

# Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

## Year Summary 2016

The **Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC)** is the designated anti-poverty agency for Saratoga County, dedicated to providing and promoting opportunities for individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency. In 2016, 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 self-sufficiency through:*

- Community Lunch Program (Soup Kitchen) served **25,041 lunches while, making community referral services available; brought in 5 community partners** offering assistance to our customers;
- Rural Food Delivery delivered **913 food packages** to the homebound throughout the county;
- Emergency Food Pantry provided **2,273 families (7,667 individuals)** with a three day supply of food. Each family was screened for additional needs and guidance was provided;
- The value of USDA Food Commodities received through the Regional Food Bank for **all 3 food programs** totaled **\$40,500.99**;
- The Adopt-A-Family Thanksgiving Project addressed food insecurity during the holiday through **143** volunteers who packed and delivered **660 baskets**, delivered **621 meals** and served **175 on-site meals**;
- VITA Free Tax Service – **214 families /individual tax returns** completed; resulting in **\$334,563** in refunds
- Summer Lunch Program provided **2,601 lunches** for low-income children Monday – Friday, during July and August. **Malta 970 and Saratoga 333 and Corinth 1,298**;
- **113** Low-Income children were able to shop for **new school clothes** through funding from CSBG and a partnership with JC Penney;
- Dress for Work provided **132 clothing vouchers** to individuals who were becoming work ready;
- Advocates responded to over **1,580 calls** and helped **1,397 individuals** with referrals, services and advocacy;
- Latino Community Advocacy (LCAP) provided ESL services to **394 students**;
- Community members have donated **34,291 pounds** of food and Hannaford alone donated **64,897 pounds, 1,820 pounds** of pet food and treat donations and **593 pounds** of non-food donations, such as personal care items, hats, mittens and books.

**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 2016, more than **549** 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 2015 program year with **106** of those **children** participating in New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

**ENERGY SERVICES** – The *WEATHERIZATION Assistance Program offers income and categorical-eligible individuals throughout Saratoga and Schenectady County with a comprehensive energy audit and energy conservation work that helps improve home heating efficiency and reduces utility costs. This increases discretionary dollars in the home and improves the overall quality of life for the household members.* The **number of units (homes) served to date has been 114**, affecting a total of **323 residents** in both counties. Coordinated funds with EmPower NY allowed this department to serve an additional **64 homes** in the region.

**WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)** improves the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their infants and children. **1,740** pregnant women, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and children under the age of 5 have access to nutritious foods through the dissemination of \$108,678 in supplemental WIC checks on a monthly basis at a rate of \$63.70 **per participant**. Each WIC participants receives nutrition education, breastfeeding information and support. Breastfeeding initiation rates among our newly delivered WIC moms averaged **73.9%** for the **first 11 months** of 2016 based on our monthly Breastfeeding Initiation reports. The upstate breastfeeding initiation rate is 70%.