



Economic Opportunity Agency

ANNUAL REPORT



2025

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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

We are pleased to share the 2025 EOA Annual Report which highlights program achievements and demonstrates our continued commitment to addressing conditions of poverty at its core. You also will find a summary of public, private, and in-kind resources that reflect our dedication to advancement and responsible stewardship.

The Agency's largest program and cornerstone of our mission is the Head Start program. Since launching our first program in the summer of 1966, EOA Head Start/Early Head Start has continued to provide high-quality early learning and family engagement, preparing children for kindergarten and beyond. The EOA Children's House Program is also a vital part of our mission, providing a safe and supportive environment for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. For 47 years, the EOA Children's House Program has helped children heal from trauma, overcome developmental challenges, and build a strong foundation for the future.

The EOA Step Up Economic Stability Program continues to assist individuals and families working toward self-sufficiency. Through case management, financial coaching, rental assistance, and referrals, participants are able to overcome barriers and achieve progress toward improved economic stability.

Our Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program remains a critical resource for vulnerable households facing seasonal heating and cooling costs. Assistance provided through this program helps protect the health and safety of individuals and families, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and households with children.

During the past year, EOA made the strategic decision to transfer administration of the USDA commodities emergency food assistance program to a regional food bank partner with greater capacity. This transition allows EOA to remain focused on core services while ensuring food assistance continued for individuals and families in need.

The impact reflected in this report is made possible by the dedication of our Board of Directors, Policy Council, leadership team, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your continued support strengthens our ability to serve and respond to existing and emerging needs. Together, we remain committed to our mission of "Empowering children and families to learn, connect, and succeed."

As always, thank you for your interest, support, and service.



Delia Anderson, CCAP
Executive Director



2025 Financial Report

Economic Opportunity Agency Revenue	
Head Start/Early Head Start	4,034,053
Head Start Expansion Grant	840,285
HS/EHS Response & Relief Support	177,939
USDA School Nutrition	359,708
USDA Commodities	185,337
Extended Day Child Care	268,229
CSBG	336,622
HS/EHS Stabilization Grant	7,518
Local Donations	318,732
Other Revenue	39,943
Step-Up	75,000
VOCA	186,254
LIHEAP	440,035
LIHEAP Supplemental Funds	863,045
In-Kind	1,391,902
United Way	1,256
Total Revenue	9,525,858

Economic Opportunity Agency Expenses	
Salaries	4,739,270
Benefits/Taxes	807,634
Travel	73,293
Occupancy	816,440
Supplies	602,926
Consultants	278,217
T&TA	67,344
Program Costs	1,833,037
Equipment	62,007
Other	360,411
Total Expenses	9,640,579



EOA Economic Impact

With **138** full-time employees in 2025, 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 **\$8 million** to the local economy each year.

Annual Independent Financial Audit Results

According to an independent audit report by EGP, PLLC dated February 9, 2026, EOA of Washington County, Inc. had no findings or deficiencies noted for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025.

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 2025:

4,603

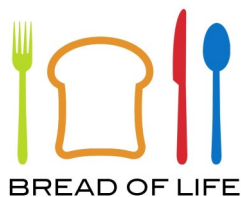
The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is crucial for helping low-income households manage their energy costs and improve their living conditions.

It provides financial assistance for heating and cooling bills, emergency energy assistance, and weatherization services, helping to reduce energy burdens and improve health and safety.

In 2025, LIHEAP provided **\$1,306,736** in assistance.

7,229 cases of food distributed in 2025

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.



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)





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 in 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.

7 Child Care Centers in Washington County

Ellen Smith, Fayetteville

Ivory M. Conley, Fayetteville

Old Farmington Road, Fayetteville

Pat Walker Center for Children, Springdale

Oak Avenue, Springdale

Springdale Airport, Springdale

West Washington County, Lincoln

23,809 In-Kind Hours Dedicated to Family Engagement Initiatives in 2025!

Initiatives Include:

Reading at Home, Fall & Spring Reading Races, Home Learning Logs, Family Learning Parties, Family Days, Policy Council Meetings, Parenting Classes, and Volunteering in the Classroom.

4,038 books were distributed to start or enhance home libraries



1,808 Followers on the EOA Head Start Facebook page, 5% Increase in 2025!



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.

341 families received specialized family services in 2025:

- 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

132,244 nutritious meals were served in 2025, reducing food insecurity.

EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start Revenue		
Federal Grant		4,074,053
USDA		298,558
Local Donations		4,775
In-Kind		1,069,097
Total Revenue		5,446,483
EOA Head Start/ Early Head Start Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	2,489,681	2,663,087
Benefits	581,406	534,691
Travel	37,350	44,939
Occupancy	244,877	226,307
Supplies	165,577	166,938
Consultants	179,770	130,404
Food Unreimbursed	70,000	27,291
Food Reimbursed	332,000	298,558
T&TA	57,515	50,600
Other	227,877	190,351
In-Kind	1,008,513	1,069,097
Total Expenditures	5,394,566	5,402,263

EOA Early Head Start Expansion Revenue		
Federal Grant		1,046,572
USDA		58,205
Local Donations		3,847
In-Kind		261,699
Total Revenue		1,370,323
EOA Early Head Start Expansion Expenditures		
	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	672,753	737,050
Benefits	147,212	136,089
Travel	4,564	6,753
Occupancy	75,823	46,069
Supplies	52,430	40,548
Consultants	52,430	26,784
Food Unreimbursed	6,077	14,744
Food Reimbursed	0	58,205
T&TA	20,844	16,744
Other	16,478	21,816
In-Kind	261,656	261,699
Total Expenditures	1,310,267	1,366,476



2024 Head Start and Early Head Start		
Total number of children served	207	296
Total number of families served	183	260
Average monthly enrollment	171	191
Percentage of categorical/income eligible children served	92%	94%
Percentage of children that received medical exams	95%	89%
Percentage of children that received dental exams	90%	79%

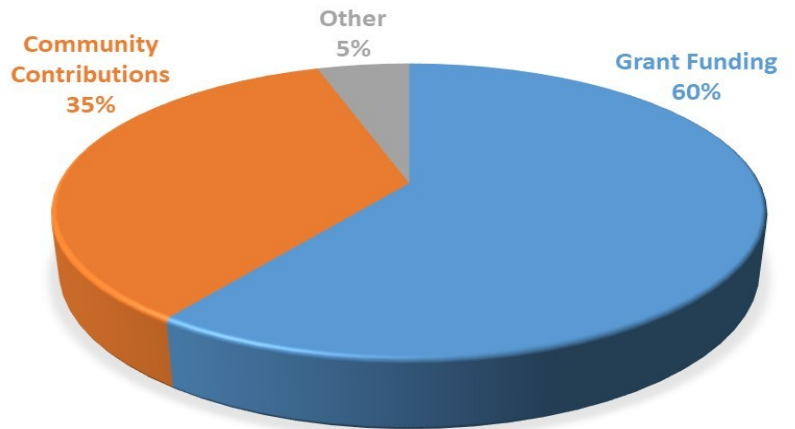
Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Our program's curriculum model is built on a foundation of *The Frog Street Curriculum*. Our classroom teaching teams use the 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 Frog Street 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 Frog Street 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.



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, neglected, or have faced adverse childhood experiences. These services include mental health counseling, preschool education curriculum, nutrition services, and family support services.



CHILDREN'S HOUSE FUNDING

2,781 followers on the Children's House Facebook Page!

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.



CHILDREN EOA SERVED IN 2025:

- 15 children were in Foster Care
- 52 children had an identified disability
- 10 children were referred from child welfare agencies and Juvenile Court



The EOA Step Up Economic Stability Program empowers individuals to overcome obstacles that stand in the way of economic self-sufficiency.

Program Participants establish a budget plan and set attainable goals in the areas of employment, education, and income management. Case management, supportive services, resources, and referrals are provided to help participants make progress toward achieving their goals.

2025 Results:

- A total of 60 participants participated in the program in 2024 with 100% receiving financial counseling, establishing a household budget, and improving income management skills.
- Seven participants increased their savings and received a 2:1 incentive match of \$800 to add to their savings of \$400. This match bolstered household savings and strengthened their economic stability.
- Rental assistance removed the obstacle of housing instability for 43 families and prevented eviction and homelessness.

The EOA Step Up Economic Stability Program is funded by the Community Services Block Grant and private grant funding with the purpose of empowering families to move from crisis to thriving. Participating in the program is the first step on the pathway to financial stability, economic mobility, and long-term self-sufficiency.

EOA Health & Wellness

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.

Be Well, Care Well of Arkansas

EOA Children's Services was selected to participate in *Be Well, Care Well of Arkansas*, a year-long, holistic wellness initiative offered by Curricula Concepts. This program supported staff health and well-being by addressing physical, mental, emotional, and social wellness. Through monthly, engaging challenges, staff were encouraged to build healthy habits such as increased physical activity, spending time outdoors, improving hydration, and creating healthier work environments. Activities varied by center and included wellness-focused apps, healthy recipes and potlucks, and break room enhancements. Participation in the *Be Well, Care Well* initiatives reinforced EOA's commitment to supporting a healthy, engaged, and thriving workforce.

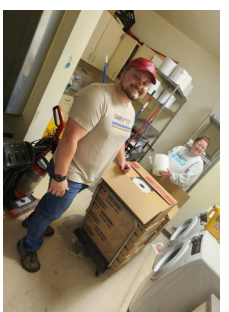
Volunteers Make It Possible

Our volunteers bring passion, time, and diverse skills that make a meaningful impact on our agency.

Whether gardening, painting, cleaning, special projects, or volunteering directly with the children, all of our volunteers are much appreciated. Their dedication to EOA allow our staff to concentrate on the needs of the children and families we serve.

This passion not only advances the mission but also creates raised awareness, shared purpose, and strong connections.

In 2025, 61 volunteers contributed a total of 4,080 hours, while 508 parent volunteers added 33,373 hours of support.



EOA 2025 Major Donors

Individuals:

Delia Anderson	Carolyn & Scott Gordon	Derrick & Julie Olsen
Vernon & Susan Bakke	Todd & Rebecca Gear	Brett & Julie Parker
Claudette Barnes	Doris Hastings	Donald & Kathryn Pederson
Linda Batson	Jane Hunt	Reid & Sarah Phillips
Larry & Nancy Bittle	Traci Jardin	Jerry Roller
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Rick & Belinda Carpenter	Kyle & Laura Kellams	Jane Shipley
Vernon & Paulette Collins	Hazel Keller	Jane Spellman
Ginger Crippen	Tom & Jill King	James & Susan Spencer
Megan Cuddy	Michael & Vicki Lanier	Jim & Lynette Terrell
Roger Cunningham	Adrian Luttrell	Wade Timmerman
Mark & Rhonda Ellis	Mark & Cheri Marks	Marsha West
Greg & Judi Fess	Kevin & Michelle McClafin	Linda Wray
Robert Fink	Elise McCracken	Ann Marie Ziegler
Miller & Peggy Ford	Estelle Morin	Michael & Gracie Ziegler
	Brad & Julie Olsen	

Thank You!

EOA 2025 Major Donors

Corporations & Foundations:

Adventure Subaru	Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Arkansas Community Foundation	Impressions Online Boutique
C.A.R.E. Initiative	Marshalltown Company Arkansas
The Carpenter Foundation	REI
Elks Lodge 1987	Scooter's Coffee
Excellerate Foundation	The Schmieding Foundation
First United Presbyterian Church	Willard & Pat Walker Charitable Foundation

Thank You!

In-Kind Support:

C.A.R.E. Initiative	Google	Rausch Coleman Homes
CASA of NWA	JB Hunt	Scott Family Amazeum
City of Fayetteville	Junior Civic League	Sharp's Lock & Alarm
City of Lincoln	Junior League of NWA	Springdale Public Library
Crumb Cookie	K&K Vet Supply	Springdale Public Schools
Crye-Leike Realtors	Methodist Family Health	The Cockpit Catering Co.
Dickson Street Bookshop	Outback Steakhouse	University of Arkansas
Fayetteville Public Library	Questec Arkansas	Walmart Optical
Feeding Fayetteville & NWA		Washington County



Economic Opportunity Agency

*“Empowering Children and Families to Learn,
Connect, and Succeed”*



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EOA Executive Team

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