



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL

Inspiring & Empowering Families



2021 Annual Report

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A Message from Our Leaders

The past year has brought many exciting opportunities to our agency and the communities we serve. While we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of a COVID-19 world, we are encouraged by the dedication of our staff, the involvement of our parent partners and the generous support of our donors. Without full engagement from each essential category of individuals, we would not have the success we have seen throughout this past year.



Challenges unique to this year brought upon unique solutions. Within our agency, some have transferred to working remotely. We were able to move swiftly and adapt to these changes without any decrease or delay in service to the community. We have seen Community Action Network duties, which had traditionally been paper based, move to an online database to increase efficiency and productivity. We have been able to step into our communities that we serve with additional resources to help those in need during these unprecedented times. As the Community Action Network, it was an honor to help people during this difficult time by delivering federal, state and local funds to meet immediate needs.



We continue to help at risk families with rental and mortgage assistance. Now more than ever, this serious responsibility to help one another is at the forefront of everyone's mind within the agency. In furtherance of our mission, we have received additional funds, from all levels, to satisfy the needs of individuals and families in distress. This agency continues to be a beacon of light for those living in a world often covered in darkness.



A Message from Our Leaders

The year also brought with it the Federal Head Start mandate that all staff must be vaccinated. In partnership with the Health Department, a staff vaccination clinic and educational workshop was conducted to answer questions and provide information. While we did have to say goodbye to several valuable members of our team who could not comply with the vaccination mandate, overall compliance was extremely high. The safety and well being of our staff, children and families who we serve remains our top priority.

The future of our agency continues to shine brightly, and we have much planned for the coming year. We look forward to continued work and collaboration with our local, state and federal partners to best meet the needs of those we serve. Our staff are now in a better position than ever to fulfill our mission of transition at-risk individuals and families from poverty to self-sufficiency through our programs and partnerships. While unique challenges have been presented over the past year, our vision and direction for the future of the agency has remained clear.

I wish to personally thank all those who continue to support our agency, our programs and the communities we serve. I look forward to continuing to share our success stories with you.

Grant R. Gillenwater
Board Chair



Grant Gillenwater
Board Chair

"As the Community Action Network, it was an honor to help people during this difficult time by delivering federal, state and local funds to meet immediate needs."



Angela Davis-Green
Executive Director

EOC Board of Directors

Chair

Grant Gillenwater

Vice Chair

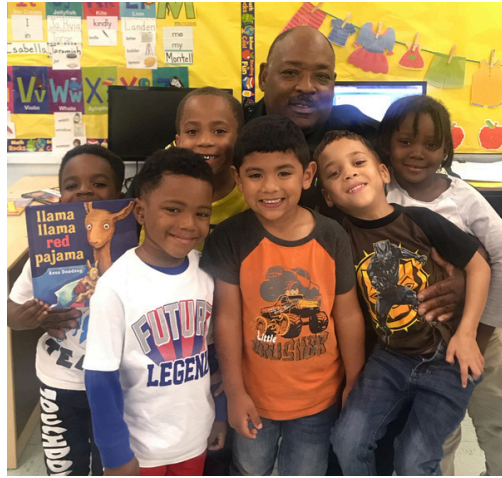
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April Lesperance

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Leonard Frankel

Lindsey Bassue

Patricia Hickman

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Jasmine Richardson

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Dalia Martinez

St. Helen's

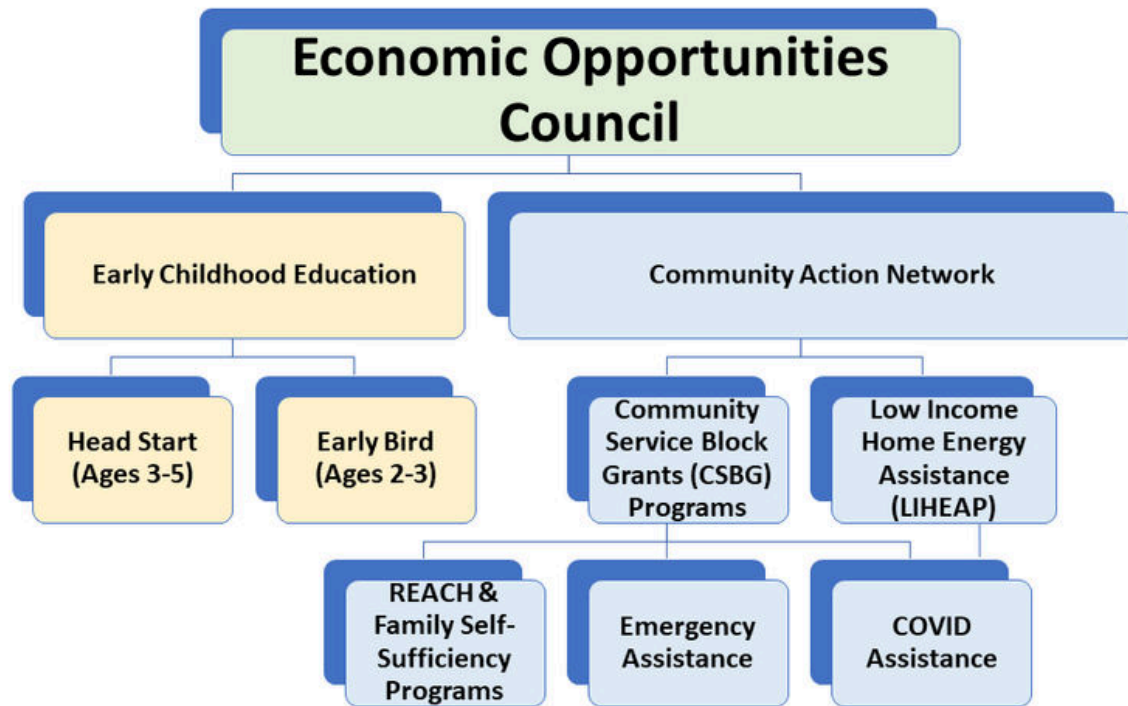
Maria Zamarippa

Daisy Soto

Taren Stage

Ashley Hill

Agency Overview



Mission

To transition at-risk individuals and families from poverty to self-sufficiency through our agency programs and public/private partnerships.



Proud provider of



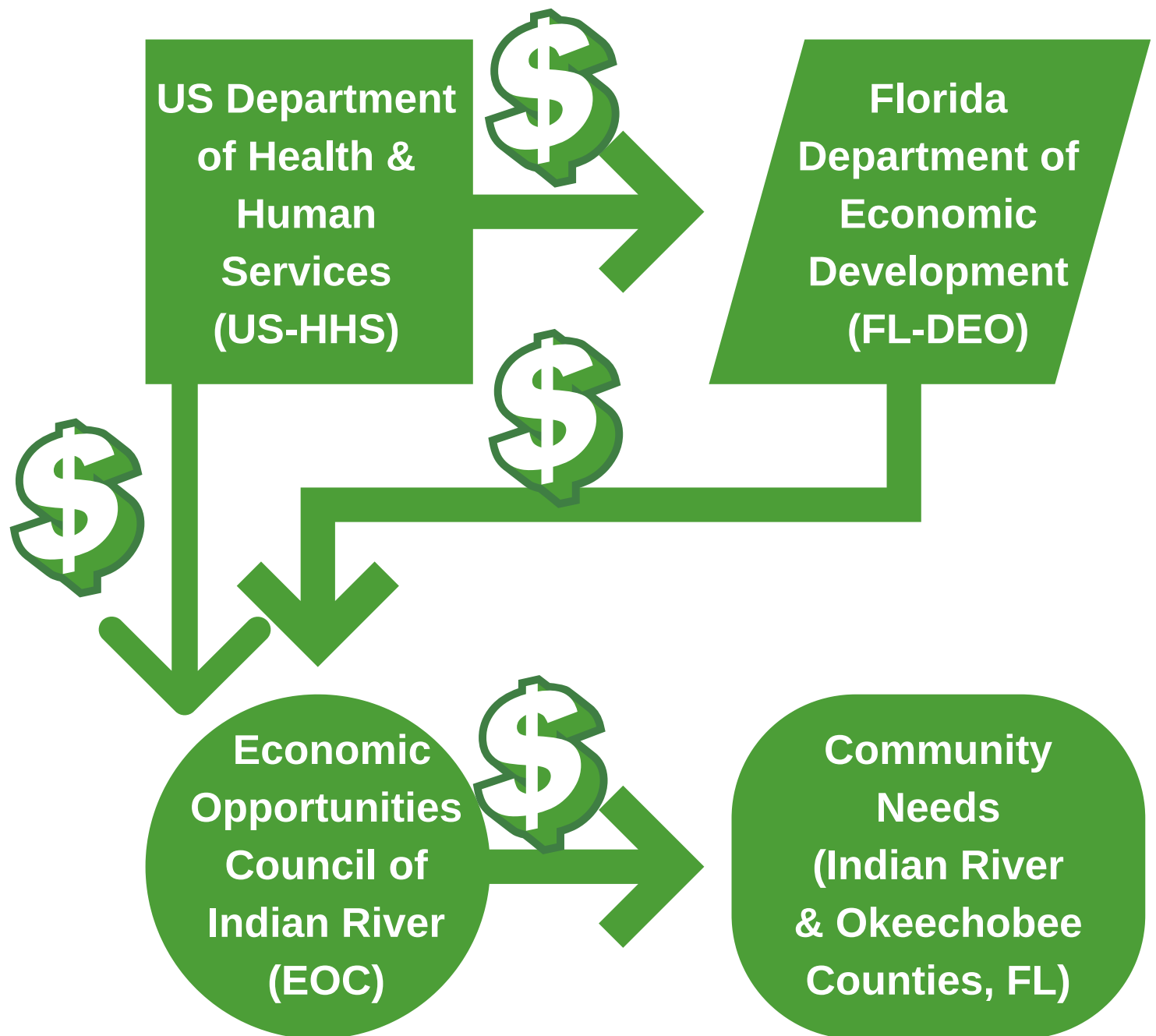
Indian River County
Okeechobee County

Vision

To be a partner in the creation of a community wherein low-income individuals and families, especially at-risk populations, will have the opportunity to become educated, self-sufficient, improve the conditions in which they live, and achieve their full potential.

Agency Overview

Bringing Federal Assistance Dollars
to our Local Community



Agency Overview

History

Since 1965, the Economic Opportunities Council (EOC) has been the leader in community action in Indian River County. EOC has a long, successful track record of providing high-quality programs and services to low-income children and families. EOC has administered Head Start in Indian River County since 1966 and in Okeechobee County since 1995.



15,600+
students



56
years

Head Start Mission

To be a comprehensive school readiness program designed to meet individual needs of preschoolers and their families.



Service Area Overview

Indian River County

153,989

Population

4.2%

Under age 5

11.4%

Poverty rate

16%

Limited access
to healthy foods

48.2%

School District
Free/Reduced
Lunch Rate (21-22)

13

County Health
Ranking
(out of 67)

Okeechobee County

41,144

Population

6.0%

Under age 5

21.0%

Poverty rate

29%

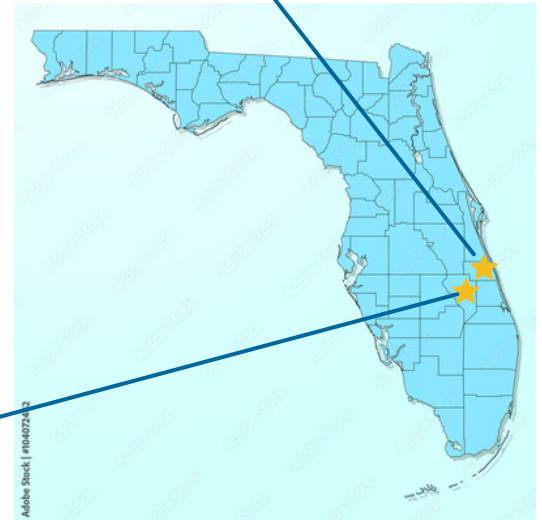
Limited access
to healthy foods

87.9%

School District
Free/Reduced
Lunch Rate (21-22)

53

County Health
Ranking
(out of 67)



Strategic Goals

1

Develop Early Head Start Program & Expand Head Start in Geographic Areas of Need

EOC will expand to serve the 0 to 3, child population through Early Head Start programs.

2

Mental Health Services Expansion

EOC will encourage agencies located outside of EOC's service area to extend service to address unmet needs in Indian River and Okeechobee County.

3

Board Lead Fundraising

Board Lead Fundraising Activities to respond to the needs and opportunities in the community.

4

Parent Participation/Involvement

Expand Outreach to Head Start parents to increase parent opportunities that will increase their knowledge so that they can advocate for their children.

5

Resource Awareness

Develop marketing strategies for Head Start families to be aware of all available EOC resources and programs.

2021 Accomplishments

The top accomplishment achieved by our agency was the *ability to access and distribute much needed funding to our county's vulnerable population while safeguarding the office staff* during this unprecedented time in our history.

359

Head Start Students

4,110

LIHEAP Payments

172

REACH & FSSP Clients

1,894

Crisis Assistance

Head Start



359 Children Served

332 Families Served

**302 Family Assessments
with Goals Set**

**166 Children transitioning
to kindergarten**

**67 Children provided
with transportation**

85.32%

Average monthly enrollment
(as % of funded enrollment)

93

Dual-language learners

10%

Received disability services

108

Children enrolled in their 2nd year of Head Start

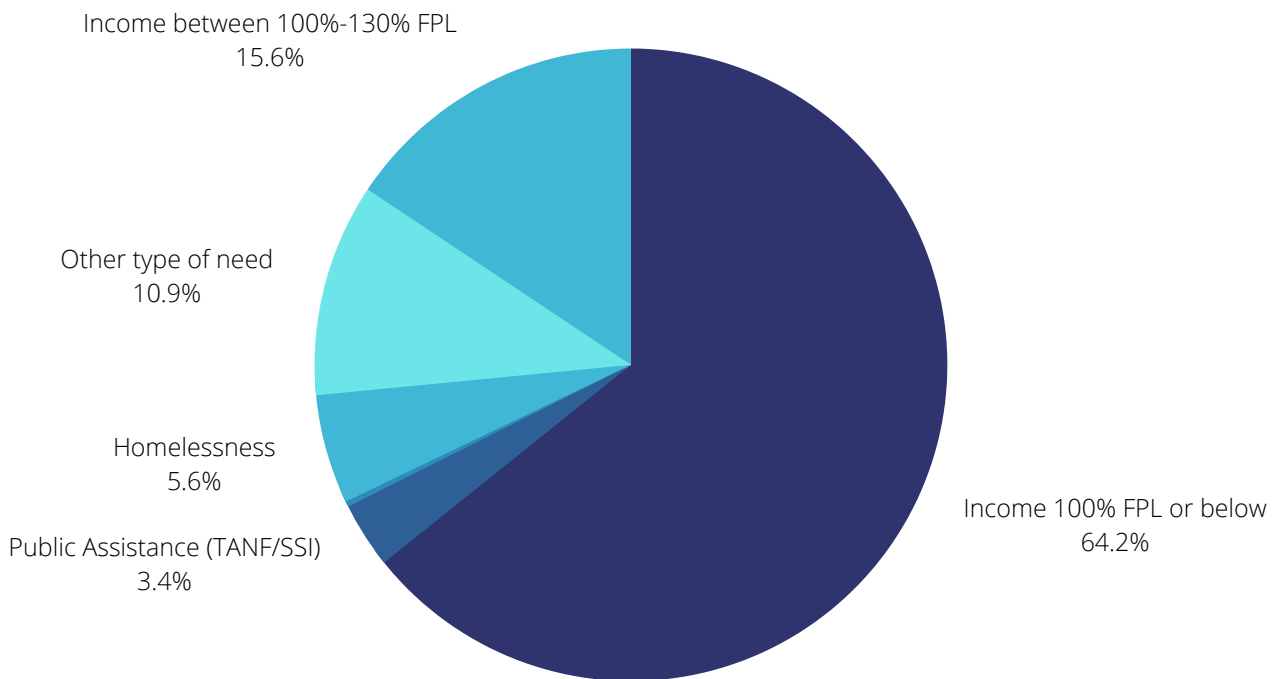


* Data based on program fiscal year

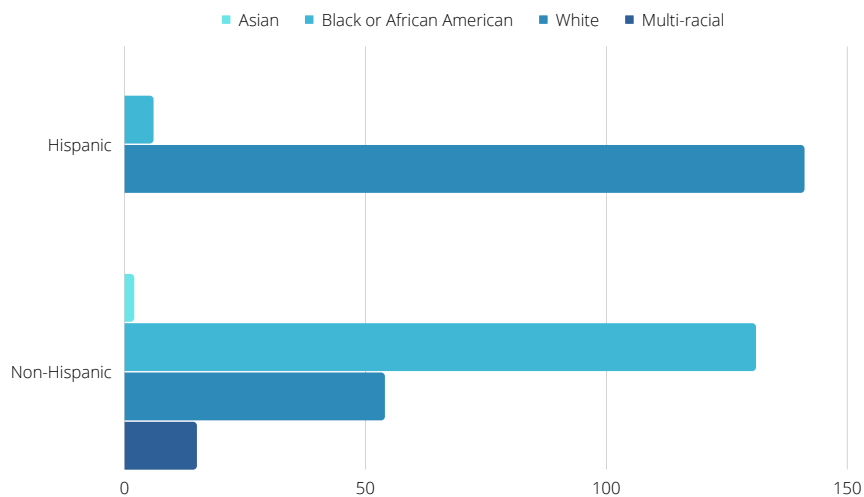
Head Start



Enrollment by Eligibility Type



Enrollment by Race & Ethnicity



Head Start

Snacks
24,494

Breakfasts
26,075



Lunches
26,011



100%

Mental Health Screenings (359)

93%

Dental Exams (219)

90%

Health physicals (321)

36%

Health Screenings (129) (hearing, vision and blood pressure)

265

Families received assistance or referrals

\$8,700 invested in each child's education

2,187 income-eligible students in service area

99% income-eligible students served

16% of eligible children enrolled in service area

418 Family Engagement Participation

Early Bird Head Start

Early childhood education program for 2 year-olds with siblings who attend Head Start



**16
children
served**



The program follows Early Head Start Performance Standards and FL Early Learning and Development Standards.

The enriched sensory environment of the Early Bird classroom gives toddlers the chance to learn about the world through touch, sight, sound, taste and smell. The philosophy is teaching through caregiving.

Until such time as we are able to secure Early Head Start funding, the Early Bird Program must be locally/privately funded. We are so grateful to our funding partners!

- The Educational Foundation of America
- Grand Harbor Community Outreach
- Hauser Family Foundation – Pat & Skip Hauser
- Indian River County Children’s Services Advisory Committee
- John’s Island Community Service League
- PNC Foundation
- United Way of Indian River County

* Data based on program fiscal year

Community Action Network

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes peoples lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that assists high-energy burdened, low-income households with the costs of heating and cooling their homes.

LIHEAP helps clients stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer through the Home Energy and Crisis Energy Assistance Program.



Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

CSBG provides federal funds to designated local governments and nonprofit agencies called community action agencies, also known as local agency providers, to assist eligible income-qualified households with attaining the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.



Funding allows us to run these programs:

- REACH & Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Emergency/Rental/Mortgage Assistance
- Food Assistance

REACH Family Self Sufficiency Program



"REACH helps put an end to generational poverty one family at a time."

The REACH Family Self-Sufficiency Program is an employment training program that provides:

- individual & family case management
- money management
- education
- short-term vocational training.

Clients living at or near the poverty level learn to recognize their barriers to self-sufficiency and how to overcome them. The REACH Program helps determined, hard-working people, achieve their educational and vocational goals, earn a living wage, and move away from poverty and public assistance to financial self-sufficiency.



\$30,643.87 CSBG Funds
\$21,380.87 Private Donations



**\$52,024.74 invested
in education**

**172 clients
served**

**78 people contacted about
program, PELL grants, &
scholarships**

**20 students completed
secondary education &
earned a Certificate/Degree**

**15 people attended
workshops (classes
smaller due to COVID)**

* Data based on program fiscal year



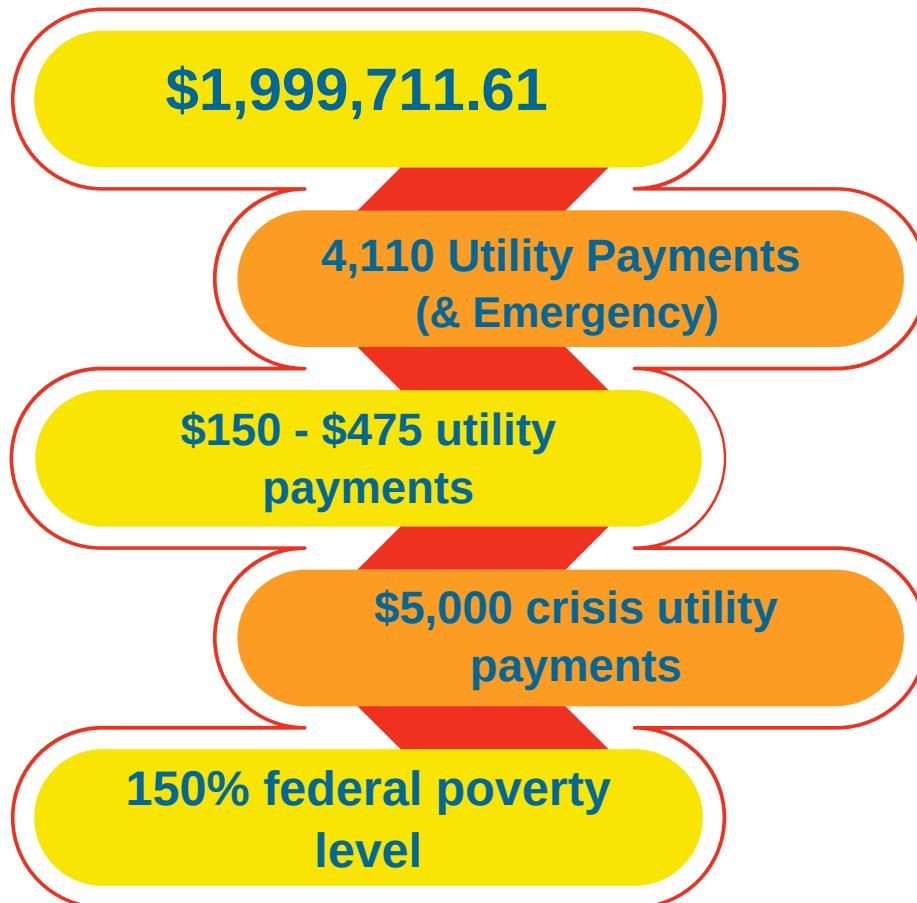
REACH is funded primarily through Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds, in conjunction with generous contributions from our local AAUW and individual donors



LIHEAP



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists high-energy burdened, low-income households with the costs of heating and cooling their homes. LIHEAP, which is federally funded, helps clients stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer through the Home Energy and Crisis Energy Assistance Program.



Home energy funds are:

- provided once per calendar year, directly to the utility provider
- based on the client's gross income and household size

Priority target groups include:

- age 60 or over
- persons with a disability
- at least with one child under 5 (five) in the home

“ COVID funds helped us serve even more families this year ”

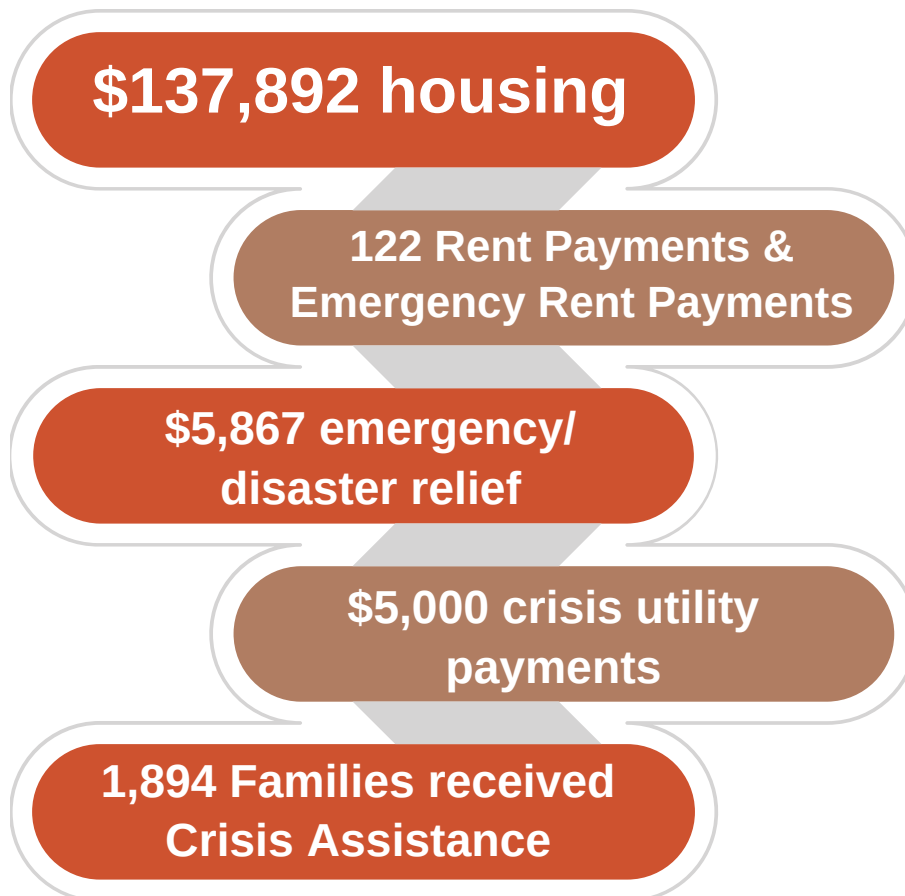
EOC provides LIHEAP services in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties.

* Data is based on program's 2021 fiscal year.

Emergency Assistance (Rental, Mortgage & Food)

The Emergency Assistance Program provides assistance with rent, mortgage, food, and obtaining a Florida ID Card.

For many, the way out of poverty begins with a decision to live a new way. For others, an emergency has resulted in a no-way-out situation. But, for all who want to strive for economic self-sufficiency, the Economic Opportunities Council is here to help. We work to cure the root causes of poverty, not just treat the symptoms.



Funds are provided by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to address services and needs of those living in poverty in our community.

Emergency Assistance is available in Indian River County only.

EOC provides rent assistance directly to landlords, and mortgage assistance directly to the bank

* Data based on program fiscal year

Community Engagement

Head Start requires a 20% local match and community engagement. We are so thankful to work with local partners to secure these funds & receive in-kind services.

In FY2021, our volunteers logged in 887.67 hours!

Featured Partnerships & Volunteers

Adopt A Class Sponsors - We appreciate you providing wonderful holiday gifts for our Head Start students!

Assisted Living Homes - Trick-or-Treat and holiday gatherings

Beta Sigma Phi – monthly donations of healthy snacks; blankets for naptime

Classroom Volunteers - Thanks for helping our students, teachers, and staff!

Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program - virtual presentations for all classrooms on oral health; free toothbrushes

Community Reads Week - Thank you to all of the readers!

Dental Buddies - dental screenings for Head Start students

Indian River County Department of Health - SNAP-Ed Program – monthly classroom nutrition activities featuring the “Grow It, Try It, Like It” curriculum

Indian River State College - referrals & PELL grants for REACH program, dental screenings for Head Start students

Kathy Doner, the “Gardening Grandma” – donating plants, seeds, and labor for preschool gardens and leading container gardening classes

KHS Consulting – on site covid-19 testing for parents and staff

Liberty Dental - dental screenings for Head Start students

Lions Club - vision screenings for Head Start students

Parents - donating supplies for the classrooms; assisting with preschool gardens

School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) - Head Start sites located on campuses of Indian River Academy, Citrus Elementary, & Dodgertown Elementary; VPK/Kindergarten transition; SDIRC on-site therapy at Douglas Head Start

The Learning Alliance - Moonshot Rocket & story time with Ms. Bridget

Tykes & Teens - therapy for children

VNA Mobile Health Unit - health screenings for Head Start students



“
I look forward to
Community Reads
Week every year! I
just love reading to the
children!
”



Service Locations

Indian River County

Administrative Offices & Community Services

2455 St. Lucie Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960
Tel: (772) 562-4177 Fax: (772) 794-7597



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES
COUNCIL**
Inspiring & Empowering Families

Citrus Head Start Center

(on campus of Citrus Elementary)
2771 4th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32968
Tel: (772) 569-4902 Fax: (772) 794-0744

Dodgertown Early Bird Classroom

(on campus of Dodgertown Elementary)
4350 43rd Avenue, Gifford, FL 32967
Tel: (772) 213-9922 Fax: (772)-794-7597 (Main Office)

Douglas Head Start Center

8445 64th Avenue, Wabasso, FL 32970
Tel: (772) 589-8008 Fax: (772) 589-1191



Highlands Head Start Center

(on campus of Indian River Academy)
500 SW 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32962
Tel: (772) 794-2375 Fax: (772) 794-1908

St. Helen's Head Start Center

3550 41st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32967
Tel: (772) 567-4347 Fax: (772) 562-0375

Okeechobee County

Northside Head Start Center

1798 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Tel: (863) 357-8677 Fax: (863) 357-6817

Seminole Center

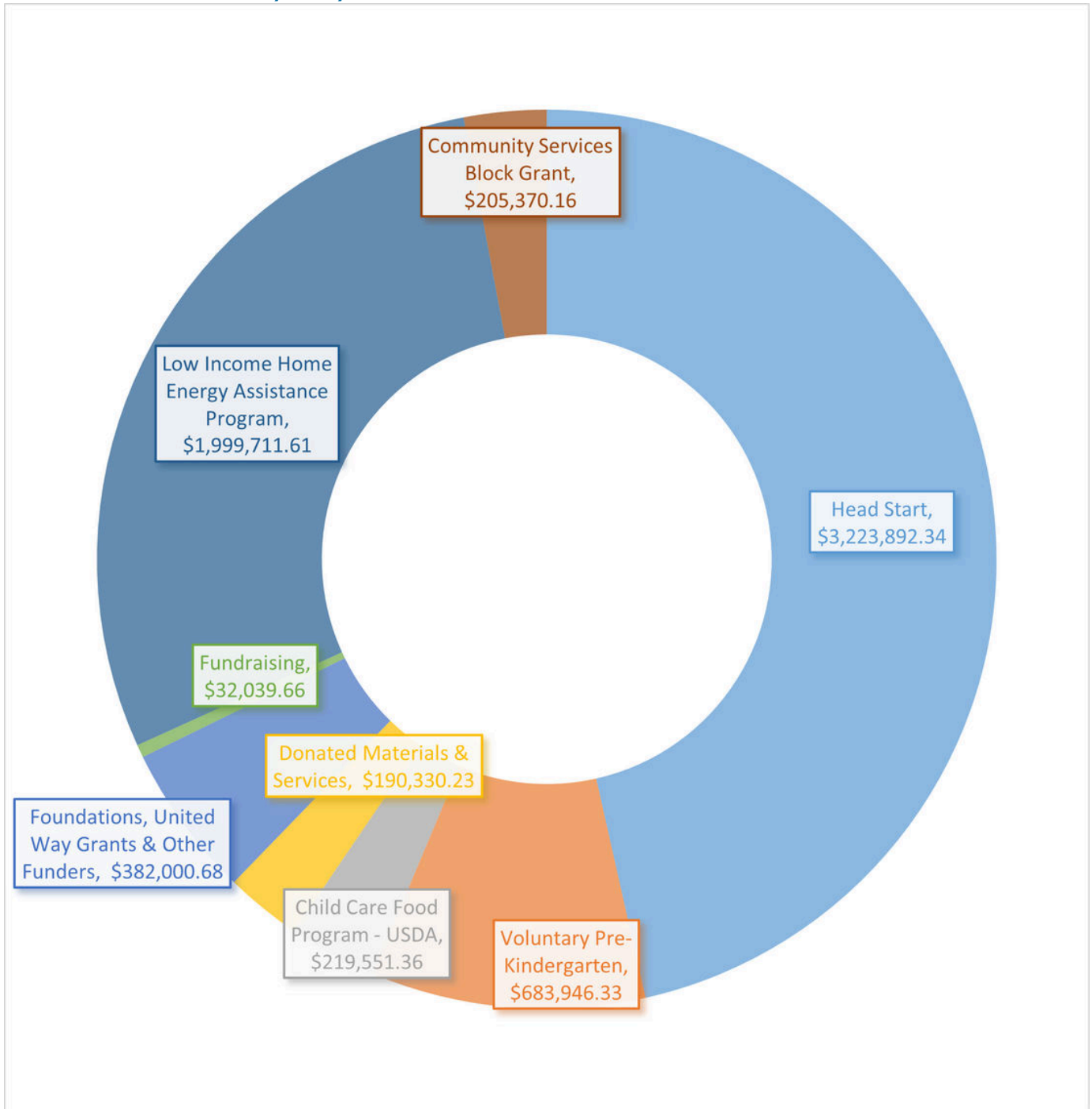
(on campus of Seminole Elementary School)
2690 NW 42nd Avenue, Okeechobee FL 34972
Tel: (863) 357-8677 Fax: (863) 357-6817



2021 Financials

January 1 - December 31

Total Revenue \$6,936,842.37



Financial Summary

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Cash	358,429	577,348
Receivables	647,968	209,195
Other	512,205	465,339
Total Assets	1,518,601	1,251,882
Current Liabilities	485,502	219,458
Net Assets	1,033,099	1,032,423
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,518,601	1,251,882
Grant Revenue	6,332,472	6,811,233
Donations & Other Revenue	414,040	616,305
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	676	11,377
Total Revenue	6,747,188	7,438,914
Program Services	6,079,750	6,518,369
Management & General	666,086	897,792
Total Expenses	6,745,836	7,416,161
Changes in Net Assets	676	11,377
Net Assets-Beginning of Year	1,119,127	1,107,750
Net Assets-End of Year	1,119,803	1,119,127

Audited Financial Statements and our 2021 Community Assessment are available at www.eocofirc.net

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the families we serve, our Board of Directors, and our staff, we would like to everyone who supports our efforts. Donations of your time, talent, and treasure are inspiring and empowering families! Thank you to our generous supporters:

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Biocellular Therapies and Coastline Imaging
- Brown & Brown Insurance
- Children's Services Advisory Council (CSAC)
- Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, & Okeechobee Counties
- East Coast Investigations
- Education Foundation of America
- First Florida Insurance Brokers
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunities (DEO)
- Florida Insurance Trust
- Florida Power & Light (FPL)
- George E. Warren Corporation
- Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program
- Hauser Family Foundation - Pat & Skip Hauser
- Head, Heart, Hands of Indian River Club
- Indian River Community Foundation
- Injury Care Clinic
- John's Island Foundation
- John's Island Community Service League
- Kyocera Document Solutions
- Mutual of America
- New Vision Eye Center
- Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center
- Office of Head Start
- Paycor
- Sports Chiropractic Health & Rehab
- Sysco
- The Prentice Foundation
- United Way of Indian River County

And a special thanks to our Individual & Corporate Donors



Acknowledgements

**Last, but certainly not least,
we would like to thank our incredible staff!!!!**



Without the time, energy, and dedication, of our amazing team, this life-changing work would not have happened. Together, we helped improve the quality of life for thousands of families and provided brain-building education for hundreds of students.

As the Community Action Network and Head Start provider for Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, we are proud to bring federal resources to the people who need it.

Our fantastic team was able to smoothly transition throughout the pandemic, keeping our doors open and complying with all of the federal guidelines attached to our funding.

As you can imagine, the work we do can be quite stressful at times. Still, our staff shows up strong and ready to help! We can't thank our team enough for the wonderful work they do!

THANK YOU!!!!



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL

Inspiring & Empowering Families

Proudly serving residents of
Indian River County & Okeechobee County
as the local provider of



2455 St. Lucie Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960

772-562-4177



www.EOCofIRC.net

