

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



*Lorain County
Community Action Agency
Annual Report 2019*



LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping People. Changing Lives.

Mentoring Community Minded Youth

LCCAA Bike Shop Now Open Three Days a Week

Our youth now operate the LCCAA Bike Shop three days a week. Their first customers have been residents who rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation and needed brake or tire repairs.

Franco Diaz, right, brought his bike into the shop because he accidentally removed the valve stem in his inner tube while using a pump at the public library. The youths replaced the inner tube and discovered that the brakes had some issues.

“Franco told us his bike is his only means of transportation,” said Youth Services Coordinator Bobby Taylor. “He said he needs his bike to get to work every day.”

Robert Fye, below right, brought his bike in to have its brakes repaired before the shop was fully open.

Fye was in the neighborhood, saw people in the building and stopped. He, too, relies on his bicycle for transportation.

The youth also partner in Go Lorain and Girls in Gear through the bike shop, in addition to their many other community services.

LCCAA Youth Services supports area food pantries with labor for stocking and staffing pick up days. They also operate their own Care Cupboard on Broadway Avenue once a month.

In many, many ways, our youth are powerful members of the Lorain County community.



'Thank You for Such a Powerful Community'



This has been a year of achievements all accomplished through the power of the Lorain County community. On June 22nd, we dedicated our new youth center building. The strong turnout reflected the support the new program has received.

Represented were the City of Lorain, our County Commissioners and partners such as Ed Stewart, OhioMeansJobs Lorain County, the Lorain Public Library and Lorain's Move Group, just to name a few. The event also represented what a supportive, giving community we have in Lorain County.

For me, the building dedication was a deeply gratifying experience and the realization of years of planning. On June 22nd, I felt the power of community. We also recognized a great community leader, Ronald Nabakowski, for whom the center

is named. Ron's family came in large numbers. We cried about missing him and laughed at how proud he would be of our programs and the youths in them. Our youths are phenomenal young people.

As we demonstrate how we are living our mission again to you this year, know that I am extending my thanks to everyone who has donated a bicycle, offered expertise, shopped at the new bike shop, and provided encouragement. Of course, the new bike shop was not our only achievement. Our other accomplishments are featured, too. As you read this report, I hope the power of what we achieved together shines on every page.

Yours in service,

Jackie Boehnlein, President and CEO

Our Mission is to serve and empower Lorain County residents in need.

Our Vision is to unclench poverty's grasp on the life of every man, woman and child in Lorain County.

We Value: Compassion, Wisdom, Momentum



Working as Community to Fight Poverty and Hunger

Food insecurity affects one in five persons in Lorain County, meaning more than 60,000 people each month deal with hunger right here in our county. LCCAA's latest Community Needs Assessment shows a steep rise in food insecurity in our community.

In 2019, 12 percent of survey respondents said not having enough food was a problem for their household. That is up from seven percent in 2017. Fourteen percent of respondents said they were likely to seek assistance at a food pantry during the next 12 months.

For decades, LCCAA has worked to feed Lorain County residents who are hungry. Since 2013, we have partnered with more than 30 food pantries throughout Lorain County to reach nearly 5,000 households.

Many of those same pantries have received labor assistance from our Youth Services Program. Inspired by that work, our youth created the Care Cupboard which operates out of our office at 936 Broadway Avenue in Lorain. Open on the third Saturday of each month, the Care Cupboard has distributed nearly 15,000 meals in the past year.

Our youth are never done, however. This summer they worked on three different community gardens, pictured left. They weeded, planted, rebuilt raised beds and made yet another contribution to feeding the community.

Demonstrating the Power of Community

You know an organization is adept at collaboration and partnering when it shows evidence of:

- ▶ Pooling resources within the county.
- ▶ Increasing communication among groups and building trust with those served and other organizations.
- ▶ Building networks and friendships.
- ▶ Using group influence to gain services or other benefits for the community.
- ▶ Creating long-term, permanent social change.

Source: Engaging Your Community: A Toolkit for Partnership, Collaboration and Action, Department of Health and Human Services.

LCCAA Launches Star Service to Better Meet Needs

Those we serve typically arrive at our doors seeking to solve a specific problem. Many of our clients have multiple needs; however, agency assessments show most people don't know about all the ways LCCAA can help.

This year, we launched our Star Service program to streamline our intake process and to ensure clients receive all the help they need.

When they visit for any reason, clients are asked about all their potential needs. If they come in seeking help with their electric bill and they have young children, we tell them about Head Start and can enroll them quickly.

If they are already a Head Start parent but need a car, we refer them to the By Car Program immediately.

Since March, we have used this process to make 247 internal transfers, saving clients from making multiple trips to multiple locations.

The new method means we find out as much as possible in one sitting and sign clients up for



valuable supports that increase their likelihood of success. We proactively serve clients and minimize their additional trips to the agency.

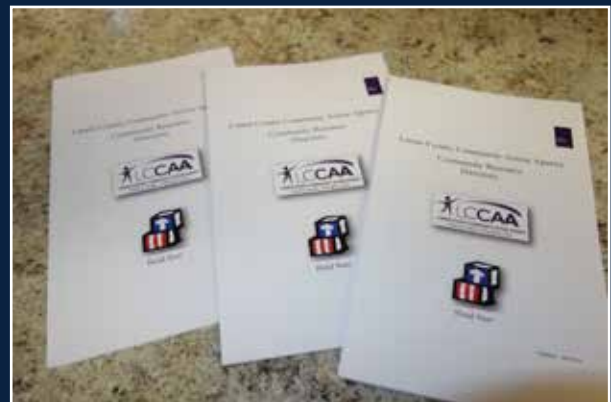
Customers notice only a few additional questions at HEAP appointments or Head Start enrollment. The goal is to provide each customer at least five different services to ensure we are addressing all needs.

Meeting More Needs: Our Community Resources Directory

Lorain County Community Action Agency has compiled a Resource Directory of frequently sought services available throughout Lorain County.

Copies are handed out at area events, every Head Start family receives one and Energy Advocates share them at HEAP appointments. Area police and safety services have copies as well. An electronic version is available at www.lccaa.net

More than 7,000 copies have been distributed in 2019.



Star Service Makes a Powerful Difference

Ramona Montanez was losing eggs, lettuce and a lot of time before she had multiple needs met through Lorain County Community Action Agency.

Ramona completed the WE3 program which led her to LCCAA's By Car, PIPP and Community Connections programs. Thanks to LCCAA's new Star Service program, her transitions between these services were virtually seamless.

"Our community and program assessments have repeatedly shown that our customers do not know about all the ways we can help them," said President and CEO Jackie Boehnlein. "This new method makes it easier to share information about programs and services, as well as internally transfer clients from one program to another."

WE3 (Women Empowered, Educated and Employed) is a community collaborative headquartered at Lorain County Community College. The program creates a network of women who learn together and support one another.

Ramona completed WE3 while working as an STNA for Comfort Keepers and taking prerequisite courses at LCCC. This summer, she transferred to EHOVE Career Center's Licensed Practical Nurse program, with the help of a grant from OhioMeansJobs.

In April, she became the outright owner of a 2012 Dodge Avenger. Her last car was heavily financed and eventually repossessed.

Ramona also enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan to save money on her utility bills. She



also received help from the Winter Crisis Program and Columbia Gas Fuel Funds. She then found out she qualified for Community Connections.

The partnership between LCCAA and Ohio Edison provides energy assessments on refrigerators and freezers. If necessary, the Community Connections Program replaces the appliances. The program also offers energy efficient light bulbs for all fixtures in the client's home.

Ramona, above with Community Connections inspector Rich Gardner, said she was throwing away food because her refrigerator was freezing them. She also had some light fixtures in her home that were without bulbs. In October, she received a new refrigerator and low wattage LED light bulbs.

"It gets really hard without these resources," Montanez said, noting her fixed income. "I am thankful. I am excited about my future."

Our Community Meets Needs

LCCAA's new Star Service intake process revealed a pressing need for children's coats for nearly 130 households.

Since 2013, LCCAA has distributed free children's coats with partners. In 2019, we simply didn't have the funding.

That's when a donor stepped up through the Community Foundation of Lorain County and provided \$10,000.

Through the grant, every household is being served even as temperatures reach freezing and below.

Now, that's powerful!

Empowerment Pro



By Car

Lack of transportation is often a big issue for low-income residents, particularly in areas where there is limited public transportation, like in Lorain County.

By Car allows participants to save earned income and provides a matching grant so they can purchase a used car.

A financial literacy course is required and LCCAA also helps participants find a quality used car and learn basic maintenance to keep it running.

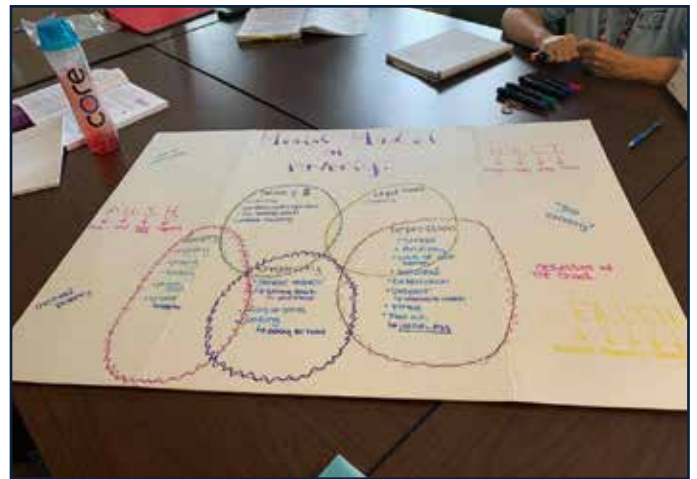
Participants must live at or below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Line and no one in their household can own a vehicle. Savings are matched 2 to 1, up to \$3,999 with funding from the Community Services Block Grant.

Getting Ahead

Getting Ahead is a unique program designed to help participants examine and eliminate their individual barriers to self-sufficiency.

Often, people living in poverty are caught up in what advocates call the "tyranny of the moment" leading them to emotional decisions. Getting Ahead is designed to shift their mindsets to tap into power they didn't know they had.

In a kitchen-table style setting, participants find strengths, learn skills to become financially secure, and set personal goals. The program is designed with continuous encouragement and support provided even after graduation.



Tech Connect Classes

LCCAA holds multiple Tech Connect sessions every year to help residents improve their computer skills.

The eight-session course erases career barriers by teaching Microsoft Office products, email use, and how to apply for jobs online. Classes are free to residents living at or below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.

Those who complete the course receive a free, refurbished computer. Classes are held in connection with OhioMeansJobs of Lorain County, in cooperation with WE3 (Women Empowered, Educated and Employed) or on demand at LCCAA facilities.

grams Provide Hope

Community Connections

LCCAA works with Ohio Edison's Community Connections program to conduct energy audits that can help lower utility bills and keep households out of crisis.

The audits address inefficient appliances and lighting. Participants may receive free, efficient refrigerators, freezers and light bulbs. Equipment must measure inefficient in order to be replaced. For example, a refrigerator must be using more wattage than it is designed to use.

To be eligible, clients must reside in Lorain County and live at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. Current HEAP or PIPP participants are qualified to receive an energy audit.

Clients must also own the appliances and have at least 12 months of electrical service in their name. Apartment residents' eligibility, as discussed below, is rare.



In 2019, 185 refrigerators and 1,100 light bulbs were distributed.

Building Community: Apartments Receive New Appliances

Residents of two apartment complexes in Lorain have efficient appliances thanks to a unique application of LCCAA's Community Connections program.

LCCAA facilitated the replacement of every refrigerator at both Pearl Village and Westgate Gardens Apartments. Pearl Village includes 80 units and Westgate Gardens 50. Both buildings are subsidized by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"These residents qualify for subsidized housing but still need to keep their utility bills under control," said Planning and Community Services Director Frank Prihoda. "They also need refrigeration they can count on since their food budgets are limited."

The new 16.5-cubic-inch GE refrigerators were delivered and installed by Lowe's during March and April. Prihoda credited retired Client Services Coordinator Bob McDonald with bringing the project to fruition.

"A project of this size involves a ton of eligibility verification, working with property owners and with the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy as well as Ohio Edison and Lowe's," he said. "Bob's tenacity got this done."

McDonald retired from the agency March 31.

According to property managers, residents were very pleased with their new appliances and grateful for the courtesy and efficiency of the installation crews (pictured above).

Utility Help When

While the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) serves those up to 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), in Lorain County, those receiving assistance were more likely to be below 100 percent FPL. HEAP recipients report very high energy bills and even closing off parts of their homes to save on heating costs. A quarter of HEAP recipients keep their homes at an unhealthy temperature due to costs. Many also use medical equipment that requires electricity. Nationwide in 2018:

- ▶ **46 percent had a senior in the household aged 60 or older.**
- ▶ **52 percent had a disabled household member.**
- ▶ **36 percent had a child 18 or younger.**
- ▶ **92 percent had at least one vulnerable household member.**

Source: National Energy Assistance Director's Association, 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey. Available at lccaa.net.

Serving Our Community: New Locations and Benefits



Every year, LCCAA serves thousands of residents with four different utility programs.

In 2019, to better serve the

county, we opened new offices thanks to ongoing partnerships.

Our office behind St. Agnes Church in Elyria was consolidated into an office at OhioMeansJobs in Elyria.

A brand new location in North Ridgeville on the campus of Lorain County Community College (pictured left) is now open on Thursdays.

Also new this year, we distributed fans as part of the Summer Crisis Program. This program targets seniors and people with illnesses, who are among the most vulnerable in extreme heat.

To be eligible, low-income residents must either be 60 or

older or have a medical condition worsened by extreme heat. People receive help paying their electric bills or a window air conditioner.

For 2019, electric box fans were also available – even to those who had received an air conditioner in the last three years. A total of 319 fans were distributed, according to Darnella Higginbotham, Emergency Services Coordinator.

“Our clients were able to leave with their fans in their hands,” she said. “It was so nice to see the smiles on their faces once they knew the fans were available on the spot. They were ALL so grateful and happy.”

You Need It the Most

HEAP

Lorain County Community Action Agency's Home Energy Assistance Program provides eligible individuals with financial assistance to cope with high home energy costs.

Our information and appointment line is available 24 hours a day at 1-855-806-9620. To be eligible for HEAP you must live at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.

HEAP benefits are applied to your utility account during the winter months and are available once per season.

Summer Crisis

A summer crisis program operates in July and August to help residents with health issues and senior citizens keep their homes cool. In 2019, LCCAA distributed 240 air conditioners and 319 box fans. A total of 441 households were helped with their bills.

Households must be living at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Line AND have a member age 60 or older OR have a member with a documented medical condition worsened by extreme heat.

PIPP Plus

Eligible customers can enroll in PIPP Plus to lower their utility bills and LCCAA has seen fewer people in crisis as a result.

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan costs homeowners in all electric homes just 10 percent of their income. Homeowners with both electric and gas service would pay 6 percent of their income to each utility. Participants can also earn credits to pay off outstanding balances.

LCCAA enrolls and re-verifies thousands of customers for PIPP Plus annually. PIPP helps keep bills at manageable levels allowing residents to become and remain self-sufficient.

Winter Crisis

Winter crisis operates from November to March and helps reconnect and pay for heat for residents. It can also postpone a shutoff if an appointment has been made.

Residents must be living at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Line and either have their heat turned off or be threatened with loss of their heat by a disconnect notice or less than a 10-day supply of bulk fuel.

For the winter of 2018-19, 1,940 people were assisted.

**Make an appointment anytime by calling 1-855-806-9620
or visiting www.capappointments.com.**

High Quality Early Childhood

Head Start Annual Information Report



LCCAA's high-quality Head Start Program expanded services and extended hours while earning attention from high-ranking officials in 2019.

Our newest directly operated center (pictured at right) is in LaGrange, located inside the Lorain County Early Learning Center. This center received it's Five Star Step Up to Quality rating within months of opening, based on LCCAA's more than 50 years of experience.



All six of LCCAA's directly operated centers have earned the five-star rating from the program, which becomes mandatory next year.

LCCAA Head Start also celebrated a "quality-affirming" federal review which stated the program meets all the stringent requirements, federal performance standards, laws and regulations demanded of the funding.

Fact-finders examined every aspect of LCCAA's Head Start program in detail and found that LCCAA intentionally uses data and information to improve teaching, assessments, family engagement and more.

The agency also was found to use community partnerships and collaborations effectively in providing resources to Head Start families.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (below) visited Hopkins-Locke Head Start on the heels of the announcement of the federal accolades. That center now includes all full-day classrooms thanks to the same grant that created LaGrange Head Start.

LCCAA's consistent high-quality and meticulous attention to every aspect of early childhood education and development have enabled LCCAA to secure funding in a highly competitive environment.



LCCAA Head Start includes 891 slots which in 2018-19 served a total of 1,146 students. Early Head Start includes 40 slots which served 67 young children and/or pregnant mothers. Full enrollment is maintained with a waiting list.

To be eligible, families must live at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. Families receiving TANF or SSI are automatically eligible, as are homeless children and children in foster care. Head Start also serves children with disabilities.

Our home-based option provides the same proven, research-based curriculum as options in our centers and at our area public schools. Our collaborations are stronger than ever with relationships well-established in all 21 school districts throughout Lorain County.

Education Makes A Difference



How to Spot High Quality

High-quality programs employ well-educated staff who...

- ▶ Learn about individual children and families, and plan environments, experiences and services that build on their strengths and meet their needs.
- ▶ Engage in partnerships with families, including expectant families.
- ▶ Connect children and families to a range of community services.
- ▶ Understand the needs of infants, toddlers and their families and use what they know to offer children individualized care and routines.
- ▶ Are supported by state and federal regulations that put health and safety first.

Source: Early Essentials: Components of Quality, Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center



Head Start Works!

Our work with families is based on mutual respect and trust, developing with every interaction between staff and families.

Using intentional tools and strategies to support families, LCCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start family service staff focus on the following objectives to strengthen families and parenting in our community:

- Family well-being,
- Positive parent-child relationships,
- Families as lifelong educators,
- Families as learners,
- Family engagement in transitions,
- Family connections to peers & community,
- Families as advocates and leaders.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Head Start's highly credentialed teachers use the national Head Start framework to focus their efforts to prepare students for kindergarten. All tools are based on years of research into what children should know and be able to do.

Measurable outcomes include: managing feelings, making friends, throwing a ball, holding a crayon, participating in a two-way conversation, remembering experiences, and recognizing basic print concepts as well as shapes and patterns.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Head Start works to empower parents by connecting them with other needed services. They also provide support by building relationships and making sure each unique need is met.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and participate on the Parent Policy Council to help make decisions about the program.

Many parents report that Head Start has provided empowerment through education to their entire family.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Head Start provides students with healthy and delicious snacks and lunches throughout the school year. Nutrition staff also share tips and recipes regularly.

Students also receive health screenings including vision tests and blood tests for lead exposure. Connections with doctors, dentists and services for children with disabilities are made as needed.

	Head Start	Head Start	Early Head Start	Early Head Start
Family Services	# of Families	% of Families	# of Families	% of Families
Two-parent families	345	34%	14	23%
Single-parent families	681	66%	47	77%
Families receiving TANF	154	15%	4	7%
Families receiving SSI	117	11%	7	11%
Families receiving SNAP (food stamps)	515	50%	44	72%
Income below 100% FPL	1,048	91%	57	93%
Income above 101% FPL	98	9%	4	7%
Families experiencing homelessness	48	4%	8	13%
Homeless families who found housing	25	53%	5	63%
Father involvement	421	41%	33	54%
Emergency/crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter	436	42%	20	33%
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	347	34%	11	18%
Mental health services	71	7%	11	18%
English as a second language training	50	5%	5	8%
Adult education such as GED programs and college selection	60	6%	11	18%
Job training	78	8%	13	21%
Substance abuse prevention or treatment	37	3%	5	8%
Child abuse and neglect services	4	<1%	2	3%
Domestic violence services	9	1%	5	8%
Child support assistance	149	15%	9	15%
Health education	896	87%	60	98%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	15	1%	1	<1%
Parenting education	1,011	99%	61	100%
Relationship/marriage education	37	3%	6	10%
Asset building services	119	12%	23	38%
Access to health care	1,145	99%	67	100%
Access to dental care	1,101	96%	64	96%
Chronic medical condition or receiving dental treatment	193	17%	6	9%



Parent Policy Council

LCCAA holds a voting seat on the Board of Directors for the Policy Council President as part of its joint governance structure. This allows the voice of Head Start parents to be heard and counted in Agency decision making. Thank you to the 2018-19 members of Policy Council.

Reginald Cremeans, President
Crystal Bey, Vice President
Susan West, Vice President
Tabatha Smith, Secretary
Cierra Brady, Asst. Secretary
Kathryn Brenner
Kathy Byrnes
Abigail Ferry
Gina Gordon

Daniel Hunter
Sara Irvan
Cara Kashmer
Tami Krugman-Smith
Isha Merrell
Evelia Palafox-Ramirez
Brittany Sartin
Justin Smith
Monique West



From Head Start to Pre-Med

Dana Daniels joined the LCCAA staff in 1998 as a Family Advocate, today known as a Family Service Worker. A few years later, she knew exactly what to do when her daughter Madisyn was ready for preschool.

"I knew she would be engaged in an education as well as learning the concepts of socializing," Dana said. "Head Start inspired her desire to learn and take pride in her education."

Today, Madisyn is a proud graduate of Elyria High School who earned several awards including being in the top 10 percent of her class.

After fielding offers from around the state, she headed to the University of Akron as a pre-med major. Her goal is to become a child psychologist.

"I cherish every moment that I was able to spend with powerful early influencers like my teachers, and mother, because without them I would not be where I am today," Madisyn said.

Madisyn remembers her enthusiastic teacher Beverly Jones (pictured) well and quotes her often.

"She always embraced my classmates and me whenever we accomplished a task that we were given," Madisyn said. "Her favorite quote was 'okay, now kiss your brain' and I will always remember that."

Dana Daniels is proud of her daughter saying, "Not only has she excelled in her academics, but she also has grown into a determined young woman who achieves success."



And Madisyn doesn't hesitate to give credit to Head Start:

"This program is truly a blessing to kids and really opens up success for all enrolled."

Head Start Helps Overcome Obstacles

Three- and four-year-olds have a lot to learn and Head Start knows each child learns differently. Whether is it managing emotions, separating from parents or coping with a medical diagnosis, Head Start guides children and their families to success.

Jaxson (below) has moved on to kindergarten in Wellington after mastering skills thanks to special interventions. Teachers recognized his uniqueness and provided assistance in specific areas. According to his mom, Kathy, that helped improve Jaxson's communication and social skills.

Kathy also praised Jaxson's teachers for turning many of the exercises that helped him into classroom activities. That compassionate step kept him from feeling singled out, she said.

"He's progressed so much," Kathy said. "He's not afraid of large groups and loves going places."



Lou-Emma started last school year tearfully at Firelands Head Start. She was reluctant to leave her mother and didn't interact with the other students.

After several months experiencing patience from

teachers and a regular routine, Lou-Emma became comfortable. Teacher Jennifer Ketcham worked closely with her mother Danielle to maximize the optimal instruction time for Lou-Emma.

Lou-Emma (above) is enjoying another year at Firelands Head Start where she now feels safe and comfortable.

"It's wonderful how the staff has gone beyond to help put her on the right path," Danielle said. "The teachers are amazing at helping Lou-Emma."

With compassionate teachers and staff tapping into their shared wisdom, Head Start creates momentum for children that carries them strongly into kindergarten and beyond.



**Head Start welcomed
1,251 volunteers during the
2018-19 school year.
They contributed
20,300 hours.
Thank you, volunteers!**

High Quality Services ...

LCCAA Head Start meets children and families where they are by taking care to locate its centers and collaborative partners where needs are the greatest.

LCCAA also considers pockets of poverty in areas that are harder to reach due to lack of public transit — just one reason for offering a home-based option.

LCCAA has relationships with all 21 school districts in Lorain County. These and other collaborations extend the reach of Head Start.



Directly Operated

LCCAA Head Start @ Cascade,
233 Bond Street, Elyria 44035

LCCAA Head Start @ Elyria,
631 Griswold Road, Elyria 44035

LCCAA Head Start @ Firelands
10779 Vermilion Road, Oberlin 44074

LCCAA Head Start @ Hopkins-Locke,
1050 Reid Avenue, Lorain 44052

LCCAA Head Start @ Wellington
305 Union Street, Wellington 44090

LCCAA Head Start @ LaGrange
12079 LaGrange Road, LaGrange 44050

Partners

Elyria Early Childhood Village
42101 Griswold Road, Elyria 44035

Horizon Educational Centers
2500 Colorado Avenue, Lorain 44055
4911 Grove Avenue, Lorain 44055
10347 Dewhurst Road, Elyria 44035
109 Loudon Court, Elyria 44035

Little Lighthouse Learning Center
1715 Meister Road, Lorain 44053

Lorain City Schools
Eight locations in Lorain

Additional Grant Expands Head Start

A new Head Start classroom opened in LaGrange this fall thanks to an additional federal grant received by Lorain County Community Action Agency. The full-day classroom serves 20 children ages 3 to 5 inside the Lorain County Early Learning Center (ELC), 12079 LaGrange Road.

The ELC is a preschool program operated by the Lorain County Educational Service Center. Once opened, LCCAA Head Start @ LaGrange became the agency's sixth directly operated Head Start center.

"We are thrilled to be able to serve this portion of the county," said Head Start Director Shauna Matelski, Ed.D. "Full-day enrollment gives us more instruction time with the children and tremendous opportunities to prepare them for kindergarten and lifelong learning."

Also thanks to the grant, all classrooms at Hopkins-Locke, the program's largest center, became full day this fall.

... from Highly Qualified Staff



LCCAA recognizes staff milestones annually at our all-agency event at the beginning of the school year. The following staff members were recognized in August 2019.

Stefanie Drew, 25 years
Judie Emerine, 25 years
Tarnisha Freeman, 25 years
Paula Greer, 25 years
Kathryn Ramsey, 25 years
Brenda Towner, 25 years
Shelly Zakrajsek, 25 years
Dana Daniels, 20 years
Kathleen Gardner, 20 years
Nilda Melendez, 20 years
Carla Rodriguez, 20 years
Jackie Watkins, 20 years
Kimberly Allgood, 10 years
Kartha G. Babuji, 10 years
Bernetta Folmar, 10 years
Sabrina E. Osborne, 10 years



The Agency promotes professional development, including tuition assistance. We celebrate degree attainment for the opportunities it creates for our staff and the quality higher education brings to our programs.

In 2019, we celebrate:

Shauna Matelski, Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Capella University
Christa Battle, Master's in Education from Kent State University (pictured below)
Barb Kane, Certified Weekend Warrior, Polaris Career Center

Six of LCCAA's Family Service Workers started the school year as certified Family Development Specialists. They earned the credential during a conference hosted by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA). Family Development establishes a framework to work holistically with the entire family.

Certified Family Development Specialists are better able to focus resources for eligible families to achieve self-sufficiency in many areas such as housing, income and budgeting, transportation, family and social relations, recovery from alcohol and drug abuse, mental and emotional health, and much more.

Receiving their certifications were: Hortensia Agosto (Hopkins-Locke), Deanna Gregg (Supervisor), Brittani Hamilton (Griswold), Elsa Quinones (Hopkins-Locke), Kailey Vilyus (Hopkins-Locke) and Sierra Williams (Hopkins-Locke).



LCCAA's Committed Board of Directors



Finding local solutions to local needs creates power. That was the whole idea behind Community Action and continues to be LCCAA's mainstay today.

As chair of the board, I see how people coming together makes a difference. Our board proves that point. Each member brings skills, perspectives and commitment providing governance that matters to people in need.

Through strategic planning and oversight, we create high-quality services in response to the needs of Lorain County residents. Our programs grow and change in response to local data and customer feedback.

Looking ahead to 2020, we continue our focus on local issues and localizing issues. The US Census seeks a complete count of all residents. LCCAA knows everyone counts. We encourage you to be counted and know each of you can count on us.

In Service,

Henry Patterson, Chair

Board of Directors

Henry Patterson, Chair
Nancy Sabath, Vice Chair
Scott Broadwell, Secretary
Joe Falbo, Treasurer

Paul Biber
Rev. Calvin Currie
Tiffany Dennis
Tony Giardini
Sherry Green
Gerald Pippens
Vasyl Rabosyuk
Hans Schneider
Vassie Scott
Mike Szekely
Susan West

LCCAA's funding requires the Agency to have a board made up of equal representation from three sectors: Public (elected officials or their designees), Private (business or community groups) and Low-Income (people in poverty and those who serve them.)

The purpose of this requirement is to gain input from each of these sectors on community needs, resources and program effectiveness.

Thanking Two Committed Leaders



Two strong advocates for LCCAA have left the Board of Directors in 2019.

Rhoda Lee, an activist since childhood, was originally appointed to the board in 2003. She retired from the board in September but says her "ties to Community Action and Head Start are unbreakable."

Lee's seat on the board was filled by Sherry Green in November.

Reginald Cremeans served on LCCAA's board as part of his appointment as Policy Council President. He remains a strong Head Start ambassador.

His seat on the LCCAA board has been filled by new Policy Council President Susan West.

7th Annual Wine Tasting and Auction



LCCAA's 7th Annual Wine Tasting and Auction raised a record amount for the agency while a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Horizon Education Centers, Lowe's, United Property Management, Walter-Haverfield LLP, Caruso Cabinets, Medical Mutual, Northwest Bank, Get Go, Huntington Bank, OACAA, and Ryan-St. Marie Insurance.

Our auction went LIVE this year thanks to the generosity and talent of Warner McConaughey of Creekside Auction Gallery.

Thank you auction donors: Lowe's, Scott Broadwell, Cedar Point, Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Monsters, David Anthony Salon, Lakeshore Learning, Firelands Country Store, Riddell, Faith Schneider, SQP Printing and 530 Shop.

Thanks are also due to Cork Tree Tavern (aka Cole's Public House) and Nichole, as well as Giuseppe's Wine Cellar and Paul.

Thank you to all the members of our Board of Directors who attended and assisted. Huge thank you to the many staff members who helped plan and execute a great event.

Special thanks to event chair Mike Szekely.



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CABINETS

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HORIZON
EDUCATION CENTERS
... A World of Learning ...

 **Huntington**

LOWE'S



MEDICAL MUTUAL

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Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies

Ryan St. Marie
INSURANCE

**UNITED PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT CO.**

Walter | Haverfield LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Statement of Financial Position

	Unaudited 2019	Audited 2018
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	424,588	408,879
Grants Receivable	599,311	468,703
Accounts Receivable (net of allowance for uncollectable account)	(2,026)	1,091
Prepaid Expenses	18,551	14,712
Other Current Assets	722	2,137
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,041,146	895,522
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Land	26,283	23,737
Building and Improvements	638,846	614,456
	665,128	638,193
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(514,867)	(479,964)
Total Property and Equipment	150,261	158,229
Long Term Assets		
Security Deposit	-	-
	1,191,407	1,053,751
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	64,829	83,640
Accrued Expenses		
Payroll and Related Expenses and Withholdings	289,418	222,956
Vacation	40,366	35,667
Refundable Advances	155,077	178,830
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	9,392	9,484
Other Current Liabilities	-	-
	113,434	113,516
LONG TERM DEBT, LESS CURRENT PORTION		
	113,434	113,516
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	518,890	409,658
Temporarily Restricted		
Permanently Restricted		
	518,890	409,658
	1,191,407	1,053,751

Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES

	Unaudited 2018-2019	Audited 2017-2018
Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)	535,653	527,852
Head Start	7,578,035	7,134,104
USDA	422,180	399,594
Early Childhood Expansion Grant	440,029	414,029
Elyria Memorial Hospital Foundation	3,229	6,065
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	773,241	850,187
PIPP	50,657	46,775
In-Kind	2,025,101	1,974,713
Ohio Partnership for Affordable Energy (OPAE)	302,448	212,616
WE-3 LCCC Fiscal	11,173	560
LC Bridges Out of Poverty	1,256	613
Lorain National Bank Foundation	230	-
Dollar Bank Foundation	1,165	199
PNC	538	5,000
Day Care Services	126	39
Corporate	7,699	177
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation	1,421	-
LCCAA Fund-Raising	13,626	4,097
Total Revenue by Funding Source	12,167,806	11,576,621
Grant Revenue	9,987,117	9,332,823
Program Income	134,264	119,133
Donations	14,084	11,244
Other Income	7,241	138,708
In-Kind	2,025,101	1,974,713
Total Revenue by Income Type	12,167,806	11,576,621

EXPENDITURES

	Unaudited 2018-2019	Audited 2017-2018
Community Services Block Grant	538,488	527,852
Energy Services	1,075,689	1,062,803
PIPP Grant	50,657	46,775
Head Start (Including USDA, SUTQ, ECE)	10,462,510	9,922,439
Elyria Memorial Foundation	3,229	6,065
PNC Foundation	538	5,000
Dollar Bank Foundation	1,165	199
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation	1,421	-
Day Care Services	-	(385)
WE-3 LCCC Fiscal/Bridges	12,429	1,173
Corporate	37,805	90,133
Lorain National Bank Foundation	230	-
LCCAA Fund-Raising	5,380	4,097
Total Expenditures by Source	12,189,514	11,666,151
Personnel	4,024,675	3,795,281
Fringe Benefits	1,785,515	1,660,200
Consultants/Contracts	893,158	823,329
Travel/Transportation	110,348	137,321
Space Costs	702,511	751,540
Supplies/Food	450,150	433,842
Equipment Lease/Purchase/Depreciation	162,684	176,453
Energy Assistance Payments	517,503	524,230
Insurance	24,836	32,780
Other	476,658	417,794
General Administrative Expense	1,016,457	938,668
In-Kind Expense	2,025,046	1,974,713
Total Expenses by Category	12,189,541	11,666,151
Net Assets	(21,735)	(89,530)



This summer we held the dedication for our new youth center. The community turnout and support was great to see. I am so impressed with how our youth are gaining work skills and getting experience that will stay with them as they grow into jobs and careers.

One of the Board's primary roles is overseeing the finances of the agency. The Finance Committee meets monthly providing oversight. We are particularly proud of the fact that 88 percent of all funding goes directly to services. This shows we are focused on our mission of serving Lorain County residents in need.

2019 was a powerful year. We saw additional

funding in Head Start this year that allowed us to expand services and add staff. Our annual fund-raiser, the Wine Tasting and Auction, received a record amount of sponsorships. We also expanded utility assistance service locations based on one-time funding made available through the State of Ohio.

We continue to work within the community in so many ways. I noticed that the day of the youth center dedication. It takes all of us working together to overcome the huge challenges of poverty. From our new Star Service to opportunities taken to improve programs and services, LCCAA is an agency that helps people and changes lives. Thank you for being part of making change for the better.

Joseph Falbo
Treasurer

Everyone Counts So Be Counted!

United States[®]
Census
2020

Low-income households are some of the least likely to respond and stand to lose the most if not counted. Census statistics determine funding for schools, community colleges, hospitals, roads, public works, federal funding and other vital services

FACT: By law, your responses cannot be used to identify you or against you in any way. Your responses can only be used to produce statistics.



LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping People. Changing Lives.

Lorain County Community Action Agency
936 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44052
1-800-204-2009
www.lccaa.net