



DELTA AREA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

The MISSION of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation, a community action agency, is to provide appropriate programs and services that empower people to make positive change in their community, family and personal lives in order to maintain and achieve self-sufficiency.

2009 Board of Directors

Dunklin County

- Emily
Modlin

Mississippi County

- Annette
Robertson

New Madrid County

- Dave
McClarty
- Akera Nelson

Pemiscot County

- Diane Sayre

Scott County

- Bob Depro
- Earl
Henderson
- John Goodwin

Stoddard County

- Sandra
Rudeseal
- Clara Green
- Julian Steiner

“Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.”

- Orison Swett Marden

Fear of success can be just as paralyzing as fear of failure. Many people fear success because it tests their limits and makes them vulnerable to new situations. Even worse, success can expose weaknesses and force people to deal with their flaws. Success is scary because it involves change. Success can be intimidating and hard to handle. With success comes more challenges and responsibilities – and that can be threatening. Sometimes people fear success because they don't know if they can live up to their achievements. They don't think they're good enough or smart enough. They're afraid they don't have what it takes to rise to the challenge, and they don't know if they can sustain their success.

Sometimes, our clients achieve their goals and go on to help others achieve theirs as the following success story demonstrates:

“My name is Crystal Austin. I'm a single mom who has watched my son and daughter learn and grow with Head Start. Both my children have gained so much by attending. They receive social skills as well that I feel have helped them to adapt in public school. Although some may see Head Start only for children it also helps parents and families as well. I myself am an example of a success story. When my son attended Head Start in 2004 it was then I felt the passion for wanting to work with kids. I was too scared to follow my dreams back then because I felt my current position was my comfort zone so I continued with my passion buried in me and stayed hidden in my zone. It wasn't until 2009 when my daughter was in Head start that it was once again time for me to rethink where I wanted my life to go. As a parent I was asked by the teacher to select a goal. I chose to set a goal of going to college to earn my Associate in Early Childhood Education. I had talked with the Center Director and teacher of Parma Head Start. The moral support and guidance I received helped me to begin my Family goal and enroll in Three Rivers Community College. After working in the office field for 17 years I was scared. I wasn't going to let fear overcome me anymore. I had found an ad on the internet for an opening with Howardville Head Start. After applying I was contacted by Mrs. Wilma, the center director. After being interviewed for the job I was notified I was selected for the position of child Family Advocate. Having never worked in this profession I was nervous, but looking back I realized it was a change for the better. Today I am enrolled in Three Rivers Community College working towards my Associates and getting my CDA license all the while working as a Child Family Advocate and raising my two children. To think my dreams can true by setting a goal and having support from staff and by going forward with my life. I hope and will try to make a difference in every one person's life. I look back at my past and see how proud I am of myself and what a positive role model I will continue to be, not only for my kids but for families and children I work with as a Child Family Advocate for Head Start.”

An Extraordinary Year

The economic crisis in our nation led to an extraordinary infusion of funds into our existing programs in 2009. This infusion enabled DAEOC to provide additional services in our area at the same time increasing regulation, compliance issues, oversight, and creating some confusion from the pressure to initiate services quickly with few guidelines in place.

While funds were awarded in 2009, many of the services were just getting started during DAEOC's 2009 fiscal year with the bulk of work scheduled to be performed in 2010. The information contained in this report reflects the services performed in the federal fiscal year covered by the ROMA report required under the Community Services Block Grant program. Those services are reported for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. Please note that while our Head Start program's fiscal year is also the calendar year, participant information is based upon the Head Start school year that started in August 2008 and ended in May 2009.

Jean Barham, Executive Director

Services

Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation (DAEOC) is the community action agency serving the six counties of the Missouri Bootheel. DAEOC operates a number of grants and contracts through three programmatic departments.

The **Family and Community Development Department** provides the entry point for receiving services. Services that meet the basic needs of individuals and families are delivered through the FACD department as well as more intense services designed to assist individuals and families in becoming self sufficient.

Upon entry through the FACD department, an intake is performed, needs and assets assessed, and referral made to both internal and external programs. Among the internal services that may be provided are: emergency assistance for utilities, rent, temporary shelter, food, medicine, etc.; life skills classes; life skills coaches; tax preparation assistance; school supplies; child care food subsidies; Title X health services; home repair; home weatherization; and Head Start.

Children between three and five years of age and their families receive a comprehensive range of services through the Head Start program operated by the **Children's Services Department**. In 2009,

DAEOC was awarded a grant to implement an Early Head Start program that will begin providing services in 2010 to pregnant women and children birth to three.

The third department providing services to area families is the **Housing and Facility Development Department**. While individuals and families benefit from the services provided by this department, these services are centered around the development, repair, or energy conservation improvement of residences and other facilities.

Additional information about DAEOC and its programs can be found on its website, daeoc.com. An overview of the services provided in 2009 through these departments follows:

Family and Community Development Department:

Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program

- **7,206** Individuals were assisted with ECIP
- **11,458** Individuals were assisted with Energy Assistance

Emergency Services

- **101** Individuals were assisted with medical needs such as prescriptions
- **360** Individuals went without being hungry
- **9** Individuals were provided with clothing
- **17** Individuals were assisted with transportation to shelters, jobs, doctor appointments
- **145** Individuals were provided with temporary shelter to keep them off the streets or seek shelter from their batterer
- **4,902** Senior Citizens were assisted with their utilities
- **9,527** Individuals with disabilities were assisted with their utilities
- **6,897** Individuals were kept from being homeless because of assistance with their rent/utilities

Women's Health Care

- **2,666** Individuals received reproductive health care services
- **2,246** Individuals received an annual health exam
- **319** Individuals received HIV/AIDS testing

Child Food Care Program

- **138** Home daycare providers were up and running
- **2,935** Children were enrolled in these daycares
- **879,676** Balanced meals were served

Community Services Block Grant

- **481** Students improved on their social/emotional development through our Making the Grade classes. By attending these classes' students increase their knowledge regarding the importance of completing high school and continuing their education either through college or vocational training.
- **1,025** Children received school supplies at our Back to School Fair to start their school year with new gear. Low-income families do not have the extra money it takes to purchase school supplies. These children also received referrals for appropriate immunizations, increased knowledge of good nutrition, hearing, vision screening, dental care, information on bus safety, seat belt safety and a host of other information.
- **846** households received free Tax Assistance through our Tax Preparation Strategy. Low-income families have insufficient income and are unaware of their eligibility for certain tax credits.
- **2** Low-Income Participants obtained their GED through our Family Support program encouraging them and letting them know that they can achieve their dreams
- **42** Low-Income Participants found employment through our Family Support program. Many of our clients are unaware of the resources to locate adequate employment.
- **15** Low-Income Participants received a raise at their jobs through our Family Support program
- **172** community members participated in our Poverty Simulation's and Step Up to Leadership programs
- **6** Individuals were given protection from violence to stay safe and away from their abusers through our Family Support program
- **13,607** Inner Agency Referrals and **2,074** Outside Agency Referrals were made. These Inner and Outside Agency Referrals help low-income individuals and families that do not have the knowledge of resources in their communities or do not understand how to access these resources. We identify these needs by doing an Assessment on these individuals then address the situation

Children Service's Department: – DAEOC Head Start

- **248,387** Balanced meals were served
- **1,686** children participated in pre-school activities to develop school readiness skills
- **698** children who participated in pre-school activities are developmentally ready to enter Kindergarten or 1st grade
- Served **1469** families between August 2008 and May 2009
- Served **1686** children during the same time period
- Averaged a monthly enrollment of **1300**
- **92%** of children served were at or below poverty guidelines (federal mandate is **90%**)

- Of the **1686** children served-**94%** received medical exams and follow-up referrals if needed
- In addition, **94%** of children served received dental exams and follow-up referrals if needed

Parent Involvement Activities

Parents from the sixteen centers have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities throughout the year that are both educational and fun. Family Meetings are designed to include guest speakers, parent/child activities, Policy Council Report, childcare and food.

Parents are always welcome at the Head Start Centers as an observer, a volunteer, to serve on committees, participate in parent/teacher conferences or to speak with staff regarding their child. Parent input and participation are essential and contribute to the quality of our program.

There are a variety of other activities for parents such as: Fall, Winter, and Spring Fest, field trips, enjoy a meal with their child, special days for family members, I CAN and other Parent Conferences, picture day, parades, read to the children, tool time (parents and children build something together), Family Day at the end of the year, monthly birthday parties, food experiences, career day, father events, ice cream socials, and the end of year transition program. We appreciate the many ways that parents made the last year special for our Program.

Housing and Facility Development Department:

- **30** Safe and Affordable housing units were created in the community
- **139** Safe and Affordable housing units in the community were preserved or improved through instruction through our Weatherization, Dream and Hero programs.

DAEOC's Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

One of the goals for DAEOC Head Start is to help children and families enjoy a smooth and successful transition into a kindergarten within the **29** local education agencies located in DAEOC's **6** county area. This is accomplished by an academic focus, through social-emotional development, parent education efforts, and administrative processes.

Head Start children learn how to adjust to a classroom and a school atmosphere. Head Start is typically the first introduction to a structured atmosphere. When a child transitions from Head Start into public school they are very familiar with a community of learning. Head Start also helps children learn how to follow routines and schedules. This provides children with a sense of security and expectations. Head Start children are also taught how to use a variety of school supplies, such as scissors, pencils, glue, markers, colors, and paint brushes. Teaching staff plan and implement developmentally appropriate lessons covering recognition of letters, number, colors, and shapes.

The children served through Head Start come from diverse and often very challenging backgrounds. One of the strengths of Head Start is its emphasis on the social-emotional development of children. Through our Conscious Discipline program, children learn to take responsibility for their feelings and actions, to recognize them, and learn appropriate ways to express and manage their feelings on an age-appropriate level. Through Head Start, children learn to interact with other children and adults. There are positive relationships established between teaching staff and children. Head Start teachers are often the child's first introduction to a teacher. Head Start seeks to develop positive relationships and create a family atmosphere within the classroom.

Head Start also seeks a positive, supportive relationship with the parents/guardians. One way this is accomplished is through ongoing parent education. In the spring months, teaching staff will inform parents of the screenings offered by local schools which are necessary for Kindergarten enrollment. Parents are also provided with literature informing them of what to expect at Kindergarten and useful tips to make Kindergarten a successful experience for their child. Head Start encourages parents to be and to remain an advocate for their child throughout their education at public school.

Teaching staff complete a Kindergarten Readiness assessment for those children who will be transitioning to Kindergarten. This assessment is made available to the local Kindergarten staff and a copy is kept in the child's education file. Before the end of the Head Start service year, all children who will be attending Kindergarten will visit a local Kindergarten classroom. At the end of the year, parents are given the child's file.

These efforts help to ensure a positive transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. Developing a sense of self and a sense of others will be valuable to the children attending Kindergarten. This development is a large portion of the overall comprehensive services provided to children and families through Head Start.

Head Start Program Budget Uses and 2010 Budget

DAEOC's Head Start Program ensures the federal budget is spent on reasonable, necessary and allowable expenses to provide early childhood educational and care services to **1300** children and families within our service area. A significant amount of the budget is spent to employ **270** staff to fulfill the program's responsibilities. This includes staff salaries and benefits provided to attract and retain staff. Other program expenses include operating expenses such as: purchase of new buses, classroom supplies, office supplies, custodial supplies, rent, utilities, phone, internet, travel to carry out Program operations, staff development expenses to ensure proper training and qualifications, and medical, dental and mental wellness child services expenses as payer of last resort if other resources are not available. All of these budgetary expenditures are needed to provide quality programming and services.

The proposed 2010 budget includes the following:

Personnel and Benefits	\$ 5,558,334.00
Other Operating Expenses as outlined above	\$ 1,788,626.00

Fiscal Information

DAEOC's 2009 fiscal year Revenue increased by \$ 2,398,881.00 over the previous fiscal year.

Revenue Sources

Federal	\$ 15,688,784.11
State	\$ 175,361.59
Other Grants	\$ 217,357.86
Program Fees	\$ 120,392.53
Housing Rent	\$ 6,392.00
Contributions	\$ 172,264.55
Reimbursements	\$ 1,203,916.93
Other Income	\$ 1,239.27
Interest	\$ 23,146.81
In-Kind	\$ 1,850,349.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,459,176.00

DAEOC's total operating expenses for fiscal year 2009 were \$19,405,687, an increase of \$2,478,933 over the previous fiscal year.



Annual A-133 Audit

An annual audit of DAEOC's fiscal operations is performed in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 to ensure that public funds have been used in accordance with grant and contract requirements.

The 2008 A-133 audit was completed in September 2009 and is available for viewing at DAEOC's central office in Portageville, Missouri. No instances of fraud or abuse were noted in the audit report, however, material weaknesses in internal control procedures were identified and a correction plan was detailed. The operating budget for 2008 was **\$14,954,334.73**.

When completed and filed, the 2009 A-133 audit will be available for review by the public at DAEOC's central office in Portageville, Missouri.