



Congressional District 5:

Seven of Iowa's eighteen community action agencies provide services to low income children and families in Congressional District One:

- ❖ **Upper Des Moines Opportunity**
- ❖ **West Central Development Corporation**
- ❖ **MATURA Action Corporation**
- ❖ **Community Action of Siouxland**
- ❖ **New Opportunities**
- ❖ **South Central Iowa Community Action Program**
- ❖ **Mid-Sioux Opportunity**

All seven of these community action agencies received additional Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Included in this packet is a summary of the programs and services each agency plans to implement to better serve children and families in the agency service area. Contact information for each agency executive director is also included. Feel free to contact a director or myself if you have any questions regarding these programs and this information.

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West Central Development Corporation

West Central Development Corporation has seven major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Family Development Specialist

- the agency will hire a full-time 1.0 FTE staff person to work directly with families overcoming barriers that hinder their employment or participation in higher education opportunities

2) WIC Nurse

- the agency will hire a part-time .75 FTE nurse to complete lead testing and hemoglobin's on low-income children for the agency's WIC program

3) Senior Employment Training

- the agency will hire a full-time 1.0 FTE assistant director for the agency sponsored senior aides program
- the agency will also use funds to employ at least ten low-income seniors in a work experience program at a time and as these individuals find employment we will be able to put new participants on the program; these enrollees will be hired to work at least 20 hours .50 FTE per week

4) Food Pantry

- the agency will use funds to increase the supply of food items and hygiene products in its food pantries in order to provide more assistance and serve more clients needing assistance

5) Client Assistance

- the agency will assist clients in need of financial assistance such as: car repair, appliances, child care, education, medical expenses, rent, mortgage, utility bills, etc.

6) Preschools

- the agency will partner with a school district to open two preschool classrooms for 32 low-income children and their families
- the agency will hire 2 full-time 1.0 FTE associate teachers for these two classrooms

7) IT/Manager

- the agency will hire a part-time .875 FTE IT manager whose primary duties will focus on increasing the agency's website capacity to include on-line applications for agency programs and enhance current agency program computer network systems as they relate to client services

West Central Development Corporation

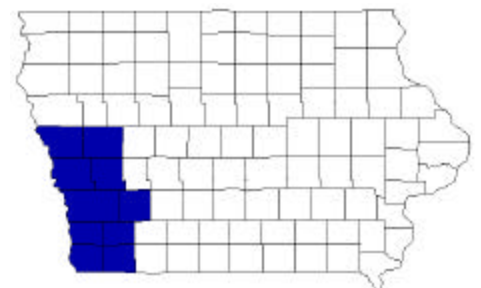
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MATURA Action Corporation

MATURA Action Corporation has four major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Youth Employment

- the agency will assist in providing employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth
- this agency initiative will also provide basic skills training to the employed youth

2) Family Development

- the agency will provide emergency financial assistance to the unemployed families in its family development program

3) Job Program

- the agency will provide emergency financial assistance to the clients in its Promise Jobs (employment) program

4) Outreach Services

- the agency will expand the hours of the agency outreach staff that will be working part-time on the agency's Youth Employment initiative

MATURA Action Corporation

Jerry Smith, Executive Director

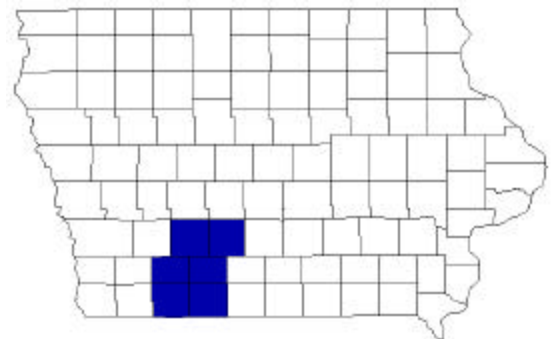
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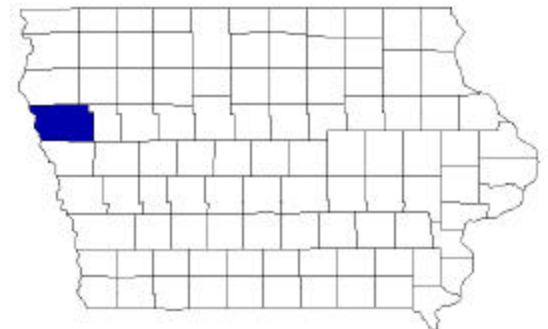


Community Action Agency of Siouxland

Community Action Agency of Siouxland has 13 major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

- 1) **Utility Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial assistance (utilities) to households up to 200% of poverty
- 2) **Rent and Mortgage Assistance**
 - the agency will provide rent and mortgage assistance to households from 150-200% of poverty
- 3) **Client Assistance**
 - the agency will assist clients with the costs of paying for beds and birth certificates
- 4) **Employment Related Expenses**
 - the agency will provide financial support to clients for employment expenses
- 5) **Family Development**
 - the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide case management services to clients with the goal of assisting them in obtaining or retaining employment and housing
- 6) **Client Education Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial support (books, tuition, GED materials, testing, etc.) to clients for education expenses
- 7) **Employee Training**
 - to meet Federal and State program requirements the agency will use funds to pay for employee education costs
- 8) **Case Management (Women Aware)**
 - the agency will contract with Women Aware to provide case management services to low-income women to address their emotional and economic issues
- 9) **Financial Staff**
 - the agency will hire a full-time fiscal person to assist the agency's financial staff with the agency's new ARRA initiatives
- 10) **Outreach Services**
 - the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide additional agency outreach services
- 11) **Childhood Education (Shared Visions)**
 - the agency will continue to provide education services to at-risk children
- 12) **Wrap Around Child Care**
 - the agency will use funds in order to extend this program's service hours
- 13) **Preschool Classrooms**
 - the agency will use funds to provide all day service in these pre-school classrooms

Community Action Agency of Siouxland
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New Opportunities, Inc.

New Opportunities, Inc. has 12 major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

- 1) **Utility Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial assistance (utilities) to households from 150-200% of poverty
- 2) **Rent and Mortgage Assistance**
 - the agency will provide rent and mortgage assistance to households from 150-200% of poverty
- 3) **Employment Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial support (car repair, gasoline, interview and work clothing, etc.) to clients searching for employment or are newly employed
- 4) **Mentoring Program**
 - the agency will provide mentoring services to clients dealing with substance abuse issues
- 5) **Health Program**
 - the agency will maintain dental hygienists hours for providing dental services to clients (women and children)
- 6) **Outreach Services**
 - the agency will fund outreach office expenses in order to keep offices open and staffed for 40 hours a week
- 7) **Education Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial support (books, tuition, GED materials, testing, etc.) to clients for education expenses
- 8) **Financial Staff**
 - the agency will hire a part-time fiscal person to assist the agency's financial staff with the agency's new ARRA initiatives
- 9) **Family Financial Educator**
 - the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide financial literacy services to clients
- 10) **Mental Health Counselor**
 - the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide mental health evaluations and assessments to clients
- 11) **Grant Writer**
 - the agency will hire a part-time grant writer to pursue new sources of funding to fill needed agency gaps in client services
- 12) **Painting Houses**
 - the agency will coordinate a one day event to paint houses for clients
 - funds will be used for paint supplies

New Opportunities, Inc.

Chad Jensen, CEO

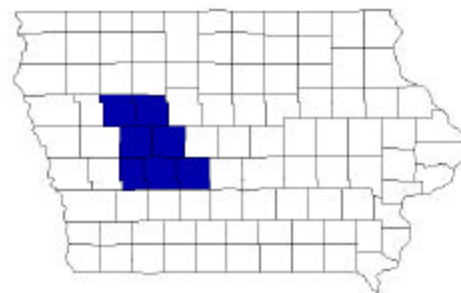
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South Central Iowa Community Action Program

South Central Iowa Community Action Program has nine major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Utility Assistance

- the agency will provide financial assistance (utilities) for households from 150-200% of poverty

2) Rent Assistance

- the agency will provide rent assistance for clients facing eviction

3) Food Pantry

- the agency will use funds to increase the supply of food items and personal hygiene products in its food pantries in order to provide more assistance and serve more clients needing assistance
- the agency will purchase refrigeration unit for pantry in Clarke County

4) Youth Employment

- the agency will administer a work experience program for low-income youth

5) Garden Program

- the agency will implement a garden program for clients

6) Website

- the agency will have a website developed for providing clients with agency information

7) Childhood Education (Back to School)

- the agency will provide essential school supplies to low-income children

8) Staff Development

- the agency will provide training opportunities to staff

9) Equipment & Technology

- the agency will purchase new computer systems for outreach and CSBG administrative staff

South Central Iowa Community Action Program

Jim Smith, Executive Director

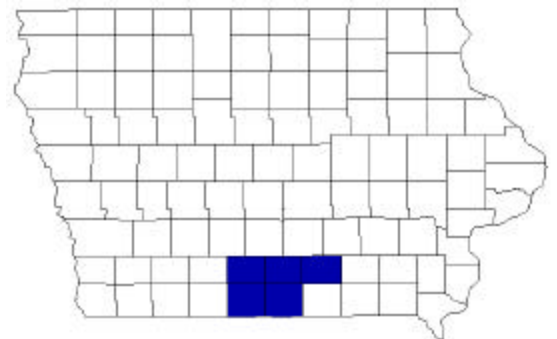
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Mid-Sioux Opportunity

Mid-Sioux Opportunity has 10 major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Family Development

- the agency will provide financial management, continuing education, and family support services to families
 - the agency may be increasing its commitment to FaDSS through ARRA funds due to state budget cuts

2) Childhood Education (Shared Visions)

- the agency will provide education services to low-income children
 - State budget cuts may dictate a larger commitment

3) Child Care Resource and Referral

- the agency will maintain a home child care consultant that will continue to provide technical assistance to child care providers
 - the agency has funded a part time position due to Empowerment cuts

4) Interpreter Services

- the agency will hire a full-time Spanish Interpreter to provide interpreting, translation services, and outreach
 - this service has been contracted for and is working well

5) Transportation

- the agency will purchase and distribute transportation vouchers for clients needing to accessing medical care and other needed services
 - 2 agreements are in place to assist with rides in 6 communities

6) Mental Health

- the agency will contract with a local mental health center to provide needed therapy to clients with mental health issues
 - This service has been contracted for and is working well.

7) Housing Rehabilitation

- the agency will use funds to compliment its weatherization efforts
 - this project will no longer be pursued due to limits on housing rehab (an amendment will be done within 30 to 45 days)

8) Emergency Food

- the agency will purchase food and hygiene items for clients in need
 - this project is being developed at this time

9) ARRA Monitoring and Over Site Coordinator

- the agency will have a part-time staff person dedicated to overseeing the successful implementation of the agency's ARRA projects, and will respond to reporting and accountability requirements of the agency's ARRA projects (Jackie Schlessler is the agency's ARRA coordinator)

10) Outreach Services

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person and expand the hours of current staff in order to provide additional agency outreach services
 - these staffing changes have been implemented

Mid-Sioux Opportunity

Dick Sievers, Executive Director

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