

# OACAC Family Planning

Family Planning, a private, non-profit clinic, has provided the Ozarks with comprehensive family planning services, as a program of the Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation, since 1979.

Parenthood is one of the greatest responsibilities an individual can face. The decision to become a parent requires careful thought and planning.

We believe ALL individuals should be able to plan and prepare themselves for parenthood and that each child should be a wanted child.

The goal of Family Planning is to provide individuals with low cost quality reproductive health care and the information and supplies necessary to make personal choices in determining the number and spacing of their children.

**Program Year: April 1 - March 31**

## **Funding Sources:**

- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Missouri Department of Health
- Patient Fees

## **Guidelines:**

Fees are based on annual poverty guidelines for low levels and local circumstances for professional services.

**Number of People Served in 2008:**

5,370

**Total visits:** 8,002

## *Making a Difference through Generations*

OACAC Family Planning has provided the Ozarks with comprehensive family planning services for 30 years.

Family Planning continues to play a vital role in the fight against poverty and OACAC is pleased to share this success story from the program.

“I have been coming to the Family Planning clinic in Aurora for around 23 years now.

I don't know what I would have done without it. I could never afford insurance, so this clinic has been a lifesaver. They have always been very friendly, informative and helpful. It is always very clean and professional. Although they know I have been coming here so long, they still go over

all the do's and don'ts, all the new methods out and how they work and what is best for me. My daughter is now coming to the clinic. They have really helped her in her decisions and what is best for her. I would love to thank whoever is in charge of this helpful clinic. I know from experience if it wasn't for Family



**Shawn and Shelby Cox**

Planning there would be a lot of unwanted or unplanned pregnancies and probably a lot more poor sick young women. - Shawn Cox.



## Contact Information:

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# OACAC Foster Grandparents

The Foster Grandparent Program began as a federal program on August 28, 1965 as part of the Older Americans Act. The program fulfills a dual mission:

1. To give low income persons age 55 and older an opportunity to participate in valuable community service.
2. To promote the growth and development of children at-risk or with special needs.

As part of the Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), the program gives persons 55 years and older the chance to share their talents, love and encouragement to at-risk children.

OACAC Foster Grandparents serve at volunteer stations in a 14 county area of Southwest Missouri. Volunteers serve 20 hours per week in an institutional not-for-profit setting such as public schools, juvenile centers and/or childcare facilities and receive a non-taxable hourly stipend plus other benefits for those who qualify.

**Program Year:** April 1, - March 31

**Funding Sources:**

- Corporation for National & Community Service
- Private Funds

**Guidelines:**

For Low-income Seniors age 55+, 200 % of the poverty guideline.

**Number of People Served:**

Foster Grandparents: 69  
Children: 6-8 children per day per Foster Grandparent Volunteer.

## *Making a Difference through Generations*

OACAC Foster Grandparents have enriched the lives of at-risk children since 1972.

OACAC is pleased to share these thoughts from the program.

Eugenia Hale has been a Foster Grandparent for over 10 years. She works with children that are developmentally delayed and that have literacy needs. Grandma Eugenia praises the children in her classroom and said she loves to be able to help children with special needs and know they can overcome.”

Grandma Eugenia is also thankful for what she receives from being a Foster Grandparent. “I think it has been a fulfillment in my life, especially to see the children progress from my help,” she stated.

Another Foster Grandparent writes, “I work with all the children and try to comfort and encourage them which leads them into confiding in me. They all need love and encouragement.”

A teacher praises one of the Foster Grandparents. “All the children love Grandma and run to greet her each morning and have to give her hugs and good-bye in the afternoon. They truly miss her when she is gone.”



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# OACAC Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start is an early childhood program operated by Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC). Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive early childhood and family development services to children from birth to five-years-old, pregnant women and families. Head Start provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; parental involvement and family support. Our program has a long tradition of delivering comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development for income eligible children and their families.

**Program Year: Sept. 1 - August 31**

## **Funding Sources:**

- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Medicaid
- Private Funding

## **Policy Council:**

Policy-making board composed of current parents, one representing each of six areas plus one at-large representative, 6 community representatives and a representative from the area board for a total membership of 14.

## **Number of People Served in 2008:**

Head Start: 1,414

Early Head Start: 124

## *Making a Difference through Generations*

OACAC Head Start was chosen to participate in Central Missouri Community Action Head Start's national Head Start Innovation and Improvement grant, "I CAN." Research by the Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute at UCLA's Anderson School of Management showed a drop in the number of visits to hospital emergency rooms and urgent care clinics when parents who receive health literacy training chose to care for their children's low fevers, colds and earaches at home. Being better informed and able to handle children's mild illnesses at home resulted in cost savings from fewer doctor or ER visits to more than \$220 per family in 2008.

- Head Start began using Positive Behavior Support (PBS) in September 2007. Since then, behavior incidents have reduced by 39%. All staff including Teachers, Family Advocates, Bus and Nutrition Staff received training. PBS is building strong rela-

tionships with families, co-workers and children. PBS is working and OACAC Head Start expects to see more positive change for children.

- The Head Start **Holiday Smiles** campaign, an annual fundraiser for Head Start children's dental health will go toward helping pre-school age children throughout the Ozarks obtain and maintain good dental health.

Very few families have health insurance through their work; fewer still have dental insurance for their children. Families often do not have the ability to pay for their children's dental care. In the ten-county area there are fewer than ten dentists that will accept children on Medicaid/MC+.

Last year, the average cost of a dental care for Head Start children was \$208. All of the funds raised in November and December will help offset expenses not covered by any other funding.

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# OACAC Housing Assistance

The OACAC Housing Assistance Program 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.

## Where does the OACAC Housing Assistance Program provide assistance?

The legal jurisdiction of operation includes Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene (excluding the city of Springfield), Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties. Applicants who were not living in OACAC's legal service area (including people living in Springfield) will be classified as Non-Residents of the jurisdiction for the purpose of determining where they can lease a unit.

**Program Year:** July 1 - June 30

## Funding Sources:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 Department of Mental Health  
 Missouri Housing Development Commission

## Guidelines:

All Applicants must be income eligible for placement on the Waiting List for assistance. Eligible Applicants will be issued a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher as certification of their eligibility.

## Number of People Served: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

(July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher.....	668
Shelter Plus Care.....	59
DHM Rental Assistance .....	7
New Start Housing .....	11
TOTAL	745

**Equal Housing Opportunity**

## Making a Difference through Generations

The OACAC Housing Assistance Program offers smaller rental subsidy programs, similar to Section 8, to assist households with special needs who are homeless and/or disabled. These three programs have limited availability in the ten county OACAC region.

**HUD Shelter Plus Care -** Homeless and Disabled Taney, Spfld/Greene, Christian, Webster Counties  
 Funds provided by Missouri Dept. of Mental Health (DMH)

**DMH Rental Assistance Program -** Disabled  
 Available in ten counties, including Springfield.

**New Start Housing -** Transitional Housing for Homeless Families with Children  
 Funds provided by HUD, Missouri Housing Development Commission, The Salvation Army. Only available in Springfield.



Teresa Barnett and her apartment.

## SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

### FACTS (2/18/09)

- 83% Female Head of Household
- 61% Elderly and/or Disabled
- 5% Minorities
- 2.23 Average Household Size
- 1,052 Households on Waiting List as of March 13, 2009
- 75% of New Admissions must have income less than 30% Area Median Income



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# OACAC LIHEAP

The mission of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is to assist low income households, who have an energy related crisis.

## **Energy Assistance (EA)**

The Winter Heating Energy Assistance Program (EA) provides a one-time payment for assistance with winter heating costs for low-income households (based on household size and income). The program runs from October through March.

*Applicants must first apply for EA before being considered for the (ECIP).*

## **The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)**

The Energy Crisis Intervention Program provides utility assistance and relief for \*eligible households to alleviate energy related crisis. The Winter Programs run from November through May while the summer cooling program is from June through September.

**Program Year:** Oct. 1 - Sept. 30

## **Funding Sources:**

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## **Budget:**

- 10% Administration
- 90% Direct Services

## **Number of People Served:**

- Energy Assistance: 15,101
- ECIP Winter: 6,004
- ECIP Summer: 3,428

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# OACAC Neighborhood Centers

## *Making a Difference through Generations*

Hard work and taking care of our families are fundamental American values. However, many people who are getting by independently on very modest resources experience devastating personal circumstances when they choose to become the caregiver to a terminally ill family member. The decision to move from their existing home to be near the patient and to become a caregiver re-

OACAC Neighborhood Centers are “the point of entry” for those in need of services. After making an appointment at one of our Centers, a Family Resource Specialist will meet with you and discuss your situation and refer you to the OACAC community programs that can help.

Assistance is available for emergency and non-emergency needs. Income-eligibility and conditions apply.

### **Neighborhood Center Services:**

- Family Support
- Emergency Assistance
- Targeted Coaching
- School Readiness Fairs
- Workshops
- Community Projects

Program Year: Oct 1 -Sept. 30

Funding Sources: Community Services Block Grant

quires more investment than they can afford. In such circumstances, they are threatened with the prospect of long-term hardship that affects their extended family as well. Usually, a timely infusion of resources and specialized knowledge can help stem their fall and prevent their tragedy from turning into persistent poverty and hardship.

OACAC staff is trained to recognize such destabilizing crises. In addition, our integrated system of family development services and investments has a variety of resources that can be combined, as the need warrants, to set a family on the road to stability and economic security.

In 2004, Rich moved to the Branson, MO area with his wife, Mickie and preschooler to care for his terminally ill mother. As time went on Rich became a full-time caregiver. Rich was unable to work to provide for his family, but his wife was employed as a seasonal worker. Upon his mother’s death, Rich faced funeral expenses and the expense of settling her estate. Within a short period of time Rich’s sister-in-law also passed away. Unable to cope with the stresses of the move and the deaths of two family members, Rich and his wife found their marriage in jeopardy and separated.

Unable to secure consistent employment, Rich came to OACAC for financial assistance and agreed to participate in Family Support. One of the resources OACAC utilizes to help individuals find employment is the Great Hires Missouri Career website. Through this resource, Rich found a full time maintenance position at a Branson resort.

With a steady income and new outlook, Rich was soon reunited with his

wife and son. The news of a baby on the way was exciting to the family, but Rich’s wife had complications during her pregnancy and was forced to take an extended maternity leave from her job.

After her maternity leave, Rich’s wife was not called back to work, but agreed to be on call if employment opened up. Since positions were not immediately available, her employer encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits. She did apply, but in the meantime, they needed help with part of their mortgage payment. Not wanting to ruin their credit, they again applied to OACAC for help and we met this need in addition to a much needed truck repair.

Rich has now been working at the same job for over a year and has earned paid vacation and insurance benefits. Rich and his family are on their way to financial stability, but he stated he would like to complete more financial and health goals. Rich and his OACAC Family Support Case Worker are working together with Legal Services and Consumer Credit Counseling on minimizing credit card debit and other debits that accumulated from his mother’s illness and funeral expenses. Rich is trying to maintain his spending and savings budget. He has his blood pressure and cholesterol monitored on a regular basis with a family doctor through his medical insurance. He is also considering quitting smoking with natural supplements that he and his Case manager have researched.



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# OACAC Weatherization

Started in 1974, Weatherization is a free service for homeowners or renters who are income-eligible in the ten counties served by OACAC.

Weatherization crews insulate attics, walls and floors as well as perform infiltration measures to homes to make them more energy efficient and lower utility bills for the client. All gas heating systems and water heaters are tested for health and safety and are repaired or replaced if a problem is detected. Families or individuals may apply for Weatherization at their county Neighborhood Center.

**Program Year: July 1 - June 30**

**Funding Sources:**

Department of Natural Resources Energy Center

**Guidelines:**

All applicants must meet income guidelines. (200% of poverty)

**Number of People Served in 2008:**

260 homes

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.

## *Making a Difference through Generations*

### **Weatherization Testimonials**

Just a note to let you at OACAC know how much we appreciate and are so thankful for your help. The Weatherization crew does such a fine job. You are wonderful and great at what you do. If at any time you need to get in touch with us for any reason (even to tell others just how great OACAC is) please do so.  
Jim & Linda

I would like to thank you so very much for the weatherization of my home. Although I would like to pay to have it done on my own, due to medical difficulties, my doctors will not allow me to return to work. I would like to thank Clyde and Ray for their caring and professional attitude while

working on my home. It was fun having them around and the great job that was done is greatly appreciated.

Note: Your Weatherization crew did great work on my house!

All the work that was done by you was performed professionally. I am very pleased with the personnel. They were kind, courteous and very polite. Thank you very much for all of your time and effort. It is greatly appreciated.



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