

2023

**Mississippi County, Arkansas,
Economic Opportunity Commission,
Inc.**

Annual Report



Mission Statement

Our Mission is promoting stability and economic security to children and families living in Mississippi County, Arkansas, and its other service areas by providing supportive services through partnerships with other agencies, jurisdictions, and stakeholders.

Revised August, 2023

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC.**

1400 N. Division Street- P. O. Drawer 1289
Blytheville, Arkansas 72316-1289
Telephone: (870) 776-1054
Fax: (870)776-1567 or 776-1875



PRISCILLA JOHNSON
Executive Director

Dear Friends of Mississippi County, Arkansas, EOC, Inc;

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve as your community action program for another year as we battle “the war on poverty.” Unfortunately, one unchanging factor is the devastating impact poverty has on its victims. Whether caused by economic downturns, aging without resources, or separation of families, the effects of poverty are overwhelming for those who find themselves in this grievous situation.

The continuing mission of the Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. is one of great challenge. By utilizing funds from federal, state, private foundations and local sources, programs are developed and geared to assist the economically disadvantaged so they may reach self-sufficiency and maintain a decent standard of life. For over 50 years, this agency has met the challenges faced by our target population. MCAEOC has addressed the needs of children and families as it relates to nutrition, fair housing, health care, education, employment, child care, fuel and food assistance.

We take great pleasure in assisting those in need, advocating on their behalf, and helping them reach self-sufficiency. Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. services a six-county area in an impact to provide quality services and much needed services. Counties include: Mississippi, and Craighead in Arkansas.

I am proud to announce that MCAEOC, INC is one of five (5) Community Action Agencies in the United States awarded the **Community of Practice (COP) IMPACT** grant. The COP is an eighteen-month program with customized training and support to build resolutions for community-level issues identified by the community.

On behalf of our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and countless volunteers, I “thank you” for your continued support and commitment. We look forward to providing long-term service to this wonderful community and enjoying a continued partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Johnson

Priscilla Johnson Executive
Director

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider. Services
are provided without regard to Race, Age, or Sex



Mississippi County, Arkansas EOC, Inc.

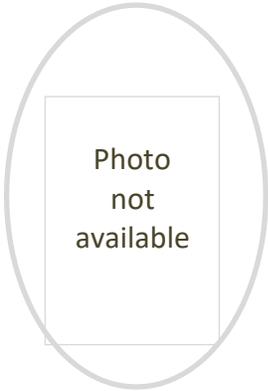
PROGRAMS

- * Case Management
- * Commodity Food Distribution
 - * Community Participation
 - * Early Childhood Education
- * IMPACT Community of Practice (**COP**)
 - * Emergency Food & Shelter
 - * Employment Services
 - * Family Coaching
 - * Good Samaritan Fund
- * Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**)
 - * Housing
 - * Housing Preservation
- * Healthy Homes Local Initiatives Support Corporation (**LISC**)
- * Creative Placemaking Local Initiatives Support Corporation (**LISC**)
 - * Income Counseling
 - * Information and Referral Services
 - * Mississippi County Cancer Council

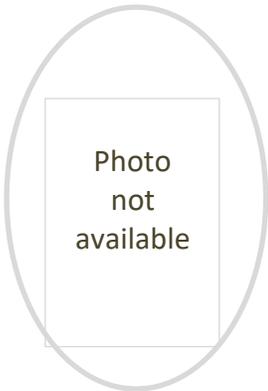
**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY,
ARKANSAS, ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

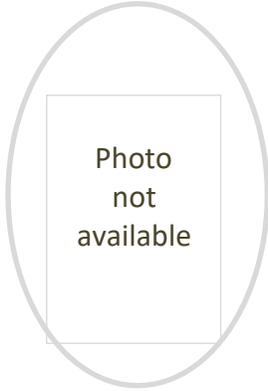
PUBLIC SECTOR



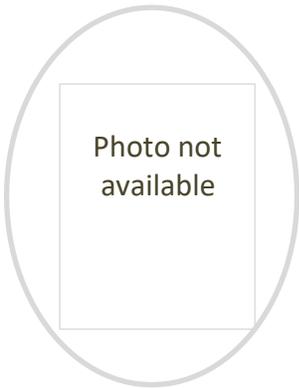
Melisa Logan
Mayor of Blytheville



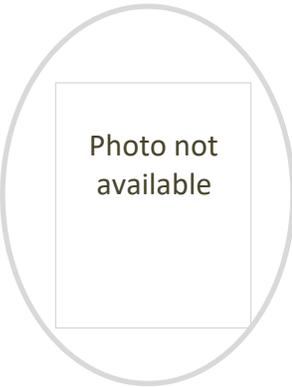
Judge John Alan Nelson
Judge



Rodney Robertson
Mayor of Leachville



Tracey Reinhart
Mayor of Manila



Michelle Williams
Mayor of Joiner



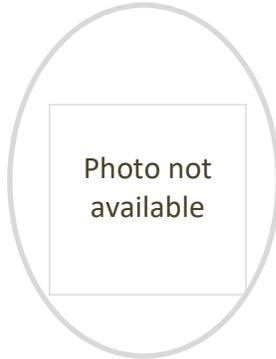
Joe Harris Sr.
Mayor of Osceola

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC SECTOR cont.**

PRIVATE SECTOR



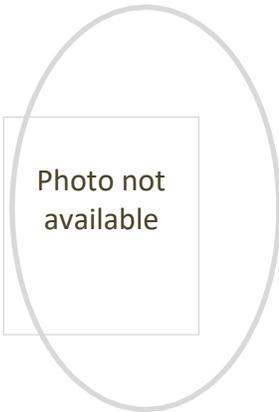
*Ms. Sandra King, **Secretary**
Retired Early Childhood



Mr. Edward Richardson
Pastor



*Ms. Jackie Seals, **Finance**
Accounting Southern Bancorp



Mr. Douglas Echols, Sr.
Pastor



Dr. Anes Abraham
Retired Pediatrician



Ms. L. Denise Hester
Mississippi County Library

COMMUNITY SECTOR



*Ms. Eloise Moore, **Chairperson**
Retired Dept of Human Service,
County Supervisor



Mr. Steven Ledbetter
Farm and Business



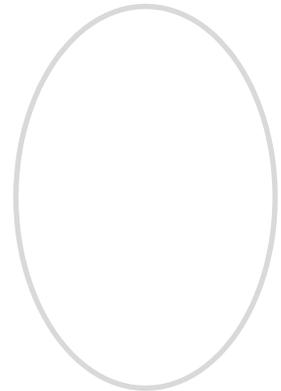
Mr. Randy Henderson
Safety Coordinator, Nucor Yamato
Head Start Parent



Mr. Monte Hodges,
Senior Vice President of
Commercial Lending



Ollie Collins
Osceola Chief of Police



Mr. Joe Guy

CONSULTANT



Mr. Curtis Walker,
Attorney

2023 FISCAL ANNUAL REPORT

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY ARKANSAS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC.
COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT
As of December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$	1,312,365
Receivables		
Funding Source		358,925
Interfund Programs		176,038
Loan Program		0
Other		47,720
Real Estate		3,330,048
Facilities Building		2,976,344
Less Accumulated Depreciation		-3,898,363
Right if Use-leased facilities		149,582
Utility Deposits		148
Total Assets:	\$	4,452,807

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable: Interest		336
Accounts Payable:Operations		72,659
Accounts Payable:Interfund Programs		176,038
Payroll Taxes Payable		38,629
Employee Benefits Payable		128,435
Accured salaries and compensated absences		0
Leases facilities liabilities		125,844
Refundable Advances		594,898
Total Liabilities	\$	1,136,839

Net Assets

Without Donor/Grantor Restrictions	\$	884,201
With Grantor Designated restriction		
Of fixed asset/inventory	\$	2,431,767
TOTAL NET ASSETS:	\$	3,315,968
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$	4,452,807

REVENUES

INGRESOS

GRANT INCOME		17,533,611
Other Sources	Otras Fuentes	242,200
Non Federal		1,642,119
Transfer to Granter designated		281,767
	\$	19,699,697

EXPENITURES

GASTOS

Personnel		12,230,477
Professional Services	Personal	345,045
Education and Traning		246,055
Travel	Viaje	192,610
Space Cost and Rental		1,017,304
Consumable supplies		1,767,646
Equipment maintenance and rental		136,167
Communications		156,271
Client utilities and rent assistance		1,346,602
Other program expenses		462,687
Adminstration Cost @ 10%		1,615,312
Depreciation		401,041
TOTAL EXPENSED:	\$	19,917,217

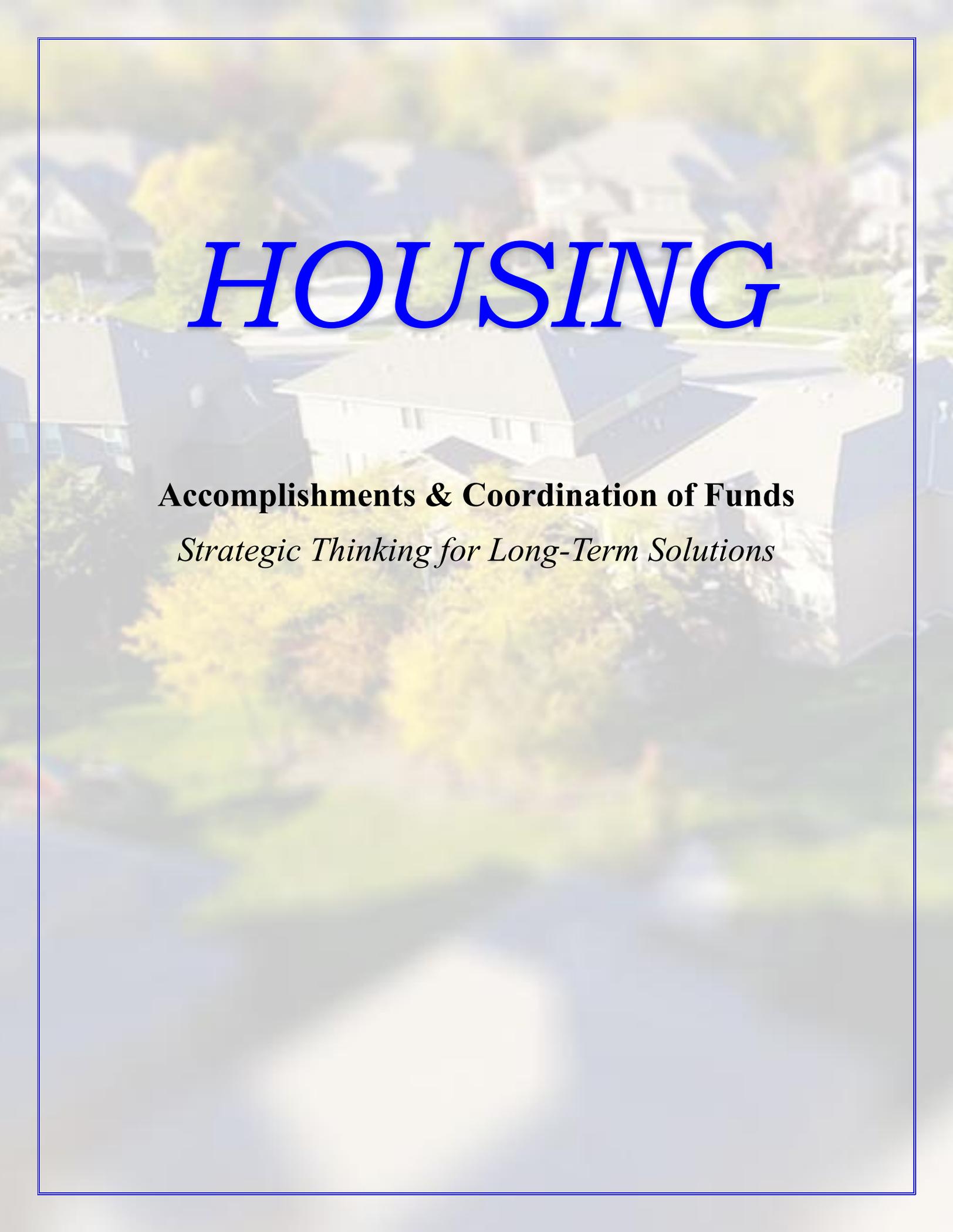
FEDERAL FUNDS			
	Head Start		
	Early Head Start		
	Commodities		
	Home Entergy Assistance		
	Housing Presevation		
	Emergency Food & Shelter		
	Community Service Block Grant		
	CSBG Discretionary Grant		
	Housing Counseling (LISC)		
	Child & Adult Food Care Program		
	MIECHV (Hippy)		
	HUD		
	Cares Funding		
	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS: Department of Health and Human Services	\$	12,230,690
	Head Start- Early Head Start		
	Pass Through		
	Department of Human Services		
	Low Income Home Emergency Assistance Program	\$	1,535,859
	Community Service Block Grant- CSBG CAAP- CSBG Discretionary Funds	\$	418,446
	Pass Thru Arkansas Department of Education		
	Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visit	\$	106,145
	Arkansas Better Chance-Operational Grant-Sustainability-Quality Operations-Expansion Grant	\$	504,567
	Total Department of Health and Human Service/ Education		14,795,707
	Federal Emergence Management -United Way		
	Pass Through Emergency Food & Shelter Program		4,494
	Department of Agriculture		
	Passed Through Arkansas Department of Human Services		
	Child and Adult Food Care Program	\$	512,783.00
	Child and Adult Food Care Program "CARES" Act	\$	1,000.00
	Child and Adult Food Care Program	\$	207,762.00
	Emergency Food Assistance-Supplement	\$	38,070.00
	Emergency Food Assistance-Food Bank/ Commodities	\$	106,283.00
	Rural Housing Preservation	\$	151,557.00
	Total Department of Agriculture	\$	1,017,455
	Department of Housing and Urban Development		
	Pass through- Mid South Delta-LISC		
	10/01-21-09/30/2022/ 10/01/23-09/30/24		
	LISC 41127-0043 Housing Counselor	\$	-
	LISC 41127-0042 Healthy Homes	\$	5,332.00
	Total Department of Housing and Urban Development		\$5,332
	Total Federal Assistance	\$	15,822,988
	State Assistance		
	Pass Through Arkansas Department of Education		
	Arkansas Better Chance-		
	Summer School - Child Billing- Home Instruction for Parents for Pre-school Youngeters	\$	1,894,042.00
	Pass Through Arkansas Department of Health UAMS- Health Initiatives	\$	10,707.00
	Pass Through Arkansas Department of Energy Communities Unlimited	\$	10,000.00
	Total of State Support	\$	1,914,749
	Other Non Federal/ Non State Support(Includes 10% Administrative pass-thur)	\$	1,680,193.00
	Total of other support	\$	1,680,193
	Total of All Support	\$	19,417,930
	TOTAL AGENCY INKIND:		4,119,431
	TOTAL AGENCY FUNDING:	\$	19,417,930
	TOTAL FUNDING AND INKIND:	\$	23,537,361

2023 AUDIT REPORT

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC.
BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS YEAR
ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

-54-

There are no reportable findings or questioned cost for the year ended December 31, 2023.

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing several houses with dark roofs and green lawns, interspersed with trees. The image is slightly blurred and has a blue tint, serving as a background for the text.

HOUSING

Accomplishments & Coordination of Funds

Strategic Thinking for Long-Term Solutions



FIRST TIME



HOME BUYERS



FY 2023 CSBG ANNUAL REPORT

Module 4, Section B: Individual and Family Services -

Data Entry Form

Goal 1: Individuals and Families with low-incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

Education and Cognitive Development Services

Name of CSBG Eligible Entity Reporting:	Mississippi County, Arkansas Econo
State:	Arkansas
Education and Cognitive Development Services (SRV 2)	Unduplicated Number of Individuals Served
Child/Young Adult Education Programs (SRV 2a-j)	
SRV 2a Early Head Start	589
SRV 2b Head Start	675
SRV 2c Other Early-Childhood (0-5 yr. old) Education	
SRV 2d K-12 Education	
SRV 2e K-12 Support Services	195
SRV 2f Financial Literacy Education	
SRV 2g Literacy/English Language Education	
SRV 2h College-Readiness Preparation/Support	
SRV 2i Other Post Secondary Preparation	
SRV 2j Other Post Secondary Support	
School Supplies (SRV 2k)	
SRV 2k School Supplies	
Extra-curricular Programs (SRV 2l-q)	
SRV 2l Before and After School Activities	
SRV 2m Summer Youth Recreational Activities	
SRV 2n Summer Education Programs	
SRV 2o Behavior Improvement Programs (attitude, self-esteem, Dress-for-Success, etc.)	229
SRV 2p Mentoring	
SRV 2q Leadership Training	
Adult Education Programs (SRV 2r-z)	
SRV 2r Adult Literacy Classes	
SRV 2s English Language Classes	
SRV 2t Basic Education Classes	
SRV 2u High School Equivalency Classes	
SRV 2v Leadership Training	
SRV 2w Parenting Supports (may be a part of the early childhood programs identified above)	339
SRV 2x Applied Technology Classes	
SRV 2y Post-Secondary Education Preparation	
SRV 2z Financial Literacy Education	
Post-Secondary Education Supports (SRV 2aa)	
SRV 2aa College applications, text books, computers, etc.	2
Financial Aid Assistance (SRV 2bb)	
SRV 2bb Scholarships	23
Home Visits (SVR 2cc)	
SRV 2cc Home Visits	48

SUCCESS STORY

2nd Quarter

Impact Community of Practice

Program Year 2023

Mobilizing Resources to Support Innovative Solutions

On Thursday, February 16, Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. (MCAEOC) partnered with the Blytheville School District to host Mississippi County's Second Annual Eighth-Grade Career Day. This event was funded under the Impact Community of Practice (COP) Initiative. This year's theme was "*Connecting Teens with Career Opportunities*". The Impact COP is a cohort of five Community Action Agencies (CAAs) place-based teams, designed to bring CAA leaders and local/state human services leaders together to establish a common agenda. They were to agree on a shared framework to support mutual reinforcing actions to accelerate social and economic mobility. MCAEOC was selected to participate in this initiative with collaboration from other CAAs and local/state human service leaders. From the racial equity lens to encourage changes, MCAEOC strives to build a community where all youth have the chance to graduate from high school and obtain a college education. The initiative's goal is to provide support to the academic success of low-income students, especially those of minority populations. Impact COP also plans to provide opportunities for students to continue to learn, grow, and understand the importance of education and having a successful future.



Career Day's objective was to encourage students to become great leaders for the future by connecting them with local colleges and universities, and other private, non-profit, and public organizations to offer them ideas for which path they wish to take in the college or work world.

Approximately 200 eighth-grade students from Blytheville, Armored, Gosnell, and Rivercrest Middle Schools attended and participated in this great event. MCAEOC contributed to each participating school with \$50 Walmart gift cards.

Numerous vendors/organizations set-up individual informational booths which provided students with

organizational information, questions and answers pertaining to careers, and educational resources. Vendors included representatives from MCAEOC, Arkansas Northeastern College, University of Memphis, and University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Other

organizations/local businesses include the Division of Agricultural 4-H, Nucor Skyline, Big River Steel, Blytheville Fire Department, Mississippi County's Sheriff Department, East Arkansas Family Health, the Haven of NEA, Mississippi County Detention Center, National Guard, and the U. S. Army.

The main event of the day was the Be Pro Be Proud (BPBP) mobile bus from Little Rock, sponsored by Nucor Steel. The BPBP Mobile features a customized, interactive demonstration space loaded with information, skill challenges, and provided the students with individual hands-on demonstrations. It features live-computer stimulations demonstrating how to operate heavy equipment, robotics and automotive, driving an 18-wheeler truck, and other stimulations.



2024 Head Start & Early Head Start Continuation

CATEGORIES	Head Start T/TA	Head Start Program	Early Head Start T/TA	Early Head Start
Total Personnel		2,918,169		4,793,684
Total Fringe Benefits		873,992		1,435,713
TOTAL TRAVEL		0		12,690
Total Equipment		0		0
Total Supplies		46,779		111,323
Total Contractual		0		0
Total Construction				
Total Other		233,363		416,134
Total Direct Budget	44,790	4,072,303	120,983	6,769,544
INDIRECT BUDGET	4,977	452,478	12,442	752,172
TOTAL BUDGET	49,767	4,524,781	134,446	7,521,716





MCAEOC Early Childhood Education Department

Head Start

Early Head Start

Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Operation Parenting Edge

School of the 21st Century of Yale University

Home Instructions for Parents Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) USA

Maternal, Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV HIPPY)

*The Department of Early Childhood Education
serves infants, toddlers, expectant mothers, and
preschoolers.*

QUALITY INITIATIVES

Researched Based Curriculum

**Computer Learning in Each Preschool Classroom Abundance of Classroom
Supplies Appropriate Playground Equipment**

Low Staff: Child Ratio

Qualified Staff with Degrees in Early Childhood Education & CDA

Quality Individualized Education

State-Approved Quality Centers—Better Beginnings

Low Family Caseload Ratio

To apply, all applicants must have:

Child's Immunization Record, Birth Certificate/proof of birth

Verification of Family Income, Social Security Cards

Medicaid Card (if applicable)

**Services
to
Families
and
Children**

Head Start/Early Head Start Services

FAMILY SERVICES

Head Start offers parents opportunities and support for growth so they can identify their strengths, needs, and interests to find their own solutions. The objective of Family Partnerships is to support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures. The building of trusting, collaborative relationships between parents and staff allows them to share with and to learn from one another.

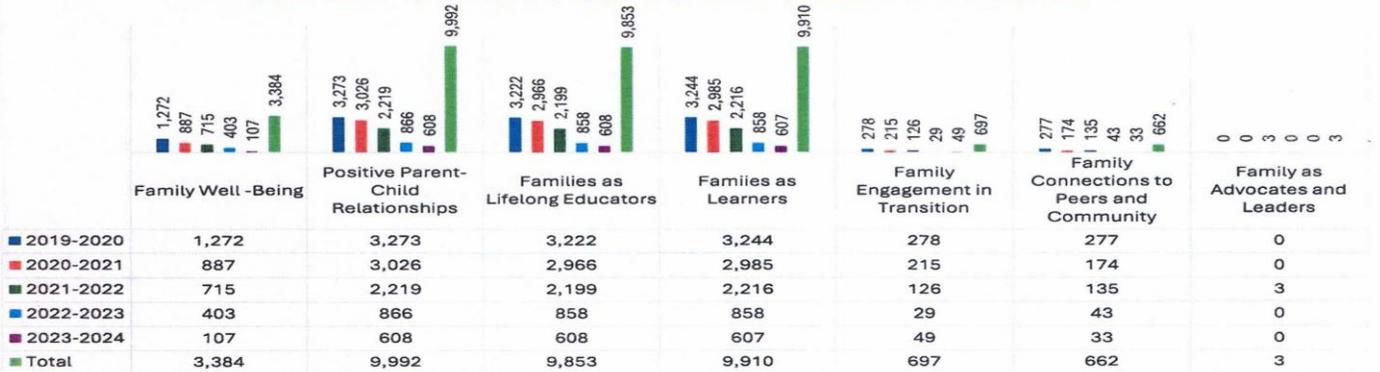
ReadyRosie Cumulative



Learning Outcomes- Total videos viewed



FAMILY OUTCOMES-TOTAL VIDEOS VIEWED





Enrollment and Average Enrolled Attendance

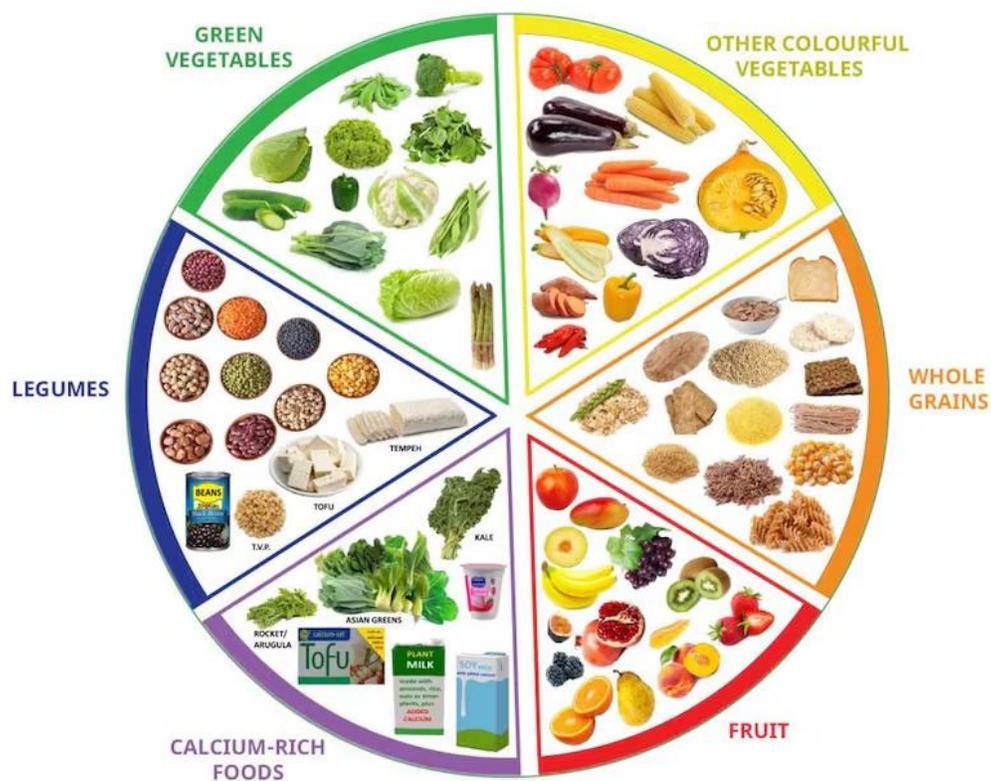
Month	Enrollment Reported	Funded Enrollment	Average Enrollment Percentage	Average Enrolled Attendance
January	389	385	101.04%	80.41%
February	373	385	96.88%	79.15%
March	380	385	98.70%	75.68%
April	379	385	98.44%	82.96%
May	380	385	98.70%	98.70%
June	101	385	na	94.88%
July	Centers Closed			
August	368	385	95.58%	89.80%
September	389	385	101.04%	80.13%
October	372	385	96.62%	80.20%
November	362	385	94.03%	79.00%
December	360	385	93.51%	72.77%



2023 Head Start Enrollment				
Month	Enrollment Reported	Funded Enrollment	Average Enrollment Percentage	Average Enrolled Attendance
January	451	432	104.40%	80.21%
February	437	432	101.16%	79.00%
March	431	432	99.77%	74.78%
April	433	432	100.23%	79.91%
May	431	432	100.00%	99.77%
June	89	432		83.35%
July				
August	395	432	91.44%	89.12%
September	408	432	94.44%	82.27%
October	409	432	94.68%	81.87%
November	405	432	93.75%	79.24%
December	408	432	94.44%	74.98%

2023 USDA REIMBURSEMENTS

Months	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	Reimbursement
January	7,143	7,218	7,027	\$ 53,811.53
February	7,692	7,803	7,658	\$ 58,143.77
March	8,171	8,237	7,657	\$ 61,094.50
April	9,229	9,385	9,084	\$ 69,832.64
May	7,937	7,929	7,513	\$ 59,101.69
June	2,142	2,186	2,129	\$ 16,711.42
July	1,008	1,028	983	\$ 8,120.61
August	2,703	2,742	2,681	\$ 21,327.46
September	9,539	9,613	9,200	\$ 74,210.55
October	10,797	10,887	10,432	\$83,989.36
November	8,324	8,409	8,014	\$ 64,843.19
December	4,900	4,951	4,710	\$ 38,194.74



Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc.

Early Childhood Education Department

Impact to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

CHILD-OUTCOMES

The Early Head Start program utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos, while the Head Start program implements the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers. Both curricula support individualized learning and development across all domains outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (Ages Birth to Five). They also emphasize active family engagement in children's learning. Data collected is aligned with school readiness goals, with a target for at least 80% of children meeting widely held developmental expectations. This data informs ongoing program improvements.

Early Head Start Program Child Outcomes

Developmental Areas of Learning Base-line goal 80%	EHS Fall	EHS Winter	EHS Spring
Social-Emotional	76%	73%	73%
Physical	71%	73%	71%
Language	67%	64%	59%
Cognitive	80%	77%	80%
Literacy	74%	70%	80%
Mathematics	75%	72%	79%
Spanish Language	n/a	n/a	100%
Spanish Literacy	n/a	n/a	100%

Head Start Program Child Outcomes

Developmental Areas of Learning Base-line goal 80%	HS Fall	HS Winter	HS Spring
Social-Emotional	78%	81%	90%
Physical	79%	78%	88%
Language	74%	80%	86%
Cognitive	73%	82%	89%
Literacy	73%	78%	91%
Mathematics	71%	79%	88%
Spanish Language	100%	100%	100%
Spanish Literacy	100%	100%	100%

MCAEOC HEAD START SPRING CLASS DOMAIN REPORT

The Early Head Start program utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos, while the Head Start program implements the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers. Both curricula support individualized learning and development across all domains outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (Ages Birth to Five). They also emphasize active family engagement in children’s learning. Data collected is aligned with school readiness goals, with a target for at least 80% of children meeting widely held developmental expectations. This data informs ongoing program improvements.

CLASS Domain Scores	MCAEOC Head Start	OHS Quality Thresholds	OHS Competitive Thresholds
Emotional Support	5.73	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.11	6	5
Instructional Support	3.28	3	2.3

MCAEOC HEAD START FALL CLASS DOMAIN REPORT

CLASS Domain Scores	MCAEOC Head Start	OHS Quality Thresholds	OHS Competitive Thresholds
Emotional Support	5.74	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.11	6	5
Instructional Support	2.92	3	2.3

The CLASS report analyzes domain scores for the MCAEOC Head Start program in comparison to the Office of Head Start (OHS) quality and competitive thresholds. By August 1, 2025, instructional support threshold will increase to 2.5. The above table summarizes MCAEOC Head Start scores across three CLASS domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. These scores are compared to the OHS quality and competitive thresholds. This data is used to guide continuous program improvement through targeted coaching and professional development.



MCAEOC CANCER COUNCIL

5K COLOR

WALK - RUN



SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

5K COLOR WALK-RUN 2023



Program Performance Summary Report



From April 10, 2023 to April 14, 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This report contains information about the grant recipient's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Head Start | 4th Floor – Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024 eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Program Performance Summary Report

To: Authorizing Official/Board Chairperson

Mrs. Eloise Moore
Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity
Commission, Inc.
1400 N Division St
Blytheville, AR 72315 - 1438

From: Responsible HHS Official

Date: 05/01/2023

Mr. Khari M. Garvin
Director, Office of Head Start

From April 10, 2023 to April 14, 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This report contains information about the grant recipient's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*.

The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagement in the review process. Based on the information gathered during this review, it has been determined that your program meets the requirements of all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

Please contact your Regional Office for guidance should you have any questions or concerns. Your Regional Office will follow up on the content of this report and can work with you to identify resources to support your program's continuous improvement.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following:

Mr. Kenneth Gilbert, Regional Program Manager
Mrs. Priscilla Johnson, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
Mrs. Shirley Pulliam, Head Start Director
Mrs. Shirley Pulliam, Early Head Start Director



Program Management and Quality Improvement

Program Management

The grant recipient establishes a management structure consisting of staff, consultants, or contractors who ensure high-quality service delivery; have sufficient knowledge, training, experience, and competencies to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of their positions; and provide regular supervision and support to staff.

Ongoing Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

The grant recipient uses data to identify program strengths, needs, and areas needing improvement; to evaluate progress toward achieving program goals and compliance with program performance standards; and to assess the effectiveness of professional development.

Program Governance

The grant recipient maintains a formal structure of program governance to oversee the quality of services for children and families and to make decisions related to program design and implementation.

The grant recipient's policy council is engaged in the direction of the program, including program design and planning of goals and objectives.

Program Management and Quality Improvement Summary

Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. developed strategies to support the full inclusion of dual language learners. For instance, the recipient recruited and hired bilingual staff members to ensure Spanish-speaking families participated in program activities such as home visits, conferences, and meetings. All parent materials were available in Spanish, including applications, enrollment paperwork, menus, and newsletters. In addition, the program utilized translators and ensured classroom materials, books, and educational resources were labeled in English and Spanish. These efforts helped the program address the needs of children and their families.



Monitoring and Implementing Quality Education and Child Development Services

Alignment with School Readiness

The grant recipient's school readiness efforts align with the expectations of receiving schools, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF), and state early learning standards.

Effective and Intentional Teaching Practices

The grant recipient's teaching practices intentionally promote progress toward school readiness and provide high-quality learning experiences for children.

Supporting Teachers in Promoting School Readiness

The grant recipient ensures teachers are prepared to implement the curriculum and support children's progress toward school readiness.

Home-Based Program Services

The grant recipient ensures home-based program services provide quality learning experiences through home visits and group socialization activities.

Education Services Summary

The recipient supported education staff to foster children's development. The program tailored teachers' professional development and coaching by using information from observations, fidelity checklists, and teacher and child assessment results. For instance, mentor coaches used these data to create individualized plans addressing each teacher's goals. The coaches also helped teachers utilize data and implement instructional techniques that assisted children in meeting benchmarks. These strategies helped strengthen teaching practices and promote school readiness.



Monitoring and Implementing Quality Health Services

Child Health Status and Care

The grant recipient effectively monitors and maintains timely information on children's health statuses and care including ongoing sources of health care, preventive care, and follow-up.

Mental Health

The grant recipient supports a program-wide culture that promotes mental health and social and emotional well-being, and uses mental health consultation to support staff and families.

Oral Health and Nutrition

The grant recipient maintains and monitors for effective oral health practices and nutrition services that meet the nutritional needs and accommodate children's feeding requirements and allergies.

Safety Practices

The grant recipient implements a process for monitoring and maintaining healthy and safe environments.

Services to Expectant Families

The grant recipient provides and monitors for quality services that facilitate expectant mother's access to health care and provide information to support prenatal, postpartum, and maternal health as well as infant health and emotional well-being.

Health Services Summary

The recipient implemented strategies to support the overall wellness of enrolled pregnant women. Health staff met with expectant mothers during intake to prioritize health services and prenatal care. The program routinely conducted education visits using curriculum resources to educate mothers on prenatal and postnatal care, parenting practices, and establishing nurturing child-parent relationships. The program also leveraged resources such as partnerships with the local health department, domestic violence centers, literacy programs, and lactation education to target services for expectant mothers as well as referrals to mental health agencies if needed. In addition, the program held baby showers and provided free car seats to the expectant families in their program. Throughout their participation in the program, pregnant moms were assisted in accessing a range of services to support their well-being.



Monitoring and Implementing Quality Family and Community Engagement Services

Family Well-Being

The grant recipient collaborates with families to support family well-being, parents' aspirations, and parents' life goals.

Strengthening Parenting and Parent-Child Supports

The grant recipient provides services that strengthen parent-child relationships and support parents in strengthening parenting skills.

Family Engagement in Education and Child Development Services

The grant recipient provides education and child development services that recognize parents' roles as children's lifelong educators and encourage parents to engage in their children's education.

Family and Community Engagement Services Summary

The recipient focused on enhancing parental involvement and knowledge. As part of the program's efforts to engage families, the recipient wanted to increase male involvement in the program. To support this, the parent family and community engagement manager and the father engagement coordinator completed a credential offered by the Fatherhood Families Coalition to learn strategies to promote male participation. In response, roundtable discussions with fathers were held, which led the program to offer workshops on identified needs. Workshop topics included criminal record expungement, marriage improvement, and parental rights regarding child support. Fathers and grandfathers were encouraged to participate in classroom reading days and other special events. The recipient was successful in implementing a variety of strategies to increase male support and engagement.



Monitoring and Implementing Fiscal Infrastructure

Budget Planning and Development

The grant recipient develops and implements its budget to sustain management, staffing structures, and the delivery of services that support the needs of enrolled children and families.

Ongoing Fiscal Capacity

The grant recipient plans and implements a fiscal management system that supports the organization's ongoing capacity to execute its budget over time and meet the needs of its organization.

Budget Execution

The grant recipient's financial management system provides for effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets.

Facilities and Equipment

The grant recipient complies with application, prior approval, and reporting requirements for facilities purchased, constructed, or renovated with Head Start funds.

Fiscal Infrastructure Summary

The recipient ensured that Federal funds were used to address program priorities. Fiscal and management staff analyzed financial and program data to develop a responsive budget aligned with current needs. This process included input and active involvement from policy council and board members, who also reviewed financial and program information to identify improvement areas. For instance, the program allocated funds to increase salaries for staff who furthered their education and for facility repairs such as roof upgrades. This collaborative process resulted in a budget that aligned with program priorities.



Monitoring ERSEA: Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

Determining, Verifying, and Documenting Eligibility

The grant recipient enrolls children or expectant mothers who are categorically eligible or who meet defined income-eligibility requirements.

Enrollment Verification

The grant recipient maintains and tracks enrollment.

ERSEA Summary

The recipient developed a recruitment plan to address enrollment challenges. To reach full enrollment, the program managers met monthly to review reports on center vacancies and recruitment efforts. Information from reports was shared with the policy council to elicit new ideas toward recruitment. This process helped the program regularly evaluate the impact of all new strategies used for recruiting eligible families. Some strategies included posting flyers and yard signs around the community, participating in local parades and events, and placing weekly Head Start event updates in the newspaper. These efforts helped the program share the benefits of Head Start services with the community and reach eligible families.

----- End of Report -----