

# Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

## Year Summary

### 2014

The **Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC)** is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1965 as the Community Action Agency for Saratoga County. The mission of the EOC is to remain committed to being a leader in advocating for opportunities and developing solutions to promote healthy, thriving families and caring community partners. In 2014, the EOC helped thousands of local residents move closer to economic self-sufficiency through the following EOC programs and services:

**COMMUNITY SERVICES** provides qualified individuals and families with services to encourage them to grow from poverty toward sustainability through:

- Community Lunch Program served **25,726 lunches while, making community referral services available;**
- Rural Food Delivery delivered **920 food packages** to the homebound throughout the county;
- Emergency Food Pantry provided **2,981 families (10,263 individual's)** with a three day supply of food and screened them for additional needs and providing guidance;
- The Adopt-A-Family Thanksgiving Project addressed food insecurity during the holiday through 109 volunteers who packed/delivered 766 baskets, delivered 520 meals and served 120 on-site meals;
- VITA Free Tax Service – **188 families/individual tax returns** completed; resulting in \$274,406 in refunds
- Family Development Program provided **646 families** with case management assistance;
- Crisis Intervention responded to **1,091 calls** for emergency assistance and advocacy;
- Summer Lunch Program provided **1,473 lunches** for low-income children Monday – Friday during July and August in **Malta 907 and Saratoga 566.**
- Dress for Work provided **230 clothing vouchers** to individuals who were becoming work ready.
- Latino Community Advocacy (LCAP) provided ESL services to over **427 students** and responded to over **2,908 advocacy calls** during the year. Advocacy needs included securing health insurance for families, school enrollment, prenatal care, GED information, housing, employment and tax preparation assistance. LCAP provided interpreter services to the Saratoga County EOC Head Start Program, the WIC Program, Saratoga County DSS, Saratoga DVRC, Saratoga Springs City School District, Saratoga County Public Health, Saratoga Hospital and many other educational, health, and social service agencies throughout the county. LCAP also hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Visión** cultural awareness event featuring photographs by ESL students; over **200 community members attended.**

**HEAD START** is a comprehensive child-development school readiness program designed to increase school success for families of young children from low-income families. In 2014, more than 550 children and pregnant mothers were served through **15** pre-school classrooms, one Toddler room and several home-based offerings. **434** children and pregnant mothers successfully completed the 2014 program year with **100** of those **children** participating in New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

**ENERGY SERVICES** – The **WEATHERIZATION Assistance Program** offers **HEAP-eligible Saratoga and Schenectady County residents** with an energy audit and energy conservation work to help improve home heating efficiency and reduce utility costs. This increases discretionary dollars in the home and provides energy education. **256 eligible household residents** and **120 units** in Saratoga and Schenectady Counties were upgraded. Coordinated funding efforts with **EmPower NY PROGRAM** provided energy reduction services to **115 homes** in the region. **12 cooling units** were installed in eligible homes with the program being administered through the NYSHEAP program this cooling season.

**WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)** improves the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their infants and children. **1,688 pregnant women**, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and children under the age of 5 have access to nutritious foods through the dissemination of \$108,762 in supplemental WIC checks on a monthly basis at a rate of \$64.43 **per participant**. Each WIC participants receives nutrition education, breastfeeding information and support. Breastfeeding initiation rates among our newly delivered WIC moms averaged **70.8%** for the **first 11 months** of 2014 based on our monthly Breastfeeding Initiation reports. The upstate breastfeeding initiation rate is 67.5%.

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council  
39 Bath Street • PO Box 169 • Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
(518) 288-3206 • (518) 288-3236 fax • [info@saratogaecoc.org](mailto:info@saratogaecoc.org)  
SEFA# 5000283