



Empowering People, Enriching Communities

## Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

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Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. At Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), we envision people living an optimal, empowered life, free from poverty.

13.1% Missourians live in poverty. In OACAC's 10-county service area in Southwest Missouri, poverty rates range from 8.4% in Christian County to 18.4% in Dade County. Through our programs, projects, and community collaborations, we will focus our advocacy efforts on four key efforts:

### **Equitable Education Opportunities**

From early childhood education and accessible public education to affordable post-secondary training, education is linked to economic growth.

We affirm all people should have access to equitable educational opportunities.

### **Affordable, Safe, Decent Housing**

"In Missouri, a full-time worker must earn \$18.54 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom rental home. Over 114,000 households in Missouri are unable to secure affordable housing. More than 69% of low-income households pay too much for their housing." (Affordable Housing Coalition – Empower Missouri).

We affirm all people should have access to affordable, safe, decent housing.

### **Equitable Access to Nutritional Foods**

"Disparities in healthy food access are well documented in cross-sectional studies in communities across the United States...Healthy food access is critical to improve population health and to reduce social inequalities." (National Institutes of Health)

We affirm all people should have equitable access to food, especially foods high in nutritional value.

### **Access to Healthcare for All**

"Unmet social needs, environmental factors, and barriers to accessing health care contribute to worse health outcomes for people with lower incomes. For example, people with limited finances may have more difficulty obtaining health insurance or paying for expensive procedures and medications. In addition, neighborhood factors, such as limited access to healthy foods and higher instances of violence, can affect health by influencing health behaviors and stress." (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2030)

We affirm all people should have access to healthcare.

Partners include



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**



CSBG Neighborhood/Community Centers | Family Planning | Foster Grandparent Program | Head Start Housing Assistance | Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) | Weatherization Assistance

Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties in SW MO