



Economic Opportunity Agency



2021 Annual Report

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Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc (EOA) is a community action agency dedicated to helping low-income households in the region succeed. EOA was established in 1965 and our mission is “empowering children and families to learn, connect, and succeed.”

EOA administers a range of programs designed to address the roots of poverty through a strategic multi-generational approach, connecting low-income families with the tools to achieve financial stability and break the cycle of poverty.

EOA has a vision of Northwest Arkansas as a resilient community where children and families experiencing adverse circumstances have the opportunity to thrive, become self-sufficient, and live an improved quality of life.

EOA is a proud partner agency of:



Letter from the Executive Director

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2021 Annual Report. We are excited to share with you the status of EOA programs and services, as well as the financial health of our Agency. The work that we do to assist and support children and families in Northwest Arkansas would not be possible without the collective efforts of our leadership, staff, donors, partners and volunteers.

During 2021, we saw an increasing need for emergency assistance, as individuals and families were faced with a multitude of challenges inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful that EOA was able to provide relief to families in the form of assistance with food, energy, rent, and water utilities. Providing this type of support helped literally thousands of individuals and families avoid utility disconnection, eviction, and hunger.

Our Children's Services programs continued to serve children and families, even though COVID-19 case rates in our community remained high. Through diligent safety protocols and practices, such as masking and health screenings, EOA Head Start Centers and our SafeCare Program continued to operate during the Pandemic, which is a testament to our dedicated staff and program leadership.

Center Directors, teachers, and support staff were resilient as we worked through a series of temporary classroom and center closures to mitigate further risks of exposure to COVID-19. Parents were accommodating throughout the entire process and continued to engage in the learning process with their children at home.

Our Board of Directors provided the steady, committed governance we needed. We were intentionally responsive during a time of stress and uncertainty for individuals and families facing difficult circumstances. We are pleased with the outcome, as well as the lessons we learned along the way. We also stayed true to our mission of "empowering children and families to learn, connect, and succeed."

Thank you for your interest, support and service.



Delia Anderson Farmer, CCAP

Executive Director



2021 Financial Report

Economic Opportunity Agency Revenue		Economic Opportunity Agency Expenses	
Head Start/Early Head Start	4,224,689	Salaries	4,216,033
Head Start/EHS CARES Funds	47,973	Benefits/Taxes	843,637
HS/EHS American Recovery Funds	121,308	Travel	30,795
USDA School Nutrition	179,774	Occupancy	697,495
USDA Commodities	142,951	Supplies	628,594
Child Care Development Fund	60,652	Consultants	219,402
Extended Day Child Care	99,682	T&TA	116,781
CSBG	314,501	Program Costs	2,344,506
CSBG CARES	205,600	Equipment	127,025
Local Donations	495,103	Other	388,805
Other Revenue	53,788	Total Expenses	9,613,073
Arkansas Fresh Start	163,026	<div>EOA Economic Impact</div> <p>With 145 full-time employees in 2021, EOA not only provided services to improve the community, but also contributed to the local economy by providing quality employment for local residents. Approximately 85% of EOA's annual funds stay in the NWA community, contributing over \$7.3 million to the local economy each year.</p>	
CDBG Fresh Start	214,259		
SafeCare	337,668		
VOCA	392,939		
LIHEAP American Recovery Funds	435,300		
LIHEAP	1,141,452		
LIHEAP CARES	121,320		
IDA	46,567		
In-Kind	923,049		
United Way	27,009		
Corporate Fund	102,133		
Total Revenue	9,850,743		

Annual Independent Financial Audit Results

According to an independent audit report by EGP, PLLC dated April 15, 2022, EOA of Washington County, Inc. had no findings or deficiencies noted for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2021.

EOA relies on public and private funding sources to administer its programs. All programs aim to address the roots of poverty and empower low-income families to succeed in Northwest Arkansas.



The number of unduplicated families
the EOA LIHEAP Program
assisted in 2021:

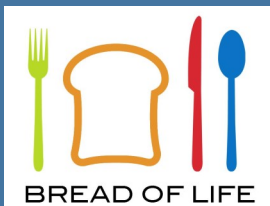
3,064

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy by providing assistance to eligible low-income households for heating and cooling energy costs. In 2021, LIHEAP provided **\$1,139,127** in assistance.

167,705

Pounds of food distributed in 2021

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distributes United States Department of Agriculture donated foods (commodities) to organizations in order to provide nutritious foods to low-income households. Commodities help support healthy, independent living for vulnerable populations. To store and distribute these foods, EOA has had a long-time partnership with the Bread of Life in Springdale and LifeSource in Fayetteville.



In 2021, this program served 11,688 households and distributed 167,705 pounds of food.

The Emergency Food
Assistance Program
(TEFAP)



EOA Rental Assistance Program

In FY 2021, EOA offered rental assistance for individuals and families in Washington County, utilizing CSBG CARES Act funding and financial support provided by private donors. EOA also provided rental assistance through the Fresh Start Housing Stabilization Program. A total of **644** families received rental assistance to prevent homelessness, with expenditures totaling **\$505,982**.

EOA Water Utilities Assistance Program

Lack of access to water is considered a health and safety risk, especially during a public health crisis.

In 2021, EOA directed a portion of Community Services Block Grant CARES Act funds toward water utility assistance for income-eligible households, which helped **307** households avoid water disconnection, with expenditures totaling **\$28,409**.



The EOA Children's Services program is federally funded through Head Start and Early Head Start grant awards and designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing infants and preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, nutritional, and psychological needs. EOA Children's Services conducts a community assessment of Washington County, Arkansas every five years. The community assessment considers the current deficits and needs within the community to better serve the area. The assessment highlights strengths of the program and the service area, as well as challenges and areas of need. Our most recent community assessment concluded that increased income-inequality and scarcity of resources for children in the area are prevalent issues that should be addressed

thoughtfully and effectively. Investing in the young children of this community enhances their ability to thrive and succeed, which in turn, positively impacts the community at large. Awareness and collaboration are key ingredients in successfully pursuing this mission.

8 Child Care Centers in Washington County

Ellen Smith, Fayetteville

Ivory M. Conley, Fayetteville

North Street, Fayetteville

Old Farmington Road, Fayetteville

Pat Walker Center for Children, Springdale

Oak Avenue, Springdale

Springdale Airport, Springdale

West Washington County, Lincoln



**1,402 Followers on the
EOA Head Start Facebook page,
11% Increase in 2021!**



17,800 In-Kind Hours Dedicated to Family Engagement Initiatives in 2021!

Initiatives Include:

Reading at Home, Home Learning Logs,
Volunteering in the Classroom,
Family Learning Parties, Policy Council
Meetings, and COVID Vaccine Campaign

**6,675 books were
distributed to start or
enhance home
libraries**

Family Services Approach

Research shows that strong parent/child interactions promote school readiness and life-long learning. Our first goal anchors family engagement work around the fundamental core premise: we must build partnerships with **all families** to enhance parent/child interactions.

Building on program development and research done through a partnership with the Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child's Frontiers of Innovation network, *Shine on, Families* is a researched-based curriculum which utilizes a PEER mantra- Pause, Engage, Encourage, and Reflect- to promote family interactions that build executive function, a foundational skill for school readiness. *Shine on, Families* extends our classroom curriculum into the home and encourages parents as their child's first teacher.

The curriculum guides families through daily learning activities that are fun, interactive, and easily integrated into home routines. This creates a shared language between staff and families, which strengthens child outcomes. *Shine on, Families* strategies are also informed by research on adult learning, with a strong focus on providing multiple venues for modeling, coaching, practice, and reflection.

348 families received specialized family services in 2021:

Crisis Intervention * Housing Assistance * Mental Health Services * ESL Training * Adult
Education Assistance * Job Training * Substance Abuse Prevention
* Substance Abuse Treatment * Child Abuse & Neglect Services
* Health Education * Parenting Education

**67,809 nutritious meals were served in 2021,
reducing food insecurity.**

EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start Revenue		
Federal Grant		3,411,820
USDA		149,213
Local Donations		1,333
In-Kind		633,931
Total Revenue		4,196,297
EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	2,232,720	2,090,954
Benefits	530,738	489,605
Travel	19,375	891
Occupancy	265,377	297,695
Supplies	170,117	166,042
Consultants	133,391	126,057
Food Unreimbursed	67,000	34,950
Food Reimbursed	250,000	149,212
T&TA	57,506	81,641
Other	42,010	106,958
Equipment	0	17,239
In-Kind Expenses	584,227	633,931
Total Expenditures	4,352,461	4,195,175

EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start American Recovery Act Funds Revenue		
Federal Grant		121,308
Total Revenue		121,308
EOA Early Head Start Expansion American Recovery Act Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	362,146	58,973
Benefits	64,642	10,188
Equipment	50,880	49,970
Other	15,000	2,177
Total Expenditures	492,668	121,308

EOA Early Head Start Expansion Revenue		
Federal Grant		812,869
USDA		30,562
Local Donations		26,668
In-Kind		177,361
Total Revenue		1,047,460
EOA Early Head Start Expansion Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	569,882	494,647
Benefits	168,720	106,392
Travel	1,200	103
Occupancy	74,010	77,147
Supplies	42,070	52,368
Consultants	29,950	30,743
Food Unreimbursed	5,405	7,175
Food Reimbursed	33,000	30,562
T&TA	20,844	29,955
Other	14,197	15,967
Equipment	0	25,039
In-Kind Expenses	150,570	177,361
Total Expenditures	1,109,848	1,047,459



EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start CARES - Revenue		
Federal Grant		24,735
Total Revenue		24,735
EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start CARES - Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Consumable Supplies	49,213	24,735
Total Expenditures	49,213	24,735

Preparing Children for Kindergarten:

Our program's curriculum model is built on a foundation of *The Creative Curriculum*. Our classroom teaching teams use Shine Early Learning's Curriculum Plans to implement units around a set of universally meaningful themes. Weekly lesson plans and supplemental materials provide strong support for intentional teaching, meaningful small-group activities, and engaging read-alouds.

In this model, *The Creative Curriculum* continues to serve as the foundation, providing the philosophical orientation to how children learn, and guiding teachers in setting up the learning environment.

The Creative Curriculum approach is developmentally appropriate and supports children's learning in all domains included in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Frameworks: Ages Birth to Five, as well as Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 months. In addition, curriculum plans are designed and can be modified to support our program's School Readiness Goals, encompassing social-emotional, approaches to learning & play, language & literacy, math & science, social studies, the arts, and physical development.



2021 Head Start/Early Head Start		
Total number of children served	140	198
Total number of families served	127	171
Average monthly enrollment	67%	75%
Percentage of categorical/income eligible children served	91%	91%
Percentage of children that received medical exams	95%	94%
Percentage of children that received dental exams	91%	54%



EOA Children's House was founded in 1978 as a program providing services and care to children under the age of five who have been abused or neglected. EOA Children's House is one of the nation's largest long-term centers for early childhood abuse prevention and treatment and the only center of its kind in Arkansas.



CHILDREN WE SERVED IN 2021:

8 children were in Foster Care

27 children were homeless

47 children had an identified disability

47 children were referred from child welfare agencies and Juvenile Court



Children who have been abused or neglected typically have delayed development of approximately 18-months, depending on the severity of their trauma.

The goal at EOA Children's House is to work with each child to achieve age-appropriate developmental milestones so that when they enter Kindergarten, they are at the same developmental level as their peers.

EOA staff work with community partners to assess for therapy needs, including special education, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy services.



**2,632 followers on the
Children's House Facebook Page
3% increase in 2021!**





The Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program is the nation's core program for delivering energy efficiency services to low-income households. Computerized energy audits use advanced diagnostic technology to determine the energy-conservation needs of a house.

EOA partners with Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council for Weatherization services in Washington County.
144 homes were weatherized in 2021.

#IMPACTNWA

AWARDED

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY PROGRAM

Marshalllese IDA Program as a Pathway to Family Self-Sufficiency

The Individual Development Account Program (IDA) is designed to help low-income households save toward an eligible purchase that will help increase financial independence and self-sufficiency.

EOA is part of a collaborative initiative with the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Coalition of Marshalllese, and United Way of Northwest Arkansas to establish Individual Development Accounts for 25 Marshalllese families. The IDA accounts are for families to save for eligible purchases. Families received a 2:1 match for funds saved, up to \$1,500. The IDA Program also has a financial literacy component to help participants learn about budgeting, money management, and other topics designed to increase economic stability.

HEALTH INITIATIVES

EOA promotes health and wellness throughout the year through several health initiatives. By creating a culture of health and wellness among the staff, our employees not only feel better about themselves, but it can also lower agency costs such as insurance, workers' compensation claims, and reduce absenteeism.

In 2021, 71 staff members participated in a friendly "Start Walking Now" competition, completing over 28.6 million steps during the 3-month event.

SafeCare Arkansas is a weekly home visiting program for families of children ages birth to five. The goal of SafeCare Arkansas is to help parents prevent and identify common childhood illnesses or injuries, determine when a child should go to the doctor, aide parents in keeping their homes safe, and increase positive interactions with their child. This program helps to prevent the removal of children from the home and re-occurrence of child maltreatment.

In 2021, the following referrals were made from DHS:

- Benton County—102
- Carroll County—25
- Madison County—23
- Washington County—156

Of those referred, 268 adults and 247 children received services in 2021.

Thank you to our 2021 major donors

Individuals:

Mary Bryant	Tara Harshaw	Donald & Kathryn Pederson
David & Kathy Carlock	Daniel & Amber Holtz	Larry Perkin
Rick & Belinda Carpenter	Charles Horne	Leslie Perryman
Teresa Carter	Laura Hughes-Dauenhauer	Reid & Sara Phillips
Vernon & Paulette Collins	Dick & Donna Huie	Scott & Allison Pope
Michael & Angela Colly	Jane Hunt	Kathleen Randall
Ginger Crippen	Edward Irving	Jim & Beverly Rouse
Michele Crippen	Barbara Jaquish	Robert & Bonnie Jones
Jason & Megan Cuddy	Lenny & Susan Johnson	Tim & Debra Self
Roger Cunningham	Brian & Faye Jones	Richard Shipman
Mark & Rhonda Ellis	Hazel Keller	Zuzanna Sitek
Mark & Janell Elser	Les & Sandra Kimbrough	James & Susan Spencer
Delia Anderson Farmer	Tom & Jill King	Shannon Starr-Arcana
Bill Faustine	Michael & Vicki Lanier	Dennis Stropes
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Miller & Peggy Ford	Mandy Macke	Stan Szmyd
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Joye Gartside	Luke Mitchell	John & Kitten Weiss
David & Jane Gearhart	Kathy Nutt	Linda Wray
Meri Haynes	Derrik & Julie Olsen	Ann Marie Ziegler
Cynthia Harp	Carolyn Park	Mike & Gracie Ziegler
	Brett & Julie Parker	

Thank you to our 2021 major donors

Corporations & Foundations:

AAA Business Systems	Impressions Online Boutique
Arkansas Children's Hospital	Hight-Jackson & Associates
Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration/IGS	JH Computer Group
C.A.R.E. Initiative	Junior League of Northwest Arkansas
The Carpenter Foundation	PepsiCo
Chambers Bank	Riviana Foods
Enterprise Foundation	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Fred J. Brunner Foundation	U.S. Department Human Services
First United Presbyterian Church	United Way of Northwest Arkansas
Garlinghouse Foundation	Vanguard Charitable
Willard & Pat Walker Charitable Foundation	

In-Kind Support:

Child Care Aware	MCQ Enterprises Corp
City of Fayetteville	Ozark Guidance
City of Lincoln	Springdale Public Schools
Fayetteville Public Schools	Tri Cycle Farms
JH Computer Group	Washington County
The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church	



Economic Opportunity Agency

*"Empowering children and families to
learn, connect, and succeed."*

CONTACT US

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EOA Executive Team:

Delia Anderson Farmer, EOA Executive Director

Anna Cannon, Director of Children's Services

Megan Cuddy, Director of Advancement

Casey Parker, Director of Operations

Julie Parker, Director of Finance

CONNECT WITH US

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

@eachildrenshousenwa

@eoawashingtoncountyheadstart



Follow us on
Instagram

@economic_opportunity_agency

We updated our website in 2021!

Check it out:

www.eoawc.org