

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Focusing on communities.

Focusing on you.



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C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation is **Celebrating Success**: the **Success** of 25,850 individuals and families we served this past year; the **Success** of 2,439 volunteers that provided 112,888 hours of services; the **Success** of all the community partners that have helped our families reach their goals; the **Success** of 240 CEFS employees that have provided dedication, hard work, and compassion to the people we serve; and **Celebrating the Success** of C.E.F.S. providing opportunities for people in our communities through education and support to achieve and maintain stability for the past 58 years. The **Success** of individuals we serve can be as simple as using our Central Illinois Public Transit daily to get a ride to work, a homebound senior getting a hot meal through our Meals on Wheels Program, a Head Start child learning their ABCs, or something more complex as helping a single mother obtain her RN degree through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program (WIOA).

The opportunities made available through C.E.F.S. have allowed the people we serve to **Celebrate Success** in their life. These opportunities are provided by Education, Housing Stability Services, Crisis Assistance, Senior Services, Energy Efficiency Services, and Transportation. Through this annual report, you will see specific examples of how these services have impacted individuals in our community. You will also see the community support that was provided by businesses and by our dedicated group of volunteers.

We want to thank all our partners, businesses, volunteers, and our employees in "Helping People, and Changing Lives." Without this support, C.E.F.S. could not help the thousands of people in our communities in achieving and maintaining stability.

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

Booker T. Washington



Kevin Bushur

Kevin Bushur
Chief Executive Officer



Chuck Buchanan

Chuck Buchanan
Board Chairperson

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EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, AND PROTECT YOU!

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JREAVY@TROXELLINS.COM

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MISSION

Provide opportunities for people in our communities through education and support to achieve and maintain stability.

Celebrating 50 years of Meals on Wheels

Speech by Debbie Weber, Meals on Wheels Program Director, presented at the anniversary dinner on January 15, 2023.

"The date was January 15, 1973. On that cold winter day, 17 senior citizens arrived at the Pleasant Acres Nursing Home in Altamont to gather for friendship and food. Ten days later on January 25, 1973, 55 area seniors gathered at the Pleasant Acres Nursing Home. The site was growing rapidly and soon outgrew the nursing home location.

The City of Altamont on March 29, 1973, offered the Municipal Building to the seniors free of charge and it still functions as our site location to this day!

In 1973, the Office of Economic Opportunity provided funds for a pilot project to be started in Effingham, Fayette, and Clay Counties. In 1974, CEFS received additional funds to implement programs in Christian, Montgomery, Shelby, and Moultrie Counties, while operating 13 sites in these 7 counties. Two years later, CEFS was operating in 16 sites. The focus of the nutrition programs was on the congregate centers with only 10% of the total meals served allowed to be home-delivered."



"Today our funding comes from the Older American Act Services through the Department on Aging which is distributed to CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation through our two local area agencies: Midland Area Agency and AgeLinc. Meals on Wheels of CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation is open 5 days a week and operates 18 sites in 5 counties (Effingham, Clay, Fayette, Christian, and Montgomery). Within those 5 counties, we have 13 congregate/home-delivered sites and 5 home-delivered sites only. We are an aging society, and we serve more meals to home-bound seniors than in the congregate settings which is very different than the first 15 years of the program. In 1979 funding for the program was jeopardized at the state level. The seniors organized a paper plate campaign for their legislators'. I can still remember bags and more bags of paper plates being sent up to the state legislators informing them of the importance of the program. In the end, funding was not cut and we like to think that it was all in thanks to the paper plate campaign."

Fifty years ago...

- the cost of a meal was \$1.25. Today the cost of a meal is \$6.98.
- the suggested donation was \$.50/meal. Today it is \$4.00/meal.
- we received \$27,500 to operate in Effingham, Clay, and Fayette Counties. Today we receive \$653,414 to operate in those counties.

"Fifty years later the Meals on Wheels of CEFS Economic Corporation is still connecting people and changing lives every single day.

Here's to the next fifty years of Meals on Wheels - where we deliver so much more than a meal!"



From 1973 to September 30, 2022,

7,563,729

**meals have been served by Meals on
Wheels.**



FAMILY OF DISTINCTION



Jamie Farmer's family has been using the services of CEFS since 2012. They have received assistance with LIHEAP, VITA, Emergency Shelter, Rental, Transportation, and Supportive Services through HUD Rapid Rehousing. Jamie and his wife used the VITA program every year. Also, Jamie's daughter, Lexi went through Head Start.

Recently Jamie and his wife separated. This is when Jamie and his daughter Lexi, became homeless and were living in his van. They came to CEFS for assistance with emergency shelter. CEFS was able to get them into an emergency shelter and worked hard on finding him permanent housing. Jamie was unemployed at the time and was having a hard time finding work and housing because of a criminal record. CEFS was able to advocate for Jamie and Lexi to the Clay County Housing where they rented an apartment to them. Even though Jamie is showing that he is in the stable range in most categories, that is thriving for him with how hard he has worked to become stable.

The Families of Distinction Award is given to a family or individual who through utilization of CEFS programs has overcome great personal and social obstacles in their pursuit of stability and self-sufficiency. This Family of Distinction Award elevates how CEFS empowers families to identify and utilize their personal strengths to enrich their lives.

**“ I APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING CEFS
ASSISTS US WITH
AND YOU’RE GREAT
TO WORK WITH.**

”

Jamie is now in income-based housing which is giving him the safety of housing the ability to take care of his daughter and her medical needs. Jamie is now employed working construction with a local contractor and is able to support him and his daughter without any assistance beside the income-based housing and SNAP benefits.

PAUL D. WHITE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Paul White Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an agency staff member, board member, volunteer, or individual from a community partner that has dedicated at least 25 years to “Helping People. Changing Lives.” The individual ensures that customer needs are first priority and be thought of as a leader and respected by the people they serve and the public at large. The individual must offer hope and opportunities and foster creativity in the community. Paul White Lifetime Achievement Award is named after former CEFS Chief Executive Officer, Paul White, that retired in 2017.



Debbie Weber

Debbie Weber has been employed with CEFS since June 1, 1978. She spent the last 30 years as the Meals on Wheels Program Director. Debbie has provided visionary leadership and effective fundraising and volunteer management. Through her leadership, CEFS has provided over 4 million hot nutritious meals to thousands of isolated seniors.

Many of our small towns and villages have no grocery stores and are food deserts. Through Debbie's leadership, she implemented a policy that every senior deserves our time, attention, and a hot meal. Everyone eligible for Meals on Wheels that needs a meal receives a meal. This mirrors the mission of Meals on Wheels, "empower local community programs to improve the health and quality of life of the seniors so that no one is left hungry or isolated."

Debbie has shown her leadership skills with her volunteer recruiting. She developed relationships in the five-county region with local churches to deliver meals. Each participating church takes a one-week turn in providing volunteers to deliver the meals to the seniors in their community. Last year alone, CEFS Meals on Wheels program had 1,120 volunteers that provided over 20,000 volunteer hours and provided over 170,000 meals to seniors in rural Illinois.

Debbie has twice received the Joyce Still Award through the Illinois Association of Nutrition Programs. Through Debbie's leadership, the Meals on Wheels Program received the Governor's Achievement Award. In 1999, Midland Area Agency on Aging recognized Debbie and the Meals on Wheels Program for program excellence and outstanding performance in serving the seniors in Effingham, Clay, and Fayette Counties.

Debbie says, "I am so thankful for those that took a chance on me 45 years ago. I am so grateful to have found my passion at a place I am passionate about - inspiring staff, connecting seniors, and changing lives every single day. To quote Dr. Suess, "Oh, the places you will go and the people you will meet." I've met so many wonderful seniors in the past 45 years and have traveled many back roads in 5 counties and traveled to many states. Meals on Wheels has been such an integral part of my life and it will always hold a very special place in my heart."

Linda Tryon began her employment with CEFS on June 4, 1979. She started as the bookkeeper in the Community Services Administration Program. For 44 years Linda has been working in the Finance Department completing payroll, balancing accounts, paying vendors, completing financial reporting for grantees, and most importantly, providing accurate financial data to the programs and enabling the agency to provide as many services as possible.

Although Linda might not work with customers directly, she shares the same commitment with the agency to serving those in need and Helping People, Changing Lives. Linda's dedication and near-perfect accuracy and work quality in the finance department have allowed others to serve those in need and not have to worry about the financial requirements of the grant or funding source.



Linda Tryon

Linda has been a leader in the Finance Department for 44 years. She has welcomed and helped train new employees in the finance department over the years. She has been a leader by serving on different agency committees, such as strategic planning. She has developed great working relationships with grantees and other funders which has promoted working together in partnership to serve those in need.

Over the years, during her lunch break, Linda has volunteered her time to deliver meals for the Meals on Wheels Program to provide a hot meal and friendly contact to homebound seniors. Linda also volunteers at the Centenary Church in Effingham and is on several committees for the church.

Linda says, "While working in the finance office has not given me the opportunity to directly help our customers face to face, it has always been my hope that my role behind the scenes, (analyzing and ensuring the integrity of accounting information) has helped to fulfill the CEFS mission of "helping people, changing lives"."

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE REACHED
YOUR GOAL TO BE PROUD OF YOURSELF.
BE PROUD OF EVERY STEP YOU TAKE
TOWARD REACHING THAT GOAL.**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Celebrating the success of clients who have overcome setbacks and hardships to achieve much.



Haley Dust

"WIOA and CEFS are unbelievable at what they do for people and I'm happy I don't have to pay anything back."

Haley graduated with an Associate Degree in Horticulture from Lake Land College with assistance from WIOA.



Rose Enlow

"CEFS services give me a place to go and good food to eat, and I have fun there."

Alice Johnston

"I love the bean bags and the bingo, and I like coming to the center every day."

Rose and Alice receive socialization and proper nutrition through participation in congregate meals through Meals on Wheels.



Bobby Evans

"It was a great help with utilities and vehicle tags."

Bobby has gained purpose and self-sufficiency through participation in CEFS programs such as LIHEAP, Meals on Wheels congregate meals, and SHAP.



Samantha Evans

"The impact that WIOA has had on our family is huge. With this program, although still working, I was able to have a sense of reassurance and stability to know that those bills were going to be covered and tuition fees were not added to the pile."

Samantha has plans to graduate in Fall of 2023 from Kaskaskia College with a degree in Nursing with the assistance of WIOA.



Anne Harrison

"This is my family. It keeps me seeing other humans which is so important and I don't know what I would do if I couldn't come."

Anne, at the young age of 95, drives herself to participate in congregate meals with Meals on Wheels.



Katie Hille

"CEFS/WIOA helped me when I needed financial assistance the most. I will be forever grateful for their assistance on helping me get back into the workforce and being able to financially provide for my children and myself."

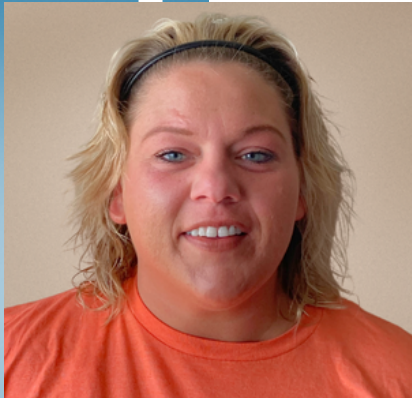
Katie received financial assistance through the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program.



Allyssa Kenter

"I was very excited about the opportunity and services that CEFS had to offer. It was something that I would never have been able to afford on my own."

Allyssa received classroom training and tuition assistance for a degree in Management through WIOA.



Stephanie Reber

"I was actually worried when I got out of jail. I was not sure where I was going to stay. I was referred to CEFS and they had me in housing within 3 days of being released from jail. I was shocked at all the resources available. I had nothing and was given back a sense of dignity."

Stephanie regained dignity through participation in Rapid Rehousing, LIHEAP, financial education, and case management.



Boston Roberts

"CEFS was so important to me as I was able to focus on school and took some of the work about how to make money while going to school away."

Boston graduated with a degree in nursing in August 2022 with assistance from the WIOA.



Erika Roderick

"CEFS/WIOA helped me in so many different aspects including financially. I was able to reach for the stars and now I'm able to do what I feel like I do best and that is taking care of my patients."

Erika graduated with a degree in nursing from Lake Land College with assistance from WIOA.



Ciarra Spencer

"The CEFS services has helped make my dream job come true and they helped me get back on my feet as well."

Ciarra obtained her CDL in June 2022 with assistance from WIOA.



Megan Walters

"2020 I was a single mother wanting to go back to school to become an RN. Financially I was not going to be able to accomplish this, but with the help of CEFS I was able to return to school and graduate."

Megan graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lake Land College with assistance from WIOA.



Carleigh Yeager

"CEFS/WIOA helped me feel hopeful for the future by providing me the assistance I need in order to complete my education and create a better life for my daughter and I. I'm eternally grateful for CEFS/WIOA."

Carleigh graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing from Frontier Community College with assistance from WIOA.

**SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT. IT IS HARD WORK,
PERSEVERANCE, LEARNING, STUDYING,
SACRIFICE, AND MOST OF ALL, LOVE OF
WHAT YOU ARE DOING OR LEARNING TO DO.**

PELE

Derek Hayden

Insurance Risk Advisor

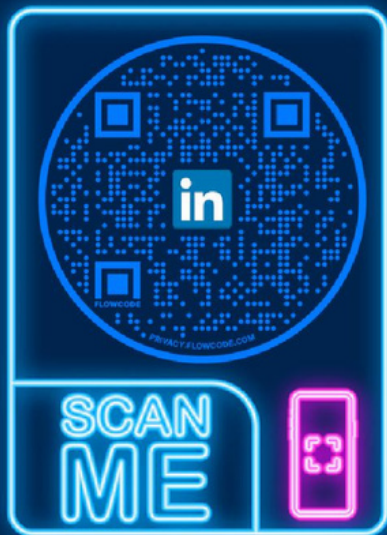
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SERVICES OFFERED

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EDUCATION



477 Children served by the Head Start program.

282 Individuals received vocational training.

50 Individuals received adult literacy classes.

44 Individuals obtained a high school diploma and/or obtained an equivalency certificate or diploma.

126 Kindergarten-bound children performing developmental skills at or above average age level.

HOUSING STABILITY

Individuals received first-time homebuyer counseling.

79

Individuals avoided foreclosure.

5

Individuals had repairs completed on their homes.

126

Individuals experienced improved health & safety due to improvements within their homes.

44

Individuals were able to purchase a home.

79





CRISIS ASSISTANCE

1,219

Individuals report improved financial well-being.

169

Individuals experiencing homelessness obtained safe and temporary housing.

142

Individuals avoided eviction.

36

Furnaces were replaced or repaired through the Emergency Furnace Program.

3,646

Food boxes were distributed.

In-home affordable seniors/disabled care sessions were completed.

1,591

Medicare beneficiaries received Medicare Part D plan review and counseling.

322

License plate discounts completed in 2022 saving customers \$252,108.

894

Seniors 65+ maintained an independent living situation.

2,543

Meals served through Meals on Wheels.

187,897



SENIOR SERVICES



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

98

Households signed up for Community Solar, saving them 50% on their energy cost.

8,036

Individuals received assistance with utility bills.

16

Homes received new energy-efficient refrigerators or freezers.

57

Homes weatherized to reduced energy consumption and increase homeowner comfort.

Individuals received
transportation services.

1,699

Miles driven.

572,914

Trips for
employment.

48,257

Total passenger
trips.

94,909

Individuals who used
transportation services for the
first time.

703



TRANSPORTATION

VOLUNTEERS



73 Individuals completed volunteer training.

687 Individuals received assistance with tax preparation from VITA volunteers.

68 Individual became new volunteers with RSVP.

2,439 Individual volunteers.

112,888 Volunteer hours.

A group of people's hands are stacked in a circle, symbolizing teamwork and support. The image is overlaid with a light blue tint. The text is white and positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Celebrating the work of volunteers whose dedication and support of CEFS help make it strong.



Marie Germann

"I enjoy volunteering and helping people out."

Marie volunteers for the food pantry in Christian County as well as the Hearts United Thrift Store.



Nancy Hindle

"Being a member of RSVP gives me an opportunity to help the community and support seniors in my area."

Nancy's volunteerism includes being a pen-pal, time at the CEFS Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels in Taylor Springs, and children's activities at the Hillsboro Public Library.



John Latta

"I believe that one should give of one's self to our society of sentient beings, who may need assistance from time to time. I'm not a wealthy person, but I have time to dedicate to someone in need. The experience fulfills me."

John has been a dedicated volunteer for the CEFS Adult Literacy Program for 18 years.



Mable Murray

"I love to see how everyone has been doing since I last was there. It is wonderful to see how a hot meal will brighten their day."

Mable volunteers every week with the Meals on Wheels program in Hillsboro with meal delivery. She's so experienced she can run any of the 4 daily meal routes!



Marty Reynolds

"It is beneficial to me to help others as it is for them to receive the service."

Marty volunteers at the Moultrie County CEFS Outreach office. From January through April, you will find him helping people with their taxes!



Sandra Sample

"You don't judge based on a person's abilities, let them be who they are. Helping children feel loved and important is the best feeling in the world."

Sandra volunteers for the Pencil Pal Program, recruits other volunteers for the RSVP program, and volunteers for her church programs.



Ruth Ann Scott

"In 20 years, I have met so many nice people. It has filled a lot of my time after retiring. It has been a pleasure."

Ruth Ann has been faithfully delivering Meals on Wheels in Vandalia for many, many years. She delivers almost every week, sometimes, two or three times a week!



Thomas Simpson

"The food Pantry is a much-needed program for our community. When help was needed, I felt it was my duty to step up and help. It feels good to be able to give back."

Thomas has been a volunteer with RSVP for the past 10 years. He primarily volunteers his time at the Clay County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry.



Nora Vuicuich & Betty Beetem

"Volunteering at CEFS means helping people and making sure that they are ok, and it brings joy to their day." -Nora

Nora and Betty volunteer for Meals on Wheels in Taylorville. Both also volunteer with ministries in their church.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

"I want to give back to the community." "We're doing Christ's work."

"I might need meals delivered to me someday." "Part of the mission of Holy Cross is to make God's love and Mercy known to all. Delivering meals benefits both the person delivering and the person receiving the meal. May this program continue on to the benefit of all."

Holy Cross volunteers have spent the last several years serving the community of Vandalia through their volunteerism with Meals on Wheels to deliver meals.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Celebrating community members who share the CEFS dedication to their communities.



Clay & Effingham County Health Department

The Clay and Effingham County Health Departments unselfishly merged CEFS goals with their own to create a project that helped fill a gap in access to healthcare in Clay and Effingham counties. The health departments were each awarded grants and partnered with CEFS to fund a Medical Transport Coordinator position.

"CEFS is an integral part of the service network for our communities and an asset to the communities they serve. We are happy to work with CEFS/CIPT on this project."



City of Flora & Tyla Knapp

Tyla goes above and beyond to assist the citizens of Flora. If she knows a family is in danger of having their utilities disconnected or that they are struggling, she reaches out to the Clay County Outreach Office to see if the family already has an assistance application in process or she will refer them to CEFS for assistance.

"The City of Flora is extremely grateful for the partnership we have with our local Clay County Outreach. Programs like these relieve a huge burden for those struggling to make ends meet."



Regional Office of Education - Angela Reeter & Savannah Holthaus

When ROE #3 learned they would be receiving ARPA funds and the funds could be used on emergency shelter, they reached out to CEFS Outreach to form a partnership to address the needs of families with children who did not have a stable place to reside.

"This partnership has allowed us to build a bridge from community outreach to education for families in our community. We are working together to provide a multitude of wrap-around services with a high success rate in finding permanent housing for these families. We are very grateful for the relationship that we have created in this partnership and foresee it to be a lasting and impactful one that will support families for years to come."

The Walmart logo, consisting of the word "Walmart" in white sans-serif font on a blue background, followed by the yellow six-pointed starburst symbol.

Taylorville Walmart & Janet Davis

Taylorville Walmart has a volunteer come to the Meals on Wheels congregate site in Taylorville on the fourth Thursday of the month to call Bingo to the participants. Janet also brings prizes from Walmart when she is there. Taylorville Walmart also supplies the 160 bags for the Meals on Wheels program to help keep the cold food cold and the hot food hot. Walmart has also donated masks, hand sanitizers, sanitation wipes, and many other needed supplies, especially during the pandemic.

"I love going to call bingo for the center and I think they love it when I come. It just makes my day and I know it makes all of theirs."



C.E.F.S.
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
CORPORATION

C.E.F.S.
Economic Opportunity Corporation
community
Action
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PAUL WHITE CENTER

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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATION
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OFFICE HOURS
8:30AM - 5:00PM

CEFS proudly serves seven Central Illinois counties with a wide range of programs and services.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Head Start is a federally-funded program that promotes school preparation by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services. Head Start's services and resources are designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills. The CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program provides comprehensive classroom and home-based services to pregnant women and children birth to age five including children with significant special needs.

CEFS Adult Literacy Program is committed to providing adult literacy program services that will enable participants to fully participate in their family, work, and community roles. CEFS Literacy Program administers Adult Literacy, GED preparation, and English as a second language programs that provide basic adult literacy instruction to enhance reading, writing, math, or English proficiency for individuals in our communities.

CEFS offers the **Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)**. SHIP is a free statewide health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. SHIP counselors are trained to educate consumers and answer questions about Medicare, Medicare supplements, and Medicare Part D coverage. Counselors will also assist with enrollment in Medicare Part D as well as provide assistance in securing extra financial assistance for Part B and Part D premiums.

The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program (WIOA)** provides activities that increase employment, retention, earnings, and skills in the American workforce. The WIOA Program pairs motivated job seekers with an experienced Career Planner who will become their partner on a journey to obtain sustainable employment through targeted educational and career development opportunities.

Through our **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Grant**, Outreach offices are able to assist low-income people attend training programs and classes that will lead to employment. The CSBG Program can pay for tuition, books, uniforms, required tools for the courses, and other supportive services on an as needed basis. The CSBG Scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance to income-eligible persons to attend college. Scholarships will go toward providing formal education or occupational training in an accredited Illinois educational institution to CSBG eligible clients, with consideration given to study in high technology areas or other growth occupations.

HOUSING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Rental Counseling and Assistance - CEFS realizes the struggle households may face with paying rent while juggling unexpected financial hardships or locating affordable housing. CEFS Housing Counseling staff will assist people in setting up a budget to address financial hardship, provide referrals to address any other needs, educate on landlord and tenant rights, provide case management, and if eligible, provide rental assistance to maintain housing or obtain more affordable housing.

Homeless Assistance - When a family or individual finds themselves homeless with no place to stay, CEFS has several programs that may be able to assist. Emergency Shelter may be provided through hotel vouchers when funding is available. Staff will work with the families/individuals to determine eligibility. Staff will provide case management and assist in locating housing that will meet the household's needs. Through HUD funding, CEFS can assist households with rent and supportive services while the household participates in case management. Case management will include budget counseling, goal setting, assessment of needs, and referrals.

First-Time Homebuyer Counseling - For those interested in purchasing a home, this counseling will prepare buyers to make prudent choices during the homebuying and mortgage process. Home-ownership counseling will prepare buyers to keep their largest single investment safe and avoid future hardships.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CEFS is a place where community members can come in times of crisis. Not all crisis assistance looks the same. Some clients are experiencing homelessness and Housing Counselors assist in finding immediate shelter until a more permanent living situation can be obtained. Some clients reach out for help with feeding their families, and that is where our food pantries and food pantry collaborations come in to assist.

The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** (LIHEAP) assists in paying for electric, gas, propane, and other heating sources like *direct vendor payment*, which is a one-time benefit, paid directly to the utility company(s) for eligible households. *Reconnection assistance* is also offered to help households that are disconnected from their utilities or are within seven (7) days of shut off. This includes households that use a delivered fuel source that is below 25% in their tank and has been refused delivery on credit. There is also the *cash benefit*, a one-time payment for eligible renters whose utilities are included in their rent. The *percentage of income payment plan program (PIPP)* is a preferred choice of Ameren customers. PIPP customers are enrolled in budget billing with Ameren. Each month the program pays a portion of the monthly budget bill amount and the customer is responsible for the rest. Additionally, when they start the program, customers who owe an outstanding balance will get a monthly credit applied to their old balance for every on-time, in full payment.

The **Low Income Household Water Assistance Program** (LIHWAP) is a crisis program for drinking water and wastewater. Eligible customers may receive a benefit of up to \$1,500 for disconnection fees, late fees, amount to reconnect, imminent disconnection, arrears, and past due balances.

SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The **Meals on Wheels Program** provides nutritionally balanced meals on a donation basis to people who are 60 years of age and older and their spouses. There are two components to our Meals on Wheels: congregate meals where seniors, share a nutritious meal and enjoy activities and fellowship at a nutrition site, and home-delivered meals, where meals are delivered to homebound seniors. A nutritious meal along with a daily check of the senior's well-being are benefits of home-delivered meals.

The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** is a volunteer recruitment and placement program. Volunteers are recruited and placed in volunteer opportunities that not only interest them but also give them an opportunity to utilize their skills and experience from past employment. Volunteers can also choose to explore new areas of interest and learn new skills that can be used for that volunteer opportunity.

The **Senior Health Insurance Program** is a Medicare counseling program. Certified counselors meet with Medicare beneficiaries and advise them on what options they have for taking their Medicare benefits, and what plans are available, and assist them with applying for additional benefits if the beneficiary meets specific income and asset requirements.

The **Senior Health Assistance Program** is a program that helps individuals fill out applications for benefits. We assist with applying for programs and benefits such as Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare Savings Program, Low Income Subsidy, and the Benefits Access Application.

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act are grants to provide outreach and assistance to eligible Medicare beneficiaries to apply for benefit programs that help to lower the costs of their Medicare premiums and deductibles.

The **Strong for Life** exercise program is a strengthening exercise program designed by physical therapists to improve strength, balance, and overall health. The program targets specific muscles that are important in everyday movements such as getting out of a chair and walking.

The **Aging Mastery Program** (AMP) empowers adults to make and maintain small but impactful changes in their behaviors. AMP incorporates evidence-informed materials, speakers, group discussions, and peer support to give participants the skills and tools they need to achieve measurable improvements in managing their health, remaining economically secure, and actively contributing to society.

The **Friendly Visiting Program** matches a volunteer with a lonely, isolated senior who is lacking social support from family or friends. Volunteers would report any concerns they have about the well-being of the senior to the Senior Programs Director who will follow-up with family or make a referral to the appropriate agency for assistance.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The **Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program** is offered as a free service to income-eligible applicants within the seven service counties. The Weatherization Program provides energy-saving measures to the home which could include insulation, air sealing, caulking, weather-stripping, broken glass replacement, and windows/door repair or replacement for eligible applicants. Funding is provided through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Human Services, and Ameren Illinois. The Weatherization Program also offers retrofit, repairs, and/or replacement of the heating unit in the eligible applicant's home. A heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) contractor performs a cleaning and checks the unit for safety. If the existing heating unit is hazardous and cannot be repaired, an energy-efficient furnace will be installed. Various studies by the state have shown that these weatherization measures reduce energy costs by an average of 15% to 25%. These savings allows recipients to devote a larger percentage of their income to other essential needs.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Central Illinois Public Transit Program is a federal and state-funded public transportation system operating in Clay, Christian, Effingham, Fayette, Shelby, Moultrie, and Montgomery counties. The Illinois Department of Transportation provides operating assistance for public transportation in non-urbanized areas. Additional financial support for the system comes from fares, contracts, Title III funding through Area Agencies on Aging, (AgLinc and Midland Area Agency on Aging), Illinois Department of Human Services, and through donations from municipalities. Shelby County serves as the grant recipient and Central Illinois Public Transit is the administrator and service provider for Clay, Christian, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. Effingham County is the grant recipient and Central Illinois Public Transit is the administrator and service provider for Effingham County Public Transportation. Ridership is open to the general public, meaning anyone of any age and income is welcome to utilize public transportation services. The program operates on an advance reservation, and on a demand/response basis. Monthly passes and ticket books are available for purchase at discounted rates.

ETrax is a regularly established transportation route that has pick-up and drop-off at specified locations and times. ETrax started transportation services in the City of Effingham on July 5, 2023.



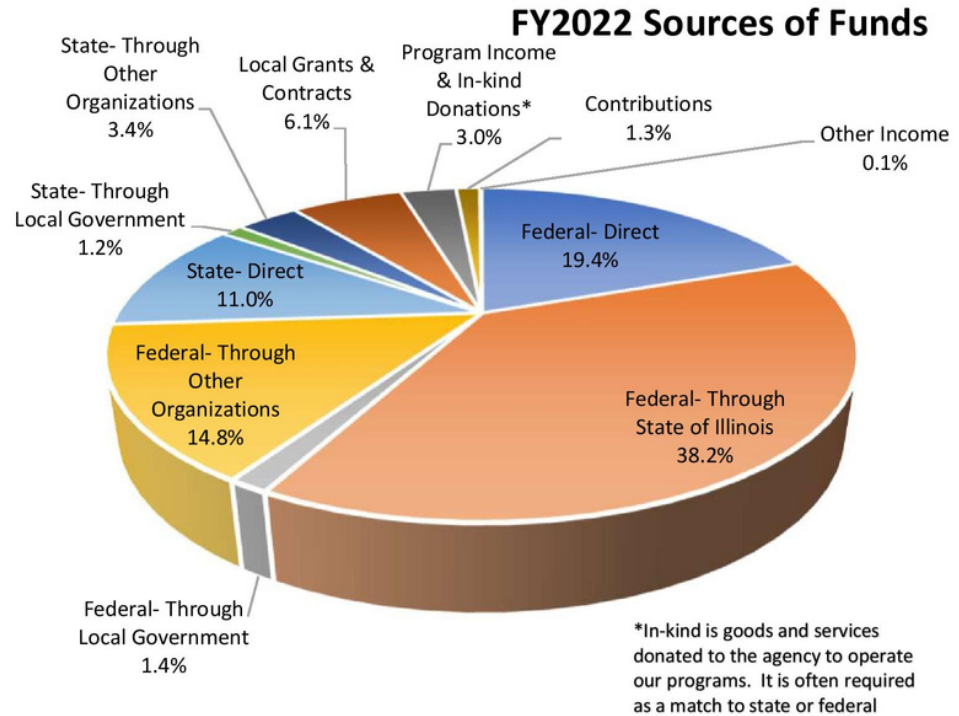
SUCCESS DOESN'T COME FROM WHAT YOU DO OCCASIONALLY, IT COMES FROM WHAT YOU DO CONSISTENTLY.

MARIE FOLEO

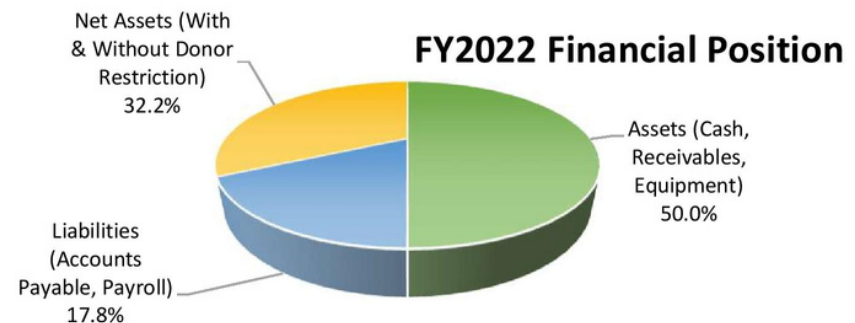
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation serves as a steward of federal, state, local, and private funds intended to provide opportunities for people through education and support to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Throughout the year, the agency undergoes dozens of monitorings, data quality reviews, and a comprehensive financial audit as required by the Federal Uniform Guidance. The most recent audit for the fiscal year of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 was issued on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. During this audit, Sikich LLP, an independent accounting firm, issued an unmodified opinion and reported that no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified.

<u>Revenue and Support</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
Federal- Direct	5,099,266	5,369,887
Federal- Through State of Illinois	10,019,556	7,659,396
Federal- Through Local Government	376,175	317,947
Federal- Through Other Organizations	3,883,126	3,170,376
State- Direct	2,876,227	2,150,922
State- Through Local Government	309,506	398,116
State- Through Other Organizations	895,550	763,770
Local Grants & Contracts	1,597,547	1,296,602
Program Income & In-kind Donations*	796,070	696,232
Contributions	342,514	481,336
Other Income	31,994	21,799
Total Revenue and Support	26,227,531	22,326,383
<u>Expense</u>		
Programs and Services	24,687,214	20,535,477
Management and General	1,015,859	803,454
Total Expense	25,703,073	21,338,931
Change in Net Assets	524,458	987,452
Net Assets - Beginning of year	6,211,929	5,224,477
Net assets - End of year	6,736,387	6,211,929



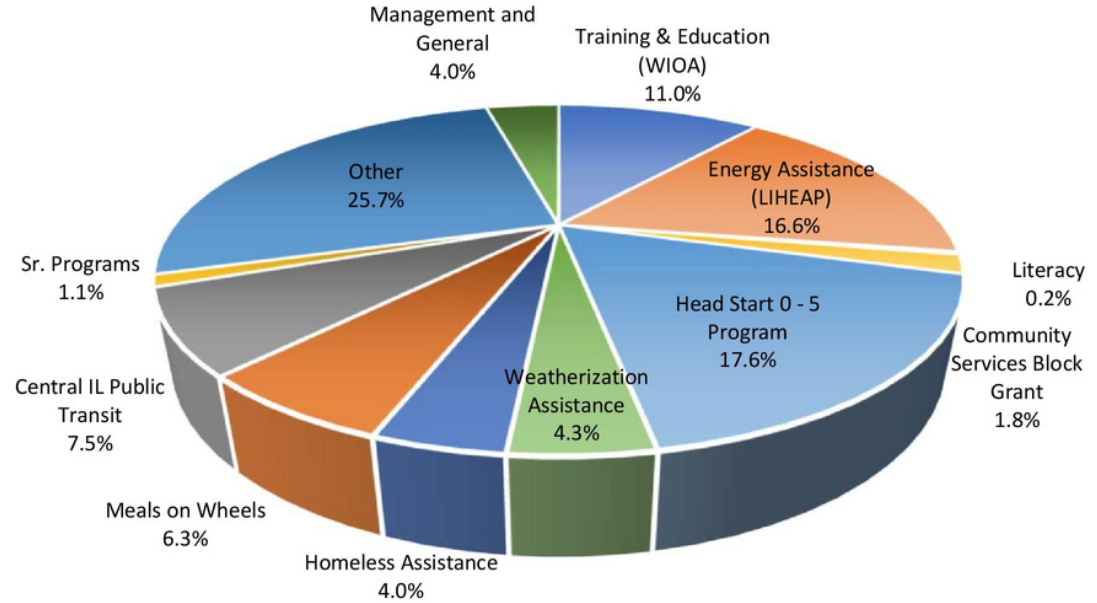
<u>Financial Position</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
Assets (Cash, Receivables, Equipment)	10,444,173	8,603,552
Liabilities (Accounts Payable, Payroll)	3,707,795	2,391,624
Net Assets (With & Without Donor Restriction)	6,736,378	6,211,929



USES OF FUNDS

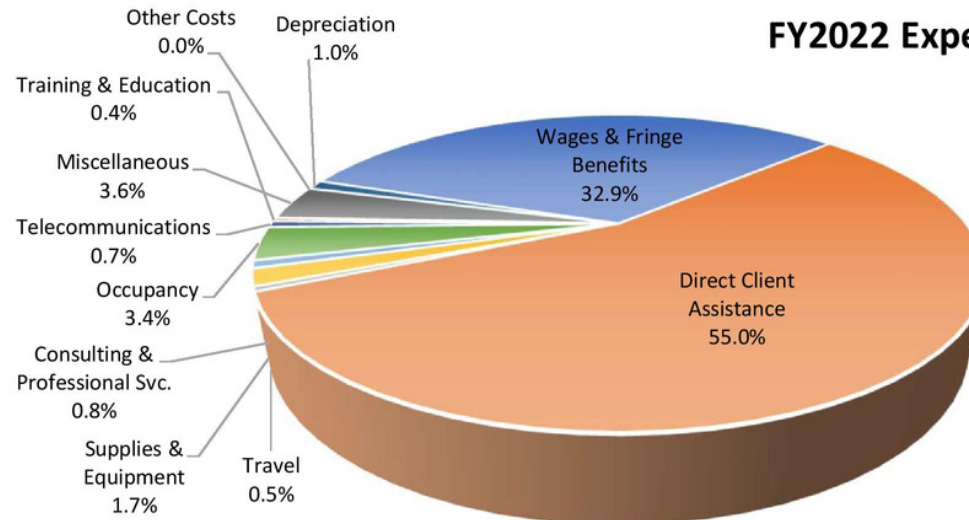
<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
Training & Education (WIOA)	2,821,648	2,224,439
Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)	4,267,005	6,331,793
Literacy	62,599	64,909
Community Services Block Grant	450,641	374,524
Head Start 0 - 5 Program	4,519,055	4,457,255
Weatherization Assistance	1,116,560	1,009,979
Homeless Assistance	1,031,761	1,084,699
Meals on Wheels	1,611,920	1,368,230
Central IL Public Transit	1,925,924	1,569,285
Sr. Programs	284,349	132,984
Other	6,595,752	1,917,380
Total Programs and Services	24,687,214	20,535,477
Management and General	1,015,859	803,454
Total Expenses	25,703,073	21,338,931

FY2022 Areas of Investment



<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
Wages & Fringe Benefits	8,451,372	7,494,614
Direct Client Assistance	14,146,070	10,859,144
Travel	123,086	95,614
Supplies & Equipment	440,512	635,579
Consulting & Professional Svc.	202,933	172,191
Occupancy	884,521	822,275
Telecommunications	171,217	183,152
Training & Education	91,726	80,670
Miscellaneous	935,824	782,353
Other Costs	2,495	5,764
Depreciation	253,317	207,575
Total Expenses	25,703,073	21,338,931

FY2022 Expenses



MAJOR SOURCES OF FUNDS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and partnership of the following organizations and individuals that made significant contributions financially to our work in FY2022. Each funding source is listed under the organization from which the funding originates, with any intermediary funders following.

Federal

US Department of Health and Human Services (1)
Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start
Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Effingham County
Midland Area Agency on Aging
AgeLinc

US Department of Labor (1)
Lake Land College

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (1)
Community Planning and Development, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Housing Action Illinois

US Department of Energy (1)
Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Corporation for National Service (1)

US Department of Agriculture (1)
Illinois State Board of Education

US Department of Transportation (1)
Effingham County

NeighborWorks America (1)

Federal (cont.)

US Dept. of Treasury (1)
Illinois Dept. of Human Services

US Dept. of Education (1)
Regional Office of Education #3
Regional Office of Education #11

State and Local Government

Illinois Dept. on Aging (1)
Office of Older American Services
Midland Area Agency on Aging
AgeLinc

Illinois Dept. of Human Services (1)
Division of Family and Community Services

Illinois Housing Development Authority (1)
Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies

Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (1)
Office of Community Assistance

Illinois Dept. of Transportation (1)
Effingham County

Illinois Secretary of State (1)
Literacy Office, Illinois State Library

Shelby County (2)

Montgomery County (2)

Illinois Network of Child Care Res & Referral Agencies

Private

Ameren Illinois [Walker-Miller, Resource Innovations] (1,2)

Niebrugge Cares Foundation (2)

United Way (2)

Federal Home Loan Bank (2)

Estate of Janet S Coslow (2)

Estate of Herbert Austin (2)

Community Support Systems (3)

Clay County Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (3)

Church of Jesus Christ, Sullivan (2)

Liberty Energy (2)

Bridget Anne Van Hook (2)

Emilie and Nathan Beagle (2)

Nexamp, Inc (2)

Ronald / Kathlene Harshman (2)

Randy / Jane Inman (2)

Brent Moore (2)

Logisticare (3)

Employees of Agri-Fab (2)

(1) Grants

(2) Donors

(3) Service Contracts

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation is a private, non-profit corporation with tax-exempt status. If you are interested in supporting the accomplishment of the results and services provided by CEFS you can do so in several ways.

*You can make a tax-deductible financial contribution directly to the agency.

*You can make a donation of goods or services to benefit one of our many programs, thus providing much needed In-kind matching support.

*You can include C.E.F.S. in your estate planning preparations to ensure that a legacy for you or a loved one is remembered. Consult your tax or estate planning professional for guidance.

*You can support us whenever you shop at Amazon.com by using the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-6053117>



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1805 South Banker Street
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: (217) 342-2193
Fax: (217) 342-4701
Email: cefs@cefseoc.org



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