

Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

Helping People, Changing Lives in Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware and Ottawa Counties

We aim to help individuals and communities overcome life obstacles. What's Your Situation? We Offer Solutions.

Call (918) 253-4683

www.neocaa.org

September News

Inside look...

- The agency's annual audit field-work was completed. We are pleased to report, per the auditor, there were no findings, no questioned costs, and no recommendations.
- The Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) monitored two awards of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program; Hope House Shelter in Tahlequah and the Ark Shelter in Quapaw. Minor items were noted.
- Staff began the transition process to regain the Early Head Start program. The agency submitted an Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership grant application to partner with local child-care providers to enhance those services to meet Early Head Start Standards.



Congratulations!!!!!!

- Thank you Finance staff for another perfect audit.
- Welcome W. Irene Jordan, the newly hired Teacher Assistant! Ms. Jordan has many years of child-care experience.
- Our deep appreciation to George Cochran, Mary Ann Overall and Leslie Rutherford for 15 years of dedication and commitment to Community Action.
- Julie Teska completed certification requirements for use of Consumer Finance Protection Bureau's new Financial Literacy curriculum designed for use with clients served by Community Action Agencies.

Supportive Financial Services...

A few years ago, the agency explored the need to provide alternative financing for moderate and lower income consumers to help prevent them from falling victim to abusive financial practices. The agency received a Community Development Financial Institutions Capacity Building grant to help with this endeavor.

We are pleased to announce that two (2) clients paid off their loans and one new loan recipient has begun repaying her loan. Other applicants are awaiting action from the Loan Committee.

Please direct questions or interest to Julia Teska at (918) 253-4683.

TANF Literacy...

Currently four (4) students participate in the program. To help students better understand what they are reading, the majority of time is focused on reading and working on comprehension, summarizing, and paraphrasing, as well as, vocabulary and context clues. Students write some each day, discuss current events and work on word problems in math. Students try to work problems that have to do with everyday life skills. Two students are preparing for their GED test.

Gardening...

Staff has doubled! Welcome Rhonda Sloan and Rhonda Cunningham. They started fall planting in four raised beds built by clients at Friendship Homes vocational program. Be sure to stop and look at these – especially the pumpkins plants!

Team Rhonda investigated the purchase of a greenhouse for use by the program and provided cost figures for bringing the greenhouse up to par.

Partners include: middle school science teacher at Grove Schools, Delaware County Friendship Homes, Area Cherokee National Tribal and Jay Chamber, and, others.



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Emergency Assistance...

Last month, we helped 18 families: nine obtained rent and nine obtained utility assistance.

The agency received a grant of state appropriated funds to assist families/individuals in all of counties we serve.

To often our neighbors, family and friends find they need temporary assistance when something unexpected happens. If you can spare some change, please consider donating to the emergency assistance fund. This fund helps people with past due utility bill, rent or house payment to prevent eviction, disaster relief, and, more. Contact Terry Cole, Case Manager, at tcole@neocaa.org or call (918) 253-4683.

RX for Northeast...

Linda Ely, Rx Customer Service Representative, helps you access prescription assistance programs provided by pharmaceutical manufacturing companies.

Last month, the Rx for Oklahoma Prescription Assistance Program assisted 8 new clients with 5 coming from Delaware, 2- Ottawa, 1 - Cherokee. A total of 59 clients received service and had 68 new claims with a value of medication cost saved of \$19,580.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance...

We are gearing up for the season. Recruitment of volunteers begins soon! Would you like to volunteer? Contact Cindy Templeman, Tax Program Manager, at ctemplment@neocaa.org or call the number above.

Rental Housing Development...

We use federal HOME funds to develop housing. One requirement is that an environmental review must be conducted and approved prior to purchase. We are pleased to announce this has been accomplished for new construction of duplexes in Westville. Staff has started on the environmental review process for Tahlequah and will repeat the process for the next phase of the Jay development.

Currently, Goldner Construction is constructing two duplexes in Jay; one 3-bedroom and one 2- bedroom. Interested in renting one of these units? Contact Leslie Rutherford, Rental Manager, at lrutherford@neocaa.org or call (918) 253-4683.

Housing Repair (AHP Grant)...

A total of 14 homes received partial rehab in Adair County. The remaining 22 will receive rehab in upcoming months.

Weatherization Assistance...

The Weatherization crew completed assessments and evaluations on ten (10) homes. Work is underway! Two homes completed, one waiting for contractor installation, and expect to have remaining homes completed by end of October.

At the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies conference in Midwest City, staff attended in-depth training on retro-fit installer, OSHA, DEQ Inspections, and more!

Training and Speaking

Are you in need of a speaker or training? Whether it's a keynote, small meeting or group training, we may be able to help. Contact Jean Cooper at

jcooper@neocaa.org.

