

History of Ozark Opportunities, Inc. a Community Action Agency (CAA)

- IRS 501c3 private non-profit organization
- Formed August 1966 with \$34,715 budget to serve Boone, Marion, Searcy & Van Buren counties
 - Known as Van-Sea-Boo-M
- 1969 Green Amendment added Baxter & Newton Counties
 - Became Ozark Opportunities, Inc.
 - Covers approximately 4,000 square miles

History Continued

- 6 county locations, 15 Head Start Centers, 3 Early Head Start Centers, 2 Arkansas Better Chance Classrooms.
- 86 Employees
- Funding: 85% Federal/State & 15% Local/Private

Past Programs

- Community Resource Groups – Springdale, rural water systems; North Ark. Transp. System
- Doctor-on-Retainer program
- VISTA program
- Feeder Pig Program
- Day Care Centers (Harrison & Clinton)
- Grants for building Community Centers in Diamond City, Leslie, Clinton, Harrison
- Heavy Equipment Training Class; NAC
- WIC

Past Programs (continued)

- Fiscal Agent for TEA Coalitions for Marion and Searcy Counties
- Housing Preservation Grant
- Self-Help Housing Program (Baxter County)
- Individual Development Accounts for education
- Arkansas Better Chance
- Operated Community Centers (two per county)
- Fan/Blanket program for elderly
- Holiday Food Baskets
- Wear & Share
- Garden Programs

Past Programs (continued)

- Cannery available to the public
- Family Planning Program
- Emergency Food and Shelter (FEMA)
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Rural Production and Marketing of Ozark Crafts
- Elderly Nutritional Program
- Elderly Transportation Program
- Before & After school programs (Clinton & Marshall)
- Grants for local Volunteer Fire Departments
- Weatherization

Current Programs (more details later)

- Child Development
 - Early Head Start
 - Head Start
 - Arkansas Better Chance
- Community Services
 - SUCCESS
 - Emergency Solutions
 - Home Energy Assistance Program
 - Community Engagement & Development
 - Vehicle Repair Loan
 - HOPE Revolving Loan Fund

The Board of Directors Represent Three Sectors

PUBLIC

6 members of the Board are chief elected public officials or their designated representative.

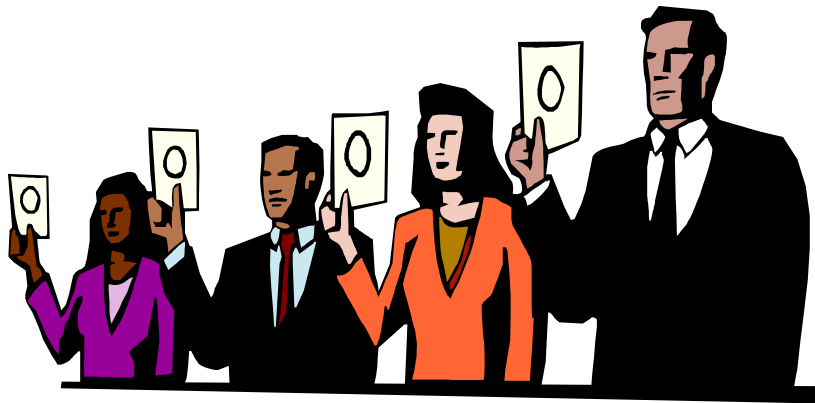
PRIVATE

Up to 6 members of the Board may come from business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, law enforcement or other major groups and interests in the community

LOW INCOME

At least 6 members of the Board must represent low income persons in the service area

Board Powers & Responsibilities



- Hiring, firing & evaluation of Executive Director
- Determine overall program goals for the agency
- Make final approval of all program proposals and budgets

Board Responsibilities

- Enforce compliance with all contract and grant requirements
- Oversee quality of participation of the poor
- Provide input on local needs
- Keep area residents informed of programs
- Elected Officials may serve as long as they maintain office
- All others may serve no more than 10 years

Board Fiduciary Responsibilities

- Final budget approvals
- Determine major personnel, organizational, fiscal and program policies
- Review of agency's annual audit reports and evaluating compliance with operating grants and contracts

Board Fiduciary Responsibilities

- The board has the power to receive & administer funds
- The board shall have the power to transfer funds so received to delegate agencies
- The board has the power to contract

Local Outreach Offices

- Administrative Office
701 E. Prospect Street
Harrison, AR
- 406 Hwy 43 East
Harrison, AR
- 1318 Bradley Drive, Suite 16
Mountain Home, AR
- 300 West 11th Street
Yellville, AR
- 504 West Court (Newton
County Health Department)
Jasper, AR
- 110 Ruff Street
Marshall, AR
- 100 Success Drive Suite 7
Clinton, AR

Current Programs

Sponsored by OOI



Child Development



- Classrooms in Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy & Van Buren Counties
- Serving 400+ students and families



Head Start Mission

Provide children from disadvantaged families an environment in which they may develop to their fullest potential intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially.

Other benefits

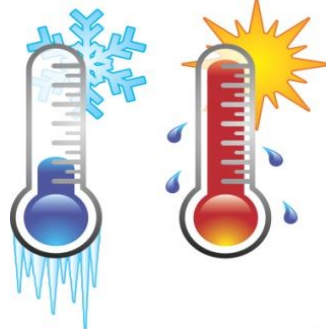
- Health care
- Nutritious meals
- Family services
- Family Literacy
- Reading is Fundamental
- Pre-math and pre-reading curriculum
- Therapies for special needs children
- Safe and stable environment



Classroom Locations

- **Baxter County**
 - Norfolk
 - Mountain Home
 - Cotter
- **Boone County**
 - Harrison
 - Alpena
 - Valley Springs
- **Marion County**
 - Bruno-Pyatt
 - Flippin
 - Yellville-Summitt
- **Newton County**
 - Jasper
 - Western Grove
- **Searcy County**
 - Marshall
 - St. Joe
- **Van Buren County**
 - Clinton
 - Shirley

Community Services/ Community Services Block Grant



SUCCESS



- Succeed at Understanding and Conquering Challenges to Establish Stability and Self-reliance
- individualized, goal-oriented program to self-reliance through education, employment and money management skills
- Informational Seminars (Life Skills Training)
- Life Coaching

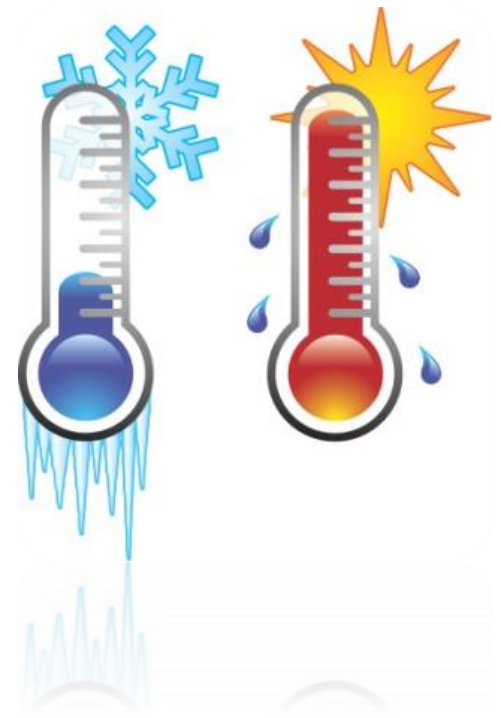
Emergency Solutions Grant

- Rapid Re-Housing (not so rapid): person must be homeless (unsheltered)
 - Security deposits
 - Utility deposits
 - Short-term rental assistance
- Homelessness Prevention
 - Security deposits
 - Last month's rent
 - Short-term rental assistance



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- A program to help low income families cope with the high cost of heating fuel in the winter and electricity in the summer.
- Two sub-programs during each winter and summer cycle.
 - Non-Emergency: set amount determined by the number in the household and their gross monthly income.
 - Emergency (Crisis): disconnected service, shut off notice, or depleted fuel source.



Community Engagement & Development

- Expanding and enriching communities thru new and/or expanded initiatives
- Housing Initiatives
- Involvement with Delta Hills CoC
- Involvement and lead agency with BBMN CoC



Vehicle Repair Loan

- Revolving loan program
- 1 year to repay loan in full
- \$500 maximum
- Must be income eligible (**200% FPL**)
- Must have a relationship with OOI
 - Children are enrolled in Head Start
 - Work regularly with Outreach Workers
 - Enrolled in family development programs (Getting Ahead, SUCCESS)
 - Exception: A community partner vouches for someone by submitting a letter of recommendation and agrees to assist with communication if the person become delinquent in repayments



HOPE Revolving Loan Fund

- Through the Boone, Baxter, Marion, Newton Continuum of Care. (Only covers these counties.)
- Similar to vehicle repair loan in that it is a revolving loan program with the expectation that recipients will repay the loan amount.
- Loan is for homeless individuals to obtain housing.
- Loan can be used for: rent, security deposits, utility deposits (water, gas and electricity)
- Maximum loan amount can be up to \$1,000.
- Loan amount goes directly to the vendor; landlord, utility company.

National ROMA Goals OOI Work Plan Must Address:

- GOAL 1 – Low Income People Become More Self Sufficient
- GOAL 2 – The Conditions in Which Low Income People’s Lives are Improved
- GOAL 3 – Low Income People Own a Stake In Their Community
- GOAL 4 – Partnerships Among Providers of Services to Low-Income People are Achieved
- GOAL 5 – Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results
- GOAL 6 – Low Income People, Especially Vulnerable Populations, Achieve their Potential by Promoting Family and Other Supportive Environments

Alphabet Soup

- OOI: Ozark Opportunities, Inc.
- HEAP: Home Energy Assistance Program; also referred to as LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- A-16: Assurance 16
- WX: Weatherization
- RSVP: Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- TEFAP: The Emergency Food Assistance Program

- CSBG: Community Services Block Grant
- NPI: National Performance Indicator

- SUCCESS: Succeed at Understanding and Conquering Challenges to Establish Stability and Self-reliance
- ROMA: Results Oriented Management and Accountability
- SNAP: Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (Food Stamps)
- SSD: Social Security Disability
- SSI: Supplemental Security Income

- TEA: Transitional Employment Assistance
- OCS: Office of Community Services

- DHS: Department of Human Services
- CS: Child Support
- DOE: Department of Energy
- ARRA: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- AWP: Arkansas Weatherization Program
- WIA: Workforce Investment Act
- WIC: Women, Infants & Children

Statement of Nondiscrimination

- Ozark Opportunities, Inc. does not discriminate in service availability, accessibility and delivery, or employment. This agency is in compliance with Title VI and VII Civil Rights Act.
- An “Equal Opportunity Employer”