

Family Services Department

Community Action Division Update



Board of County Commissioners

May 5, 2020



Presentation Overview

- **Our History**
- **Our Promise**
- **Community Centers**
- **Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Programs**
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- **Senior Climate Efficiency Program**
- **Office on Aging**
- **Summary of Success**





Community Action History

- President Lyndon B. Johnson – War on Poverty
 - 1964 Economic Opportunity Act
 - Mission and model of Community Action
 - Family: help people escape poverty and achieve economic security
 - Community: tailor services to meet needs
 - Agency: national indicators and standards of success

- Orange County Community Action Division
 - Started as nonprofit (private)
 - Became official county division (public)





Community Action Promise

Community Action changes people's 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.





Community Centers

- Seven Targeted Community Centers
- Over 75 partners provided services or received referrals
- Over 500 volunteers giving approximately 3500 hours of service
- Nearly 200K visitors annually
- COVID-19 essential services only





COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

- **Community Action Board**
 - Maximum feasible participation
 - Public, Private and Community
- **Family Self Sufficiency Program**
 - Income eligibility – 125% of poverty guidelines for household size
 - Improve employability and income
 - Supportive services
 - Referral and placement with partners
- **Individual and Family Indicators**
 - Employment, education, income, housing, health, civic engagement





LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

- Provides financial assistance for utility bills
- Household income at or below 150% of federal poverty guideline for household size
- Crisis and Home Energy benefits
- Increased benefit for seniors, disabled and households with children under 5 years old
- LIHEAP Outcomes
 - delivered \$2,521,713 in home energy services
 - number of Units of Services was 7,699
 - held 7 outreach events serving households 764





SENIOR CLIMATE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

- **Central air-conditioning repairs and replacements for low-income seniors (60+)**
 - Preserves housing stock
 - helps seniors remain in their homes
- **Income eligible homeowners**
 - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), LIHEAP, CDBG, Food Stamps, Section 8 Housing, or household income at or below 200% of poverty level
- **Serves 30 homes annually**





OFFICE ON AGING

- Commission on Aging
- Community Agency Partnership
- LIFE Workshop Series
- Electronic Newsletter
 - COVID-19 Updates specific to seniors
- OrangeTV shows
- Liaison to Area Agency on Aging
- Resources for aging citizens and caretakers





COVID-19 Response and CARES Act

- Continuing to provide services
- Virtual appointments
- Digital applications and approval
- Program efficiencies
- Staff skill development
- CARES Act Funding
 - CSBG Estimated \$1.2M
 - LIHEP Estimated \$1.5M





SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

- **Met organizational standards 100%**
- **Migrated to a state-wide grant/case management software**
- **Streamlined facility rentals and license agreements**
- **Expanded and delivered specialized services through partnerships**
- **Modernized standing operating procedures**
- **Focused on meeting National Performance Indicators**
- **Participated at National, Regional and State Organizations**





SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

- Families sustained and stabilized
- Individuals empowered
- Senior citizen health and safety
- Household crisis support





COMMUNITY ACTION

The success of CAD would not have been possible without the support of the:

- Orange County Board of County Commissioners
- Community Action Board Members
- Community Action Division Staff
- CFS Department
- Comptroller
- County Attorney's Office
- Administrative Services Department
- Community Action Partners
- Volunteers

