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Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc (EOA) is a community action agency dedicated to helping low-income households in the region succeed. EOA was established in 1965 and our mission is “empowering children and families to learn, connect, and succeed.”

EOA administers a range of programs designed to address the roots of poverty through a strategic multi-generational approach, connecting low-income families with the tools to achieve financial stability and break the cycle of poverty.

EOA has a vision of Northwest Arkansas as a resilient community where children and families experiencing adverse circumstances have the opportunity to thrive, become self-sufficient, and live an improved quality of life.
Letter from the Executive Director

This year, Economic Opportunity Agency is celebrating 55 years of service to the community. We continue to be inspired by the shared desire among donors, volunteers, community partners, and staff to make a positive impact in the lives of children and families in Northwest Arkansas.

This past year has yielded amazing opportunities for new partnerships and collaboration to expand and enhance services for the children, families, and communities we serve. We can do more together than we can ever do alone, and we appreciate every person and organization that has joined EOA to “empower children and families to learn, connect, and succeed.”

In 2019, EOA partnered with Fayetteville Public Schools to open a Head Start Center on the ALLPS School of Innovation campus, to increase the availability of quality early childhood education in the area. This Center expands the number of children EOA serves and provides an accessible location for families in need of Head Start or Early Head Start services, including teen parents who attend school on the ALLPS campus.

EOA also expanded the number of children served by the EOA Children’s House Program, by providing services not only at the Pat Walker Center for Children in Springdale but also on the ALLPS campus in Fayetteville. As a result, children ages six-weeks old to five-years old who have been abused or neglected now have access to therapeutic supportive services and early childhood development in two convenient locations.

EOA also added the SafeCare Home Visiting Program that works with parents of children 5 years old and younger who have been referred by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The goal is to help parents create a safe home environment for their children and avoid entry into the foster care system.

EOA offers several comprehensive programs that you will read about in this 2019 Annual Report. We appreciate the hard work and determination of many people and partners who make it possible for EOA to actively respond to community needs.

We hope that you join in the excitement of the incredible accomplishments that have transpired since EOA was incorporated as a Community Action Agency in December 1965. We also thank you for your involvement and contributions to EOA programs and fulfillment of the agency’s mission.

EOA has a vision of Northwest Arkansas as a resilient community where children and families experiencing adverse circumstances have the opportunity to thrive, become self-sufficient, and live an improved quality of life. If the past 55 years are any indication, we are looking forward with high expectation and anticipation of new pathways of opportunity for our children and families.

Sincerely,

Delia Anderson Farmer

Delia Anderson Farmer, CCAP
Executive Director
## Economic Opportunity Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start/Early Head Start</td>
<td>3,353,132</td>
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<td>USDA</td>
<td>259,574</td>
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<td>Commodities</td>
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<td>CSBG</td>
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<td>College Savings Partnership</td>
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<td>VOCA</td>
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<td>LIHEAP</td>
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<td>In-Kind</td>
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<td>Early Head Start Expansion</td>
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<td>Child Care/Development Fund</td>
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<td>SafeCare</td>
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<td>Individual Development Acct</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,182,383</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>T&amp;TA</td>
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<td>Program Costs</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,052,662</strong></td>
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EOA Economic Impact

With 125 full-time employees in 2019, EOA not only provided services to improve the community, but also contributed to the local economy by providing quality employment for local residents. Approximately 83% of EOA’s annual funds stay in the NWA community, contributing over $5.9 million to the local economy each year.

EOA relies on public and private funding sources to administer its programs. All programs aim to address the roots of poverty and empower low-income families to succeed in Northwest Arkansas.

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Annual Independent Financial Audit Results

According to an independent audit report dated February 24, 2020 from Saunders & Associates, PLLC, EOA of Washington County, Inc. had no findings or deficiencies noted for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2019.
The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy by providing assistance to eligible low-income households for heating and cooling energy costs. In 2019, LIHEAP provided $869,734 in assistance.

295,274

Pounds of food distributed in 2019

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distributes United States Department of Agriculture donated foods (commodities) to organizations in order to provide nutritious foods to low-income households. Commodities help support healthy, independent living for vulnerable populations. To store and distribute these foods, EOA has had a long-time partnership with the Bread of Life in Springdale and recently started a new relationship in November with LifeSource in Fayetteville.

In 2019, this program served 9,096 households and distributed 295,274 pounds of food.

The number of unduplicated families the EOA LIHEAP Program assisted in 2019:

3,305

The Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program is the nation’s core program for delivering energy efficiency services to low-income households. Computerized energy audits use advanced diagnostic technology to determine the energy-conservation needs of a house, providing improvements such as: weather stripping doors and windows; caulking and sealing cracks and holes; insulating attics, walls and floors; installing storm windows, energy-saving light bulbs, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; repairing and retrofitting furnaces, and replacing energy-wasting refrigerators and electric water heaters.

EOA partners with Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council for Weatherization services in Washington County.

605 clients were referred for weatherization services in 2019;
9 homes were weatherized.
The EOA Children’s Services program is federally funded through Head Start and Early Head Start grant awards and designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing infants and preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, nutritional, and psychological needs. EOA Children’s Services conducts a community assessment of Washington County, Arkansas every five years. The community assessment considers the current deficits and needs within the community to better serve the area. The assessment highlights strengths of the program and the service area, as well as challenges and areas of need. Our most recent community assessment concluded that increased income-inequality and scarcity of resources for children in the area are prevalent issues that should be addressed thoughtfully and effectively. Investing in the young children of this community enhances their ability to thrive and succeed, which in turn, positively impacts the community at large. Awareness and collaboration are key ingredients in successfully pursuing this mission.

8 Child Care Centers in Washington County
Ellen Smith, Fayetteville
Ivory M. Conley, Fayetteville
North Street, Fayetteville
Old Farmington Road, Fayetteville
Pat Walker Center for Children, Springdale
Oak Avenue, Springdale
Springdale Airport, Springdale
West Washington County, Lincoln

16,497 In-Kind Hours Dedicated to Family Engagement Initiatives in 2019!

Initiatives Include:
Reading at Home
Volunteering in the Classroom
Family Learning Parties
Attending Policy Council Meetings

2,688 books were distributed to start or enhance home libraries

Family Services Approach

Research shows that strong parent/child interactions promote school readiness and life-long learning. Our first goal anchors family engagement work around the fundamental core premise: we must build partnerships with all families to enhance parent/child interactions.

Building on program development and research done through a partnership with the Harvard University’s Center on the Developing Child’s Frontiers of Innovation network, Shine on, Families is a researched-based curriculum which utilizes a PEER mantra- Pause, Engage, Encourage, and Reflect– to promote family interactions that build executive function, a foundational skill for school readiness. Shine on, Families extends our classroom curriculum into the home and encourages parents as their child’s first teacher.

The curriculum guides families through daily learning activities that are fun, interactive, and easily integrated into home routines. This creates a shared language between staff and families, which strengthens child outcomes. Shine on, Families strategies are also informed by research on adult learning, with a strong focus on providing multiple venues for modeling, coaching, practice, and reflection.

384 families received specialized family services in 2019:
Crisis Intervention * Housing Assistance * Mental Health Services * ESL Training * Adult Education Assistance * Job Training * Substance Abuse Prevention * Substance Abuse Treatment * Child Abuse & Neglect Services * Health Education * Parenting Education

122,200 nutritious meals were served in 2019, reducing food insecurity.

1,178 Followers on the EOA Head Start Facebook page, 20% Increase in 2019!

LIKE US ON facebook
Preparation for Kindergarten:
Our program’s curriculum model is built on a foundation of The Creative Curriculum. Our classroom teaching teams use the Early Learning’s Curriculum Plans to implement units around a set of universally meaningful themes. Weekly lesson plans and supplemental materials provide strong support for intentional teaching, meaningful small-group activities, and engaging read-alouds.

In this model, The Creative Curriculum continues to serve as the foundation, providing the philosophical orientation to how children learn, and guiding teachers in setting up the learning environment. The Creative Curriculum approach is developmentally appropriate and supports children’s learning in all domains included in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Frameworks: Ages Birth to Five, as well as Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 months. In addition, curriculum plans are designed and can be modified to support our program's School Readiness Goals, encompassing social-emotional, approaches to learning & play, language & literacy, math & science, social studies, the arts, and physical development.
Summer Salsa is the signature fundraiser held each year to raise money and support for EOA Children’s House. Last year, this event raised over $94,000!

EOA Children’s House was founded in 1978 as a program providing services and care to children under the age of five who have been abused or neglected. EOA Children’s House is one of the nation’s largest long-term centers for early childhood abuse prevention and treatment and the only center of its kind in Arkansas.

WHO WE SERVED IN 2019:
12 children were in Foster Care and 27 children were homeless. 60 or 16.5% of children in our care had an identified disability.

EOA Children’s House received 49 referrals from child welfare agencies and Juvenile Court in 2019.

2,309 followers on the Children’s House Facebook Page!

Children who have been abused or neglected typically have delayed development of approximately 18-months, depending on the severity of their trauma.

The goal at EOA Children’s House is to work with each child to achieve age-appropriate developmental milestones so that when they enter Kindergarten, they are at the same developmental level as their peers. EOA staff work with community partners to assess for therapy needs, including special education, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy services.

Our new universally accessible playground equipment for children of all abilities opened in 2019!
SafeCare Arkansas is a weekly home visiting program for families of children ages birth to five. The goal of SafeCare Arkansas is to help parents prevent and identify common childhood illnesses or injuries, determine when a child should go to the doctor, aide parents in keeping their homes safe, and increase positive interactions with their child. This program helps to prevent the removal of children from the home and re-occurrence of child maltreatment.

EOA began implementing this program in July 2019, providing services for 71 adults and children, with three families completing the program in 2019. The EOA SafeCare program serves Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll Counties.

The Individual Development Account Program (IDA) is designed to help low-income households save toward an eligible purchase that will help increase financial independence and self-sufficiency.

EOA is part of a collaborative initiative with the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese, and United Way of Northwest Arkansas to establish Individual Development Accounts for 25 Marshallese families. The IDA accounts are for families to save for eligible purchases. Families will receive a 2:1 match for funds saved, up to $1,500. The IDA Program also has a financial literacy component to help participants learn about budgeting, money management, and other topics designed to increase economic stability.

EOA HEALTH INITIATIVES

EOA promotes health and wellness throughout the year through several health initiatives. By creating a culture of health and wellness among the staff, our employees not only feel better about themselves, but it can also lower agency costs such as insurance, workers’ compensation claims, and reduce absenteeism.

In 2019, 80 staff members participated in a friendly “Start Walking Now” competition, completing over 43 million steps during the 3-month event.
Thank you to our 2019 major donors

Individuals:

Ron and Virginia Amos  
James and Stacy Bell  
Dr. Wade Burnside  
Jason and Megan Cuddy  
Boot DuPre-Milner  
Delia Anderson Farmer  
Dr. John Garlinghouse  
James and Nicole Herrington  
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Jim and Lynette Terrell  
Melody Timinsky  
Sam Warren  
Linda Wray  
Michael and Gracie Ziegler
Thank you to our 2019 major donors

Corporations & Foundations:

Arkansas Children’s Northwest
Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration/IGS
Arkansas Department of Human Services/OSC
Arvest Bank - Springdale
Black Hills Energy
Chambers Bank
Elm Springs United Methodist Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Garlinghouse Foundation
Hight-Jackson and Associates
Impressions Online Boutique
JH Computer Group
Junior League of Northwest Arkansas
PepsiCo
Simmons Bank
The CARE Initiative
The STARR Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
United Way of Northwest Arkansas

In-Kind Support:

3W Magazine
Celebrate Arkansas
City of Fayetteville
Fayetteville Public Schools
MCQ Enterprise Corporation
Springdale Public Schools

ACS Playground
CitiScapes Magazine
City of Lincoln
Lakeshore Learning
Procter & Gamble
University of Arkansas
The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church
“Empowering children and families to learn, connect, and succeed.”