

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Community Services (CSBG)

Through a contractual agreement with DSS, “CSBG” helps ameliorate the conditions of poverty within the service area. Among the specific program/services provided by the CSBG staff are: **HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)**—Assists eligible low-income households with the cost of home energy.

WinterCare—Assists with utility bills, but only for those needy clients who subscribe to the participating companies, which include Kentucky Utilities, Green River RECC, Henderson/Union RECC, City of Henderson, and Meade County RECC.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)—Funds provided for five area counties — Daviess, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, and Webster. Services include utility assistance, self-help projects, food banks, and limited rental-mortgage assistance. Services vary from county to county.

USDA Commodity Food Distributions—Monthly distribution of food with the help of hundreds of volunteers supervised by paid staff.

Kentucky CSBG Educational Stipend/Scholarship Program—Provides assistance to low income individuals enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution of higher education to further their education.

Lincolnshire Apartments and Lincolnshire North Apartments

The agency owns and manages the 100-unit Lincolnshire Apartments and 108 unit Lincolnshire North Apartments. These properties are located at 1001 Pennbrooke Avenue in the west end of Owensboro. They are under the management of the agency’s **Assisted Housing Management Center** which also administers additional Kentucky Housing Corporation-funded housing services.

Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.

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Child-Family Development Programs

Head Start and KERA 4-Year-Old “At-Risk”—The primary focus of the child and family development programs are the provision of Head Start/preschool services to three and four year old income and disability eligible children throughout our sixteen (16) county service area. The program includes the provision of comprehensive Head Start services including education, health, social services, parent involvement and disability services to all children served. The agency has contracts or collaborations with twelve local school districts in the provision of services to KERA state funded eligible children operated in blended classrooms. A staff of teachers, teacher associates, family service workers, county/center coordinators and area coordinators are responsible for providing the intensive services required including developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, extensive health and dental screenings and follow-up, social service referrals and parent trainings/volunteer activities.

Family Development, Child Care—A number of supportive services are operated including infant/toddler and wrap-around services at **Rolling Heights** and **Audubon Area** Family Development Centers in Owensboro. A *Resource and Referral* project and *Family Day Care* project provide ongoing services to private and public day care throughout the 16-county service area.

Early Head Start—The agency will begin its newly-funded Early Head Start program in the Spring of 1997. This program will serve some seventy-five families with children pre-natal to age 3 at three Owensboro locations, including Owensboro Community College, and in Hopkinsville.

National Demonstration—The **Free To Grow** project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is developing and implementing a model program for substance abuse prevention with Head Start families in Owensboro and Hancock County. Services are provided using a variety of resources including federal-state funding, private foundation funds, United Way funding, and a variety of other private contributors.

Family Preservation

The Family Preservation Program is a family-based program designed to provide short-term intensive counseling/education to families in crisis. The crisis situation handled by Family Preservation is the imminent risk of children being removed from the home. Children have the right to—and are deserving of—and need a permanent and loving family. We also believe that many times families simply do not have the type of help needed available to them in order to keep their families together.

Family Preservation was created in order to remove or diffuse the crisis, and to teach methods of crisis prevention as well as means of self-sufficiency. The Program is based on the *Homebuilders Model* of intervention which emphasizes the uniqueness and value of *ALL* families, and structures teaching around the family’s strengths. Family Preservation offers its clients a caring, well-trained staff member who is available to the family 24 hours a day, on an intensive, yet flexible schedule individually designed to meet the needs of each client/family. The ultimate goal of Family Preservation is to keep families safe, healthy, happy and self-sufficient: To preserve one of life’s greatest gifts, “The Family.”

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)

The FGP program is twelve years old and is one of four in the state of Kentucky. Currently serving Daviess and Henderson counties, FGP has a dual purpose to create part-time volunteer community service opportunities for low-income persons to provide one-on-one assistance to children having special or exceptional needs. The goals of the program are simple: 1) to enable low-income persons aged 60 and over to remain physically and mentally active and to enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community services; 2) to enable children with either exceptional or special need to achieve improved physical, mental, emotional, and social development, thereby helping the child to regain stability.

Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and RSVP are part of the National Senior Corps

Senior Companion Program (SCP)

The SCP program, now nineteen years old, is one of only three SCPs in the state of Kentucky. SCP serves all seven counties in the Green River Area. It offers volunteers—*low-income men and women age 60 and over*—stipended opportunities to remain active in their community. Senior Companions are a part of a comprehensive care team that provides individualized care to older adults, primarily the frail elderly. These volunteers provide assistance to help homebound persons to continue living independently, while at the same time linking their clients to appropriate community services.

Green River Intra-county Transit System

GRITS provides a coordinated system which is more responsive, efficient and reliable, through the cooperative use of transportation resources in the local communities. This coordination results in a more efficient use of existing agency resources and can lead to cost saving, increased use of transportation resources, and greater program reliability. GRITS is a *demand-response* rural public transportation provider, operating in all seven Green River counties, serving a population of 199,242 people and 2,628 square miles. The program focuses on increasing the mobility of rural citizens—especially the elderly, the poor and the handicapped—and provides a connecting link between the needed service provider and clients. GRITS assists clients in remaining independent in their home and community. GRITS transportation plays a role in determining whether individuals are institutionalized or whether they can continue to live at home. GRITS' central dispatcher provides routing and scheduling service, obtaining maximum efficient use of vehicle which assures that efficient use of vehicles which assures that participating provider agencies can continue to serve all of their clients on a regular basis. Some people ride GRITS vehicle at no charge, since many social services agencies have contracted with GRITS to transport their clientele, with the respective agency paying the cost of the ride. GRITS also provides transportation to the general public.

The State of Kentucky has designated Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. as the lead agency for these seven counties. Its responsibility includes applying for *Section 16 Capital Grants* for vehicles and equipment and equipment on behalf of other non-profit agency's in our area.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP is federally funded *National Senior Service Corps* program, administered by the new Corporation for National and Community Service. Audubon's RSVP began in 1972, and is one of nine projects in the state of Kentucky.

RSVP offers older adults a meaningful life through volunteer service that is responsive to community needs. RSVP provide opportunities for persons age 55 and older to serve on a regular basis in a variety of environments throughout their communities.

Volunteers serve a variety of organizations, agencies, and institutions designated as volunteer stations. These include schools, libraries, day-care centers, hospitals, nursing homes, police departments, environmental projects, museums, and many other community service organizations. RSVP volunteers receive “benefits” such as recognition, travel reimbursements, and insurance protection while on assignment.

Weatherization, HOME, Counseling

Home weatherization helps low-income persons reduce their heating and cooling costs through insulating, caulking, air infiltration stoppage. It also repairs and replaces heating systems—furnaces and hot water heaters. Weatherization helps clients curb high utility bills...and sometimes saves lives.

Homeownership Counseling offers first-time homebuyers four counseling sessions on: budgeting, securing credit, home buying, and post-occupancy. At the end of the last session, a home visit is made where the new homeowner is certificated for successfully completing the program.

HOME, a new KHC -funded program, works in conjunction with the weatherization program to perform minor re-hab on homes that have needs beyond what weatherization funds won't cover.

Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.

Agency Orientation

October 1996



“Mini-Sketch” of AACCS Programs & Services