

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

Year End Summary

2013

The Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC) is a not-for-profit organization serving Saratoga County since 1973. 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 2013, 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 food assistance via its Emergency Food Pantry, Community Lunch Program, Rural Food Delivery and many other programs. In addition, Community Services provides family development counseling and crisis intervention services.

- VITA Free Tax Service – **220 families/individual tax returns** completed. **175** with a refund.
- Community Lunch Program (soup kitchen) served **23,554 lunches**.
- Rural Food Delivery delivered **918 food packages** to the homebound throughout the county.
- Emergency Food Pantry provided **3186 families (10,234 individual's total)** with a three day supply of food.
- Adopt-A-Family Project distributed Thanksgiving baskets to **737 families** & delivered **601** meals that day.
- Family Development Program provided **663 families** with case management assistance.
- Crisis Intervention responded to **1089 calls** for emergency assistance and advocacy.
- Summer Lunch Program provided **2128 lunches** for low-income children Monday – Friday during July and August in three locations. **Corinth 698, Malta 488 and Saratoga 942**

HEAD START is a comprehensive child development program designed to increase the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Currently, Head Start/Early Head Start is funded to serve **434 children** throughout Saratoga County. Of that total, **106 children** participated in New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten. In addition to **15** pre-school classrooms, we operate an Infant room and a Toddler room. We also offer a large home-based program for families with children under age three.

ENERGY SERVICES - 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. In its most recent program year, the Weatherization program upgraded **356 eligible household residents** and **219 units** in Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. The EmPower NY PROGRAM provided energy reduction services to **88 homes** in the region. **16 cooling units** were installed in eligible homes with the program being administered through the NYSHEAP program this cooling season.

LATINO COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (LCAP) provides English language instruction (ESOL) and advocacy services to Saratoga County's permanent and migrant Latino population. In 2013, LCAP provided ESL services to over **175 students** and responded to over **1000 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 6th annual *Visión* fundraising event featuring photographs by ESOL students with over **250 attendees**.

WHEELS FOR WORK provides eligible, working families with a reliable vehicle/vehicle repair for improved job retention and increased access to affordable housing. Participants also receive budget counseling and family development services as part of this program. In 2013, **2 vehicles were repaired**. Due to funding cuts, this program is discontinued.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) provides eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and children under the age of 5 with vouchers for nutritious foods; nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion, information and support. **Breastfeeding initiation rates** among our newly delivered WIC moms averaged **71.8%** for the first 11 months of 2013 based on our monthly *Breastfeeding Initiation* reports. During 2013, SCEOC-WIC served an average of **1839 participants** per month. The average monthly value of redeemed WIC checks for all SCEOC-WIC participants during **2013** was **\$115,909**, or approximately **\$63.45** per participant.

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