



WICAA

Western Indiana Community Action Agency, Inc.
Serving Our Community Since 1964

2022 Annual Report

WICAA WEBSITE

As a result of the pandemic and the resulting necessity of strong digital communication WICAA took this opportunity to rejuvenate our website. In collaboration with RJL Solutions, Inc. of Terre Haute the new website was launched in late summer. The website provides a compelling interactive interface for all WICAA programs.

The new website offers visitors the option of sending questions directly to a specific program or general questions. This addition alone has created an easy method of communication throughout the agency. Some programs are getting numerous inquiries weekly.

The website accommodates for PC and mobile viewing and provides maps to all locations.



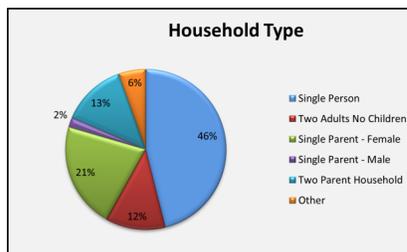
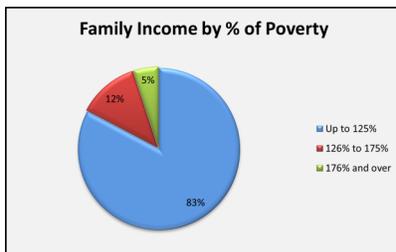
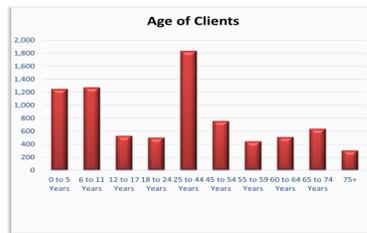
WICAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

President: Judy Anderson Vice President: John Mace, Secretary: Dot Hamann, Treasurer: Rose Mary Price

- Clay County: John Mace, Rose Mary Price, John Cesinger
- Putnam County: Donna Graham, Ola Ekulona, Kevin Verhoff
- Vigo County: Judy Anderson, Duke Bennett, Samantha Bowman, Kelly Coy, Dot Hamann, Mary Beth Harris, Marleah McLuer, Madonna Nally, Jared Price, Michael Starkey, Bill Treash

2022 OVERVIEW

In 2022, the agency served 15,446 individuals and 6,708 households. The graphs below reflect how all of our programs were able to impact the lives of these individuals, their households, and the communities we service.



PROGRAMS

CSBG CARES Act.....	2
Energy Assistance.....	2
Family Development.....	2
Head Start & Early Head Start.....	2
Medical Assistance.....	3
Senior Programs.....	3
Weatherization.....	3
WIC.....	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Website updated.
- WIC gets new Director.

CSBG CARES ACT

Funds from the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), which began in 2020, provided 60 households additional assistance in 2022 before exhausting all remaining resources in August. In addition to the household direct assistance we were able to utilize CARES funds in updating the WICAA website so individuals and partners can access program information easily.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Energy Assistance program continued to be a much needed resource for 2022 in our community. The program served 7,461 individuals in 3,725 households.

The American Rescue Plan funds available in the spring of 2022 allowed many households a clean slate regarding their gas and electric bills by paying off arrearages. The continuation of the water program provided an additional opportunity for families in our communities to maintain water and waste water for their homes as well.

Duke Share the Light funds were available during the program year which were used to help Duke Energy customers with deposits and past due balances.



FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Family Development served 25 households during 2022. Ten families were placed in homes this past summer and they have all maintained it. Five of the families were homeless, often living in vehicles, shelters, motels, or with family or friends.

Family Night at Ryves Hall started February 2022 with 40 participants and by the end of the year had almost 300. The Family Night event now averages 150-300 people on a monthly basis. This even is held in a low income neighborhood and Ryves Hall is a safe haven for the kids. The program offers community collaboration partnering with Fifth Third Bank, Terre Haute Housing Authority, Catholic Charities, and more.

The Family Development program continues to grow providing resources to many families through collaborations, referrals, and resource fairs. Our biggest compliment is when our clients refer us based on their positive experience.



HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START

During the 2022 calendar year, Early Head Start and Head Start served a cumulative total of 425 children and their families throughout Vigo, Clay and Putnam counties.

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs prioritized inclusion in 2022 through trainings and policy changes. Some of those changes included revising the behavior support policies to strengthen support services to children with behavior needs, strengthening our partnership with our mental health consultant to take a proactive approach to children experiencing a social/emotional concern, and supporting staff in the classroom through side by side coaching.

Other notable accomplishments in 2022 includes participating in more community outreach opportunities. The increased networking has resulted in full program enrollment and more on-site field trip experiences for children. An expanded partnership with Ivy Tech Community College has created the opportunity to look at a specialized CDA Cohort program for Head Start staff to meet their educational needs while working. Clay County Head Start and Putnam County Head Start childcare licensing renewal visits were completed with no areas of concern.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

During 2022, 47 Foster Grandparent volunteers provided 43,845 hours of service. They provided classroom assistance in school readiness activities to pre-school age children at childcare centers and Head Start classrooms, tutored students in public schools in literacy and/or math, mentored disadvantaged youth at community-based sites, and provided assistance to young mothers and their children at Alternative for Living and Learning Nursery. The primary focus area of this project is School Readiness and K-12 Success. At the end of the 12-month performance period 100% of the pre-school age children in childcare centers and Head Start demonstrated gains in school readiness.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

The RSVP program had an enrollment of 80 active volunteers in 2022 and reported 4,291 service hours. RSVP volunteers served at 8 different stations throughout our service area. The RSVP volunteers provided a variety of community services including operating a recycling center, assisting in food banks, providing social services to seniors, serving visitors to hospitals and museums, provided friendly assistance to homebound individuals, and those living in nursing homes, and participating in many community events within each county we serve. This year we had five RSVP volunteers at our WICAA Recycling Center who took in more than 3 tons of aluminum and kept that amount of waste out of our landfills. Also, during the 2022 service year 20 volunteers served at the Putnam County Emergency Food Pantry which served more than 78,000 meals.

INDIANA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

In 2022 we also participated in Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA2) through INCAA providing outreach, application assistance, and housing stability counseling for qualified households within our counties needing help with rental costs.

“Foster Grandparent volunteers provided 43,845 hours of service.”

WEATHERIZATION

Through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Weatherization Program was able to purchase four hybrid vehicles which greatly reduced fuel consumption. This grant also allowed for the purchase of new tools and equipment making energy audits much faster.

Weatherization was able to get nine homes off our deferral list through the use of AEP funding. Utilizing another funding source called Home Repair which allows for low-cost repairs to homes that are deferred beyond the scope of Weatherization. This permits clients to still receive some energy savings even if they're unable to receive the full Weatherization Package.



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The cost of medications is one of the many things that has been on the rise. For individuals on a fixed income medical expenses can be a challenge. Fortunately, the medical assistance program was able to assist numerous individuals in our community with obtaining needed medical supplies.

**WESTERN INDIANA
COMMUNITY ACTION
AGENCY, INC.**

WIC



During the 2022 calendar year, Vigo County WIC focused on Lactation Services outreach by bringing the Nursing Nook to 14 community events, surpassing our goal of attending one event per month. The Nursing Nook is a 10 x 10 tent that provides nursing parents with a comfortable and private area to feed and change their babies at community events and festivals. It also serves as a conversation piece for WIC staff to discuss with people in the community the importance of supporting lactating mothers.

Over the past year, WIC staff members have been active in the Postpartum Food Prescription Program, the Wabash Valley Breastfeeding Ecosystems Workgroup, and the All Babies Initiative. We have also had one staff member earn her Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant credential and a second staff member is set to test for this credential in the spring.

According to the data, our investment in concentrating on lactation support has paid off significantly. Benchmark reports from January 2022 show that 66.5% of people who gave birth initiated breastfeeding. By September 2022, the number of new mothers initiating lactation climbed to 70.8%. Although benchmark reports are not available through the end of 2022 yet, raw data suggests that the months of November and December show a potential increase in breastfeeding initiation to 73.2%.

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STAFF

Energy Assistance Director	Stacey Bennett	Senior Programs Director.....	Donna Fullhart
Head Start Director.....	Shelly Conine	Weatherization Director.....	Jon Hook
Family Dev./Med. Assistance	Maria Bonilla-Thompson	WIC Director.....	Melissa Bennett
Executive Director.....	Carole Barr	Finance Director.....	Debbie Kearschner
Deputy Director.....	Angela Lambert	Director of Admin. Services.....	Angela Howard

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Program	Amount
Energy Assistance	4,728,225.62
Weatherization	627,677.76
Vectren Share the Warmth	2,538.79
Head Start	3,358,259.95
Foster Grandparent Program	313,136.49
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	40,334.95
Women, Infants and Children	736,871.78
Medical Assistance	8,754.90
Family Development	106,218.01
Aluminum Recycling	4,775.35
Donations	1,905.80
In-kind and Match (Head Start, FGP, RSVP)	555,114.14
Total	10,483,813.53

2022 Employees	
Full-time	84
Part-time	21
Temp	3
Total	108

