



Iowa ARRA – CSBG Plans Snapshot

Eighteen community action agencies provide services to low income children and families in Iowa:

1. **Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation**
2. **Operation: New View Community Action Agency**
3. **Operation Threshold**
4. **Hawkeye Area Community Action Program**
5. **Community Action of Eastern Iowa**
6. **North Iowa Community Action Organization**
7. **Upper Des Moines Opportunity**
8. **West Central Development Corporation**
9. **MATURA Action Corporation**
10. **Community Action of Siouxland**
11. **New Opportunities**
12. **South Central Iowa Community Action Program**
13. **Mid-Sioux Opportunity**
14. **Red Rock Area Community Action Program**
15. **City of Des Moines Community Development Department**
16. **Mid-Iowa Community Action**
17. **Southern Iowa Economic Development Association**
18. **Community Action of Southeast Iowa**

All 18 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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Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation has seven major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Direct Assistance (Housing)

- the agency will provide rent and mortgage assistance to clients up to 200% of poverty guidelines to prevent eviction or foreclosure

2) Direct Assistance (Utilities)

- the agency will provide financial assistance (utilities) to clients up to 200% of poverty guidelines to prevent loss of utilities

3) Summer Youth Employment

- the agency will use funds to provide additional employment and work experience for low-income youth, from households up to 200% of poverty guidelines, through WIA programs within the agency service area

4) Homeownership Counseling

- the agency will train staff and provide one-on-one budget and homeownership counseling to clients

5) Family Development

- the agency will replace funding lost through state budget cuts to ensure services continue in its Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program

6) Outreach Services

- the agency will hire one additional full-time outreach staff person and increase the hours of current staff in order to keep the agency outreach offices staffed for 40 hours a week to meet the increased demand for services

7) Low-Income Dental Services

- Provide funding for dental work and/or transportation to dental clinics for individuals at or below 200% of poverty guidelines

Northeast Iowa Community Action

Mary Ann Humpal, Executive Director

PO Box 487, 305 Montgomery Street

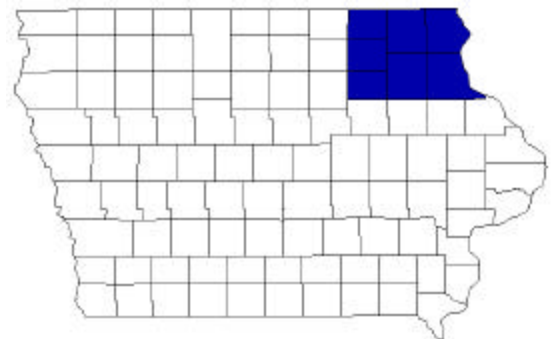
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OPERATION: NEW VIEW COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Operation: New View Community Action Agency has six major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Emergency Assistance

- the agency will provide financial assistance to address client emergency utility needs, rent, medical expenses, food, shelter, transportation, etc.

2) Short Term Job Training Scholarships

- the agency will use funds for short-term job training costs and supportive services for clients seeking employment

3) Short Term Job Training Internships

- the agency will use funds for direct job training and job-readiness internships
- funds will be used for client wages

4) Financial Literacy

- the agency will provide financial literacy training (budgeting, credit, predatory lending, asset building, etc.) to clients

5) Outreach Services

- the agency will hire two part-time staff persons to provide additional agency outreach services

6) ARRA Project Coordinator

- the agency will hire a full-time position dedicated to supervising the implementation of the agency's ARRA projects, and will respond to reporting and accountability requirements of the agency's ARRA projects

**Operation: New View
Community Action Agency**

Tom Stovall, Executive Director

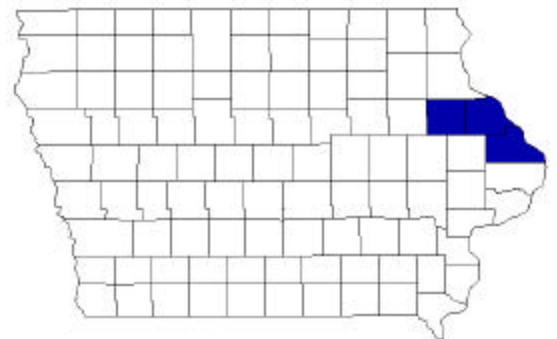
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Operation Threshold

Operation Threshold has ten major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Family Development

- the agency provides training on employment skills, life skills, financial literacy, and family development to clients
- this agency initiative will have a youth development component for children, and will provide a limited amount of direct assistance for client employment expenses

2) Employment Training (Career Ladders Program Expansion)

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to assist clients with obtaining training and other assistance to aid them in acquiring employment skills

3) Financial Literacy

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide financial literacy counseling to clients
- this agency initiative will focus on foreclosure prevention and credit counseling

4) Spanish Interpreter

- the agency will hire a full-time Spanish Interpreter to provide interpreting services and outreach

5) Website Upgrade

- the agency will upgrade its website for providing clients with agency information

6) Housing Counselor

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide foreclosure prevention counseling

7) Asset Development and Retention fund

- the agency will operate a fund to assist individuals/families with the following expenses:
 - **NANO Grants** (up to \$4,999) to persons earning up to 200% of poverty
 - those receiving these grants will be required to have participated, or be participating in an approved Entrepreneurship program
 - **Mortgage foreclosure prevention grants** (up to \$3,000)
 - **Refund Anticipation Alternative**
 - to qualify for this program, applicants must have had their taxes done by the Operation Threshold VITA program
 - **Payday Rescue Grants** (up to \$500) –
 - these will assist households as an alternative to Payday Loans and will be used to help households get out of existing payday loan situations
 - **Work Related Grants**
 - grants will be made available to persons needing to purchase work-related items prior to starting work, such as steel-toed shoes
 - **Education Grants**
 - grants will be made available to persons wishing to take classes aimed at improving their employment skills, such as a welding class. Funds will focus on those programs resulting in Certificates of Completion, but will not be limited to such programming
 - **Transportation Grants**
 - transportation is often a barrier to employment. We hope to partner with local financial institutions to provide clients with some matching funds toward the purchase a car

8) Crisis Assistance Expansion

- the agency will hire one full-time intake worker to meet the increased demand for assistance

9) Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Co-funding

- the agency will co-fund the existing HPRP program allowing it to keep one full-time case manager for an additional 10 months

10) FaDSS Co-funding

- the agency will co-fund its FaDSS program, allowing the program to maintain current case loads through FY2010. Co-funding the program will also save one part-time job (0.5 FTE)

Operation Threshold

Barb Grant, Executive Director

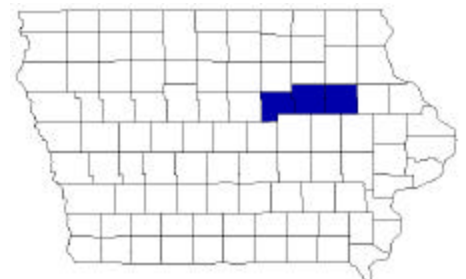
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Hawkeye Area Community Action Program

Hawkeye Area Community Action Program has seven major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Financial Literacy Counselor

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to provide financial literacy trainings, workshops, and materials to clients with the goal of helping them maintain a financially stable housing situation
- the agency is going to partner with Horizons – A Family Service Alliance in implementing a financial literacy program

2) Family Development

- the agency will hire 6 full-time staff persons to provide case management services to clients with the goal of assisting them with the barriers preventing them from obtaining or retaining employment

3) Community Development

- the agency will hire 6 full-time staff persons to assist communities and faith based organization with high unemployment and under employment populations to create solutions and expand opportunities for employment to low-income individuals
- this agency initiative will also provide funds for start up community development grants

4) Youth Development

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to create opportunities, provide work experience, and provide mentoring for low-income children whose families have been impacted by the recession
- this agency initiative will also provide youth development scholarships and activity fees

5) Youth Program Advocate

- agency will hire a full-time staff person that specializes in employment skill development for school-aged children
- the staff person will also work with unemployed youth parents in obtaining/retaining employment

6) Recruitment and Job Skills Specialist

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to work and train the agency's employees and clients on workplace job skills for obtaining and retaining employment

7) ARRA Reporting and Compliance Coordinator

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person for supervising the agency's ARRA activities, and tracking and reporting all ARRA initiatives

Hawkeye Area Community Action Program

Jane Drapeaux, Executive Director

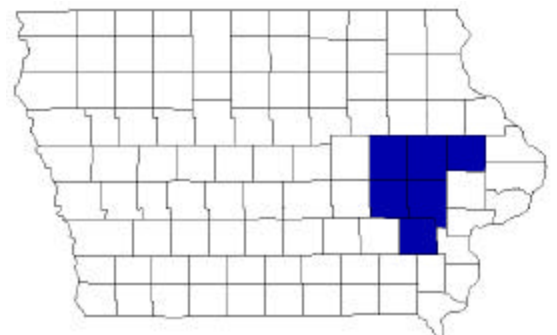
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Community Action of Eastern Iowa

Community Action of Eastern Iowa has 15 major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

The agency will hire a full-time staff person to supervise the short term training programs listed below.

- 1) **Short Term Child Care Training and Internships**
 - the agency will assist and prepare students for employment in the child care field
 - this agency initiative pays the students for time in training and interning
- 2) **Short Term Training Programs and Internships**
 - the agency will collaborate with local education providers to provide short term job training classes to clients seeking employment
 - this agency initiative will offer paid internships after completing training
- 3) **Short Term Training Scholarships**
 - the agency will fund short term training scholarships (fees, books, tuition, and other associated costs) to assist clients seeking employment
- 4) **Youth Investment**
 - the agency will offer youth scholarships for low-income children
 - funds will be used for accessing organized youth activities
- 5) **Dental Services**
 - the agency will provide access to dental care for low-income families and individuals
- 6) **Energy Affordability EITC Leveraging Program**
 - the agency will provide financial assistance to qualifying households that use a portion of their Earned Income Tax Credit refund check for a payment to their power company. The agency will match a payment up to \$500 on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- 7) **Head Start Model Classroom**
 - the agency will pilot a model Head Start classroom
 - the Head Start classroom will have a flexible curriculum, coordinated teaching time, and have a dedicated Family Development Specialist available to work with families (the Family Development Specialist will be a new full-time position dedicated to this initiative)
 - this agency initiative includes family enrichment activities
- 8) **Family Groups**
 - the agency will offer high quality family groups for Head Start and family development program families
 - family groups are opportunities for families to have social interaction and participate in family activities with other families
 - an educational component will be included with all family group meetings
- 9) **Financial Literacy**
 - the agency will provide financial literacy training to agency staff
 - this training will provide agency staff with the skills to assist families with financial and budget counseling issues
 - this initiative will be incorporated in the agency's Short Term Training Program initiative
- 10) **Parenting Curriculum**
 - the agency will purchase a parenting curriculum which can be used and administered by all agency programs
- 11) **Emergency Assistance**
 - the agency will provide financial assistance to clients in crisis situations
- 12) **Weatherization Kits**
 - the agency will purchase and distribute weatherization kits
- 13) **Family Development**
 - the agency will provide financial assistance to clients in the family development program
- 14) **Website Developer**
 - the agency will hire a web developer to make the agency's website more user friendly for clients, and develop and implement online registration for agency programs
- 15) **ARRA Coordinator**
 - the agency will have a full-time position that will be dedicated to supervising, and responding to reporting and accountability requirements of the agency's ARRA projects

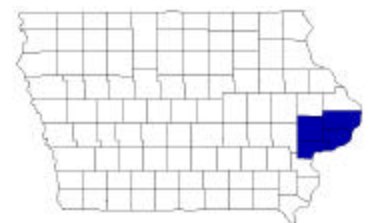
Community Action of Eastern Iowa

Roger Pavey, Executive Director

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North Iowa Community Action Organization

North Iowa Community Action Organization has eight major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Emergency Assistance

- the agency will provide financial assistance primarily in the form of rent, mortgage and utility payments on behalf of clients in emergency and crisis situations
- funds will also be used to purchase winter coats for children

2) Family Development (FaDSS)

- the agency will continue to provide case management services to clients enrolled in FaDSS with the goal of assisting them in obtaining or retaining employment and successfully transitioning from welfare to employment using CSBG ARRA funds to adjust for losses in FaDSS funding and preventing the need to reduce families served or staff numbers at this time

3) Family Development (Community Partners)

- the agency will continue to maintain staff persons for providing case management services to clients in the agency's Community Partners Self-Sufficiency Development and Home Visitation Parent Education Program to resolve chronic financial and/or parenting challenges or barriers to self-sufficiency and positive parenting by using CSBG ARRA funds to adjust for losses in local funding and preventing the need to reduce families served or staff numbers at this time

4) Dental Assistance

- the agency will provide dental services (treatments) to children without dental coverage through the Child Health Program

5) Maternal Health

- the agency will maintain a nurse for providing health services to pregnant women

6) Long Term Recovery Aide

- the agency dedicated a staff person for several months (through the first of September 09) to provide assistance to the local long term recovery coalition following the resignation of their Case Advocate until someone new could be hired by LSI to continue providing flood recovery services to flood victims and working with the community flood recovery coalition to deal with unmet needs

7) Head Start

- the agency will co-fund the agency's Head Start transportation services by supporting four bus aide positions in the community serving the largest number of children

8) Outreach Services

- the agency will expand the hours of current outreach staff in order to provide additional agency outreach services
- the agency will employ three additional full-time outreach staff as family advocates to ensure that all county Outreach offices are staffed with expanded office hours and that emergency services are more accessible to community residents

North Iowa Community Action

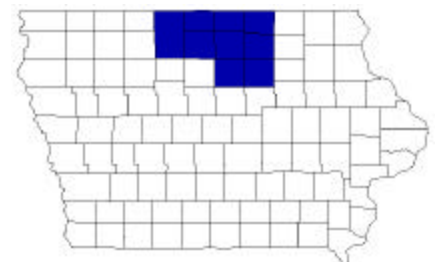
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Red Rock Community Action Program

Red Rock Community Action Program has three major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

The agency will hire and train 5 full-time staff persons to provide case management services for the employment and homeless prevention initiatives listed below:

1) Employment Program (Back to Work)

- the agency will provide case management services addressing job counseling, skills training, education, and job placement opportunities to unemployed clients
- the program will also provide participants with rent or tuition assistance

2) Homeless Prevention

- the agency will provide case management services addressing budgeting, employment, and affordable housing opportunities to clients

3) Financial Staff

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to assist the financial staff with the agency's new ARRA initiatives

Red Rock Area Community Action

Bill Peppmeier, Executive Director

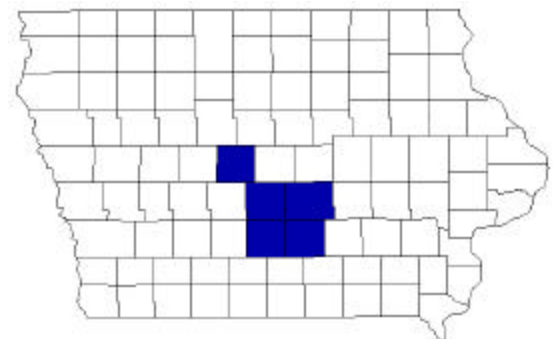
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West Central Development Corporation

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

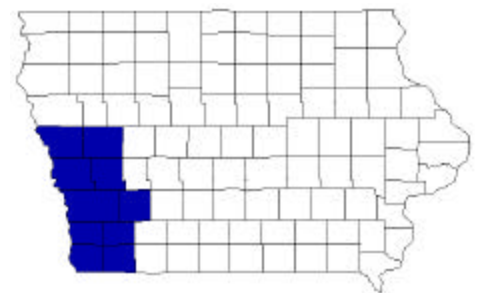
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MATURA Action Corporation

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

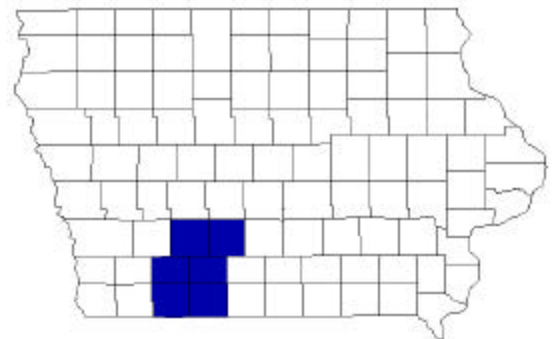
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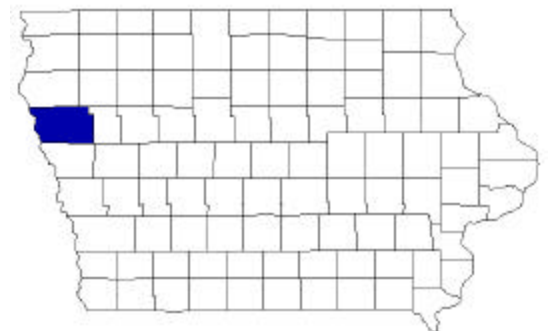


Community Action Agency of Siouxland

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

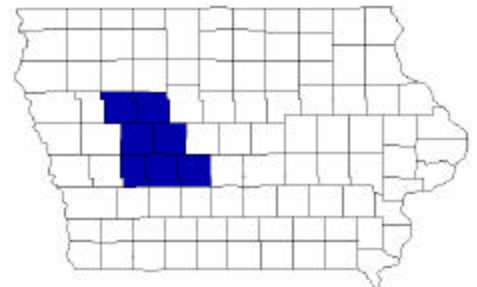
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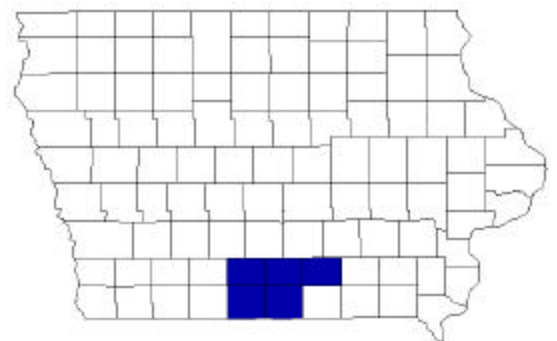


South Central Iowa Community Action Program

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

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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

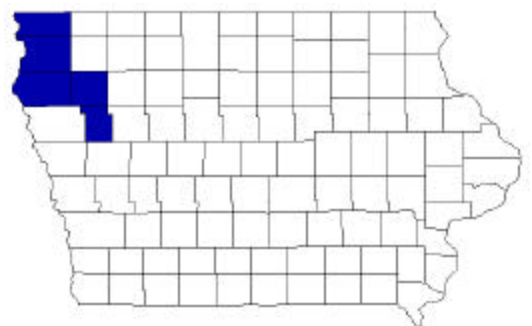
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Email: dsievers@midsioux.org

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City of Des Moines Community Development Department

City of Des Moines Community Development Department has six major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Income Management

- the agency will establish and provide a three month financial education and assistance program designed to financially stabilize families
- the agency will hire additional staff to provide these services

2) Youth Activity

- the agency will provide financial assistance to low-income children accessing community organized youth activities

3) Emergency Assistance

- the agency will provide financial assistance to families in need to obtain items such as beds, auto repair, eye glasses, or dental expenses

4) Personal Pantry Assistance

- the agency will expand its personal pantries in order to provide more assistance and serve more families

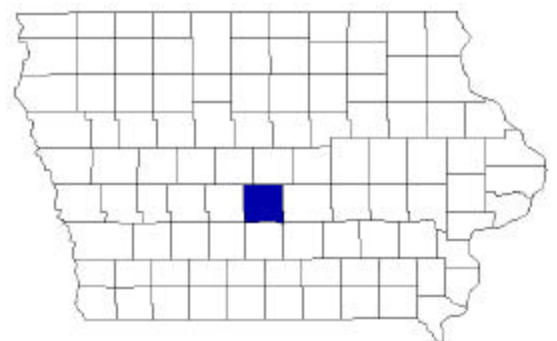
5) Tree Removal

- the agency will use funds to remove high risk, hazardous, and trees cited for removal from the property of low-income homeowners. A replacement tree will be planted on each property

6) Employment

- the agency will pay the wages of low-income individuals to work on a woodland restoration project
- this agency initiative is a partnership with another city department

**City of Des Moines
Community Development Department**
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Mid-Iowa Community Action

Mid-Iowa Community Action has six major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Financial Literacy (Family Financial Fitness)

- the agency will hire and train 5 full-time staff persons to assist clients with creating a comprehensive plan for family financial stabilization and improvement
- this agency initiative will also address clients facing eviction and foreclosure issues
- add 5 FTE's to the agency staff

2) Employment (Job Coaching and Support)

- the agency will hire a full-time staff person to increase support and skill building services for unemployed clients
- the agency will continue to provide support through the initial months of employment to make sure barriers do not prevent success on the job
- add 1 FTE to the agency staff

3) Education (Start Sooner, Stay Longer, Keep Learning)

- the agency will hire a full-time coordinator to develop a neighborhood place-based approach to achieving high levels of early childhood language and literacy development and assuring all 4 year olds in this low-income neighborhood are linked to a pre-k experience (this is programming based on the successes of the Harlem Children's Zone)
- the agency will create a super-coalition devoted to specific outcomes for all children 0 to 5 in this neighborhood
- add 1 FTE to the agency staff

4) Dental Clinic

- the agency will provide additional dental care services for dislocated workers and their family members

5) Providing transportation to Head Start for students at five Head Start centers in rural areas

- increase attendance for some of the most at risk children in the program
- decrease stressors on families faced with multiple competing priorities for time and transportation dollars
- increase FTE's associated with transportation programming from approximately 2 to approximately 4

6) Allowing FaDSS program to continue to serve the current caseload of families despite state funding cutbacks

- sustain the number of vulnerable FIP recipient families receiving FaDSS services
- sustain the intensity of the interventions provided
- maintain the approximately 1.4 FTE's that would otherwise be lost to the program through state cuts

Mid-Iowa Community Action

Arlene McAtee, Executive Director

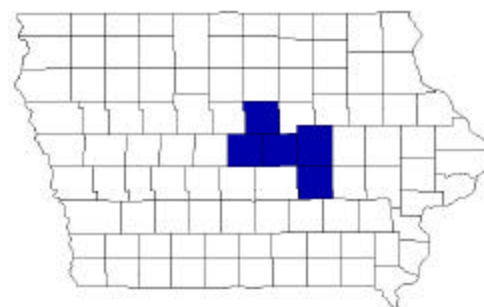
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Southern Iowa Economic Development Association

Southern Iowa Economic Development Association has six major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Emergency Assistance

- the agency will use funds to address client emergency needs such as: rent, utilities, car maintenance, child care, etc

2) Parent Education (NEST Program)

- the agency will retain a part-time staff person to provide ongoing parent education to expectant mothers and parents with young children

3) Child Care Educator

- the agency will co-fund a child care educator position
- the child care educator is responsible for providing training for new child care providers and providing additional training for existing providers

4) Outreach Services

- the agency will fund outreach office expenses in order to keep offices open and staffed for 40 hours a week

5) Financial Staff

- the agency will increase the hours of an agency accounting clerk to assist the agency's financial staff with the agency's new ARRA initiatives

6) FaDSS

- the agency will co-fund five FaDSS positions in order to keep the program staffed at full capacity.

Southern Iowa Economic Development Association

Phyllis Runnells, Executive Director

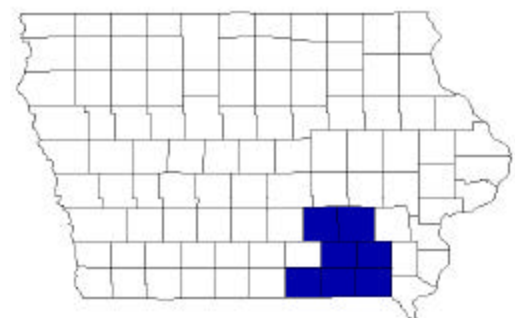
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Community Action of Southeast Iowa

Community Action of Southeast Iowa has six major initiatives for the ARRA CSBG funds:

1) Summer Youth Program

- the agency contracted with Southeastern Community College/ Workforce Investment Act (SCC/WIA) to operate a Summer Youth Program (the contract provides funds for twenty-two youth to be served)
- youth in the program are paid at least minimum wage up to 40 hours a week while on the job or in training and receive job readiness training, leadership training and are offered a variety of training opportunities

2) Financial Literacy Program

- the agency hired a Financial Literacy Specialist to coordinate trainings throughout the service area for clients consisting of a series of meetings and individual financial counseling
- the training incorporates an incentive to families who complete the training by providing funds which are to be deposited in a savings account

3) Enhanced Family Development Services

- in order to provide more in -depth family development services the agency hired three additional Family Development Specialists to work with a caseload of families that would benefit from these services to become self-sufficient
- the Specialists will help the family identify their goals and provide employment counseling
- the families will also be involved in the Financial Literacy component of the plan and develop workable budgets

4) Nutrition & Food Pantry

- CSBG ARRA funds are being used to enhance the provision of food available through the food pantries (a freezer was purchased for a center to enable frozen meat to be provided)
- some funds will be used to supplement the donated food with nutritious meats, fruits and vegetables
- there will also be a nutrition education component to provide nutritious foods along with training by a nutritionist (families participating in the nutrition training will earn a voucher to purchase a box of food from the SHARE food program)
- information will also be introduced on gardening in small spaces as a means of providing an on-going food source for the household

5) Medical Third Party Assistance

- Third Party Assistance is provided to families to assist with medical expenses that can not be covered by any other source
- the focus is on Dental services to alleviate pain, the purchase of glasses and the purchase of prescriptions to meet an immediate need

6) Third Party Assistance

- funds are available to help families resolve financial crisis and to enable a family to obtain or retain employment
- if funds from other sources are not available, funds are also used for emergency rent, utilities and deposits (families who receive this assistance are referred to the Financial Literacy Program to help them resolve the issues that brought about the financial crisis)

Community Action of Southeast Iowa

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