

Annual Report 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.



Helping People,
Changing Lives



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Community Action Promise

“Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Mission

KCEOC Community Action Partnership is dedicated to recognizing human potential, improving communities, and creating opportunities for change

Values

KCEOC values our customers, employees, board members, volunteers, partners, and the communities we serve. The agency believes in providing a safe and nurturing environment for its employees, offering each one the opportunity to grow and develop. Customers are treated with respect and dignity and the agency strives to extend the proverbial “hand-up, not a hand-out.” The agency believes in making each community a better place to live and work, with advocacy and maximum feasible participation continuing to be the primary means of involving those most affected by change.



A Letter from President/CEO Paul D. Dole



This past year was filled with hard work and a significant impact on our local community. KCEOC Community Action Partnership truly worked hard to carry out the mission of Community Action. As you read this report, I hope it is evident that we are proudly and triumphantly fighting the war on poverty and making positive strides to improve our community and help people help themselves. I hope you will be impressed by our accomplishments and see how our partnerships and donors continue to grow, making KCEOC even stronger.

2024 marked the 60th anniversary of KCEOC Community Action Partnership and all of Community Action. We celebrated 60 years of service to our community, in style, at a special anniversary gala, and we continue to celebrate all of the thousands upon thousands of people who have worked hard to change their lives with a helping hand through our programs.

KCEOC was recognized by the East Kentucky Leadership Foundation as the "Outstanding Organization" for 2024, achieved the prestigious Program of Excellence Award for our Child Development Program, plus many other awards. KCEOC is grateful to be recognized for our accomplishments, but we do not do this work for awards but because it is the right thing to do—it's our mission, it's our promise to the community. The awards are confirmation that we are on the right path. Looking back on our year of accomplishments is a moment of respite, because at KCEOC, we are always focused on the future, what we can do next, what we need to adapt to prepare for changes, and most importantly, we are focused on our next strike on the war on poverty.

The accomplishments, awards, results, and outcomes you see in this report are a testament to our great staff and dedicated Board of Directors. I'll close with an invitation to visit our family, facilities, and join us in this good work!

With gratitude,

Paul D. Dole

President/CEO

KCEOC Community Action Partnership





A Letter from the Chairman of the Board Greg Helton



I always begin my letter by reflecting on how quickly another year has passed. I am always amazed as I look back on everything KCEOC Community Action Partnership has managed to accomplish in that short time...

This year, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of KCEOC and Community Action. I find myself looking back not only on the past year but on all the significant work KCEOC has done over the decades. I truly cannot imagine my community without KCEOC; they have been a steadfast presence during every challenge we've faced.

KCEOC has persevered through years of limited funding as well as times of abundance, civil and political unrest, natural disasters, and even a global pandemic. Throughout it all, they have remained unwavering in their commitment to improving the community and changing people's lives.

This year has been full of successful change, growth, and significant accomplishments, and we are focused on future opportunities for development. KCEOC is a mission-driven organization where every team member works diligently towards a common goal: to end the cycles of poverty and enhance our communities. On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, I want to express our pride in KCEOC, in every staff member who chooses to make a difference, and in being part of such an exceptional organization that consistently strives for excellence.

KCEOC continues to demonstrate that nothing can deter them from embodying the Community Action Promise: "We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping others help themselves and each other."

This Annual Report highlights just a small portion of the vital work KCEOC does each day. I encourage you to take a few moments to read the inspiring real-life success stories of those who have benefited from KCEOC and to appreciate the genuine impact of our remarkable services on the community. The dedication of KCEOC, the Board of Directors, and especially our frontline staff shines through on every page, and I assure you that you will leave feeling inspired and optimistic about the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Helton".

Greg Helton

KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Chairman of the Board



KCEOC COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Board of Director's 2023-2024



LOCAL SECTOR:

PATRICIA ALLEN

CONNIE SUE BARNES

EVA BAYS

PAM HUBBARD (Secretary)

MARY STURDIVANT

STEPHANIE WALLACE

PUBLIC SECTOR:

JENNIFER BARNETT (Treasurer)

GREG HELTON (Chair)

GILBERT HOLLAND

MAYME WALLACE

HON. MIKE MITCHELL

TIMOTHY OWENS

PRIVATE SECTOR:

CHRIS BOWLING

SUSAN DUNAWAY

DIANA MILLS

HON. LAURA PHILLIPS (Vice Chair)

LAQUESTA GALINDO

CHARLES LOVELL

KCEOC Community Action Partnership's Board of Directors Reaches 100% Giving Participation

Thank you to the dedicated individuals who serve as board members, who donate not only their time, but also their personal resources to serve their community and make the world a better place.



KCEOC Program List



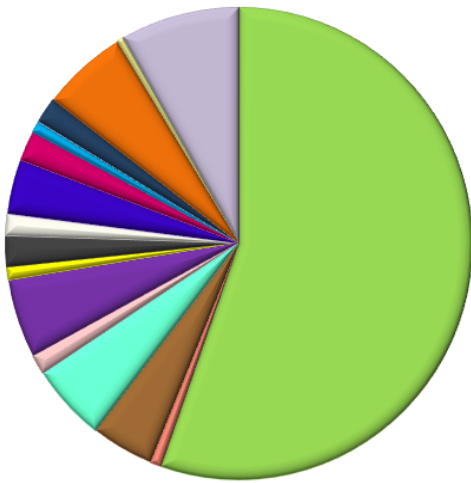
- Aquatic Club
- At-Risk Afterschool Meals
- Child Development-Early Head Start
- Child Development-Head Start
- Child Development- K-4
- Economic and Community Development
- Emergency Support Center (ESC)
- Homeowner Rehabilitation
- Housing Counseling/Workshops
- Housing Development
- Safe Sitter
- KCEOC Apartments and Senior Housing
- Senior Citizens Center
- Service Coordination
- Weatherization
- Winter Care
- CoC Special Project/Homeless Outreach Program
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Older Adult Home Modification Program (OAHMP)
- Rapid ReHousing Program- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Southeast Kentucky Housing & Homeless Alliance (SKHHA)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE)
- Prosper Appalachia Youth Program
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program- Ryan's Place Crisis Housing
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program- Rapid ReHousing Program



President/CEO Paul D. Dole,
& Head Start Nutrition Specialist Michelle Johnson
celebrate 50 years of service to
KCEOC Community Action Partnership

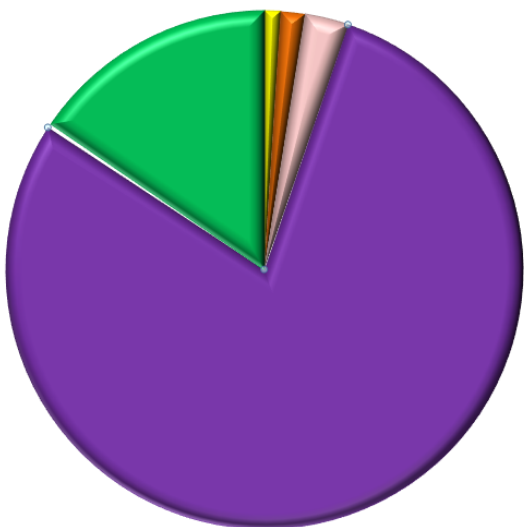


Financial Summary



- Salaries & Fringe
- Travel
- Equipment
- Food
- Maintenance
- Supplies
- Rent
- Utilities
- Construction/Renovation
- Contracted Services
- Depreciation
- Insurance
- Other
- In-Kind
- Interest Exp
- Building Heating/Cooling

Total Expenses: \$25,791,885



- Fund Development
- Miscellaneous
- Rental Income
- Grants & Awards
- Interest & Sales

Total Revenue: \$26,057,289

Liabilities

Current Liabilities: \$4,157,662

Non-current Liabilities: \$1,387,883

Net Assets: \$14,749,200

Total Liabilities & Net Assets:

\$20,294,765

Assets

Current Assets: \$3,859,619

Other Assets: \$16,435,146

Total Assets: \$20,294,765

Total Clients Served 6662



KCEOC Celebrates 60 Years of Service



KCEOC Community Action Partnership celebrated its 60th Anniversary in December 2024, with a formal event recognizing the individuals and organizations that made positive contributes to the community.

Proudly founded as one of the original Community Action Agencies in 1964, as a part of Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, KCEOC CAP quickly became the cornerstone of support in southeastern Kentucky.

KCEOC is a multiple national award winning agency, offering over 35 programs, and employing over 300 people.

KCEOC also honored important community partners and philanthropist that helped create change and made our community a better place to live.

Awardees included: The Forcht Group, Philanthropic Organization of the Year, Dr. Tyler Carter, Philanthropist of the Year, State Representative Tom O'Dell Smith, Burchel Sizemore Above and Beyond Award. In addition two Legacy Awards were given to celebrate 50 Years of personal service to KCEOC for President/CEO Paul D. Dole, and Head Start Nutrition Specialist Michelle Johnson.

The evening concluded with a champagne toast celebrating the past 60 years, while looking forward to the future work of KCEOC.



KCEOC Child Development Program Receives Program of Excellence Accreditation



The National Head Start Association (NHSA) recently recognized 12 Head Start grant recipients as part of NHSA's Program of Excellence Accreditation.

The Program of Excellence recognizes and supports the outstanding performance of Head Start grant recipients nationwide who demonstrate excellence in program management and service and support robust positive

outcomes for children birth-to-five, pregnant people, families, and the communities where they live. The accreditation entails a three-month application process that allows programs to showcase all facets of their operation through the 44 Indicators of Excellence framework. The NHSA Program of Excellence recognizes and supports innovative and outstanding Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. This achievement is earned by early childhood programs that consistently demonstrate excellence in program management, service performance, and child and family support. Through a three-month application process, our staff successfully demonstrated that KCEOC Community Action Partnership has met all 44 Indicators of Excellence that designate high quality. To earn the five-year accreditation, our staff had to demonstrate excellence in all the facets of our operation, including leadership; effective and efficient management; transparent and sound fiscal stewardship; informed, responsible, and responsive program governance; meaningful partnerships with parents and families; highly-experienced and educated staff; state-of-the-art programming; and quality services that reflect and respond to the aspirations and needs of children and families.





Housing Counseling Services

The Housing Counseling Program is designed to inform, educate, and prepare individuals for homeownership, identifying affordable units, and successfully maintaining housing.

82

Household that received information on fair housing, fair lending, and/or accessibility rights.

79

Households for whom the counselor developed a sustainable household budget through the provision of financial management and/or budget services.

30

Households that improved their financial capacity (e.g. increased discretionary income, decreased debt load, increased savings, increased credit score) after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

27

Households that received rental counseling and improved living conditions after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

10

Households that received rental counseling and avoided eviction after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

27

Homeless or potentially homeless households that obtained temporary or permanent housing after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

37

Households that gained access to non-housing resources (e.g. social services programs, legal services, public benefits such as Social Security or Medicaid, etc.) after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

54

Households that gained access to resources to help them improve their housing situation (e.g. down payment assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance, etc.) after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

19

Households that received non-delinquency post-purchase counseling that were able to improve home conditions or home affordability after receiving Housing Counseling Services.

All projects have been accomplished as a result of financial assistance from Kentucky Housing Corporation and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). KCEOC is an Equal Housing Provider



Housing Services



106

Homeless men, women, and children housed by the KCEOC Emergency Support Center.

198

Homeless men, women, and children who received supportive services through the Continuum of Care Program.

1

Households in Knox County that were able to purchase a home through the Housing Development Program



191

Homeless individuals were assisted through the Rapid Re-Housing Program.

21

Homeless youth (18-24) housed through Ryan's Place Youth Crisis Center

25

Tenant Based Rental Assistance participants receives assistance obtaining a home.

7

Households in Knox County that received moderate home repair services

7

Individuals served through the Homeless Prevention Program.

51

Households had their energy cost reduced through the Weatherization Program.

30

Housing Counseling participants improved their overall financial well-being.

All projects have been accomplished as a result of financial assistance from Kentucky Housing Corporation and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). KCEOC is an Equal Housing Provider



Tanner's Story

Tanner began his journey with KCEOC 10 years ago, first as a participant in the Promise Neighborhood In-School Youth Program and then in the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Work Experience Program. These KCEOC KY Career Center programs are designed to help youth gain experience and explore suitable career paths.

When he was 18 years old, he was placed at PT Pros, a physical therapy clinic. "With KCEOC's help, I was able to gain experience at a young age in a field that I would not have had the opportunity to gain experience in otherwise," explains Tanner. I knew about PT Pros because I played sports at Knox Central High School and had to go there for injuries, but I had no idea what the other side of that was like until my job placement. It was then that I knew I wanted to work in the healthcare field. I made a plan; I set my goals and worked tirelessly to achieve them. When I graduated from High School, I began my undergrad degree at the local college.



I intended to pursue a career as a Physical Therapist, but as I went further in my education, and had some important conversations with my family, and other professionals, I discovered there was a serious need for and a lack of Optometry in this area. I met with my college advisors and was able to shadow the Optometrist at Mackey's Vision Center in Corbin, KY. After that, I formally decided to switch my career path.



It was my sophomore year of undergrad when I went back to KCEOC's KY Career Center for a summer job. That year, I worked for KCEOC's Summer Food Service Program which provides meals to at-risk children during the summer when school is out. This was an incredible, eye-opening experience. I grew up in this area, but I did not truly know the depths of poverty that some people face. I did not know how much some families, even "working families," depend on school lunches to afford feeding their families, and that when school is out and those lunches are not available, it creates an even bigger hardship for them. I knew the meals I was delivering were probably going to be all the food they had for the day. I learned that sometimes it's these small acts of service, providing people with basic necessities, that can help them become more self-sufficient the most; that a child free from hunger is given a better chance at life and hope of a brighter future. **Continued on the next page...**

Tanner's Story (continued)

The appreciation I had for KCEOC grew even more, and I decided right there on a back road in Knox County that I was going to do everything I could to improve my community. I never doubted from that day on, no matter where I had to complete optometry school, that I was coming back to my hometown, and I was going to bring opportunity with me. Luckily, I was accepted into my first choice program and the only college in Kentucky that offers an Optometry Program, the University of Pikeville's Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO), and was able to stay not only in the state I love, but also in the Eastern region of KY, where my roots are planted. I earned a strong education at UPIKE, and made important contacts, but was sometimes looked down on because of where I am from, or even my southern accent. Even still, I decided it was best to be true to myself and not hide who I was or where I was from. I sometimes had to work harder to compensate for the better opportunities others had received since they were from larger cities in different states. However, this made my love for my roots even stronger and my dedication to bringing opportunities to my hometown fiercer. People in rural Kentucky are just as important as people anywhere else, and even though we might have to work harder, we can still accomplish great things!

After graduating in 2025, Tanner, now Doctor Wells, returned to Knox County and began his Optometry practice at Access Health in Barbourville, KY.

I'm happy here, I plan to stay here, I plan to raise my family here, and I cannot wait to bring new technology and equipment here to be able to provide high-quality eye care here- right here so no one has the extra burden of traveling just to receive healthcare.

Looking back on my journey it feels surreal, it was so much hard work, and sometimes it felt like climbing a mountain- but I made it! I am doing things that have never been done in my family. I consider myself very lucky to have a supportive family, and my proudest achievement is knowing that I have made them proud of me.

I am grateful for organizations like KCEOC Community Action Partnership, which are creating opportunities for all types of people from all backgrounds. I want to encourage anyone who needs a hand up, no matter how big or small, to contact KCEOC. Everyone there is there to help people; they do not judge, they do not discriminate, they just want you to succeed. It doesn't matter if you need food, shelter, or help finding a career path- they are here to help everyone!



Ryan's Place Youth Crisis Center



Ryan's Place is dedicated to providing crisis housing and supportive services to youth between the ages of 18 and 24 in an encouraging environment; this allows program participants opportunities to grow and learn the skills they need to mature and become self-reliant. Ryan's Place is the only homeless transitional housing program dedicated to unprotected youth, serving a five county area in Southeastern Kentucky. It was made apparent that a youth homeless crisis center was needed in the area after

KCEOC identified 35 homeless individuals in targeted service area during an annual nationwide homeless count. In addition, there were 219 youth served within a KCEOC program that served the general homeless population, yet did not focus on the specific, unique needs of homeless youth. Ryan's Place follows KCEOC's core principles of offering clients a hand up not a hand out. The goal of Ryan's Place is for all the residents to be able to become self-sufficient. Beginning with day one of admission; participants establish goals to obtain permanent housing. Ryan's Place offers an on-site case manager, employment services, life skills, and basic "adulting" lessons to youths that are transitioning into adulthood. Youth Voice meetings are encouraged at Ryan's Place, providing clients an opportunity to give feedback and input on program operations and services. These meetings have also been critical with the development of local leadership initiatives developed by the youth to help dispel stereotypes of the homeless youth population.

Ryan's Place is named in memory of Ryan White, a young man who found himself homeless several times in his short lifetime, he later became an advocate for other homeless youth. Ryan served on the Youth Action board throughout the grant proposal process, he designed the logo and provided valuable input that helped implement Kentucky Housing Corporation's Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. Sadly Ryan passed away in a car accident just days after his 18th birthday, and just months before the youth shelter was opened.



Ryan's Place is named in honor of both Ryan's memory and his passion for all homeless youth.



Contact Ryan's Place at 606-595-3785

Funding for Ryan's place is provided by HUD and operates as an equal housing opportunity for youths 18-24.



Ryan's Place Youth Crisis Center



Clients had a developmental disability that led to their homelessness.



Total people served through the YHDP Rapid Re-Housing Program. of which were youths aged 18-24. 3 were children of the youth clients.



Total people resided at Ryan's Place. of which were youths aged 18-24. 3 were children of the youth clients.



Clients were left homeless after leaving domestic violence.



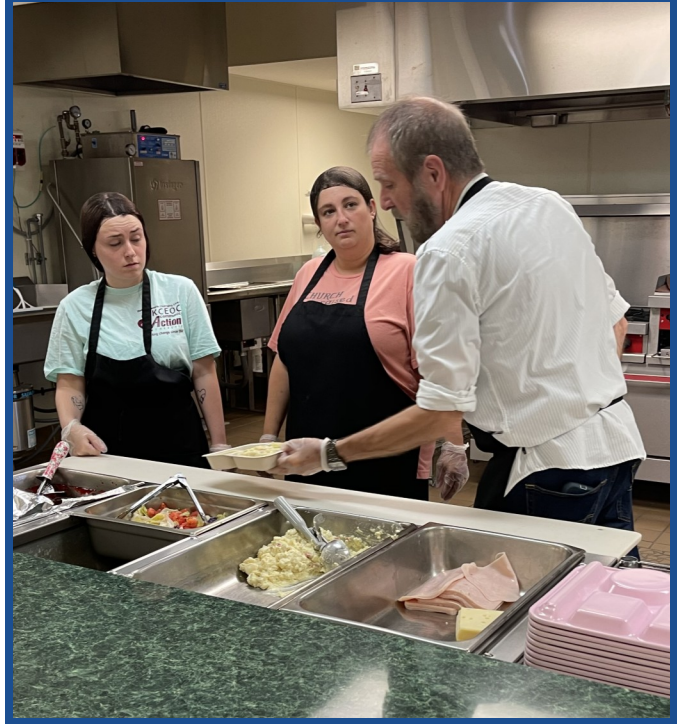
Pictured: Ellen Henson, Crisis Center Coordinator Teaching a life skills class to Ryan's Place Youth's.

Senior Services



Knox County Senior Center

Congregate Meals: 6,093 meals served
Home Delivered Meals: 6,577 meals served
Refrigerated Home Delivered Meals: 1,317
Homemaking Services: 1,564.5 hours
Personal Care Services: 278 hours
Chore Services: 119.5 hours
Nutrition Education: 684 Hours
Health Promotion: 54 Hours
Telephone Reassurance: As needed
Transportation: 253 trips



Daily Services: Monday through Friday (224 Service Days per year)

27 Congregate Meals clients served daily
16 Clients receiving home delivered refrigerated meals daily
30 Clients receiving Home Delivered Meals daily and weekends
27 Clients receiving Homemaking, Personal Care and Chore Services
2-3 Clients transported daily while the congregate program is operating

Senior Housing

26 unduplicated Seniors living at Sowders and Mixon Manor. Service Coordination activities provided included Advocacy, Benefits Coordination, Referrals, Assessments, Case Management and Monitoring In-Home Services.

Between both Properties, 187 unique and unduplicated services were coordinated with the 26 residents.

488 Total services delivered.

98 Total resident contacts made.





Associated Programs



577 Tax Returns Filed

VITA Tax Program:

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including people who make \$58,000 or less; persons with disabilities; and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

Summer Feeding Program:

KCEOC's Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. The USDA sponsored program works by providing meals throughout the summer. Food delivery sites are strategically placed where the optimal number of children can be served. KCEOC serves sites in Bell, Harlan, Knox, Laurel, and Whitley Counties. The meals served are nutritious, made fresh, and are free to children under 18.

At Risk Afterschool:

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program through the Child and Adult Care Feeding Programs (CACFP) provides children and teenagers the nutrition they need, and can draw them into constructive activities that are safe, fun, and filled with opportunities for learning. When school is out and parents are still at work, children need a safe place to be with their friends, with structured activities, supportive adults, and good nutrition.

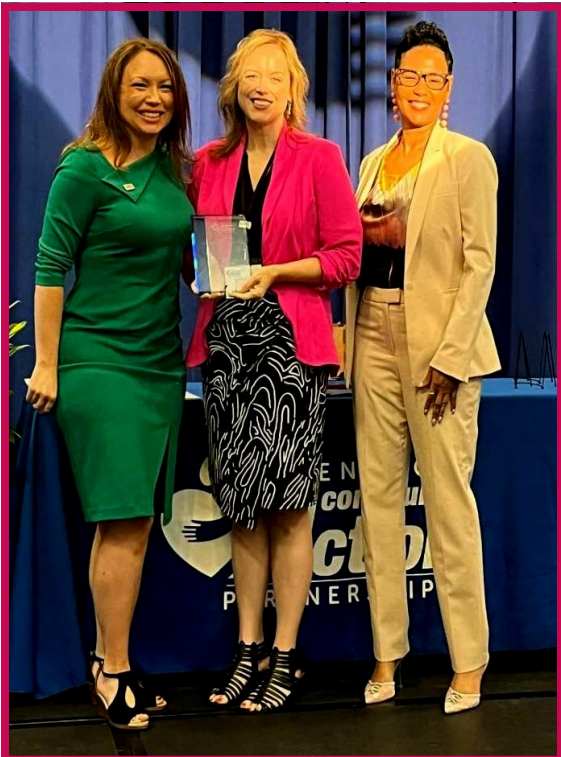
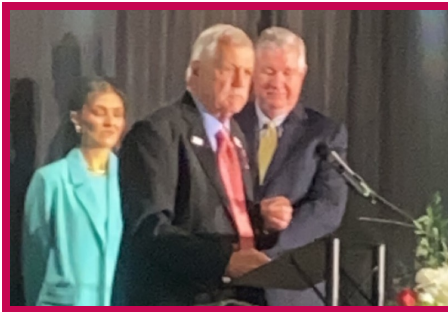


265,165 Meals Served





Year In Review



Year In Review





LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible low-income households meet their home heating and cooling needs. The program is divided into several components, Spring, Summer and Fall Subsidy and Summer Cooling and Winter Crisis. The programs are operated throughout the year with fall Subsidy operating from November till the end of December. Winter Crisis begins in January and operates until the end of March or funds are depleted.

The Spring Subsidy Program begins operating in April and ends in May.

LIHEAP

2024 LIHEAP Fall Subsidy: 1,574 households & 2,782 individuals served,
\$236,837.43 in benefits

2024 LIHEAP Winter Crisis: 2,754 households served, \$582,313.51 in benefits

2024 LIHEAP Spring Subsidy (Cooling): 1,212 served, \$168,741.00 in benefits

2024 LIHEAP Summer Subsidy: 1,389 served, \$252,713.00 in benefits

6,929 households served, \$1,240,604.94 in benefits.



Helping People. Changing Lives.



"Creating change since 1964"



Child Development

Head Start was born in 1965 as an initiative of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. As the name implies, it is designed to give underprivileged children a "head start" in school and in life. It has subsequently evolved into a comprehensive program for the whole family offering services in the area of social services education, parent involvement, health, nutrition, disabilities & transportation.



KCEOC Community Action Partnership was among the first Head Start providers in the nation and for almost six decades Head Start and KCEOC CAP have been improving the futures of children, families, and communities.

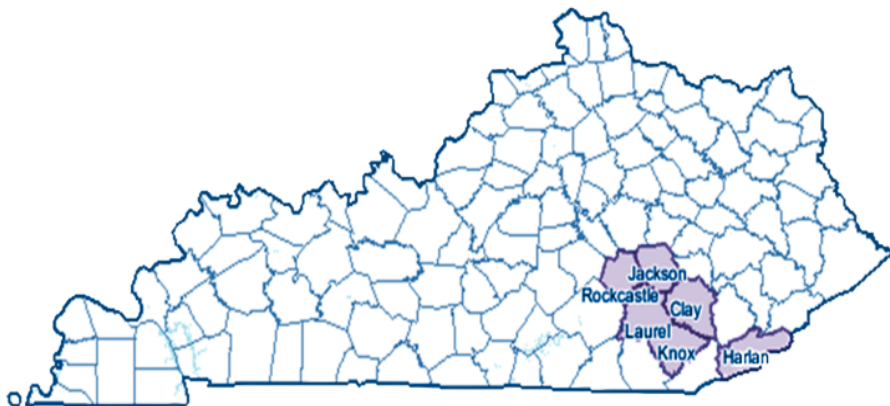
The KCEOC Child Development Program perceives that parents are the key people in a child's life. We are committed to include the parents in the Child Development Program to ensure that the gains made by the child are understood and built upon after the Head Start experience.



We recognize the significant impact of the learning process in the formative stages of the child's development. Our curriculum reflects the need for the integration of social, emotional, cognitive and physical experiences to bring about a greater degree of social competence in the child. These experiences can provide the child with the necessary mechanism to deal effectively with present environment and later responsibilities in school and life.

Total Children Served

1,169

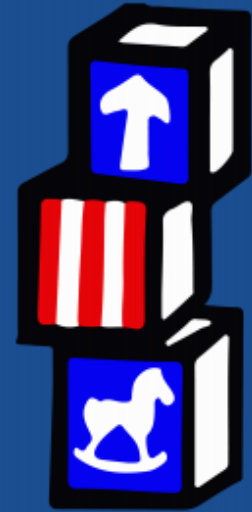


KCEOCs Child Development Programs operate in Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, and Rockcastle Counties.





Early Head Start



477

Children Enrolled in Early Head Start Programs

Families Served by Early Head Start Programs

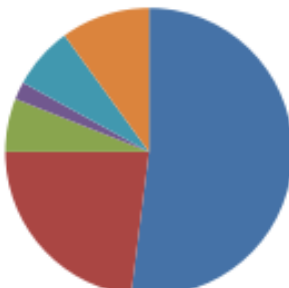
352

AGES



- Expectant Moms 31 (8%)
- Under 1 Year 124 (31%)
- 1 Year Olds 101 (25%)
- 2 Year Olds 117 (29%)
- 3 Year Olds 26 (7%)

ELIGIBILITY



- Below 100% (52%)
- Public Assistance (23%)
- Foster (6%)
- Homeless (2%)
- 100-130% (7%)
- Over Income (10%)





Head Start



692

Children Enrolled in Head Start Programs

Families Served by Head Start Programs

620

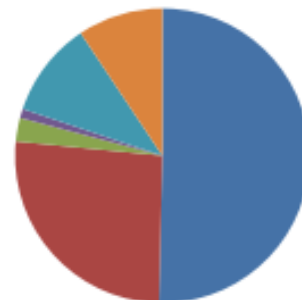


AGES



- 2 Year Olds
73 (11%)
- 3 year Olds
281 (40%)
- 4 Year Olds
341 (49%)

ELIGIBILITY



- Below 100%
(50%)
- Public Assistance
(26%)
- Foster (3%)
- Homeless (1%)
- 100-130% (11%)
- Over Income
(9%)



Weatherization Program



Completed Units

KCEOC's Weatherization Assistance Program provides assistance to 12 counties in Kentucky.

The program was created to reduce energy waste, lower utility costs and ensure the health and safety of low income residents.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded, in part, under contract with Kentucky Housing Corporation with funds from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eligibility for WAP is based on household income up to 200% of the current Poverty Income Guidelines.

Applications are assigned a point value. Priority points are given to elderly, disabled applicants and households with small children. Applicants are served in order from highest to lowest priority points. Required documents to apply for assistance are proof of current income, copies of social security cards for all household members, copy of deed/mobile home title, and prior 12 months utility consumption history.



Elyjah's Story

(Story Provided by EKCEP, edited by KCEOC)

Elyjah didn't want to wait until he was done with school to get into the workforce and land his first job. He took care of that goal before his senior year of high school, thanks to assistance he received at the Kentucky Career Center JobSight in Knox County.

Elyjah was 17 years old in the summer of 2022 and had just completed his junior year at Corbin High School. He already knew about the employment services available at JobSight through his brother, who had previously enrolled in the program. When his mother mentioned it, too, he decided to call the career center and immediately began working with James "Jimmy" Siler, a career advisor with the Knox County



JobSight, which is located within KCEOC Community Action Partnership's office in Barbourville. Siler helped Lay prepare for his job search and determine what services might be available.

"He helped me signed up for the program and gave me a lot of options," Elyjah said.

A partner in the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network, KCEOC provides Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in Knox County under contract with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP). Those services include programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who may need assistance honing skills such as résumé building or networking with local employers, or who need assistance being retrained or going to school.

Elyjah was eligible for in-school youth services through JobSight, which meant his career advisor could enroll him in the program, gauge his career interest and aptitude, and begin work to match him with local employment opportunities that would best suit him. He landed his first job at the summer food service program at KCEOC Community Action Partnership, which helps fill nutritional gaps for at-risk children in Knox, Laurel, and Harlan Counties. Elyjah noted that job was a great opportunity for a 17 year old to gain to get some real-world work experience.

"That was probably one of my best opportunities," he explained. "That was my first real job, and working with the kids was fun. I really enjoyed doing it."

Fast forward to his senior year at Corbin, and Elyjah continued meeting with Siler to discuss different options, which eventually led him to an opportunity working part-time as a circulation clerk at the public library in Corbin, first after school and then picking up more hours during the summer as he prepared for college.

Continued on the next page.

Elyjah's Story

(Continued)

"The best part of the day going to the library after school and working, meeting the many different patrons." Elyjah explained.

Elyjah credits the camaraderie he experienced working with KCEOC's summer food service program and the Corbin Library set the stage for his current trajectory in college, pursuing a degree in education.

"I already had an emotional attachment to people, and I think that's what ultimately led me to want to become a teacher, not only that, but I had a lot of influences in my life," he added.

"I'm a first-generation college student; I'm actually a first-generation high school graduate."

Elyjah earned a full scholarship and is currently enrolled at University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, KY maintaining a fulltime class schedule while continuing to work part-time at the library.

"I'm getting to work about the same hours I did during the summer," he said. "The people here are really nice. John Baker is a great boss. It's been a great experience."

Gaining work experience in a real-world setting has been valuable for him, Elyjah added, that working through the KCEOC JobSight made it easy to connect with that early opportunity.

"Jimmy Siler played an important role in getting me a job he did everything, I needed that I didn't know I needed," Elyjah said. "It's like all I had to do was show up, and help make my own plan in life, and then follow through with the plan!"

"For anyone else in a similar position looking to land their first job, even if you are as young as 17, I would recommend starting your job search at your local Kentucky Career Center JobSight and see what options are available. It's a good experience, It's so easy to get on a clear path, and they try to fit it to exactly what benefits you and what you want to do."

EKCEP, a nonprofit workforce development agency headquartered in Hazard, Ky., serves the citizens of 23 Appalachian coalfield counties. The agency provides an array of workforce development services and operates the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network of workforce centers, which provide access to more than a dozen state and federal programs that offer employment and training assistance for job seekers and employers all under one roof. Learn more about EKCEP at <http://www.ekcep.org>, <http://www.jobsight.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/ekcep>.





KY Career Center Jobsight (WIOA)



KCEOC Kentucky Career Center Jobsight helps people find jobs and upgrade their skills to qualify for better jobs.

Jobsight services adults looking for work, workers of any age who have been dislocated from their jobs through closings or layoffs, and economically disadvantaged young people who need help to get education, training, and a good start into the working world.

Total Clients Served



Unemployed Adults or Dislocated Workers who obtained employment.

Unemployed Adults or Dislocated Workers who obtained new credentials.



Clients received supported services to assist with employment/training.

Clients who participated in a work-based learning opportunity or training.



Clients that had measurable skill increases.

Kentucky Career Center
Career Training Employer

americanjobcenter

EASTERN KENTUCKY
EKCEP
CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, INC.

Helping People. Changing Lives.
KCEOC community Action
PARTNERSHIP
"Creating change since 1964"

Mary's Story

(Story Provided by EKCEP)

Mary's journey from a high school student working her first job at a local dental office to achieving her goal of becoming a registered nurse is a testament to both the power of perseverance and the support available for Eastern Kentuckians through the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network. Mary's path toward a fulfilling career began during her high school years. After enrolling in the youth service program through the career center at KCEOC Community Action Partnership in Knox County, she gained experience in the working world, eventually landing a work experience job at a local dental office. However, she aspired to be something more meaningful.

"I was tired of jobs that were going nowhere. I really wanted a career that was fulfilling," Mary said. Mary's desire for a meaningful career led her back to KCEOC Community Action Partnership's career center. KCEOC CAP provides

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in Knox County under contract with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP). These services include programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth between 18 and 24 who need assistance with résumé building, networking, re-training, or education.

Mary quickly connected again with KCEOC Career Advisor Jimmy Siler, who helped her determine what support was available to reach her goal of becoming a nurse. Siler connected her with resources that included help covering transportation costs, books, clothing for clinical rotations, and even a stethoscope. That support proved invaluable.

"Honestly, without my career advisor and the help of KCEOC, I don't think I would be a registered nurse today," she said.

Hubbard's high school work experience helped her discover her passion for the medical field. She credits her decision to enroll in services at KCEOC for helping her get started and providing the support she needed to succeed. **Continued on the next page...**



Mary's Story

(Continued)



Everyone at that office was incredibly welcoming, and I didn't feel any judgment when I told them I had nothing and that I needed help," she said.

Fast forward to July 2024 and Mary's hard work has paid off and she is working as a registered nurse at Baptist Health, and she loves her job. She encourages others seeking a new career path who may also need a boost in their careers to pursue their dreams with the help of KCEOC and the Kentucky Career Center.

"I absolutely recommend the Kentucky Career Center's services," Mary said. "They have helped me so much. If I was interested in something I knew nothing about, they could answer my questions or point me in the right direction. They were incredibly helpful."



If you're interested in applying for career and employment services, visit jobsight.org/locations to find your nearest Kentucky Career Center JobSight and contact a career advisor to get

EKCEP, a nonprofit workforce development agency headquartered in Hazard, Ky., serves the citizens of 23 Appalachian coalfield counties. The agency provides an array of workforce development services and operates the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network of workforce centers, which provide access to more than a dozen state and federal programs that offer employment and training assistance for job seekers and employers all under one roof.

Learn more at <http://www.ekcep.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/ekcep>.

James J. Davenport CSBG Scholarship

Each year, KCEOC Community Action Partnership presents up to four recipients with a scholarship, funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) education fund.

These scholarships are designed to provide continued education to recipients that illustrate need by meeting eligibility guidelines and show promise of success indicated by GPA/GED scores and enrollment in a higher educational/vocational institution.



Pictured KCEOC VP/COO Jennifer Smith with 2024 Scholarship Winners



Scholarships Awarded in 2024

Total Scholarships Granted since 2012

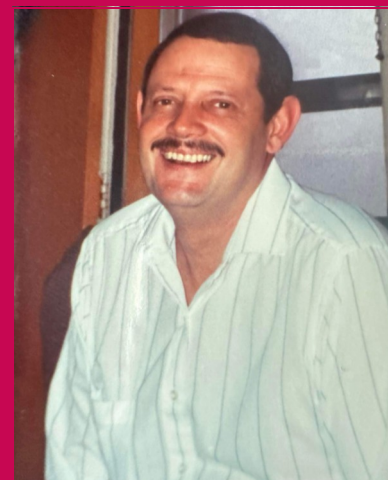


This CSBG scholarship was named in honor of a Community Action hero and one of KCEOC's very own—the late James Joseph Davenport.

Affectionately known to most as “Jim.”

During his 26-year career at KCEOC, Jim was instrumental in saving funding in Washington, D.C. that was the prime source for KCEOC and Community Action Agencies across the country.

This year marks the 11th year anniversary of the scholarship's dedication to KCEOC's Jim Davenport.





KCEOC Volunteers



1,166 Volunteers

201,169 Total Volunteer Hours

Every day KCEOC Community Action Partnership works the front lines to lend people a hand up, but did you know we also receive a daily helping hand from our many volunteers?

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

~Elizabeth Andrew

Volunteering with KCEOC can be as simple as organizing collections of house-hold items or food to donate to the homeless, helping someone move out of the shelter, serving/delivering meals, making wellness calls for the senior center, or you can even volunteer in one of our childhood development classrooms.

Volunteering can be as big or small of a commitment as you choose.

KCEOC accepts volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels.

**Value of Volunteer Time
\$5,739,351.57**





Individual Donors

Thank You



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 HEATHER SWICK
 CAROLYN THOMPSON
 TANNER WELLS
 RACHEL WILLIAMS
 HORTENSE WILSON
 TAMMY WOTIER
 SHEILA WYATT



Pictured:
Dr Tyler Carter
2024
Philanthropist of the Year

“I support KCEOC because of their dedication to helping people in our community through various programs. God has blessed my family and I want to give back to an organization I trust is blessing others!”



Corporate Donors

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Jackson Warewashing
Southeast KY
Community & Technical College
Southeast KY Chamber of Commerce
Whayne Supply
Smith's Family Pharmacy
Ledford's Auto Sales
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Bluegrass Care Navigators
Locust Grove Baptist Church
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Billy's One Stop
First United Methodist Church
Betersource Insurance Company
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Smiddy Distribution Inc.
Pat Hauser Attorney at Law
West Knox Pharmacy (pictured)

Phil Brown Insurance
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GFWC-KY Barbourville Women's Study
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Knox County Fiscal Court
Knox County Judge:
Executive Mike Mitchell
Patrick Hauser, Attorney at Law
JBK Roofing Inc
Aetna
Cintas
KOWA
PNC Bank
Forcht Bank



Thank
YOU





Give to KCEOC

Within these pages, I hope you found renewed hope in what people can achieve when they are given an opportunity and a helping hand. You have read inspiring stories of real people within our community who have persevered against overwhelming odds and transformed their lives for the better. You've encountered statistics that reveal the potential futures available when vital programs are accessible. At KCEOC, we firmly believe that positive change is not just possible; it can be realized through the provision of a supportive hand up!

As we navigate a world still filled with anxiety and uncertainty, we share your concerns. We worry deeply about the individuals we serve—those facing unmet needs in our community, the small businesses striving to stay afloat, the families fighting to provide for their loved ones, and above all, we are concerned about how we can best extend our support to them.

We take pride in the resilience of our agency and our dedicated staff, who have skillfully managed the ongoing crises of recent years. Thanks to the implementation of enhanced safety measures, we were able to sustain our operations during the pandemic, overcome the challenges posed by natural disasters, and provide critical assistance to our neighbors in their times of need. Our commitment to serving our community remains steadfast. We have not only expanded our assistance programs but are also actively seeking innovative initiatives to better meet the diverse needs of those we serve. However, the pressing demand for additional funding is evident, as each day presents new challenges for individuals striving to break the cycle of poverty. With the inflation rate soaring by approximately 40% since 2020, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, even working families are struggling with food and housing insecurity.

The needs of our community have not diminished, and many families are seeking our assistance for the very first time. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic about the future, with KCEOC holding ambitious plans aimed at driving meaningful change. We invite you to join us in our efforts and to support the vital fight against poverty. Together, we can pave the way for brighter days ahead, we hope you'll choose to join in the action and support us in the fight against poverty.

Please consider donating to KCEOC.

There is no amount so small that it is not useful, no amount too small to be appreciated, no amount too small to make a difference!

KCEOC Community Action Partnership is a federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit agency, as such all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Ways to Give:

By Mail

KCEOC
Community Action Partnership
PO Box 490
Barbourville KY 40906
Attn: Jessi Montgomery,
Chief Development Officer

Online

Donate with PayPal, Credit or
Debit Card

www.KCEOC.org/donate

In Person

KCEOC
Community Action Partnership
5448 North US HWY 25E
Suite A
Gray KY 40734





KCEOC Locations

Knox County

KCEOC Main Office
5448 N US Hwy 25E
Suite A
Gray, KY 40734
606-546-3152

Barbourville City School
140 School Street
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-546-3120

Cannon Center
56 Malibu Road
Cannon, KY 40923
606-546-7511

Dovie Thompson
205 Second Street
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-545-0301

Flat Lick K-4
110 KY 3085
Flat Lick, KY 40935
606-542-4712

Girdler Center
5452 North KY 11
Girdler, KY 40943
606-546-4859

Henson Hollow
188 Henson Hollow Rd
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-546-5045

Knox Early Head Start
320 High Street
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-545-9076

Lynn Camp School
366 North KY 830
Corbin, KY 40701
606-523-1814

Perry Building
320 High Street
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-545-9076

Rosenwald I & II
955 Whitesburg Hollow
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-546-6783

Ryan's Place
Youth Crisis Center
462 Court Square
Barbourville KY
606-595-3785

Saint Gregory
355 Sycamore Street
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-546-5494

WIOA
464 Court Square
Barbourville, KY 40906
606-546-2639

Harlan County

Gray's Knob
84 Morgan Drive
Grays Knob, KY 40972
606-573-6543

Tri-Cities
119 Center Street
Cumberland, KY 40823
606-589-5522

Verda
56 School House Rd
Evarts, KY 40828
606-837-3314

Laurel County
LCCDC
1234 South KY Hwy 421 N
Corbin, KY 40701
606-528-9531

Clay County
Big Creek
523 N Hwy 66
Oneida, KY 40972
606-598-2812

Island Creek
187 Head Start Lane
Manchester, KY 40962
606-548-3659

Oneida Elementary
435 Newfound Road
Oneida, KY 40972
606-847-4212

Paces Creek
290 East Couch Road
Manchester, KY 40962
606-598-6096

Jackson County

Jackson County EHS
1426 US Hwy 421 N
McKee, KY 40447
606-287-5236

Rockcastle County
Rockcastle County EHS
50 Tevis Street
Mount Vernon, KY 40456
606-256-8022



General Information

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5448 N US Hwy 25E
Gray KY 40734

Mailing Address:
PO Box 490
Barbourville KY 40906

Phone: 606-546-3152

Webpage: www.kceoc.org

Facebook: KCEOC
Community Action
Partnership or @KCEOC1

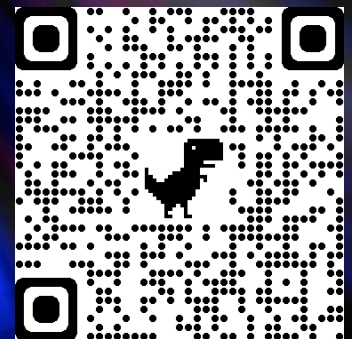
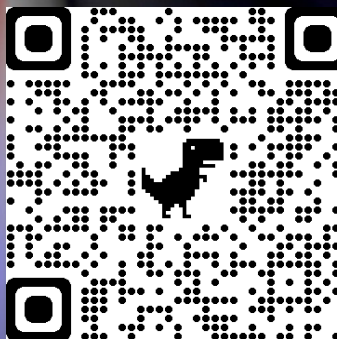
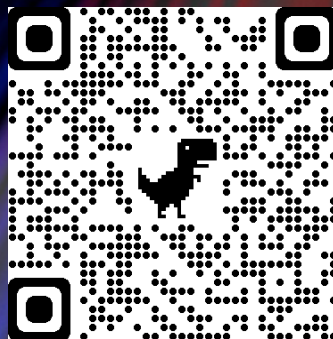
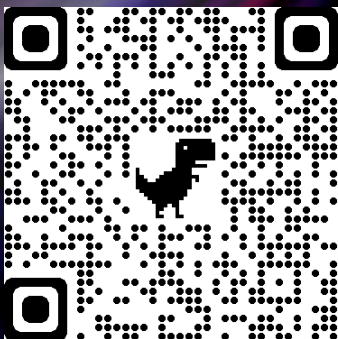
Twitter: KCEOC Community
Action Partnership or
@KCEOC



The Community Action Promise

Community Action changes people's lives,
embodies the spirit of hope,
improves communities and makes
America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community
and we are dedicated to helping people help
themselves and each other.



***Hold your Smartphone camera to the QR codes to be directed to the sites.

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