East Central Illinois Community Action Agency

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Impact on Our Community

Doug Ahrens – Chair
Governing Board of Directors

Dwight A. Lucas, CCAP-
Chief Executive Officer

March 18, 2011
The Recovery Act

- Provided $288 billion in tax cuts and benefits for millions of working families and businesses
- Increased federal funds for education and health care as well as entitlement programs (such as extending unemployment benefits) by $224 billion
- Made $275 billion available for federal contracts, grants and loans
- Required recipients of Recovery funds to report quarterly on how they are using the money
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency has been granted ARRA funds for:

- **Weatherization** = $3,438,730 (2009 – 2011)
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** = $540,922 (2009-2010)
- **Head Start** = $264,534 (2009 – 2010)
- **Head Start Expansion** = $437,612 (2009 – 2011)
- **Total East Central Illinois Community Action Agency ARRA Funds**: $4,140,876
Weatherization Program

Before

After
Weatherization

- Weatherization is the practice of protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sunlight, precipitation, and wind, and of modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency.
Customer Letter

Dear Community Action Agency,

May God continue to bless you and help those who need help. I just want to thank you and say I am so grateful for the work you have done on my house. It was truly in a bad condition. I have had a blessing at 87 years.

Thanks to all of you there for your kindness and help given to me.
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• East Central Illinois Community Action Agency has Weatherized 364 homes as of January 26, 2011 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

• Weatherization reduces energy costs by an average of $437 annually

• The average income family spends 4-6% of income on energy costs, while a family with low-income can spend anywhere between 15-30% of income on energy costs
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

- Community Action’s Weatherization program utilized $1,699,376 for labor and materials to improve low income housing through Department of Energy Funding made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Gestures of Appreciation

• “My grandma received her new furnace. She was so happy she cried. I am glad there are programs that offers to help low income people.”

• “Just wanted to send a thank you note, and to let you know that I am very grateful and appreciative for every thing you did for me.”

• “Your kindness is like sunshine warm and bright. Thank you.”
Weatherization Testimony
Community Services Block Grant
CSBG

- The Community Services Block Grant is designed to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health

- Summer Youth Employment
- Emergency Assistance
- Community Education and Enrichment Program
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Foreclosure Literacy/Budget Assistance
- Senior Hot Meals
- Veteran’s Assistance
Community Services Block Grant CSBG

- Over 75 youth and Young Adults were gainfully employed for a 10 week period over 2 summers

- Services received:
  - On the job training, professional ethics, academic and personal development training, resume preparation and communication skills
Community Services Block Grant
CSBG

- **Success Story: Student**
  - Agency volunteer since 2004
  - Education Talent Search (ETS) Participant
  - Scholarship recipient
  - SYEP Participant placed at First Financial Bank and retained as a permanent employee after the program ended
  - Graduated with Associate’s Degree in May 2010 through assistance with Scholarship and ETS resources
  - Obtained full-time, permanent position at Old National Bank in Indianapolis, IN
  - Currently attending IUPUI pursuing a Bachelor’s in Nursing
Community Services Block Grant CSBG

• Foreclosure Prevention
  – Community Action utilized $12,900 to prevent 29 housing foreclosures in our community
  – Families were engaged with Financial Literacy and Debt Management Strategies to reduce the likelihood of finding themselves in a similar situation
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• CSBG ARRA $$ at work:
  
  – Ten pre-school children were provided with Kindergarten readiness experience over a six week period to ensure they were fully prepared for the transition from Head Start to Kindergarten
  
  • This initiative created a position for a teacher and maintenance person who would have otherwise been unemployed
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• CSBG ARRA $$ at work:
  – Emergency Services- $20,700 was used to assist 635 individuals and families facing crisis situations, stabilize them and provide strategies to gain self sufficiency
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• CSBG ARRA $$ at work:
  – Education Services - 109 Elementary through High School students were provided with meaningful strategies promoting academic competency, secondary school graduation, and the pursuit of post-secondary education as well as invaluable skill sets that would prepare the youth to become lifelong learners
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

• CSBG ARRA $$ at work:
  – CSBG Scholarships - Community Action has given 49 Scholarships totaling $27,000 to local students
  – These High School Seniors, Young Adults and returning adult students received college scholarships to enable them to pursue post-secondary aspirations
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• CSBG ARRA $$ at work:
  – CSBG Scholarships – Quotes from recipients:

“In today’s society school requires a lot of time and money. Even with a basketball scholarship there are things that comes up here and there that I need to pay for like books, gas, class fees, etc. Thanks to the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, I have been able to take care of those things with the scholarship I have received from them.”

“This scholarship helped me not only financially, but it puts me that much closer to achieving my goals. Making it true of the fact that every little bit helps!”
Community Action’s CSBG Collaboration

- Through a collaboration with the Illiana Veterans Administration Medical Center, $9,200 was used to provide 76 Veterans with services to include: comprehensive assessment, information, advocacy and referrals to other available services.
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

• 165 Senior Citizen’s received hot nutritious meals, participated in senior focused activities with congregated meal sites and received gift cards from local grocery stores to help ensure they maintain their independence
“Helping People Changing Lives” with ARRA

- **Community Action Intake and Linkages**
  
  - 1,090 individuals and families received information and referrals.
  - Provided with assistance to apply for Community Action’s services as well as given information on other community resources through our extensive network of community partners.
CSBG Testimony
Community Action Head Start
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

- Community Action has invested $52,378 into Staff Development and Education through funding from The Department of Health and Human Services made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

• Through the **ARRA Head Start Expansion** grant, the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency was able to **open a new center** and provide center based Head Start services to children and families in **Gibson City, Illinois**, a community previously served through the home base option.

• **Gibson City** is in the western part of **Ford County**, a largely rural county.

• Through ARRA funds, **four full time** and **two part time** positions were added to the Agency’s Head Start program.

• Approximately **$35,000** was spent in the local community.
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

Comments from Gibson City Community Members:

• “It is good to have a Head Start center in our community. We have needed one for awhile.”

• “Teachers in the school district have said that they are happy that we are here. We will help many children who may need extra help before going to kindergarten.”

• “Home based parents are thrilled that they now have 2 options in this area.”

• “Business owners have said that it is great that Head Start is here because our “little ones” need all the help they can get.”
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

• The expansion of **Head Start** services in **Hoopeston, Vermilion County**, allowed an additional **15 children** to receive Head Start services at an exiting site
  
  – Had a long waiting list for several years and Community Assessments have identified many income eligible families in the area
  
  – The Hoopeston Center now serves **30 children** in a **center based** option
Head Start Testimony
Prairie Meadows Housing Development

• **25** energy efficient single family homes on 10.44 acres surrounded by a 1 acre park

• TOTAL ARRA Funds = **$2.5 million**

• TOTAL Leveraged $$$ = **$5.2 million**

• **113** jobs created
Prairie Meadows Housing Development

Excavating Daisy Lane
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

• ARRA Job Creation in our Community
  – In order to make the services available to customers, Community Action has created 11 Agency positions
  – As a result of ARRA, 146 private sector jobs have been created and/or retained in our service delivery area
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

• Total East Central Illinois Community Action Agency ARRA Funds: $4,140,876

• Traditionally, the use of Agency funds leverages $3 for every $1 spent. This equates into a growth potential of investment equal to $12.5 million dollars!
“Helping People Changing Lives with ARRA”

• ARRA is widely known for bricks, mortar, highways and bridges...

• But, it is also responsible for changing people’s lives as demonstrated in the testimonies given tonight
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