



Ozarks Area
Community Action
Corporation

Helping You Make a Difference.



OACAC

Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation



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MISSION

To *Enrich* the lives of families and individuals
within our communities by:

Providing Opportunities,

Offering Assistance,

and

Empowering People

to make positive change



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- Established in 1965, OACAC is a not-for-profit agency working toward alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty in the Ozarks
- OACAC serves 10 counties:
Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene,
Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and
Webster Counties



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OACAC Programs

- Family Planning
- Foster Grandparents
- Head Start
- Housing
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Neighborhood Centers
- Weatherization



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Family Planning

- Everyone should be able to plan for and prepare themselves for parenthood
- Goal is to provide low-cost quality reproductive health care
- Routine gynecological exams
- Information and Education Services



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Foster Grandparents

- Nationwide volunteer program for seniors 55 +
- Serve at volunteer stations in a 14 county area
- Playing, loving, laughing, and listening are experiences shared between Foster Grandparents and children
- Grandparents provide tutoring, help with motor skills and other classroom activities



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Head Start and Early Head Start

- Comprehensive early childhood and family development services to children from birth to 5 years old, pregnant women and families
- Provide medical care, dental and mental health, nutrition, parental involvement, and family support
- Head Start accounts for 41% of childhood programs in Greene County (Community Focus 2009)



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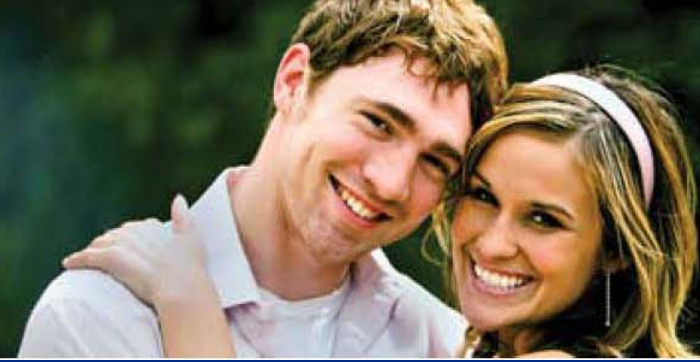
Housing Assistance

- Helps pay rent for low income residents so they may live in a house, apartment, or mobile home which is decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable
- Eligible applicants will be issued a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher as certification of their eligibility



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LIHEAP – Energy Programs

- Energy Assistance (EA) provides a one-time payment for assistance with winter heating costs for low-income households
- Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) Provides utility assistance and relief for eligible households to alleviate energy related crisis



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Neighborhood Centers

- Point of entry for services - Assistance available for emergency and non-emergency needs
- Family Support
- Targeted Coaching - (job searches, budgeting, and more)
- School Readiness Fairs
- Community Projects



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Neighborhood Centers – ARRA Funded Programs

- **Missouri Renewable Energy Industry Project**
- create renewable job opportunities in Southwest Missouri
- **Community Empowerment Collaboration** –
Support effort of Missourians to End Poverty, develop a recovery sustainability plan, increase benefits enrollment coordination in federal, state and local ARRA programs



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Neighborhood Centers – ARRA Funded Programs

- **Bolivar Transit Initiative** – to create affordable public transportation resources
- **Community Financial Access Project** – create greater opportunities for low-income families to utilize main stream financial institutions
- **Community Garden Network** – Low income families to plant and harvest crops, eat food, sell produce for income



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Neighborhood Centers – ARRA Funded Programs

- **Gaining Outstanding Assets for Life (GOAL)**
– asset development project for youth
- **On-the-job training (OJT) program**
- **Step Up to Leadership Development** –
Low-income families learn leadership and self-advocacy



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Neighborhood Centers – ARRA Funded Programs

- **Transportation is Reliable for Everyone**
(TIRE) – outcome is for individuals to have the necessary means of transportation to meet their employment needs
- **Employment Placement Opportunities** –
Targeted coaching includes connecting unemployed individuals with employers



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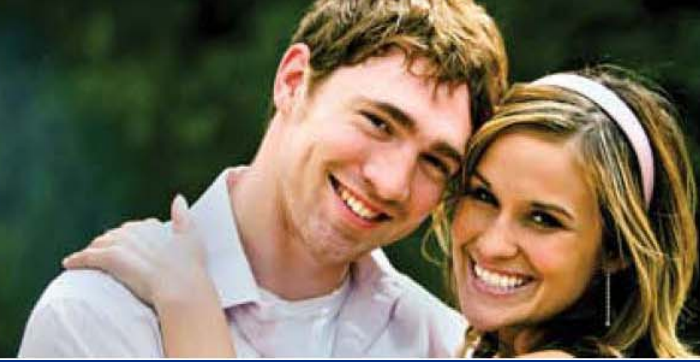
Weatherization

- Free service for homeowners or renters who qualify
- Goal is to make a home warmer during the winter and help save heating dollars
- Workers caulk windows, sills and casings; seal cracks in windows, walls and foundations; weatherstrip windows and doors; insulate attics, floors and sidewalls; repair windows and doors; insulate hot water heaters; testing and repair of gas heating systems and gas water heaters



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Poverty Simulations

- Allows participants to experience what it might be like to live on a limited income
- Participants assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget
- Have four 15-minute sessions, each representing a week in which they will simulate real-life situations encountered by those living in poverty



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Funding Sources

- Project is funded in whole/part with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.
- Funds are made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Transform Missouri Initiative and are administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Energy Center (MDNR/EC)



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