tomica, used to spend at least $10 a day on public transit to get to work. Now she has a reliable vehicle to get to work and her children's school activities. Vehicles are donated by a local motor company and program funding comes from various local sources. A family may be referred to Wheels for Work by an Outreach program, which is funded through CSBG.

Who We Serve

- 329 Veterans
- 3,898 Families
- 2.1 Average family size
- 2,170 Individuals with a disability

% by age:
- 0-17: 36%
- 18-54: 38%
- 55+: 26%

% served:
- Up to 50% FPL: 59%
- 51% - 100% FPL: 27%
- 101% - 200% FPL: 13%

Household Income Sources

- 43% Employed
- 56% Received retirement benefits
- 128 Received TANF
- 581 Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

FY 2017
Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation

County served in District 4: Chickasaw

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Sheila Bennett is a resident of Fredericksburg in Chickasaw County. When a rise in the price of gas coincided with a cut in her hours at work, the cost of transportation was becoming a challenge. Sheila works with individuals with special needs and she requires reliable transportation to see her clients. She visited Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation and qualified for LIHEAP. She received assistance in paying a portion of her home energy bill, which then allowed her enough in her budget to buy gas and continue working. Thanks to LIHEAP, Sheila continued earning a paycheck doing the work she loves.

Who We Serve

- **18** Veterans
- **314** Families
- **2.7** Average family size
- **236** Individuals with a disability
- **45%** High School Grads/GED
- **32%** Some Post-Secondary

Household Income Sources

- **56%** Employed
- **32%** Received retirement benefits
- **8** Received TANF
- **27** Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

FY 2017
#AWisInvestment

Sharon lives with her husband and children in Operation Threshold's service area. When she was using multiple air conditioners in the summertime and it was still too hot inside her home, Sharon visited Operation Threshold. WAP was able to help Sharon and her family by installing much needed insulation, a new water heater and furnace. The WAP crew also found that the electrical wiring in Sharon's home was old and dangerous the wiring was updated. As a first time homeowner, Sharon was extremely relieved and grateful for Operation Threshold and the WAP saying, "I just feel so blessed."

Who We Serve

- 2 Veterans
- 295 Families
- 143 Individuals with a disability
- 55+ 14%
- 0-17 40%
- 18-54 46%

- 58% High School Grads/GED
- 28% Some Post-Secondary

Household Income Sources

- 34% Employed
- 24% Received retirement benefits
- 6 Received TANF
- 40 Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
In 2016, Upper Des Moines Opportunity, in connection with the Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program, started the **Self-Sufficiency Advocate for Individual Life Skills (SAIL)** program. SAIL works with families that are at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and do not qualify for the FaDSS program but wish to improve their well being. Family Support Coordinators work with individuals and families to set and work toward achieving their goals, whether to help with budgeting, enrolling in the local community college or help with a resume for a job. The SAIL program is **funded using CSBG dollars**. Of the 81 families served in its first year, 51 exited SAIL **self-sufficient**.
Stacy Rhodes is a loving wife and mother of two children. She resides in Irwin in Shelby County. Stacy has a multitude of health concerns and she is legally blind status and has hearing impairment. Her family relies on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to help pay their bills. As their rent continued to increase, Stacy was able to purchase a home with help from a rural low-income housing program. However, the home they moved into was not energy efficient. "Our house was not insulated very well so we called [West Central Community Action] and found out about the Weatherization Assistance Program." Stacy and her family were grateful that WAP "helped [remove] some of our financial burdens."

Who We Serve

- **189** Veterans
- **2,552** Families
- **1,007** Individuals with a disability

% by age

- 0-17: 39%
- 18-54: 42%
- 55+: 19%

63% High School Grads/GED
24% Some Post-Secondary

% served

- Up to 50% FPL: 40%
- 51% - 100% FPL: 30%
- 101% - 200% FPL: 20%

Household Income Sources

- **46%** Employed
- **42%** Received retirement benefits
- **67** Received TANF
- **269** Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

FY 2017