



Empowering People, Enriching Communities

# Serving Southwest Missouri *since 1965*

In November, 1965, the Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) was organized as a non-profit agency designed to work toward alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty in Southwest Missouri. Today, OACAC serves the low-income population in ten counties: Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster. Funded in part by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), OACAC strives to “enrich the lives of families and individuals within our communities by providing opportunities, offering assistance and empowering people to make positive change.”

In 1966, OACAC began operating programs to address the causes of poverty in Southwest Missouri. Throughout the years, programs have been implemented to focus on new issues, modified to meet the

changing needs of the Ozarks and have been spun off to other agencies to meet the challenges in the Ozarks area more effectively and efficiently.

As part of a nationwide network of Community Action Agencies, OACAC continues to fight poverty with new and innovative projects, such as “Reality Enhancement and Life Lessons” (REALL) which helps youth learn how choices and actions today can and will affect them in the future. The agency also continues to provide quality services for children through Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

From developing programs for families to initiating community projects, OACAC is committed to making the Ozarks a better place to live and work for all residents.







## Family Planning

Introduced in 1979, the Family Planning Program offers gynecological exams, low-cost contraception, screening and treatment of vaginal infections and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), pregnancy tests, PAP smears, breast exams, and emergency contraception. Specially trained nurse practitioners and physicians provide health exams in a pleasant and confidential atmosphere. Anyone of reproductive age is welcome to make an appointment at a family planning clinic.

Fees are charged on a sliding scale, but no one is turned away if they cannot pay. OACAC Family Planning has clinics throughout the OACAC ten county service area and two clinics in an adjoining county.

## Foster Grandparent

The Foster Grandparent Program began in 1972 and is a nationwide volunteer program for seniors. Foster Grandparents are income-eligible individuals who are at least 55 years of age. These individuals want to contribute to the health and happiness of at-risk children and youth by giving them the time and attention they need. They work with children on a one-on-one basis, helping them to achieve their potential. Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours per week and receive a non-taxable hourly stipend plus other benefits including on-going training. OACAC Foster Grandparents serve at volunteer stations in fourteen counties: Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Laclede, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright.



## Head Start

OACAC Head Start and Early Head Start programs began in 1966 to provide comprehensive early childhood and family development services to children from birth to five years old, pregnant women and families.

The goal of OACAC Head Start is school readiness. School readiness for the child includes the developmental domains of approaches to learning, social-emotional development, language, literacy, math, science, creative arts, physical development and health. School readiness for the families includes becoming engaged in the child's education, setting personal and family goals, and demonstrating for the child that learning is a lifelong process.

## Housing Assistance

In 1978 the Housing Assistance Program\* was created, subsidizing rent for income-eligible households and making it possible for them to live in a decent, safe, sanitary and affordable home. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH).

- **HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program**  
**(All counties excluding City of Springfield)**
- **HUD Shelter Plus Care for Disabled Homeless Persons/Families**  
**referred by DMH only**  
**(Christian, Greene, Stone, Taney and Webster Counties)**

\*OACAC is an Equal Opportunity Housing Agency



## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Winter Heating Energy Assistance Program (EA) provides a one-time payment for assistance with winter heating costs for low-income households (based on household size and income). The program runs from October through March.

*Applicants must first apply for EA before being considered for the ECIP program.*

The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides utility assistance and relief for eligible\* households to alleviate energy related crisis. The Winter Program runs from November through May while the Summer Cooling Program is from June through September.

*\* ECIP applicants must have received a notice of termination, had services terminated or be a COD propane customer.*

## Neighborhood Centers

In 1969, Neighborhood Community Centers were organized with the purpose to better facilitate the OACAC mandate to organize and focus all available resources, meet each county's special needs and provide outreach and referral services for the low-income population.

Neighborhood Centers are located in each of the ten counties OACAC serves. Their goal in working with families and individuals is to help them achieve self-sufficiency and stability.

Services include Case Management, Life Skills Classes, Emergency Assistance, School Readiness Fairs, Poverty Simulations, REALL Simulations, VOICE Experiences, and referrals to other community programs. All activities and community projects are geared to eliminate the six conditions of poverty: unemployment, inadequate education and illiteracy, inadequate housing, emergencies, inadequate available income and malnutrition.





## Weatherization

Started in 1974, Weatherization is a free service for homeowners or renters who are income-eligible in the ten counties served by OACAC. Weatherization crews insulate attics, walls and floors as well as perform infiltration measures to homes to make them more energy efficient and lower utility bills for the client. All gas heating systems and water heaters are tested for health and safety and are repaired or replaced if a problem is detected. Families or individuals may apply for Weatherization at their county Neighborhood Center. Applications may also be downloaded at [www.oac.ac](http://www.oac.ac).



## Be A Volunteer

Community involvement is crucial to the success of OACAC's programs. If you are interested in becoming an OACAC Volunteer, please contact OACAC at 417-862-4314. Here are some of the ways that you can help us reach the goal of helping families become self-sufficient:

### Volunteer opportunities at OACAC include:

- Help with mailings
- Event planning/assistance
- Educational speaking
- Fundraisers
- Transport to medical appts.
- Office Support/Filing
- Reading to Children
- Sort/organize storage
- Data entry

For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit [www.oac.ac](http://www.oac.ac).

# Make A *Difference*



Please join in the effort to eliminate poverty and create a sense of stability and self-sufficiency for low-income families in Southwest Missouri. Your tax-deductible donation directly benefits those in need, and all contributions stay within the Ozarks.

The OACAC Endowment Fund, through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, offers the public another way to make a difference in the lives of low-income individuals and families. This charitable fund allows the community to support OACAC's mission to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty in Southwest Missouri. Contributions to the Endowment Fund help to ensure that the agency can continue exploring innovative solutions to ending poverty.

## Other Ways to Contribute:

- Monthly or annual giving
- Online giving
- Honorary or memorial donations
- Bequests and planned gifts
- Workplace giving

For more information on donating to the OACAC Endowment Fund or how you can make a difference in your community, please contact OACAC at 417-862-4314 or visit [www.oac.ac](http://www.oac.ac).

## Contact us for more information:

### Family Planning

Ph: 417-864-3410

Fx: 417-864-3416

### Head Start/Early Head Start

Ph: 417-864-3430

Fx: 417-864-3449

### Housing Assistance

Ph: 417-864-3444

TDD: 417-864-3445

Fx: 417-873-3360

### Weatherization Assistance

2643 W. College Street

Springfield, MO 65802

Ph: 417-865-7797

Fx: 417-865-7542

### Foster Grandparent

Ph: 417-864-3420

Fx: 417-873-3354

### Neighborhood Centers

Ph: 417-873-3371

Fx: 417-873-3379

### Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Ph: 417-864-3460

Fx: 417-864-3472



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### OACAC Central Office

215 S. Barnes Ave

Springfield, MO 65802

Ph: 417-862-4314

TDD: 417-864-3495

Fax: 417-864-3499

Please visit us on the web at [www.oac.ac](http://www.oac.ac).

