

2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# South Central Community Action Program



South Central Community Action Program

**SCCAP**

*Empowering people to reach their potential*

All SCCAP services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran.





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# A Letter from the Executive Director

Near the end of 2017, South Central Community Action Program appointed Frank Peacock as our new Executive Director. Hear from him about his love for SCCAP and vision for the organization in the coming years.

Year after year, the caring group of folks who make South Central Community Action, Inc. a vital part of our community give their all to help those in need. They are teachers, mentors, and caregivers who help people find a way to make it when there seems to be no way. Their talents are brought to bear through the various services we provide to individuals who desire for their voices to be heard. Our sincere thanks goes out to our Board Members, Staff, Donors, Volunteers, Community Partners and Funders who make what we do possible.

In 2017 we served just under 7,000 persons in Monroe, Owen, Brown, and Morgan counties. The report that follows demonstrates how these individuals and families were able to achieve personal and economic independence. Our doors were open to those who needed safe and affordable housing, childcare, job skills training, health insurance, community support, as well as other resources in order to become more equipped to handle the challenges they faced.

We appreciate all who are part of our mission and have taken a stand with us. We are glad to be able to continue to operate in this capacity and look forward to making a positive impact in 2018.



# COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

## *Connecting with other Agencies*



The State Community Action Partnership Conference was held in French Lick, IN on November 8th & 9th. The SCCAP office was able to send 12 employees to the enriching program, and one of our own delivered a presentation.

Linda Patton, our Thriving Connections coordinator, delivered a three hour workshop entitled Shifting the Paradigm: Asking "What Happened to You?" Instead of "What's Wrong With You?" Emotional Trauma, Information and Resiliency-Building Strategies for Frontline Staff. In the photo to the left, you can see how popular the session was.

Other workshop tracks this year focused on management, partnership opportunities, weatherization, and client services.

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## *In 2017, members of the SCCAP staff attended the National & State Community Action Partnership Conferences*

The National Community Action Partnership Conference was held in Philadelphia, PA on August 29 through September 1. SCCAP was happy to send three employees to this year's convention.

The group split up workshops for each to attend and reconvened each night to share information in order to get the most out of this excellent experience.

Sessions that were attended included subjects such as Head Start, branding, community engagement, leveraging data, CAPLAW, partnerships, board governance, and ROMA reporting.



# a community THRIVING CONNECTIONS building model

In a wider culture that is becoming more and more polarized, one of the best things about Thriving Connections is the diversity-not just economic, but also in terms of race, age, faith, politics, gender and all variations thereof. Thriving Connections' most basic goal is bringing people together across race and class lines to get rid of poverty. We start out educating and establishing relationships between people called Leaders, because they are leaders of their own life, who live without enough resources, and people called Allies, who have enough resources. The Thriving Connections community meets every week for dinner and programming for both adults and children. In addition, each Leader meets with their allies at others times to work on their education, financial and personal goals.

In the nine years since Thriving Connections began in Monroe County, we have helped sixty-four families study poverty, assess their skills and resources, learn how to set and achieve goals and give back to the community. Participants have completed college degrees, obtained jobs and received raises, participated in financial and emotional counseling, increased health, moved to safe and stable housing, including buying their own home and being accepted to the Habitat program, addressed health challenges, obtained support for personal growth, supported each other through tragedy and growth and gave back to the greater community! While Thriving Connections is not a miracle cure for poverty, it has exceeded our expectations as a way to move people permanently out of the need to receive support benefits and it has also changed the way many people, including those who are not impoverished, think about poverty.



➔ **We recently graduated 10 new Leaders. They and their 23 children are looking forward to working with Allies.**

➔ **232 volunteers donated 4,145 hours to Thriving Connections. Of those hours, 1,067 were donated by participants who make a low income.**

➔ **This year, Thriving Connections partnered with 63 non-profit groups, government agencies, educational institutions, faith organizations, and financial & health institutions.**



# Tracey & Dante

## Thriving Connections participant finds new job and achieves self-sufficiency



When Tracey Hodge applied to participate in Thriving Connections in 2008, she became what is known as a Thriving Connections Leader, an individual or family who is motivated to get out of poverty and is in charge of creating his or her own plan to increase their financial, professional, and social resources. She says the growth she has experienced has helped her in many ways, especially in communicating and handling difficult situations more effectively, which is helpful in her personal and professional worlds.

“It sounded like a new idea, a more proactive idea,” Hodge recalled. “It sounded empowering and the opposite of the programs that make you jump through hoops. It has given me a lot,” she said. “It has boosted my self-esteem and confidence to interact with different people of different backgrounds. And I’ve been introduced to people I wouldn’t have otherwise known. We’ve celebrated happy times and they’ve helped me work through the hard times.”

During her time in Thriving Connections, Hodge has completed two associate degrees at Ivy Tech – the first in Office Administration and the second in Health Care Support. The second degree, along with a very successful internship at a small offsite lab for IU Health Bloomington Hospital, helped Hodge to land her first post-education full-time job as a phlebotomist.

Hodge said that the job would allow her to become not entirely financially self-sufficient and free of government support, but headed in that direction. At that point, her portion of the rent was paid through the Section 8 housing program and she transitioned off the Medicaid program because she signed up for health insurance through her employer.

“It’s a good feeling,” she said. “A little scary, but a good feeling.”

Hodge hadn’t previously held a job during her time in Thriving Connections because she needed to be mostly free during the day to take care of her son, Dante, who has Asperger’s Syndrome.

“I’ve got a great family, but now I’ve got extra people to help,” she said. “I’ve got the support and caring of people I may not have crossed paths with. It’s been surprising to see how people are so willing to step into that role and be supportive, caring and non-judgmental as they try to help other people. They are wonderful people.”

“I want to continue to help my son and to become self-sufficient and once I get my feet fully under me in a solid way to become an Ally myself and pay it forward and help someone else succeed,” she said.

Today, Tracey is still working in the medical field and is off all government assistance. Tracey’s son Dante, who was eleven when we began, is now nineteen. Dante worked hard to graduate from High School and is working part time as he looks to further his education. Dante just finished Thriving Connections’ initial Leader training and is now our first, second generation Leader!





# Sprouting New Partnerships

Growing Opportunities continues to provide healthy greens to our communities, while providing job-training opportunities for low-income people with barriers to employment, especially people with disabilities. In 2017, we graduated 11 participants from the Growing Opportunities program.

## Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Growing Opportunities was excited to expand our partnership with Hoosier Hills Food Bank in the fight against hunger. In the past, Growing Opportunities gladly donated lettuce to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank whenever there was an abundance of product available. Due to new funding opportunities in 2017, Hoosier Hills Food Bank purchased 250 heads of lettuce a week for the 8 weeks in October through December.

## Farmers Markets

The Growing Opportunities booth has become a staple at Farmers Markets across South Central Indiana. Errin Logsdon, our greenhouse manager, makes it a priority to attend the Brown County, Owen, County, and Bloomington Farmers markets to provide affordable, locally grown greens to our community.

## Ongoing Community Partners

The Bloomington community has been an amazing asset to this program's development and growth. We have been able to create partnerships with local restaurants and grocery stores to sell produce. Those businesses include Bloomingfoods East and Near West, Lennies, and Babbs Supermarket.





# Covering Kids and Families

## GUIDING YOU TO AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

### Reaching the community

CKF of SCCAP attended a total of 75 outreach events this year. Katie and Hannah are excellent at making sure to spread their time across all the counties we serve to educate the public on how we can help!



### Answering your questions

Our healthcare navigators assisted 1,331 individuals with their healthcare questions. Our CKF staff is well versed in the world of affordable healthcare and have proven to be an amazing resource when it comes to any question, big or small.



### Getting you covered

Covering Kids and Families helped 197 individuals get healthcare insurance coverage this year.



"We want to build a healthy community where everyone can see a doctor when they need to, and can get the checkups that will keep them healthy. We care about your good health. It really is that simple."

# Housing Choice Voucher

In 2017, SCCAP had 352 active Housing Choice Vouchers across Brown, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties. The Housing Choice Voucher, also known as Section 8 Voucher, is a way to assist low-income households with safe and sanitary housing. It allows families and individuals to find their own rental units within U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) guidelines. The household's rent is subsidized based on their income.

When the wait list for the vouchers opens up, there are many people interested in applying, and this past year we were able to open up the wait list once, in September. This allowed us to serve new families that have been waiting for their chance to apply for this program.



# Energy Assistance Program



In 2017, we were able to calculate the final numbers for how many clients we served during the 2016-2017 program year. We learned that during the 2016-2017 EAP Season, SCCAP was able to provide assistance to 3,139 households with an average benefit of \$556. Those numbers include winter heating and summer cooling benefits.

We held outreach events, like the one in the photo to the left, in each of our four counties. During these events, members of the community could ask questions or turn in their applications for energy assistance while also learning about cost-effective ways to save energy. Thanks to some amazing community partners, like REMC, we were able to give away energy efficient home items, such as lightbulbs.

During the fall of 2017, we started processing EAP applications, just like every year around that time, but this year we, along with the rest of the state, switched over to a new software, CAP60. This transition was a tough one, but most importantly, our families' applications were processed, and people still received their benefits.

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## Weatherization

In 2017, our Weatherization Department gained new leadership in the form of Alfio Saitta, our new Program Director. He has adjusted well to his new role, and has many fresh, new ideas in how we can better serve our clients, and also reach out into the community to let people know about the Weatherization program.

Through this great program, we were able to help 84 individuals receive non-emergency WX energy assistance. Assistance that will continue to be effective in their homes for many years to come, which will make their energy bills lower, their home warmer, and their house safer.





# AMATU'S STORY

In 2006, Amatu lost her husband, the father of her two young daughters, unexpectedly. He was 33. Her world was shaken. She decided to take the advice of her father who was living in Bloomington, Indiana at the time, and move her family from Chicago to Bloomington. He told her there were trees and flowers and grass for the girls to play. She shared a small apartment for about a month with a friend who was also living here, while trying to save money so that she could afford a place for her and her daughters.

Amatu's primary focus was being able to send her daughters to the best schools in the area. In order to do that, she knew she would need to live in an area that had higher taxes and a higher mortgage. She also knew that the cost of that was well worth being able to give her daughters the best future she could imagine by way of a good education.

In 2008, she was able to buy her first home, and quickly realized she needed to do her research and find out if there was any help out there. For the first time, she was a single parent and needed to support two kids.

"I was searching everything I could think of online. I found out about CAP programs, and noticed the weatherization program. I decided, what's the hurt? I'll print the form out and try. I came in and the lady at the front desk showed me all the brochures and explained all the programs SCCAP offers. I went ahead and applied for Weatherization and Energy Assistance."

She heard back quickly from Energy Assistance, and she was approved! Thanks to this program, her winter heating and summer cooling bills would be supplemented and that would help her financial situation tremendously.

She soon got a phone call from SCCAP's weatherization program asking if she could come in for an interview. She met with Cherly Ann and discussed her situation, her family, and her job. By the end of the interview, she was informed that she was approved! The next step was setting up a time for the weatherization auditors to come out and perform their many tests to assess the home,



*"I waited, waited, and waited to get a bill, and I didn't. It sounded too good to be true."*

The tests included using a big red blower door to help determine where unsealed leaks and cracks might be that were allowing heat to escape. Once it was decided what needed done, contractors came and added insulation to an attic that didn't have any, made sure the furnace was up to code, and did several other things to ensure the home was as energy efficient as possible.

"I was very grateful for that. Here I was one minute, I had a spouse with two kids, and then the next minute, I didn't, and I was alone. I was trying to move between jobs to accommodate my schedule with the kids being in school, and all that wasn't easy."

I know I'm still benefiting from it, because I still live in the same house. We've lived there for 10 years, and it's 10 years of savings that I can't pay back. At the time I couldn't afford it.

It was unexpected kindness, and it made my life easier, not just for me, but for my kids too. I feel blessed that I'm in the situation where we're able to get help along the way."

These days, Amatu Karim works at Bloomington Housing Authority as a Family Self-Sufficiency Specialist so that she can help other families find the resources they may need in order to get a hand up.

*"For the first time, I was a single parent and I needed to support two kids."*

# Head Start

## FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

**The total number of children served:**

**Head Start: 360**

**Early Head Start: 100**

**The total number of families served:**

**Head Start: 332**

**Early Head Start: 84**

**The average monthly enrollment as a percentage of funded enrollment:**

**Head Start: 90%**

**Early Head Start: 99%**

**The percentage of eligible children served:**

**Head Start: 94%**

**9% Over Income**

**7% Between 100% and 130%**

**Early Head Start: 91%**

**5% Over Income**

**4% Between 100% and 130%**

**The percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams:**

**Head Start: 93%**

**Early Head Start: 96%**

**The percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams:**

**Head Start: 78%**

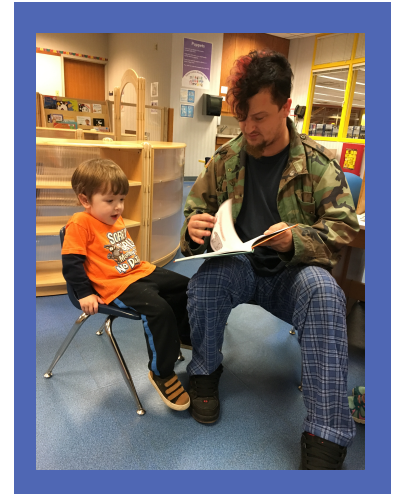
**Early Head Start: 92%**





# Head Start Parent Programming

FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR



Head Start hosted Parent Meetings at each site, every other month, in order to keep the family involved and interested in their child(s) education. Parent Meetings are a great way of getting the parents in the door of where their child goes to learn and grow every day. We like to update parents on what is going on in the Head Start world, and also what is going on at SCCAP. We try our best to always update parents on services and programs SCCAP offers, that they may be interested in.

Policy Council Meetings were held monthly, and were open to all families to attend. Our Policy Council did an excellent job this year of making the right decisions for the Head Start Program, while keeping the child's best interest at heart. Policy Council is made up of devoted parents and staff of SCCAP, but as mentioned above, all parents are welcome to attend meetings and offer their input.

Fatherhood and Motherhood programming was also available to the parents as a resource of getting more involved. For the fathers, we held Dedicated Dads meetings monthly. For the mothers, we held Moms Matter meetings quarterly.

Other fun parent involvement opportunities were held throughout the year, such as Family Fun Nights in the Fall and Spring, a Grandparent's Breakfast, and a Parent Appreciation Night. We also were able to hold Parent Workshops throughout the year. We held workshops that addressed the following topics: Safe Sleep, Child Development, Challenging Behaviors & Discipline, Transitioning to Kindergarten, Transitioning to Preschool (for Early Head Start families), First Aid/CPR, Car Seat Safety, Importance of block play, and Early Literacy Skills.

# 2017 Financials

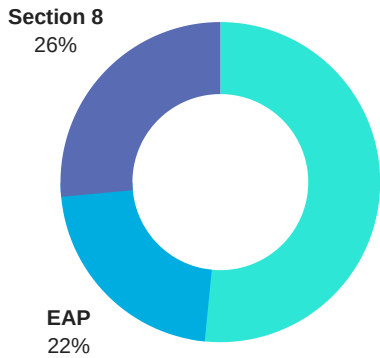
## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Energy Assistance Program (EAP).....	\$1,640,438
Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$3,848,566
CACFP.....	\$260,419
Head Start Extended Day.....	\$59,628
Section 8 - Housing Choice Vouchers.....	\$1,975,523
Weatherization (LIHEAP & DOE).....	\$751,814
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).....	\$418,025
Affordable Housing.....	\$87,000
Thriving Connections.....	\$154,346
Growing Opportunities.....	\$70,395
Demand Side Management & Clear Result.....	\$10,991
Vectren Share the Warmth.....	\$9,324
Covering Kids & Families.....	\$82,650
Vectren Energy Mobile.....	\$23,823
CAP Agency General Funds.....	\$137,946

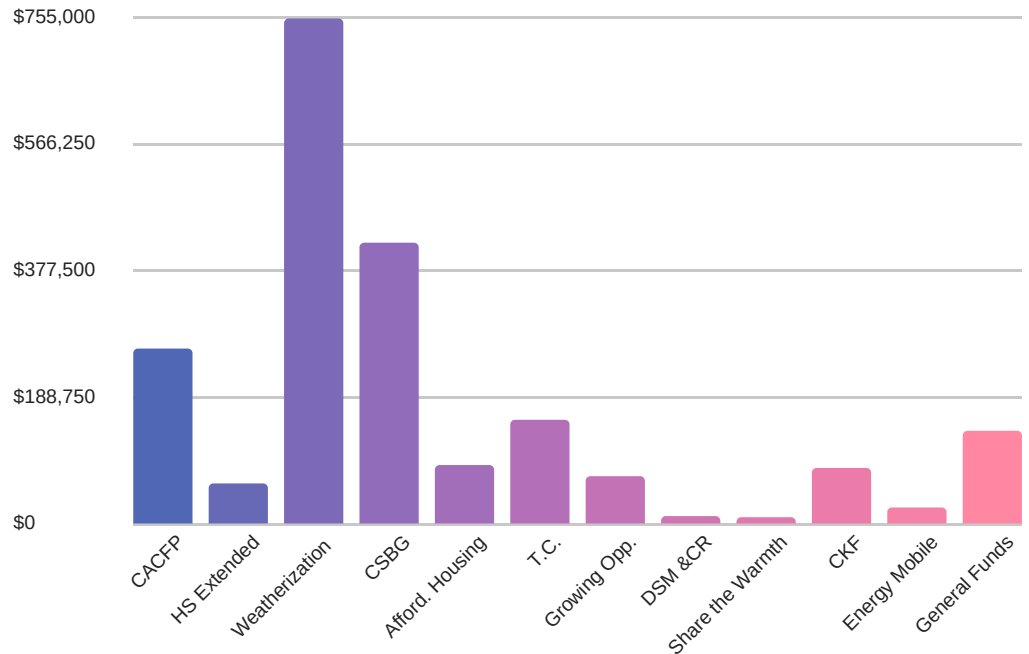
TOTAL

\$9,530,888

### TOP 3 EXPENSES



### OTHER EXPENSES



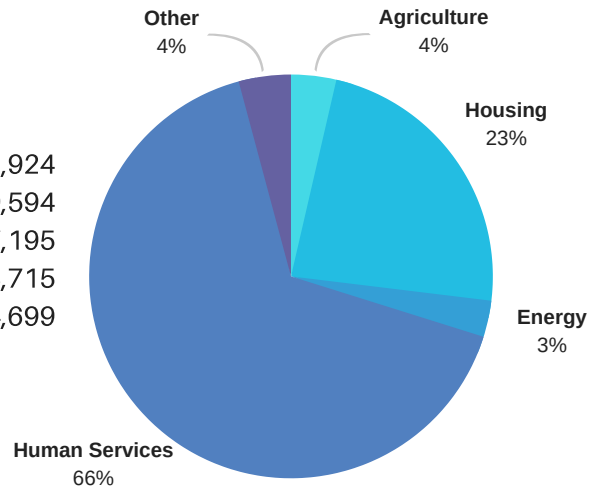


# 2017 Financials

## PUBLIC FUNDS RECEIVED

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
 Other State & Local Funds

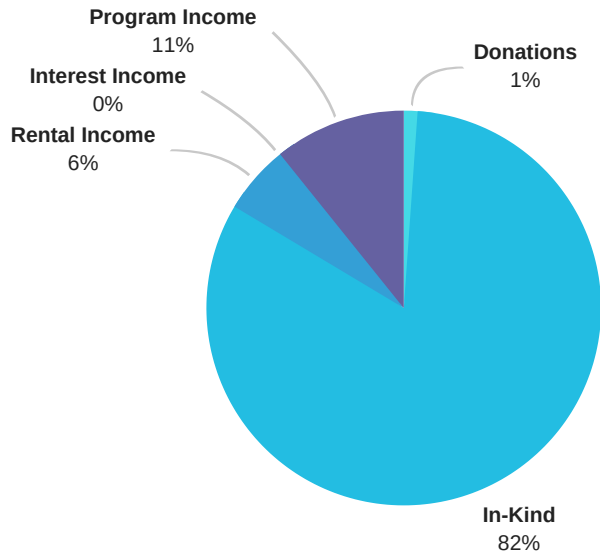
\$306,924  
 \$1,979,594  
 \$247,195  
 \$5,603,715  
 \$354,699



**TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS RECEIVED**

**\$8,492,127**

## PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED



Contributions/Donations \$10,130  
 In-Kind Contributions \$747,082  
 Rental Income \$51,044  
 Interest Income \$9  
 Program-Generated Income \$97,607

**TOTAL PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED**

**\$905,872**

**TOTAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED**

**\$9,397,999**

# 2017 Financials

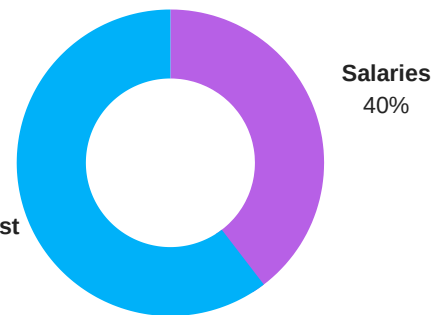
## OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages.....	\$2,774,257
Employee Benefits.....	\$604,500
Payroll Taxes.....	\$262,443
Professional Services.....	\$150,436
Technology.....	\$33,702
Telecommunications.....	\$42,625
Postage and Supplies.....	\$224,613
Occupancy.....	\$152,916
Equipment Leases and Maintenance.....	\$68,289
Insurance.....	\$45,805
Depreciation and Equipment Expense.....	\$170,570
Direct Client Assistance.....	\$4,231,679
Other Expenses (such as training, travel, food, etc.).....	\$769,053

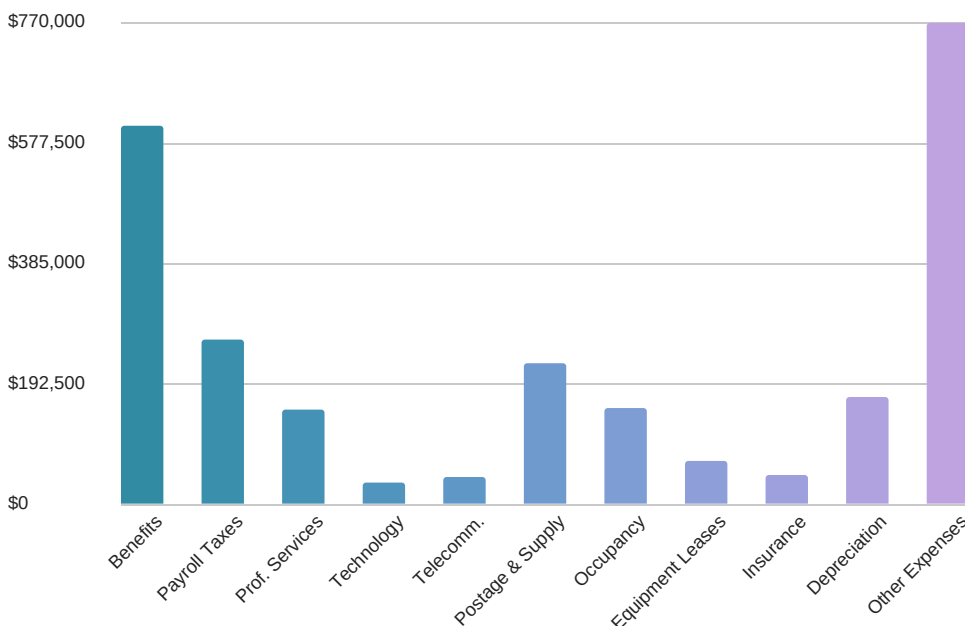
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$9,530,888

## TOP 2 OPERATING EXPENSES



## OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES





# 2018 Budget

## REVENUE

Grant Revenue.....	\$7,092,802
Rental Revenue.....	\$60,484
Contributions/Donations.....	\$11,596
Program-Generated Income.....	\$32,392
Investment Income.....	\$11
Misc. Non-Federal Income.....	\$66,435
In-Kind Contributions.....	\$774,576

**TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$8,038,296**



## EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages.....	\$2,857,491
Employee Benefits.....	\$537,772
Payroll Taxes.....	\$311,509
Professional Services.....	\$120,405
Technology.....	\$31,613
Telecommunications.....	\$70,509
Postage and Supplies.....	\$109,007
Occupancy.....	\$193,859
Equipment Leases and Maintenance.....	\$19,559
Insurance.....	\$71,474
Depreciation and Equipment Expense.....	\$140,455
Direct Client Assistance.....	\$2,380,141
In-Kind Expense.....	\$774,576
Other Expenses (such as training, travel, food, etc.).....	\$436,522

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**\$8,054,892**

**EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES**

**- \$16,596**

# Thank you to our Board Members

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Hyde President	Low Income Sector: Brown County
Gordon Wells Vice President	Public Sector: Owen County County Commissioner's Appointment
Diane Poteet Secretary	Private Sector: Morgan County Child Adult Resource Services (CARS)
Amy O'Brien Treasurer	Private Sector: Monroe County
Keisha Butcher	Low Income Sector: Monroe County Head Start Policy Council Representative
Stacy Jane Rhoads	Public Sector: Monroe County County Commissioner's Appointment
Wally Deford	Private Sector: Owen County
Peter Seybold	Private Sector: Monroe County White River Labor Council
Kathryn Bryd	Low-Income Sector: Morgan County
Susan Rinne	Public Sector: Morgan County County Commissioner's Appointment
Lori Watkins	Low Income Sector: Owen County
Shelli Yoder	Public Sector: Monroe County Mayor's Appointment
Bethany Penrod	Low Income Sector: Monroe County
Tricia Bock	Public Sector: Brown County County Commissioner's Appointment
Sandy Higgins	Private Sector: Brown County

## OTHER INDIVIDUALS THAT SERVED ON THE BOARD IN 2017 INCLUDE

Renee Chavez

Liz Feitl

Beth Pankoski



# Thank you to our Policy Council

## 2016-2017 HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Katie Duncan President	Lindbergh
Renee Chavez Vice President	Grandview
Aja Jester Secretary	Fairview
Jamie Bower	JDC
Sarah Cherry	Stinesville
Kaiti Kuciejczyk	Broadview
Rosha Lole	St. Paul
Eliza Carey	Walnut Woods
Acacia Shull	Lindbergh
Shannon Walls	Templeton
Chanel Earl/Rachel Fowler	Highland Park
Shelli Yoder	Board of Directors Representative

# Thank you to our Community Partners







2017



South Central Community Action Program

**SCCAP**

*Empowering people to reach their potential*

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