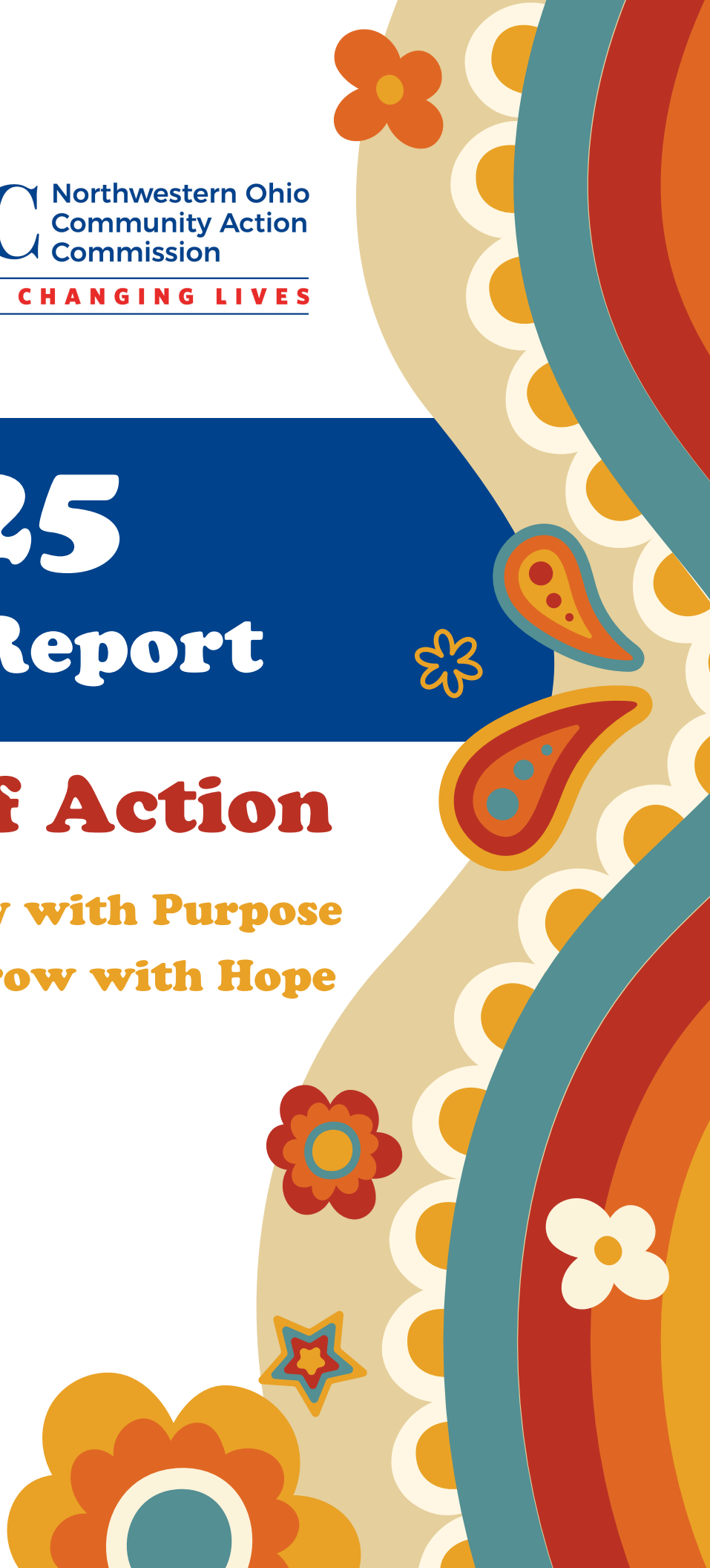




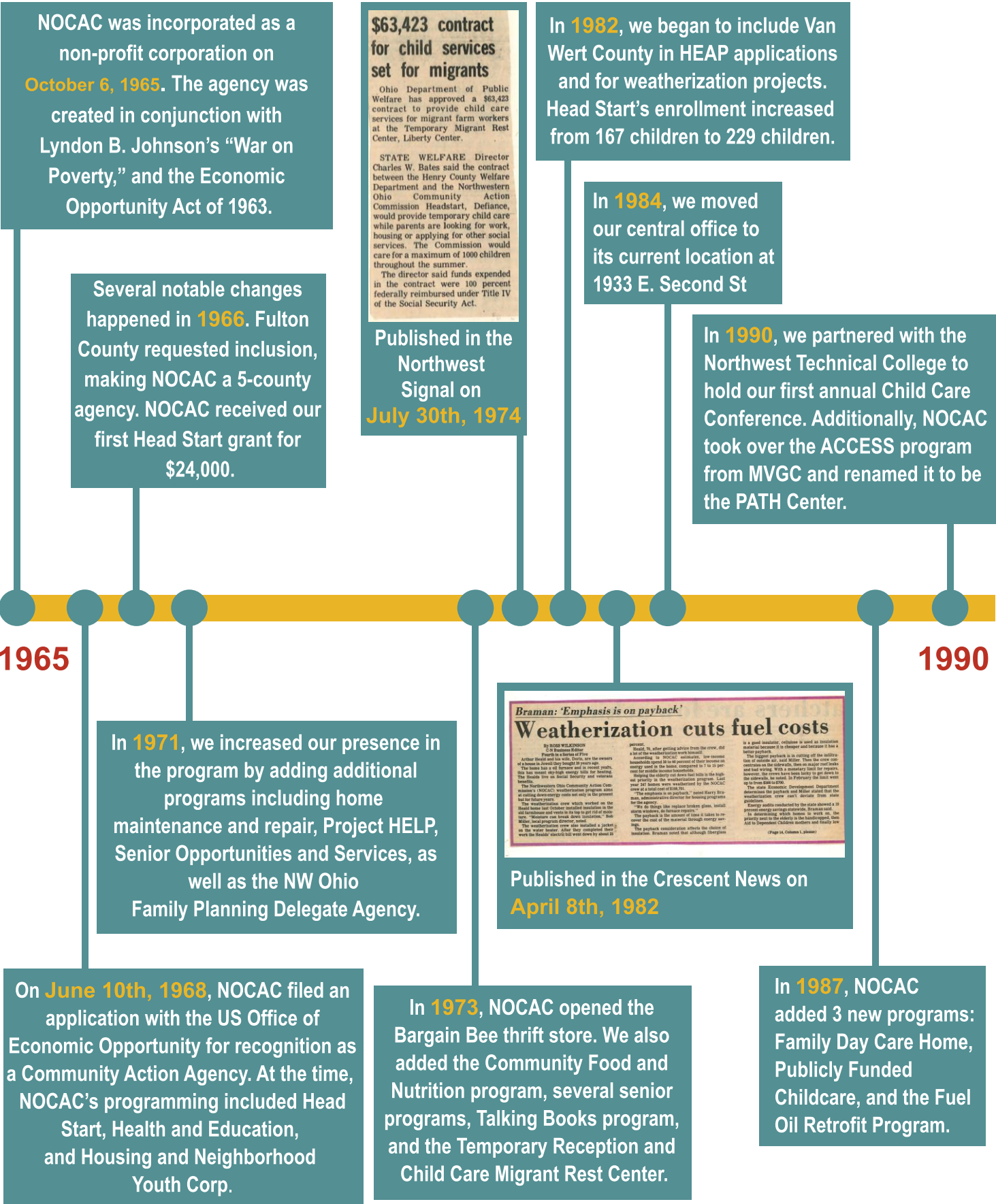
2025 Annual Report

60 Years of Action

**Addressing Poverty with Purpose
& Shaping Tomorrow with Hope**



NOCAC TIMELINE



1965

1990

NOCAC was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on **October 6, 1965**. The agency was created in conjunction with Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty," and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1963.

Several notable changes happened in **1966**. Fulton County requested inclusion, making NOCAC a 5-county agency. NOCAC received our first Head Start grant for **\$24,000**.

In **1971**, we increased our presence in the program by adding additional programs including home maintenance and repair, Project HELP, Senior Opportunities and Services, as well as the NW Ohio Family Planning Delegate Agency.

On **June 10th, 1968**, NOCAC filed an application with the US Office of Economic Opportunity for recognition as a Community Action Agency. At the time, NOCAC's programming included Head Start, Health and Education, and Housing and Neighborhood Youth Corp.

\$63,423 contract for child services set for migrants

Ohio Department of Public Welfare has approved a \$63,423 contract to provide child care services for migrant farm workers at the Temporary Migrant Rest Center, Liberty Center.

STATE WELFARE Director Charles W. Bates said the contract between the Henry County Welfare Department and the Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission Headstart, Defiance, would provide temporary child care while parents are looking for work, housing or applying for other social services. The Commission would care for a maximum of 1000 children throughout the summer.

The director said funds expended in the contract were 100 percent federally reimbursed under Title IV of the Social Security Act.

Published in the Northwest Signal on **July 30th, 1974**

In **1973**, NOCAC opened the Bargain Bee thrift store. We also added the Community Food and Nutrition program, several senior programs, Talking Books program, and the Temporary Reception and Child Care Migrant Rest Center.

In **1982**, we began to include Van Wert County in HEAP applications and for weatherization projects. Head Start's enrollment increased from 167 children to 229 children.

In **1984**, we moved our central office to its current location at 1933 E. Second St

Braman: 'Emphasis is on payback'

Weatherization cuts fuel costs

By BOB WILKINSON
On Monday, Oct. 15, other getting advice from the crew, did a lot of the weatherization work himself. He is a member of the Braman family, which has been in the area for many years. He has been a member of the crew since 1971. He has been a member of the crew since 1971. He has been a member of the crew since 1971.

Published in the Crescent News on **April 8th, 1982**

In **1990**, we partnered with the Northwest Technical College to hold our first annual Child Care Conference. Additionally, NOCAC took over the ACCESS program from MVGC and renamed it to be the PATH Center.

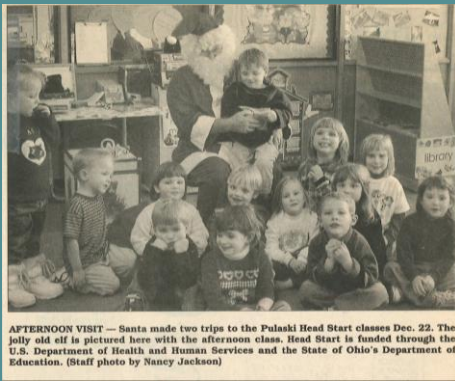
In **1987**, NOCAC added 3 new programs: Family Day Care Home, Publicly Funded Childcare, and the Fuel Oil Retrofit Program.

NOCAC TIMELINE

The PATH Center (Partnership Assistance to the Homeless) opens at 1939 E. Second St. in **2000** and provides shelter, RCO apartments, and a drop-in soup kitchen.

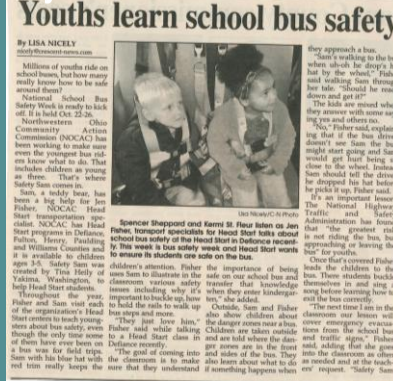
Van Wert County requested to be included in our service area in **2011**, creating the 6 county Community Action Agency.

In **2021**, the FOC received the NDIA Digital Navigation Program pilot grant and began developing classes and workshops to teach employment and budgeting skills in an increasingly technologically driven world.



AFTERNOON VISIT — Santa made two trips to the Pulaski Head Start classes Dec. 22. The jolly old elf is pictured here with the afternoon class. Head Start is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the State of Ohio's Department of Education. (Staff photo by Nancy Jackson)

Published in the Bryan Times on **December 27th, 2000.**



Published in the Crescent News on **October 21st, 2012.**

1995



Published in the Crescent News on **February 20th, 2009.**

In **1999**, NOCAC started the Individual Development Program to provide a 2:1 monetary match for purchases such as first-time home ownership, post-secondary education, and small business start-ups.

In **2015**, Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World was added to NOCAC's programming. Getting Ahead was a 12-week workshop to assist those living in poverty to examine the impact of poverty and use this information to build resources for a better life.

The Financial Empowerment Program became the LISC Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) on **April 20th, 2020.**

PATH Center employees, in partnership with OACCA, put on a region wide poverty simulation in **2025**. The event was designed so that and those working in social services could walk in the shoes of someone living in poverty, even if just for an hour, so that we might better serve our communities.

2025

STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

A message from our Executive Director



2025 brought its share of uncertainty, particularly related to federal funding disruptions. While this unpredictability made planning complex and the work demanding, it also highlighted the strength, flexibility, and resolve of NOCAC and the communities we serve. Through it all, our commitment to rural families and our mission never wavered.

In 2025, NOCAC celebrated 60 years of service. Established during a time of bold progress happens when people work together toward shared goals and that belief continues to guide us. Progress is not linear, but each challenge offers an opportunity to adapt and move forward with greater clarity. Shifting federal conditions reinforce the importance of strong local partnerships and responsive services. Over the past year, NOCAC staff, board members, and partners met these challenges with creativity, professionalism, and care, ensuring continuity and stability for those who rely on our programs. I am deeply thankful for all their dedication and the trust of the communities we serve. Together, we honor our past while continuing to build a strong, hopeful future for communities across our service area.

Governing Board Members

2025 – 2026 Board of Trustees					
Public Sector Representatives		Private Sector Representatives		Client Sector Representatives	
 Mark Holtsberry, Paulding County & Board President	 Matthew Koester, Defiance County	 Penni Bostelman, Henry County	 Dean Genter, Fulton County	 John Bassinger, Van Wert County	 Kaitlyn Howard, Henry County
 Scott Lirot, Williams County	 Stan Owens, Van Wert County	 Dennis Miller, Williams County	 Angel Steiner, Paulding County & Secretary	 Cara Leininger, Fulton County	 Susie Retcher, Defiance County
 Elizabeth Schuller, Henry County	 Joe Short, Fulton County	 Jim Stripe, Van Wert County	 Kris Walter, Defiance County	 Tiffany Rockhold, Paulding County & Vice President	 Kenneth Vance, Williams County

Management Team



Management Team	
Angie Franklin, Executive Director	Kelley Feeney, Housing and Energy Services Director
Kylee Harrow, Finance Director	Jamie Huber, Community Services Director
Heidi Keween, Human Resources Director	Amber Simmons, Child Development Director

Our Values

People: We believe in treating people with dignity and respect and recognize that income disparity, lack of resources, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.

Commitment: We strive to be continuously responsive to the most critical needs of low-income families and individuals; empowering them to reach their full potential.

Innovation: We pledge to use creative approaches to address poverty and secure resources to build a stronger community.

Integrity: We value integrity and maintain high standards of professionalism through ethical behavior.

Our Mission

Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission is dedicated to minimizing the effects of poverty by connecting individuals to opportunities and resources that support a secure future.

Vision Statement

NOCAC envisions a culture that supports opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient neighborhoods, and ensures a more equitable community.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Programs	2025	2024
Head Start	\$4,392,431	\$4,012,407
Early Head Start	\$406,137	\$395,952
Early Childhood Education	\$837,820	\$1,014,571
Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP)	\$244,573	\$323,365
Summer Food (CACFP)	\$37,736	\$43,352
United Way – Summer Food	\$24,742	\$18,450
Total for Child Development Programs	\$5,943,439	\$5,808,098
Child Care-Publicly Funded	\$475,431	\$406,019
BCI Checks/Training	\$29,521	\$30,255
Total Community Partnerships	\$427,393	\$436,274
Community Services Block Grant	\$475,431	\$259,603
Home Energy Assistance Program	\$1,335,722	\$1,410,523
Percentage of Income Payment Plan	\$25,707	\$25,818
ARPA-HRG Home Relief	\$0	\$962,626
OHFA/HAF/Utility Assistance Plus	\$0	\$90,557
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	\$0	\$23,511
Housing Support – Tax Credit Projects	\$991	\$353
Credit Builder Alliance	\$2,392	\$2,608
LISC General Motors	\$35,000	\$50,000
Workforce Development Car Repair	\$119,973	\$72,779
LISC Digital Connector	\$0	\$532
NDIA – Digital Navigation	\$170,251	\$123,581
Buckeye Health Plan	\$2,990	\$4,426
Financial Literacy	\$2,206	\$12,835
Low Income Water Assistance	\$0	\$546,347
United Way – FEP Funds/Emergency Services	\$34,461	\$43,372
Local Donations	\$5,496	\$8,446
Total Community Services	\$2,210,621	\$3,637,916
Partnership Assistance to the Homeless (PATH)	\$101,831	\$106,119
Richland Place Single Room Occupancy	\$26,522	\$30,288

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Programs Continued	2025	2024
COHHIO Diversion Training	\$302	\$0
Emergency Shelter Grant Program	\$9,049	\$119,049
CDBG-CV Targeted Opportunity	\$19,200	\$0
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$470,938	\$299,951
Supportive Housing Program 36	\$47,243	\$33,987
Housing Stability Rapid Rehousing	\$309,947	\$384,412
Homeless Crisis Response – OHTF	\$46,700	\$100
ODE Homeless Targeted Support	\$0	\$14,651
Housing Coordination Services/Diversion	\$36,883	\$42,851
Ready to Rent	\$368	\$540
Access to Wellness	\$3,431	\$0
Mercy Grey Nuns Homeless Prevention	\$2,449	\$584
John Henry Eldred Foundation – Housing Stability PATH	\$23,889	\$0
Landlord Incentive – Tri-County	\$10,000	\$0
Landlord Incentive ADAMhs	\$20,000	\$0
Total Homelessness Assistance Services	\$1,128,762	\$1,032,534
Home Weatherization Assistance Program	\$793,847	\$1,324,049
Home Weatherization BIL Program	\$990,928	\$311,875
Home Weatherization Enhancement Program	\$150,095	\$790,951
Weatherization Readiness Fund	\$41,029	\$44,666
Housing Assistance Grant Program	\$85,274	\$82,591
Elderly Home Repair Program	\$21,751	\$41,542
Community Connections – Toledo Edison	\$72,964	\$25,903
Electric Partnership Program	\$142,910	\$111,728
Reduction in Home Energy Grant Program	\$112,773	\$103,057
Housewarming Program	\$17,653	\$1,573
AEP Help	\$3,225	\$0
Total Housing and Energy Programs	\$2,432,448	\$2,837,935
Total Corporate/Unrestricted	\$208,542	\$208,914
TOTAL NOCAC EXPENDITURES	\$12,351,204	\$13,961,672

HUMAN RESOURCES

A stable, supported workforce strengthens every program and service we provide.

Supporting the People who Power our Mission: NOCAC fulfills our mission through the dedication and commitment of our staff. In 2025, Human Resources focused on workforce coordination, recruitment support, agency-wide training, and organizational consistency to ensure employees across all programs were supported and prepared to serve our community.

Recruitment and Workforce Support: Human Resources supported the hiring and onboarding by working closely with program leadership to assist with the recruitment process, onboarding, and internal development. During the year, HR received **378 informal inquiries**, which lead to **236 formal employment applications** and **39 new hires**. These efforts helped maintain staffing levels and continuity of services while ensuring consistent policies and standards across the agency.

Staff by Program Area	
Administration - 6	Homeless Programs – 10
Community Services/Financial Opportunity Center - 14	Housing and Energy Services - 16
Head Start/Early Head Start/Summer Food Service - 94	Publicly Funded Childcare - 5
Experience Across the Agency	
Less than 5 years – 62%	15-19 years – 6%
5-9 years – 10%	20-29 years – 9%
10-14 years – 7%	30+ years – 6%

Impact Beyond Numbers: At year-end, NOCAC employed 142 staff members across multiple programs and service areas. Workforce continuity and employee experience supported consistent operations, staff supervision, and service delivery. Long tenured employees and stable leadership provided institutional knowledge and mentorship that strengthened daily operations and promoted organizational resilience.

Years of Service Milestones: NOCAC proudly recognizes employees who reached significant service milestones in 2025, reflecting their long-standing commitment to the agency and the communities we serve.



20 years - Heidi Keweenaw

25 years - Jill Gentile (unpictured), Kristina Eicher, and Heidi Brinkman

35 years - Julie Hunt and Becky Michael

PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILDCARE

Helping Providers Succeed So Families Can Too

Since 1987, NOCAC has partnered with county agencies to administer Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC), helping families access affordable, quality childcare. In 2025, we served families in 9 counties and completed our first year administering PFCC alongside the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Child Care Voucher programs. Through these programs NOCAC helps reduce barriers and promote economic stability for families.



Provider Support: NOCAC works in partnership with the YWCA (Young Women’s Christian Association) Child Care Resource and Referral. While the YWCA focuses on outreach and business development, NOCAC concentrates on licensing, compliance monitoring, and ongoing technical assistance. Our collaborative approach supports Family Child Care (FCC) Home providers as they open and maintain high-quality childcare programs.

County	Number of caretakers	Number of children in care	Number of In County FCC Homes	Number of In County Centers	Number of Out of County Centers
Auglaize	63	199	1	4	15
Defiance	220	362	4	7	1
Fulton	127	204	4	4	18
Hancock	316	592	7	12	6
Hardin	79	160	6	4	5
Paulding	53	122	1	2	1
Putnam	35	75	1	3	2
Van Wert	60	142	2	1	5
Williams	65	107	2	3	2



Impact Beyond Numbers: Families approved for assistance at 145% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines may continue receiving support until they reach 300%, allowing parents to increase income or complete education without the immediate loss of childcare. This continuity helps families maintain stability until children reach school age, when care needs naturally shift.

A Family’s Story: After relocating due to a housing crisis, one family needed support securing employment and child care. NOCAC connected them with a licensed Family Child Care Home, where their children quickly built strong relationships and adjusted well. With reliable care in place, the parents returned to work, strengthened their finances, and are now preparing for a future of independence as their children approach school age.

HEAD START

Inspiring a Love of Learning through Early Education and Family Partnerships

Head Start (HS) is a program that promotes the school readiness of children from three to five years of age by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. HS provides a learning environment that supports children’s growth in many areas, such as language, literacy, and emotional development. The program also emphasizes the role of parents as their child’s first and most important teacher; additionally, HS connects families to other resources that they might need for child and family success.

School Readiness Goals: HS has developed a comprehensive set of school readiness goals that promote children’s growth across key developmental domains, ensuring build the skills, knowledge, & confidence necessary for kindergarten a & future success.

1. Children will develop a positive relationship with learning by developing strategies for self-regulating feelings and behaviors.
2. Children will show interest in personal relationships and use basic problem-solving skills with other children and develop friendships.
3. Infants and toddlers will be receptive to understanding language and recognize frequently used words or gestures. Preschool aged children will increase awareness of the sounds that make up language and show interest in books, songs, rhymes, and stories.
4. Children will develop their vocabulary and sense of numbers and objects in small sets.
5. Children will use and demonstrate their ability to increase position, strength, coordination, and efficiency when using fine motor manipulative skills.



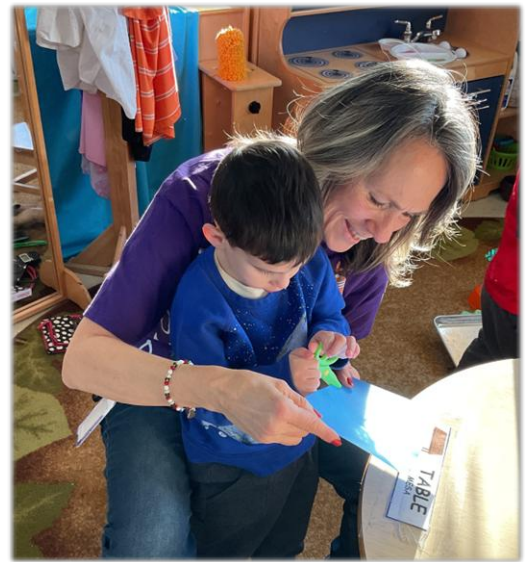
Enrollment	Funded Enrollment	Average Monthly Enrollment	Total Number of Children Served	Total Number of Families Served
Head Start	300	92%	338	308
Early Head Start	44	93%	65	53

HEAD START

A Success Story: Franciso is a visually impaired Head Start (HS) student who has shown great growth in the past few months while participating in our program. HS was his first school setting, and it has been amazing to watch how quickly he has learned through auditory input and adapted to his environment. Compared to the shy boy we saw when he started with us, he now moves around the classroom independently and confidently. With the support of his parents, a mobility specialist, and a visual



impairment itinerant teacher, Franciso has been able to utilize adaptive equipment and engaging manipulative toys that play an important role in helping him build skills to thrive.



Volunteers: NOCAC is proud that **26% of former HS parents are now HS staff**. Additionally, there are **434 parent volunteers** that help in our classrooms contributing **67,683 volunteer hours** and **\$1,497,810 volunteer In Kind dollars**.

A Focus Area 2 monitoring was conducted by the office of Head Start in April 2024 with no findings.

Demographics	Head Start	Early Head Start
Two Parent Families	50%	56%
Single Parent Families	50%	44%
Single parent families: mother only	93%	97%
Single parent families: father only	7%	3%
Of total families, percent of which the parent/guardian is described as:		
Biological, adoptive, or stepparents	92%	85%
Grandparents	4%	7%
Relatives other than grandparents	2%	5%
Foster parents	2%	5%
Other	1%	0%
Eligibility		
Household income at or below 100% federal poverty line	29%	18%
Household receives public assistance (SSI, SNAP, etc)	48%	62%
Household participates in foster care	3%	6%
Household experiencing homelessness	2%	2%
Household income is between 101% and 130% federal poverty line	8%	6%
Other eligibility	9%	6%

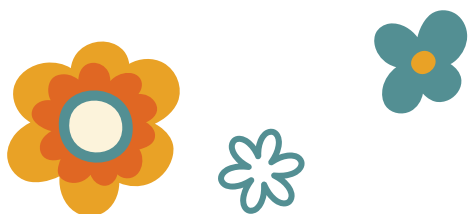
EARLY HEAD START

Growing Curious Minds and Confident Families

Early Head Start (EHS) focuses on pregnant mothers and their children under three years old. The EHS programs promote infants' and toddlers' physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving. EHS programs provide access to prenatal care, food programs, interactive socialization with children of the same age, and home teaching. The combination of these services prepares children for continued growth, development, and eventually, success in school and life.

Early Childhood Education Program: Within the Head Start program there are 188 children who receive wrap around services in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education (ECE) grant program. The grant is awarded to pre-school programs to provide comprehensive services that support a child's growth and learning using developmentally appropriate practices that best support school readiness.

Health Outcomes for Completed Children	Head Start	Early Head Start
Health Screenings	100%	94%
Dental Exams	98%	72%



Financial Report 01/01/25 – 12/31/25			
		Head Start	Early Head Start
	Funded Budget	Expenditures	
Personnel	\$2,787,370	\$2,516,886	\$244,940
Fringe	\$1,050,119	\$896,452	\$99,641
Travel	\$55,063	\$34,608	\$16,870
Equipment	\$30,709	\$24,709	-
Supplies	\$128,612	\$107,051	\$9,185
Contractual	\$60,454	\$56,551	\$2,018
Other	\$840,769	\$756,173	\$33,482
Total	\$4,953,096	\$4,392,431	\$406,137
Federal Income	\$4,794,942	\$4,388,806	\$406,137
Program Income	\$3,625	\$3,625	-
Total Income	\$4,798,568	\$4,392,431	\$406,137
Total InKind Contribution	\$2,547,758	\$2,319,718	\$228,040
Total	\$7,346,326	\$6,712,149	\$634,177

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Fueling Summer for Northwest Ohio's Kids



“The Summer Food Program helps a lot as it provides free lunches, activities, and a sense of community.”
– Head Start Client

When school is out for the summer, many children lose access to the breakfasts and lunches they receive during the school year. The USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps bridge that gap by providing free, nutritious meals to children and teens age 18 and under during the summer months.

In 2025, NOCAC proudly served as a regional sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program, helping ensure children across Northwest Ohio had access to healthy meals and welcoming places to gather throughout the summer.

Through partnerships with communities across the region, 14 meal sites operated throughout Northwest Ohio, including:

Wauseon • Archbold • West Unity • Edgerton • Bryan • Pioneer • Liberty Center • Napoleon • Defiance – Hebron • Defiance – Kingsbury Park • Paulding • Oakwood

Community support played a vital role in the success of the program. Nine of the fourteen sites were operated entirely by local volunteers, demonstrating the incredible commitment of Northwest Ohio communities to ensuring that no child goes hungry during the summer months.

Summer Food Program 2025 6,849 Meals Provided
1,722 Children Fed
2,365.25 hours volunteered

National & State Recognition

NOCAC's summer meals program was recognized at both the national & state levels in 2025.

Turnip the Beet! Award – USDA

NOCAC received the Turnip the Beet! Award, a national recognition presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to summer meal sponsors who go above and beyond to provide high-quality, nutritious, and appealing meals for children during the summer months.

2025 Farm to Summer Challenge – Gold Gourd Award

NOCAC was also recognized as a Gold Gourd Award winner in the Farm to Summer Challenge, which celebrates programs that incorporate local foods, agriculture education, and community engagement into summer meal programs.

NOCAC partnered with Nature Fresh Farms, a local greenhouse grower, who donated fresh cucumbers for two Cucumber Crunch Day events. Children participated in hands-on gardening activities, planting donated seeds and learning about where food comes from. SNAP-Ed educators also provided nutrition education, helping children understand the importance of healthy eating.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building Stability. Creating Opportunity.

The Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) at NOCAC supports individuals and families on their path to financial stability and career advancement through a comprehensive, client-centered approach. Our programs connect community members with experienced Financial or Employment Coaches who provide individualized, one-on-one support. Together, coaches and clients set meaningful goals, develop personalized action plans, and connect to the resources needed to achieve long term success. The FOC also offers group-based financial education classes that focus on practical money management skills. These sessions empower participants to make informed financial decisions and build habits that support long term stability.

Financial Opportunity Center	
Average Increase in Savings	\$2,841.36
Average Increase in Net Worth	\$18,890.20
Average Credit Score Increase	52 points
Average Increase in Net Income	\$909.68
Average Debt Reduction	\$6,632



Digital Navigation: In recognition of the increasing role technology plays in both employment & financial management, the FOC provides robust digital navigation services and, when funding allows, free devices to qualifying clients. Through workshops and individualized support, clients build the confidence and skills needed to effectively use digital tools in everyday life & work.

Community Partnerships: The success of the FOC is made possible through strong partnerships with organizations such as the Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation, United Way, General Motors, First Financial Bank, Fifth Third Bank, and KeyBank. Together, these partnerships help create pathways to empower individuals to build secure and sustainable futures. When funding is available, the FOC further supports clients through a car repair assistance program in partnership with area auto repair businesses. This initiative helps ensure participants have access to safe and reliable transportation, reducing barriers to employment and job retention. In 2025, we were able to get **37 cars repaired**.

Education: Over the course of **14 workshops**, the FOC taught **40 participants** in **financial literacy classes**. We also conducted **1 homeownership class** attended by **13 participants**. During **329 individual sessions**, we provided financial and employment coaching to **119 participants**. During **537 sessions of digital navigation**, we served **171 participants** and distributed **74 devices**. In partnership with our Housing and Energy Services, the FOC also gave out **47 energy reduction kits**.

"I am very grateful for this program. I will be starting back at Vantage Career Center. This laptop is going to be so beneficial to me as I continue towards completing and obtaining my Registered Nurse licensure."

– Van Wert FOC Client

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Building Stability. Creating Opportunity.

Summer Crisis Program

1105 households were helped to keep cool during the summer months	
264 A/C units and 151 fans were provided	58 central air unit repairs
\$181, 571.61 spent for utility assistance	\$25,600.45 spent on central air repairs

Winter Crisis Program

Over 1300 households received assistance with heating for the winter months	
\$656,901 of emergency funding was spent to help clients heat their homes	64 furnaces were repaired



With the help of the Salvation Army, we were able to provide **189 Thanksgiving meal vouchers**. Additionally, we raised **\$11,240.25** in the **2025 Red Kettle Campaign** to support emergency funding for local households.

Defiance County raised \$5,168.66, Paulding County raised \$1,456.58, and Williams County raised \$4,615.01.

The Home Energy Assistance Program, or **HEAP**, provides households with a one-time credit to the houses main heating source. In 2025, NOCAC processed **3601 HEAP applications**.

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan, **PIPP**, allows households to make a payment based on a percentage of their income, not necessarily usage, allowing families to budget more effectively. In 2025, we processed **2423 applications**.

With the support of various funding sources, we were able to assist many households, including: **23** via **Bryan Good Neighbor funds**, **31** via **United Way funds**, **21** via **Paulding County United Way rental funds**, **345** via the **First Energy Fuel fund**, **14** via **local donations**, **107 migrant families** via **Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)** in partnership with Pathstone, and **219** via the **CSBG**.



HOMELESS SERVICES

Turning Compassion into Action

The PATH Center serves the community as a soup kitchen, community center, and emergency shelter. Our Coordinated Entry program helps set up clients with the service or program that is the best fit for them, be that Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Prevention, mental health services, or just a delicious hot meal from our soup kitchen.



The soup kitchen is funded largely by donations. In 2025, we served 6,659 hot lunches that cost \$46,613. We received **929 food donations, 47 cash donations, and 1027 miscellaneous donations, totaling \$43,345.56, \$54,707.15, and \$15,210, respectively.** Besides hot meals, the PATH Center also puts on community events and handed out commodities, though the program ended in June 2025. Before the program ended, **1,180 individuals and 641 households** received commodities, including **36 new families.** Throughout the year **390 individuals** participated in educational events and **517** participated in social activities.

Homeless Prevention: The Homeless Prevention program serves clients who are at risk of losing their housing. The goal of the program is to prevent a client from becoming homeless. In 2025, **33 households** were supported with **\$19,191.36** in rental assistance to **avoid eviction.**

Coordinated Entry	
Risk Assessments Completed	238
Individuals diverted from homelessness	47
Phone Calls Received	1427
In Person Outreach Conversations	129

Emergency Shelter: The PATH Center provides 16 emergency shelter beds, In 2025, the shelter served **153 individuals, 114 households, and 19 children.** On average, an individual stays in the shelter **33 nights** before moving to permanent housing.

Transportation to PATH Center	
Trips	765
Mileage	8,265



HOMELESS SERVICES

Rapid Rehousing (RRH): The RRH program works with individuals and families who are currently homeless to help find housing and work towards stability. Our housing stabilization specialists not only assist clients in looking for permanent housing but also connect them to resources, education, and employment. Some of these supportive services might include the Ready to Rent classes as well as budgeting assistance and landlord mediation.



Rapid Rehousing	
Households Served	287
Average number of days to find housing	28
Amount of assistance provided	\$140,892.36
Ready to Rent classes held	3
Ready to Rent participants	20

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): The PSH program assists disabled clients with a chronic history of homelessness to access and maintain stable housing when they may not have been able to do so without assistance. Through rental assistance and ongoing case management, clients in the PSH program are given a firm foundation of support so that they can reach their goals. Our PSH specialist works with clients to support their housing stability and provide resources, education, and advocacy.

Permanent Supportive Housing	
Clients with chronic illnesses who achieved housing stability	30
Adults served	45
Children served	10
Amount of rent deposits paid	\$11,250
Amount of utilities paid	\$12,004.29
Amount of total financial assistance	\$242,885.89



“[The PATH Center] helped me financially, physically, and mentally... [The staff’s] continued support has helped me find my confidence. It has uplifted me and encouraged me to keep striving for independence.” – PSH Client

“[The PATH staff] encouraged me to pick up the pieces and move forward... they made time for you even if they were in the middle of a project.” – PATH Center Client

HOUSING & ENERGY SERVICES

Your Home, Our Priority

NOCAC's Housing and Energy Services works with low-income families to make their homes more energy efficient and safe. The program's goal is for the families to continue to reside in the comfort of their home, rather than moving somewhere new. Housing and Energy Services includes home repairs, home weatherization assistance, enhancements and energy conservation programs in the 6 counties NOCAC provides services to.

***"We received insulation, cookstove, new water heater, new refrigerator, and vents on our doors. The crew was very nice... they always explained what they were doing. Weatherization crew was friendly, cleaned up afterwards and worked well together."* – Client in Fulton County**

130 homes received services using funding from through the Home Weatherization Assistance and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Home Weatherization Assistance Programs.

6 elderly individuals received services with funding provided by the Area Office on Aging Home Repair Program.



25 households received services with funding provided by the Housing Assistance Handicap Modifications grant.

164 homes were served with emergency updates using funding by the Enhancement/WRF Programs, EPP, Housewarming, and Utility Program.



Households	Service
98	Elderly
64	Disabled
101	Furnace Replacement, Clean, and Tune or A/C Installation
71	Water Heater Replacement or Plumbing Repairs
58	Exhaust Fans (ASHRAE)
4	Roof Replacement or Repairs
1	Well Pump
4	Handicap Shower Modifications or High-Rise Toilets
2	Floor Repairs
80	Energy Efficient Refrigerator or Freezer Replacement
404	Energy Efficient Lightbulb Installation
1	Door Replacement
130	Insulation Installation in Attic, Sidewall, or Floor
325	Consumer Education

***"We received help just weeks after applying. They insulated to proper depth, installed a new water heater, bathroom exhaust fan, sprayed foam insulation in the crawlspace... my wife and I are deeply blessed to have this needed work done, we are very pleased about all that was done to help us."* – Williams County Client**

POPULATION, POVERTY RATES, & OTHER MEASURES OF ECONOMIC NEED

	State of Ohio	Defiance County	Fulton County	Henry County	Paulding County	Van Wert County	Williams County
Population and Population Change							
Total Population, 2023	11,689,442	38,165	42,276	27,086	18,760	28,281	36,804
% Minority Population, 2023	19.4%	5.2%	3.9%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	5%
Population Change, 2018-2023	96,493	150	-269	434	-54	423	543
% Population Change, 2018-2023	0.8%	0.4%	-0.6%	1.6%	-0.3%	1.5%	0.5%
Individual Poverty Rates							
Population in Poverty, 2023	1,518,116	3,332	3,333	2,299	1,869	3,071	3,951
Overall Poverty Rate, 2023	13.2%	8.9%	8%	8.5%	10.1%	10.9%	11.1%
Child Poverty Rate, 2023	17.5%	12.9%	11%	10.8%	13.9%	14.4%	13.9%
Senior Poverty Rate, 2023	9.5%	5.6%	7.5%	4.5%	7.3%	6.9%	7.6%
White Poverty Rate, 2023	10.3%	8.8%	7.8%	8%	9.9%	8.8%	12%
Black/African American Poverty Rate, 2023	26.9%	49.3%	N	N	N	N	N
Asian Poverty Rate, 2023	11.5%	N	N	N	N	N	N
Hispanic/Latino Poverty Rate, 2023	21.7%	12%	9.6%	N	7.6%	19.1%	9.4%
Family Poverty Rates							
Families in Poverty, 2023	273,358	556	763	418	328	600	921
Family Poverty Rates, 2023	9.2%	5.4%	6.6%	5.7%	6.6%	7.5%	9.4%
Couples w/ related children in their care Poverty Rate, 2023	4.9%	3.7%	4.5%	4.5%	1.1%	3.9%	4%
Single women w/ related children in their care Poverty Rate, 2023	38.4%	27.2%	30.1%	37.4%	27.1%	24.8%	43.3%
Other Measures of Economic Need							
% of Population below 50% FPL, 2023	6.2%	4%	2.9%	4.3%	2.8%	3.3%	5.8%
% of Population below 200% FPL, 2023	29.4%	25.7%	23.2%	25.4%	28.8%	28.8%	32.4%
Median Household Income, 2023	67,873	72,241	70,724	81,899	67,692	60,555	61,183
Child Food Insecurity Rate, 2022	19.8%	16.4%	15.1%	16.9%	16.9%	15.6%	19%
% of public-school students who receive free/reduced lunch, 2023	38.9%	41.9%	33%	34.7%	47.3%	39%	44.4%
% of Population receiving SNAP benefits, 2024	11.8%	10%	7%	5.6%	10%	8.2%	9.5%
% of Population enrolled in Medicaid, 2024	26%	22.3%	16.9%	15.2%	21.4%	20.9%	21.2%
% of Population w/o Health Insurance, 2023	6.4%	8.8%	5.7%	5.3%	5.6%	3.5%	5.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2023	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	4.2%	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%
% of households receiving HEAP benefits, 2024	5.3%	7.2%	4.9%	4.6%	8.3%	7.3%	4.9%
% of Renter's Cost-Burdened, 2023	45.1%	35.6%	32.5%	33%	46%	36%	40.8%
% of Owners Cost-Burdened, 2023	17.3%	14.1%	15.9%	14.2%	12.3%	12.1%	15.7%

Copied from the Ohio Association of Community Action Agency's "State of Poverty Report."

Sources: (1) U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates; (2) U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE); (3) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS); (4) Equality of Opportunity Project; (5) Feeding America, Map of the Meal Gap; (6) Ohio Department of Education; (7) Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Public Assistance Monthly Statistics; (8) Ohio Department of Medicaid, Medicaid Demographic and Expenditure Report; (9) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; (10) Ohio Development Services Agency.

Notes: The first column identifies the source of the data by number. For (3), Ohio numbers and percentages represent ACS one-year estimates, whereas all county numbers and percentages represent ACS five-year estimates. For county poverty rates by race, ethnicity, and family type, data are suppressed if the denominator is less than 500 individuals, as indicated with the letter "N." For (4), probabilities are based on the current family income of a cohort of adults born between 1980 and 1982 whose family income 30 years ago was in the bottom quintile of the national income distribution at that time. State-level probability is derived by weighting county-level probabilities based on annual birth data from the U.S. Census Bureau. For (6) data includes applications at traditional schools only.



Phone (419) 784-5136

Address: 1933 E 2nd Street
Defiance, Ohio 43512

Find Us on Facebook



Visit our website!
www.nocac.org

Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission is dedicated to minimizing the effects of poverty by connecting individuals to opportunities and the resources that support a secure future.