



Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
2023 Community Action Plan

1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

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Community Action Plan Summary

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. (PCCEO), a Community Action Agency serving Peoria County, is established in the belief that people with low incomes are in the best position to express what they need to make a difference in their lives. PCCEO engages with the community to assist the poor, build personal networks, and increase their skills so that they are able to move themselves and their families out of poverty. PCCEO, is addressing the problems and needs of individuals and families who fall within the Community Services Block Grant and federal government definition of low income and/or disadvantaged based on income.

While PCCEO's service area is Peoria County, the plan will concentrate on the following zip codes (61602, 61603, 61604, 61605) in the city of Peoria that have the highest concentration of families with children who are at or below the federally recognized poverty rate according to the Census data reported. This is also consistent with the service areas identified to serve children ages 0-5 in our HS/EHS programs of which PCCEO is the only grantee in Peoria County.

Since its inception in 1966, PCCEO, Inc. has engaged in the development and provision of a wide range of programs and services, which have made a significant impact upon the causes and conditions of poverty within the City and County of Peoria. The Agency's long-term goal is to formulate the foundation of self-sufficiency and empowerment for all persons it serves. PCCEO's major areas of services shall include but not be limited to:

- ▶ Community Economic Development
- ▶ Early Childhood Education and Family Development
- ▶ Housing and Related Services
- ▶ Human and Social Services
- ▶ Advocacy for Civil and Human Rights

PCCEO, Inc., is governed by a fifteen (15) member tripartite Board of Directors that has the legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the myriad of programs managed by PCCEO. In addition, the Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy and monitoring the effectiveness of program activities. Invaluable insight is gained through participation of the Board of Directors in the planning process (with representation from the Peoria City Council, Peoria County Board, small/minority business community, and targeted population). Therefore, the Board represents a broad cross-section of the Peoria County population, which has a wealth of knowledge regarding city and countywide issues.

A complete Community Action Plan is developed every 3 years and updated annually. The plan satisfies the requirements of Section 1302.11b of the revised Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), which details the requirements for the community assessment required by the Office of Head Start for the Head Start/Early Head Start programs funded through Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Needs Assessment

I. Executive Summary, Key Findings, Recommendations

After careful analysis of all the data compiled in this Community Needs Assessment, PCCEO has developed strategies as detailed in our Service Delivery Systems to assist individuals and families in reaching self-sufficiency.

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. is a Community Action Agency and leadership organization that promotes self-sufficiency and economic security. PCCEO has a commitment to life-long learning and serves as an agent for transformational change to help individuals and families improve their quality of life in Peoria County.

Homelessness Statistics

The current total for the count stands at 283 individuals experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. Of those 32 were unsheltered

(Source: Home for All Continuum of Care, 31 January 2022 report)

Contributing factors to homelessness were situational drivers (emergencies, natural disasters, job loss or death of a primary income earner, lack of affordable housing, increasing living expenses); mental health, disabilities, domestic violence, substance abuse and incarceration. (Source: Heart of Illinois United Way Continuum of Care (p. 26-27) <https://www.hoiunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/HOIUW-Peoria-Area-Community-Assessment-2017.pdf>)

According to the 2021-2022 PIR Data captured in PROMIS as it pertains to homeless families are as follows:

EHS-5
HS-18
Total - 23

Types of Disabilities

12,282 - # of children 0-5 in Peoria County

1,597—13% of total you would expect to have a developmental delay-not necessarily permanent

982—8% of total you would expect to have a developmental disability-permanent

2,579-- # of children with either delay or disability or 21% of total

Of the 982 with disability: expected number

224-Intellectual Disability

208-Autism

38-Cerebral Palsy

18- Down syndrome

The COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the most recent American Community Survey, there are now some 6.3M more Hispanics living in America than in 2010. That's the largest absolute growth and a 14.9% increase. The percentage growth is the third largest percentage change for any race according to the Census's race and ethnicity definition. But how has the increase impacted Illinois? There's been a 12.1% increase in the Hispanic population in Illinois.

Like other communities in the country, the Hispanic community has also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of August 30th, 2021, the 14-day case-positivity rolling average was 4.2% in Illinois. For that same period, it was 12.8% for the state's Latino population, during which Latinos accounted for 20% of all new cases in Illinois.

Adding to fears of contagion Hispanic people has been impacted for the pandemic in several areas.

Jobs: 61% of Hispanics residing in the United States lost their jobs or part of their salary due to the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center. According to the survey, adult Hispanics were more affected by the crisis than African-Americans (44% lost their jobs or suffered a pay cut) and whites (38%).

Unemployment: In USA, 35% of Hispanic households impacted by unemployment due to coronavirus. About half of the Hispanic families residing in the United States have been forced to drain their savings due to the economic crisis that the country is going through as a result of the pandemic. In Peoria most Hispanics people are immigrants without legal documents, they do not qualify for unemployment, and they are low-income.

Housing: Adding to unemployment, Hispanics are concerned about how they will pay for housing and the quality of their children's education, a new survey reveals. Despite the impression that everyone is working from home during the pandemic, many within the Latino community don't have that luxury.

Education: Hispanics are concerned about the education of their children due to the lack of technological resources in the new normal. This is another added problem for Hispanic households: the poor internet connection that many of these families have, which makes it difficult to continue with an education that, in many areas of the country, has become virtual or hybrid, that is, with a percentage of face-to-face classes and the rest online. At this time, Hispanic families in Peoria are struggling with technological resources to adapt to the new normal in education due to the pandemic.

Child Care: Our Latino community is suffering the impact of the pandemic on the child care sector, which was already deficient for them prior to the arrival of COVID-19 and which forces them to decide between taking care of their children or putting food on the table for their family. It doesn't stop there. Our Hispanic community in Peoria is not the exception. Parents have to take different work hours to take turns taking care of their children, and working single mothers have to find other family members or friends to watch their children.

Sources: [https://mundo.sputniknews.com/america del norte/2020042210911901](https://mundo.sputniknews.com/america-del-norte/2020042210911901)

[24-mas-de-60-hispanos-en-eeuu-pierden-su-empleo-o-ingresos-por-la-coronacrisis/https://www.univision.com/noticias/dinero/desempleo-el-35-de-los-hogares-hispanos-se-ha-visto-afectado-por-el-coronavirus](https://www.univision.com/noticias/dinero/desempleo-el-35-de-los-hogares-hispanos-se-ha-visto-afectado-por-el-coronavirus) <https://www.voanoticias.com/coronavirus/casi-mitad-hispano-eeuu-agotado-sus-ahorros-pandemia> <https://eldiariiony.com/2020/06/29/cuidado-infantil-es-una-pesadilla-para-hogares-latinos-durante-la-pandemia/>

Our nation is in the midst of a maternal and infant health crisis, which is particularly devastating for underserved families of color.

According to the March of Dimes, data shows that the U.S. remains among the most dangerous developed nations in the world for childbirth. Over 700 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes, and the CDC reports that 60 percent are preventable. It is even more dangerous for communities of color:

- Black women are 3 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related causes nationwide.
- Black babies are more than twice as likely as White babies to die before their first birthdays.
- Women of color are up to 50 percent more likely to give birth prematurely.

The Journal Star, in an article published on March 14, 2019 indicated that, according to the IDPH, "an average of 73 women in Illinois died each year from 2008 to 2016 within one year of pregnancy, 72 percent of the deaths were preventable and 93 percent of violent pregnancy-associated deaths were preventable.

The 2017 Peoria County Maternal and Child Health Report indicated that "Peoria County as a whole had better birth outcomes than Healthy People 2020 target goals; a national health initiative. However, disparities exist when examining outcomes based on racial and geographic factors. The health concerns of teen birth and preterm births were identified within the 2017-2020 Tri County Community Health Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan as a health priority."

TABLE: Total births and percentages of maternal characteristics and birth outcomes by race, age, and zip code, Peoria County, IL 2017

	Total	Teen Birth (15- 19 yr)	Smoking	Diabetes	Hypertension	Prenatal Care		Preterm		Low Birthweight		
						First Trimester	Late or No Care	Total	Very Preterm	Total	Very Low Birthweight	
TOTAL	2423	5.5	13.0	6.6	8.3	78.0	3.2	10.5	2.4	8.8	2.4	
Race												
White	1471	4.2	13.0	18.0	2.5	80.8*	2.9	9.7	1.8	7.3	1.8	
African American/Black	769	12.5*	15.1	5.3	10.4	73.6*	3.9	13.0	3.5	12.7**	3.5	
Asian	190	0.0	0.8	6.8	7.8	76.7	1.7	8.8	0.8	8.0**	0.8	
Age												
15-19 yr	187	--	8.9	0.6	7.6	88.8**	4.8	8.9	3.2	10.2	4.5	
20-24 yr	582	--	15.5	5.0	7.9	72.9	4.5	10.8	2.2	12.4	1.9	
25-29 yr	728	--	13.8	6.0	6.7	75.8	2.7	10.4	2.3	9.9	2.8	
30-34 yr	628	--	9.4	8.1	8.0	84.1	2.5	10.4	2.7	9.9	2.9	
35-39 yr	289	--	12.4	8.5	10.8	84.3**	1.9	10.8	1.3	9.7	1.9	
40-44 yr	45	--	8.9	15.6	22.2	77.8	2.2	11.1	0	6.7	0	
Zip Code												
61603	341	11.4*	19.9	4.4	10.3	75.1	5.3	12.6	2.9	15.5	3.8	
61604	439	8.9*	18.3	5.0	7.5	78.9	4.3	11.2	3.0	10.3	3.0	
61605	307	13.7*	23.8	5.5	8.8	68.4*	5.5	13.7	3.6	13.7	3.9	
61614	382	2.8	5.1	5.7	8.2	77.6	3.1	8.5	1.7	8.0	1.4	
61615	291	2.4	7.6	10.3	7.6	83.2*	1.4	7.9	1.7	7.9	1.7	
Remaining Peoria County	663	2.9	9.8	7.4	8.1	78.0	1.2	10.8	2.4	8.8	2.4	

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything. The parents have made plans as to where they want to deliver their child as well as the people they would like to share this event with. But now, their plans will need to be revised to the bare minimum and in some cases, just the medical staff with the mother. Since the information is constantly changing, adjustments are made on a daily basis to be able to keep safe both the mother and child and staff as well by limiting the amount of contacts allowed.

In 2019, 362 children received Early Intervention services in Peoria County, according to the IECAM data map. According to the 2018 census, there are 14,967 children under the age of five in Peoria County. The numbers of participation in Early Intervention services could decline in 2023 due to parents unwilling or unable to involve their children in multiple services, as they are concerned with homeschooling their older children, unemployment, and general concern regarding COVID-19 Social distancing and quarantine guidelines.

The parents and children served by Head Start have been hard hit by the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic. Family Development staff began to reach out to parents the week of March 30th, two weeks after the Governor issued a shelter in place order for the State of Illinois. Staff reached out to families on their caseload through email, text messaging and by phone. Twenty-four per cent of (24%) Head Start parents responded to the wellness check. Family Development staff reported the following concerns shared by families:

Lost jobs -5%
Trouble applying for unemployment - 4%

Staff learned that many employed Head Start parents are considered essential workers which adds an additional risk factor for contracting the Coronavirus. The Strength and Needs Assessment conducted prior to the shutdown was completed by 63 % of Head Start parents. The areas families set as goals were:

Education—34%
Parenting - 15%
Employment - 12%
Homeownership—11%
Affordable Housing-4%

The differences in priority from the date the wellness check was conducted and the period of time the Strength and Needs Assessment was made is an indicator of the shift in family needs/goals since the onset of the Coronavirus. Prior to the Pandemic, Head Start's Facebook page had an average reach of 800 persons per 28 days. Since the Pandemic, the average reach has been 3000 per 28 days and in one 28-day period, when job listings were posted, the reach was 8000 individuals. Listed below are the postings that reached the most people in a 28-day period:

Mental Health Counseling - Reach -2311
Free Food - Reach—1881
Utility-Reach - 1510
Domestic Violence - Reach -450

Securing information from Head Start's Facebook page is less intrusive and allows families some anonymity. These numbers are reflective of the needs and concerns parents shared in conversation with their Family Development Specialists multiplied.

There were 293 children eligible to return to Head Start for a second year. As of September 16, 2020, 49 families (18%) had requested help with home schooling or distance learning citing COVID -19 as the reason for the request.

This year's Community Needs Assessment indicated the following Key Findings and Recommendations:

The 2020 Kids Count Data Book ranks the State of Illinois at number 24 overall in the nation for the well-being of its children. Illinois also ranked 21st in Economic Well-being (an improvement by 6 points from 2019), 12th in Education, 20th in Health (an improvement by 7 points from 2019) and 27th in Family and Community, as compared to other states in the United States. The Kids Count Data Book is an annual publication that assesses child wellbeing, nationally and across the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Using an index of 16 indicators, the 2020 report ranks states on overall child well-being and in four domains: (1) economic well-being, (2) education, (3) health, and (4) family and community.

This report documents the needs assessment process, results, analysis, and consideration that Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity (PCCEO) employs to address unmet or under-met needs of low-income families and the communities in which they live. The purpose of this assessment is to guide the agency in decision-making, strategizing, and moving forward with the development of this agency.

The needs assessment combines research and data with input from parents, staff, public leaders and others to determine the most important needs and gaps throughout Peoria County. The primary focus of the needs assessment is to identify strengths as well as needs and barriers that exist which prevent low-income people from achieving self-sufficiency and independence of government assistance.

There were many strengths and dreams identified in this document. Parents identified teachers, socialization for children, school readiness and nutrition for the children as strengths of the program, while local food pantries, programs that help people, Head Start and after school programs were strengths of the community. Parents' dreams were a drug-free community, no violence, and more jobs. Staff identified major strengths of the program as teaching and education staff, case management component, early education and care, access to all PCCEO services, home visiting, qualifications of staff, provides program options and provide job training for parents. Board members identified strengths of the Head Start and Early Head Start program were: prepare youngsters for success, clients know the agency provides help to those in need in most all areas, have a heart to assist those that are less fortunate and longevity of staff. Community partners identified strengths of the programs as less crime, landlords and homeowners held responsible for substandard and dilapidated houses, less drugs and gang violence, educational opportunities for all, reduction in obesity and food insecurity, grocery stores and reduction in mental health issues.

Major strengths of the community were identified as churches, health care, parks, Head Start and School Districts. Strengths of the local community were identified as social service agencies cooperating to help the community, positive atmosphere, diversity, people really care about each other, collaborations, traditions, many placed to work/job opportunities, volunteers, community resources, support each other, funding for programs for at-risk children and families, community health and centers and food pantries.

Staff's dream for the community is to replace the two Kroger stores that are now closed, jobs/higher paying jobs, more opportunities for people of color, eradicate poverty/food desserts, outreach to ex-offenders, violence to stop and affordable housing/fair and livable housing. Board members and community partner's dreams for the local community were identified as equality for all, better schools, more federal aid to those in need, stores, more opportunities for employment, continue to help and feed more people who are in need.

Part of building a community that works for everyone is identifying strengths and having a dream. Programs and communities sometimes get distracted looking at things from the way they are rather than envisioning how they could be. When a program or community discovers its strengths, it takes ownership, it starts to act and dreams turn into reality. PCCEO believes that our community, individually and collectively, have unique gifts, strengths, skills, and contributions to bring to life for the betterment of everyone in the community. Together we will work diligently to enhance these identified strengths to ensure a better future for children and families in our local communities.

II. Introduction and Methodology

Relevant data was researched and collected regarding the State of Illinois and Peoria County. This was accomplished by accessing websites of a multitude of local agencies and organizations. Data was also obtained by e-mail inquiries and by telephone. The data gathered pertains to general demographics and economics, education attainment, disabilities, health, nutrition, social service issues, transportation, housing, public safety, and child care. Each section of the document contains key findings and highlights and considerations. The majority of the data was retrieved from numerous sources either from published sources available online or in a draft form from the originating public agencies.

A total of four (4) surveys were developed and administered. The surveys targeted parents, Board Members, staff, and community partners. Three (3) surveys were administered through Survey Monkey and one hard copy was distributed to parents. Questions in the surveys were tailored to gather data not found from other data assessments. Results of the surveys were compiled and analyzed to determine future needs and directions of the agency.

Primary and secondary data was obtained from a variety of sources. The sources include the following: Child Care Aware, County Health Rankings, Kids Count, US Census Bureau Quick Facts, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2012 - 2016, United States Department of Health Medicaid and Medicare Services, Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Report, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Kids Count, Center for Disease

Control, Center for Health Statistics, USDA WIC Breastfeeding Data, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Action Partnership Community Commons, US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas, Citi-data.com, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Market Information, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, National Center for Children in Poverty, Health Indicators Warehouse; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Corrections, <http://www.areavibes.com> , Illinois Department of Employment Security, Parole Reentry Group, Illinois Coalition against Domestic Violence, Bureau of Childhood Development, <http://lecam.illinois.edu>, Market Rate Summary, Peoria Regional County Office of Education, www.wallacefoundation.org, Child Trends, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Child & Family Connections of Central Illinois #14 and Illinois State Board of Education Department of Special Education.

Tools utilized: Essential Elements Survey (See Attachment A) and Head Start Strength and Needs Assessment (See Attachment B)

The Illinois Community Action Agencies Client Needs Assessment indicated a need for:

- Employment - availability of permanent full-time jobs to support the family
- Education – Obtaining a high school diploma or GED/HSED and financial assistance to complete their education
- Financial and legal issues- budgeting and managing money
- Housing - Rental Housing and credit counseling finding affordable housing that fits their family's needs and financial assistance for rent payments
- Food and Nutrition – getting food from food pantries and getting emergency food assistance
- Child Care and Child Development – finding affordable child care
- Parenting and Family Support – learning how to discipline children effectively and learning how to set goals and plan for the family
- Transportation – getting financial assistance to buy a dependable car
- Health- affordable health insurance
- Basic Needs – financial assistance for utility bills.

Head Start and Early Head Start Family Development Specialists conduct a Strength and Needs Assessment with families within 90 days of a child's enrollment into the program. Generally a small percentage of parents feel comfortable sharing their needs and our responses are low in the beginning.

Head Start and Early Head Start Parent Needs from 2020-2021 Strength and Needs Assessment

	# of HS Households	# of EHS Households
Child Care	2	1
Adult Education/GED	3	5
Employment Training	41	0
Mental Health	18	1
Employment	44	5
Parenting Education	3	1
Utility Assistance	1	0
Furniture/Appliances	1	0
Housing Assistance	47	11
Food	11	0

Family Health	11	3
Income Support	24	0
Transportation	10	4
Clothing	6	2
Income	18	0

This assessment takes place during the first home visit. A second home visit is made during the second semester to follow up with parents. This is the time Family Development Specialists update information obtained during the initial visit, assesses the status of the goals a family has established, and note any additional needs a family may have since the first visit. By the time the second visit is made, parents have come to know their Family Development Specialist and are a lot more comfortable sharing personal information. During the first visit, it is not unusual for a parent to indicate they have no needs nor a desire to set individual or family goals.

The following chart of documented referrals is a better reflection of the true needs of families in Head Start and Early Head Start because it reflects the number of referrals that were made as a result of follow up to the initial assessment.

Family Development Referrals 2019-2020 School Year

Category	Households Referred for Services	
	HS	EHS
Shelter	0	0
Housing (Rental Assistance)	10	0
Housing (Pt Time Home Buyers)	0	0
Housing (Substandard)	0	0
Employment Services	8	0
Job Training	0	0
Utility Assistance	0	0
Domestic Violence Services	1	0

GED	9	0
College	0	0
Counseling- Mental Health	15	0
Victim/Witness Violent Crime	1	0
ESL	0	0
Child Support Assistance	0	0
Health Education	10	0
Furniture/Appliances	3	0
Food/Nutrition	2	0
Assist Fam/Incarcerated Individuals	0	0
Bus Pass/Transportation	0	0
Parent Education	6	0
Marriage/Relationship Education	0	0
Expungement	2	0
Medication	0	0
Clothing	4	0
Bank Account	7	0
Credit Counseling	7	0
Establish Budget	12	0
Entrepreneurial	3	0
Investment	1	0
Total	82	0

III. CAA History and Programs

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the federal Office of Economic Opportunity. In February 1966, the Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. (PCCEO) became the official agency authorized by the federal government to administer and operate "Community Action Programs" (CAPs) in Peoria.

The first two programs to be operated by PCCEO were the 1966 "Summer Head Start" project and the "Legal Services Program", which was delegated to the Peoria Legal Aid Society. The honorable Joe Billy McDade, currently the Chief U. S. District Judge in the Central District of Illinois, was the director of that program.

In 1967, PCCEO received its first "research and program development" grant to identify the Peoria areas with the highest incidence of poverty-based on the 1960 Census Data. This grant marked the beginning of the Peoria Community Action Agency (CAA) experience. The original staff consisted of a Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and 12 Outreach Workers. This original staff conducted a survey utilizing a "Life Situation" questionnaire that gathered information on needs and concerns from over 2,500 homes, touching over 10,000 individuals within the City of Peoria. Bradley University assisted in the research of the data and later recorded the findings on computer punch cards.

During the same period, a \$23,000 "Special Summer Impact" grant was received to define social problems that perennially faced the youth of low income and disadvantaged families, and to develop programs to address those issues. A grant was also received that same summer to establish and operate a "Neighborhood Center Program" (NCP). At first this program was delegated to the "South Side Improvement Association" under the direction of the late Mr. Harry Sephus. However, because of the complexity of federal reporting requirements and general day-to-day administration, PCCEO began to directly administer this program in 1968.

The first executive director was Will Davie, and Mr. Harry Sephus operated the first "neighborhood center," which was located at Hurlburt and Sheridan Street (then Spencer Road). The Community Action Agency (CAA) was first housed in the old and abandoned City Planning building located between First and Second Street, about where Village Green's southeast corner ends. In 1968, PCCEO began directly developing and administering programs by which people could be trained and established programs designed to help people to help themselves, rather than just giving handouts or resolving problems on a short-term basis. As the organization grew and developed, it:

- Received a grant to operate a special housing program
- Received a grant to establish a planning and development component
- Changed and altered its basic policies and program concerns to meet the changing needs of the residents of Census Tracts 1 through 15.

In retrospect, outreach and identifying poverty-related problems and causes was the key effort in 1968. Head Start was only a summer program and administered by Sister Cor Marie. The Neighborhood Center (the late Joe Brown was the Center Director) was the largest program effort of PCCEO. Some seven years and five executive directors later PCCEO was beginning to stabilize. Michael E. Banks was appointed Executive Director in 1973 (working with a core team that consisted of Janet Arbuckle, Executive Secretary; Reginald V. McDuffie serving as both Administrative Assistant and Chief Fiscal Officer; and Arthur V. Rose, Community Organizer), steered the organization in such a manner that within five years PCCEO was providing:

- Year around Head Start services
- Day Care services
- A Kindergarten
- Before and after school latch-key programming
- Alcohol Rehabilitation Services
- A Senior Drop In Center
- Neighborhood Outreach Centers
- Information and Referral Services
- A Food Service Operation
- Radio and Television Programming
- Weatherization and Housing Rehabilitation Services

After Mr. Banks' resignation in December 1992, McFarland A. Bragg II was appointed Executive Director/CEO in March 1993. Under his stewardship, with the assistance of an outstanding Board of Directors and an excellent management and administrative team, PCCEO has:

- maintained the majority of the programs and services referenced above,
- expanded its early childhood programming to include services to pregnant women and families with children to age three (Early Head Start),
- increased its advocacy efforts through involvement with the African-American Leadership Alliance, and service on the Central Illinois Workforce Network Board of Directors and the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- contributed to neighborhood stabilization over a 16 year period (from October 1997 to December 2013) by providing affordable homeownership opportunities and constructing 173 single family homes in Peoria's South Valley,
- utilizing the skills developed by key staff securing Housing and Economic Development Financing Certifications from the National Development Council by as well as the President/CEO becoming a Certified Community Action Professional, PCCEO was able to:
 - increase its community/economic development focus
 - increase its unrestricted resource base
 - increase the 2019 audited operating budget to \$16.8 million dollars.

Most poverty-related organizations focus on a specific area of need, such as job training, health care, housing, or economic development. PCCEO, as a Community Action Agency, reaches out to economically challenged people in their community, addresses their multiple needs through a comprehensive approach, develops partnerships with other community organizations, and administers a wide range of coordinated programs designed to have a measureable impact on poverty.

PCCEO accepts the challenge to continue the delivery of services to eligible individual and families. The Agency's long term goal is to formulate a foundation of self-sufficiency and empowerment for all persons it serves.

The charge to PCCEO is to initiate the integration and linkage of resources, to provide a forum for active citizen participation, and to supply effective leadership as an agent of change and community development. Professional development continues to be a high priority for all staff. This is achieved through ongoing training completed via utilizing workshops, conferences, webinars, and course work to obtain certification and degrees that are acquired through academic entities. PCCEO believes that as citizens of the community, it is our responsibility to assist in maintaining the highest quality of life through the programs we provide.

Programs include a variety of opportunities. Head Start offers a safe, nurturing environment in which to promote the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of young children age 3 to 5. Head Start also provides families with support services, including job skills training and GED referrals. This program is free to those who qualify. Head Start provides transportation, nutritional meals, health services, individualized training and special needs programs.

As with Head Start, Early Head Start offers children and families comprehensive child development services through center-based and home-based program options. Children and families enrolled in center-based programs receive comprehensive child development services in a center-based setting.

PCCEO has a long history of successful affordable housing development in the City of Peoria. PCCEO constructed 140 single family homes on Peoria's Southside through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. Homes were built in two phases OKPARA I (80 units) and OKPARA II (60 units). Total combined project costs \$12.8 million. OKPARA projects provide an estimated \$110,000 in annual tax revenue to the City of Peoria and other taxing bodies. Homes are available to families whose income does not exceed 60 percent of the median income. Tenants have the opportunity to purchase the home after the 15 year mandatory compliance period has expired.

PCCEO was developer for the City of Peoria for Spring Grove Subdivision, located on Peoria's designated Urban Renewal Area. This was a mixed housing development with both market rate and affordable homes. PCCEO constructed twenty-six (26) single family homes in Spring Grove Subdivision. Total sales \$4.2 million. Spring Gove home sales represent approximately \$126,122 in annual tax revenue. Prior to PCCEO's involvement, there were only eight (8) homes built in a seven (7) year period.

The City of Peoria in partnership with PCCEO as its Not-For-Profit was awarded a \$770,000 Blight Reduction Program (BRP) grant. BRP is funded by the U.S. Treasury Hardest Hit Fund. Administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the program provides financial resources to address the impact of the foreclosure crisis, decrease preventable foreclosures, and assist communities with neighborhood improvement, greening, and redevelopment. Twenty two (22) properties will be demolished and lots transformed into aesthetically pleasing green spaces that aid in rain water management.

PCCEO offers Community Action Scholarships. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$2000, and may be used for general education to achieve functional literacy skills, short-term training in growth occupational skills, or general post-secondary education at an accredited Illinois educational institution.

Peoria Food Bank serves 3 counties in Central Illinois, providing over 80 active food pantries with food and USDA Commodities.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), This program is comprised of four programs: Energy Assistance, Reconnection Assistance (RA), Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), and Furnace Assistance.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist to low-income citizens by offsetting the rising cost of home energy through direct financial assistance, energy counseling, outreach and education.

The Reconnection Assistance (RA) is a one-time payment provided to households whose utilities are in imminent disconnect or has been disconnected due to non-payment. For the 2020 program year, LIHEAP completed a total of 1080 RA applications.

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) -- The main objective of the PIPP is to make energy bills more affordable and to help maintain home energy service throughout the year. Under PIPP, the household has agreed to enter into a monthly budget payment plan with the participating utility, which is 6% of your gross monthly income.

The Furnace Assistance which includes repair and/or replacement of furnace to restore a vital heat supply to the home. For the 2020 program year, the Furnace Assistance program replaced a total of 19 furnaces.

Also Emergency Services provides emergency rental assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Emergency food vouchers are given to families and individuals who do not receive a regular allotment of food stamps from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Emergency lodging may be provided to eligible applicants. For the 2019 program year, Emergency Services provided rental assistance to two-hundred and sixty-one (261) households, Food vouchers to twenty-three (23) households, and Emergency lodging to seventeen (17) households.

The Prescription Drug Program provides assistance to older Americans (age 60 or older) or disabled persons in obtaining needed prescription medications based on income eligibility.

Central Illinois Catering serves over 711 meals a day, four days a week for Head Start and Early Head Start children. On Fridays a combination of 267 meals are served at Urban League, Trewyn, Woodruff, and Pierson sites.

IV. Overview of County and Municipalities

Peoria is a city in and the county seat of Peoria County, Illinois, United States, and the largest city on the Illinois River. Established in 1691 by the French explorer Henri de Tonti, Peoria is the oldest European settlement in Illinois, and is named after the Peoria Native Indian tribe.

The population density is 2342.46 people/mi² (904.43 people/km²), with a household density of 423.33 people/km² (1096.41 people/mi²).

The overall median age is 34.1 years, 33.2 years for males, and 35.3 years for females. For every 100 females there are 90.8 males.

Based on data from the American Community Survey, in 2017 there were 52,836 households in the city, with an average size of 2.38 people per household. The vacancy rate was 11%, with a median rent of \$740/month. The median house has 5.4 rooms, and has a value of \$127,200.

The median income for households in Peoria, Illinois is \$46,547, while the mean household income is \$67,716. The per capita income is \$28,316, and 16% of families and 21.7% of individuals are below the federal poverty line. 29.8% of those under 18 are in poverty, and 10.7% of those 65 years or older.

Total Resident Population

Report Area	Total Population, 2018ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2018 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2018 Census/ACS
Peoria County, IL	184,463	183,433	1,030	0.56%
Illinois	12,821,497	12,419,293	402,204	3.24%
United States	322,903,030	281,421,906	41,481,124	14.74%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

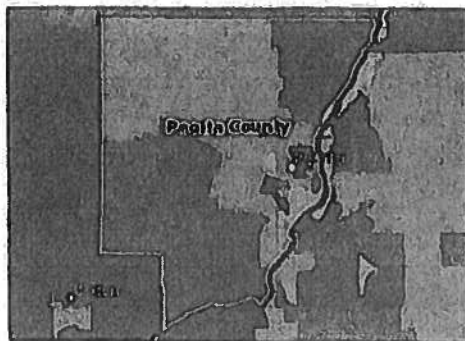
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2014-18. Source geography: County

V. Demographic Profile (age, gender, race/ethnicity, households, veterans)

Total Population by Gender

Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2014-2018 5 year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 51.88% of the report area, while the male population represented 48.12%.

Report Area	Oto4	Oto4	Sto 17	Sto 17	18to64	18to64	Over64	Over64
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Peoria County IL	6,390	6,212	15,843	15,242	54,261	56,878	11,483	16,744
Illinois	397,436	379,521	1,095,759	1,053,845	3,981,073	4,018,960	737,949	1,073,256
United States	10,146,960	9,689,890	27,438,613	26,277,777	99,617,317	100,493,892	19,630,586	27,457,281



Median Age by Tract, ACS 2014-18

- Over 45.0
 - 40.1- 45.0
 - 35.1- 40.0
 - Under 35.1
 - No Data or Data Suppressed
- CI Peoria County, IL

Race Demographics

Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2014-2018 5 year population estimates, the white population comprised 74.05% of the report area, black population represented 17.89%, and other races combined were 8.06%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 3.72% of the population.

Report Area	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Mixed Race Total
Peoria County, IL	134,449	32,473	522	7,352	12	6,749
Illinois	9,189,185	1,824,125	31,864	690,822	4,582	318,413
United States	234,904,818	40,916,113	2,699,073	17,574,550	55,218	10,435,797

Race Demographics - Male

Report Area	White Male	Black Male	American Indian Male	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Male	Mixed Race Male
Peoria County, IL	65,177	15,324	235	3,739	0	3,214
Illinois	4,538,371	855,958	16,487	332,111	2,278	159,008
United States	116,135,803	19,555,560	1,338,375	8,343,752	290,789	5,211,268

Ethnicity Demographics - Male

Report Area	Total Males Hispanic/ Latino	Total Males Not Hispanic/ Latino	Percent Males Hispanic/ Latino	Percent Males Not Hispanic/ Latino
Peoria County IL	4,403	84,984	4.93%	95.07%
Illinois	1,113,239	5,182,676	17.63%	82.32%
United States	29,039,591	129,924,399	18.28%	81.72%

Race Demographics - Female

Report Area	White Female	Black Female	American Indian Female	Asian Female	Native Hawaiian Female	Mixed Race Female
Peoria County, IL	69,272	17,149	287	3,613	12	3,535
Illinois	4,650,814	968,167	15,377	358,711	2,304	159,405
United States	118,769,015	21,360,553	1,360,698	9,230,798	291,929	5,224,529

Ethnicity Demographics - Female

Report Area	Total Females Hispanic/ Latino	Total Females Not Hispanic/ Latino	Percent Females Hispanic / Latino	Percent Females Not Hispanic/ Latino
Peoria County, IL	4,278	90,798	4.50%	95.50%
Illinois	1,061,603	5,463,979	16.27%	83.73%
United States	28,458,344	135,460,496	17.36%	82.64%

Head Start and Early Head Start work with families who have immigrated to the United States via the congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, which is administered annually by the Department of State and provides for a class of immigrants known as "diversity immigrants." The diversity immigrants are from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. The applicants come from six geographic regions of the world. Many of the immigrants in the PCCEO EHS program are from Burundi, Mali, Angola, and The Democratic Republic of Congo. The applicants must meet certain criteria. For example, they must have a minimum of a high school education or its equivalent, a minimum of two years' work experience within the past five years. The immigrants are chosen via a diversity lottery.

PCCEO's Head Start and Early Head Start also serves immigrants accepted via the Green Card or on an Asylee Status. The criteria is for refugees, either war or political, or as a qualifying family member of an asylee who has previously been granted asylum in the United States. Those who have been accepted into the United States as a refugee are required to apply for permanent resident status one year after being admitted to the United States.

We also serve the Hispanic families who are classified as White Hispanic, Afro Latina, or as Hispanic. Many of these families are non-documented and primarily work as laborers in agriculture or the hospitality industry. A non-documented individual is classified as not having the appropriate legal documents to live or work within the United States.

The needs of the immigrant population differ in that the immigrants may require acculturation. Even though they are already immersed in United States culture, the United States is different from their homeland. One of the needs experienced by an immigrant is the necessity to learn English as a Second Language (ESL), which can help an immigrant find employment, alleviate poverty, support social cohesion, demonstrate support for social cohesion, and learn about the rights and responsibilities of living in the United States.

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 7.47% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is less than the national average of 7.49%.

Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	%Popover18 Total	%Popover18 Males	% Popover18 Females
Peoria County, IL	10,485	9,753	732	7.47%	14.59%	0.99%
Illinois	595,185	553,920	41,265	6.03%	11.57%	0.81%
United States	18,611,432	17,003,235	1,608,197	7.49%	14.11%	1.26%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-18.
Source geography: County

VI. Changes in the Community Over Time

Population change within the report area from 2000-2018 is shown below. During the sixteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 0.56 percent, increasing from 183,433 persons in 2000 to 184,463 persons in 2018.

Report Area	Total Population, 2018ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2018 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2018 Census/ACS	Percent Change in Population



Peoria County, IL	184,463	183,433	1,030	0.56%	-2001	611
Illinois	12,821,497	12,419,293	402,204	3.24%	Peoria County (0.56%) Illinois (3.74)	
United States	322,903,030	281,421,906	41,481,124	14.74%	United States (14.74%)	

VII. Key findings and summary of qualitative and quantitative data that supports each of them

A. Poverty Profile

2018 poverty estimates show a total of 29,227 persons living below the poverty level in the report area. Poverty information is at 100% of the federal poverty income guidelines

Report Area	All Ages		Age 0-17		Age 5-17		All Ages Poverty Rate
	No of Persons	Poverty Rate	No of Persons	Poverty Rate	No of Persons	Poverty Rate	
Peoria County, IL	29,227	16.6%	9,499	22.8%	6,384	21.6%	<p>0% 5%</p> <p> Peoria County (16.6%) Illinois (12.1%) United States (12.96%)</p>
Illinois	1,509,348	12.1%	457,282	16.2%	314,467	15.3%	
United States	41,852,315	12.96%	12,997,532	17.67%	8,930,152	16.62%	

Note: This illustration is compared to the SARC average

Data by Peoria, Illinois Zip Codes

IECAM shows the number of children age 5 and under in the state of Illinois, based on projections completed by University of Illinois demographers using census data.

IECAM reports the following data for just 6 City of Peoria zip codes (2015)

<i>Zip Codes</i>	<i>Population Birth to 2</i>	<i>Birth to 2 185% of Poverty</i>	<i>Population 3 and 4</i>	<i>3 and 4 year old 185% of Poverty</i>	<i>Population 5 year olds</i>	<i>5 year olds 185% of Poverty</i>	<i>Total children 5 and under</i>	<i>Total number of children living in families at or below 185% FPL</i>	<i>% of Children living in Poverty by Zip Code*</i>
61603	917	725	615	486	309	244	1841	1455	79%
61604	1228	757	825	509	414	255	2467	1521	61.60%
61605	958	859	642	575	323	289	1923	1723	89.50%
61606	240	207	161	139	81	70	482	416	86.30%
61614	838	150	562	100	283	50	845	300	35.50%
61615	982	183	659	123	331	62	1972	368	18.60%

*Column added to IECAM data

B. Income Profile

Median annual household incomes in the report area for 2018 are shown in the table below. Since this reports a median amount, a "Report Area" value is not able to be calculated.

Report Area	Estimated Population	Median Household Income
Peoria County, IL	184,463	\$56,478
Illinois	12,821,497	\$65,063
United States	322,903,030	\$61,937

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2018. Source geography: County

Poverty and Income

In the report area 20.43% or 36,616 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Report Area	Population, Total	Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Population with Income at or Below 125% fPL, Percent
Peoria County, IL	179,239	36,616	20.43%
Illinois	12,523,283	2,151,271	17.18%
United States	314,943,184	58,418,702	18.55%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2014-2018. Source geography: Tract

C. Employment Profile

Peoria workers are recognized for their high productivity, which exceeds the state and national averages. More than half the work force is engaged in white-collar occupations in retail trade, professional services, and government; manufacturing accounts for a large portion of the work force. Nearly 70 percent of workers have at least a high school degree. Manufacturers and agribusinesses are said to have been successful in retraining and modernizing the work force through the strong training networks between the private and education sectors.

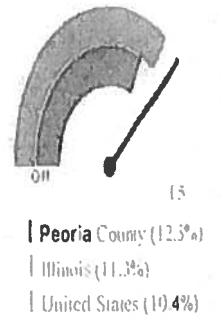
Unfortunately, Central Illinois, mainly Peoria County, received a severe setback in jobs when construction and mining equipment-maker, Caterpillar, laid off 10,000 or more workers in 2015, with a significant number of those cuts in Central Illinois. 4,000 to 5,000 salaried and management employees were removed in 2016, with the majority coming from Illinois. In addition, Mitsubishi Motors out of Bloomington, Illinois, closed its doors in 2016, causing a job loss to one thousand (1000) workers, many of which were Peoria County residents.

Chemical distillation of grain and corn, paper products and printed material, coal production, and automotive parts are gaining rapidly as major manufacturing areas. Peoria's has always been a strong retail market; further retail development in the downtown area and more strip malls are expected.

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 12.3% percent unemployment rate in July 2020.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Peoria County, IL	80,871	70,918	9,953	12.3%
Illinois	6,314,164	5,598,605	715,559	11.3%
United States	162,416,604	145,458,574	16,958,029	10.4%

Unemployment Rate



Note: This indicator compared to the state average

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor statistics, 2020-July. Source geography: County. Show more details

Unemployment change within the report area from July 2019 to July 2020 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this thirteen month period grew from 5.1% to 12.3%.

Report Area	Unemployment July 2019	Unemployment July 2020	Unemployment Rate July 2019	Unemployment Rate July 2020	Rate Change
Peoria County, IL	4,401	9,953	5.1%	12.3%	+7.3%
Illinois	276,947	715,559	4.2%	11.3%	+7.1%

Rate Change

Unemployment change within the report area from June 2019 to June 2020 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this thirteen-month period grew from 5.1% to 12.3%.

South Peoria, ZIP Code 61605 is listed among the 100 poorest ZIP codes in the country according to U.S. Census data. Unemployment in the area is four to five times what it is in the city of Peoria with unemployment in the 61605 ZIP code at 27.8%. The lack of jobs and business opportunities is a source of concern.

An article from the Peoria Journal Star attests to the conditions in Peoria. It reads, **"Nearly 100,000 restaurants shut down during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to estimates from the National Restaurant Association. In 2022, businesses in the Peoria area continue to deal with the fallout from the pandemic and more. From difficulty hiring to rising inflation, restaurant owners are up against an onslaught of challenges. Finding adequate staffing has been a struggle."**

(Waigand, Cassidy "Snowball effect, Restaurant Owners Plagued by Compounding Challenges" Peoria Journal Star September 4, 2022)

Addressing the Needs of the Incarcerated Population

In Illinois, there are over 43,000 inmates currently in Department of Corrections. These and other data stated are from the Illinois Department of Corrections 2016 annual reports. Among this alarming number, 25,399 are African American. This number has remained steady during the 3 years the data has been tracked since 2015. 1700 ex-offenders are released each year back into the 61605, 61604 and 61603 neighborhoods, all of which are crime and poverty stricken. This number does not include the 510 that are paroled to the same area. The Peoria Police Department reports reflect a 9.3% increase in crime in 2017 alone. If this is not alarming enough, the Department of Corrections estimates the number of inmates that will come through the prison population for 2018, there will be approximately 41,349 released inmates, a decrease of only 2,107 of where it stands today.

On July 21, 2018 Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth held Peoria Illinois' 2nd Expungement Summit. PCCEO was a major partner in the Summit and processed and sent all Illinois State Police (ISP) reports to legal partners. Registration for the Summit was limited to 400 participants. Due to the overwhelming response, a waiting list was created for those who wished to participate in a future Summit. Several of the 2018 participants were individuals who were on the waiting list from the 2017 Expungement Summit. Individuals were also referred to Prairie State Legal Services or Cabrini Green Legal Services for on-going services throughout the year. Over 300 people participated in the 2018 Summit at the Peoria Civic Center with more than 30 attorneys present.

What is even more alarming than these numbers is the fact that resources for

this growing population is scarce. Housing, employment, mental health, and financial guidance are key factors to ensuring that these individuals are given a fighting chance.

Upon being released from incarceration, a person is faced with many obstacles that can often times prevent them from a successful transition back into their community. Identification, housing and employment are examples of basic needs, but are huge barriers for a person being released from incarceration or one with a criminal record. The need for programs to assist this rapidly growing population is urgent.

Not having services to assist this population leaves many homeless, couch surfing (staying wherever you can), and unemployable. A program is needed that can assist these individuals with the fees and costs of obtaining an identification card and other documents in order to start the process towards self-sufficiency. Some released inmates lack the resources and funding to obtain a birth certificate to start the process of receiving identification. There is a \$50 fee to obtain a birth certificate through vital records (an on-line service that provides birth certificates), a fee of which 85% of the client are unable to pay.

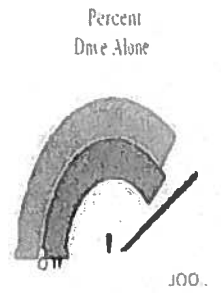
Affordable housing is why most of this population fail at a prosperous future. Housing that is based on income is rarely available to applicants with a criminal background. While there are employers that will employ ex-offenders, often times it is at a pay rate that cannot sustain regular rent prices and necessary bills that follow. Job training and education that will meet the individual at their level of understanding is key. Helping Hands Resources Center offers a re-entry program that assist clients with these needs. However, one program can only assist so many clients.

That's why PCCEO has entered into partnership with Jobs Partnership, which is a program that provides employment training, financial mentoring and support services to all people who are unemployed, underemployed, or retraining after a change in career, including those that are transitioning out of incarceration into productive citizenship.

D. Transportation Profile

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 81,715 workers in the report area, 82.7% drove to work alone while 8.3% carpooled. 2.1% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 2.8% walking or riding bicycles, and 1.1% used taxicabs to travel to work.

Report Area	Workers	Percent Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transportation	Percent Bicycle or Walk	Percent Taxi or Other	Percent Work at Home
Peoria County, IL	81,715	82.7%	8.3%	2.1%	2.8%	1.1%	3.0%
Illinois	6,124,144	73.1%	8.0%	9.5%	3.6%	1.1%	4.8%
United States	150,571,044	76.4%	9.1%	5.1%	3.3%	1.2%	4.9%



Peoria County (82.7%)
 Illinois (73.1%)
 United States (76.4%)

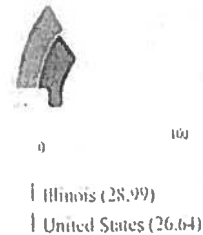
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-18. Source: geography: County ... Show more details

Travel times for workers who travel (do not work at home) to work is shown for the report area. The median commute time, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), for the report area is 11.84 minutes shorter than the national median commute time of 26.64 minutes.

Report Area	Workers that Commute Age 16 and Up	Travel Time	Travel Time	Travel Time	Travel Time	Average Commute Time (mins)
		in Minutes (Percent of Workers) Less than 10	in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 10 to 30	in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 30 to 60	in Minutes (Percent of Workers) More than 60	
Peoria County, IL	79,253.00 data	16.89	66.67	13.73	2.70	No
Illinois	5,833,415.00	11.84	43.59	32.79	11.77	28.99
United States	143,148,111.00	12.45	49.55	28.89	9.11	26.64

Average Commute Time (mins)



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-18. Source: geography: County ... Show more details

E. Public Benefits

The below table shows that according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 10,741 households (or 14.59%) received SNAP payments during 2018. During this same period there were 5,373 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

Households	Report Area	Households	Households	Households Not	Households Not	Households Not	Households Not	Total	Percent
	Households	Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP		
Receiving SNAP	Receiving SNAP	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty		
	Total								
Peoria County, IL		10,741	14.59%	5,794	4,947	62,888	85.41%	5,373	57,515
Illinois		631,076	13.07%	294,543	336,533	4,198,962	86.93%	316,554	3,882,408
United States		14,635,287	12.22%	7,090,216	7,545,071	105,094,841	87.78%	8,937,265	96,157,576

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-18. Source geography: County

F. Food Security

There are more than 47,000 individuals living in our region who suffer with food insecurities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain access to enough food for all members of a household to live an active, healthy life. Many individuals and families living with food insecurities have poor diets leading to poor health outcomes. In 2020, this situation has been compounded by the coronavirus. COVID-19 has a disproportionate impact on a significant number of at-risk populations, such as people of color. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, Black households are almost three times as likely to be food insecure as White households. During the pandemic, food insecurity doubled overall and tripled among households with children in April 2020 (www.FeedingAmerica.com). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with serious underlying medical conditions (e.g. heart disease, diabetes, lung disease) disproportionately people of color and older adults; are at a higher risk for experiencing severe illness as a result of contracting COVID-19 ("Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness". Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 Mar 2020). Individuals who experience food insecurity are more likely to have poorer health, and to have diet-related conditions like diabetes. Advised to remain at home and living on fixed incomes, low-income seniors cannot stock up on food, supplies or prescriptions, and many are anxious given their risk for illness. Seniors regularly face challenges accessing food due to mobility and transportation limitations.

Our rural food insecure neighbor's face many of the same concerns as people of color and seniors. They also have to deal with food deserts and poor employment opportunities. Responding to this crisis in innovative ways to support our rural neighbors, many pantries in our Pantry Network have begun home deliveries to reduce transportation expenses for rural families and we have

increase the number of mobile pantries we provide. A mobile pantry is when the Peoria Area Food Bank brings a truckload of food to an area in need. The food is distributed to clients in pre-packed boxes or through a farmer's market-style distribution where clients choose to take what they need. People are paying higher prices for their groceries, including a nearly 50-year record rise in food costs in April. This makes it harder for people and families dealing with job and income losses to afford food (DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index).

In Peoria County, many of the pantries we serve have seen an increased demand for food. The Peoria Area Food Bank distributes food to 85 pantries in three counties; which helps feed nearly 47,000 individuals with food insecurities or 11.86% of the total population; 15,880 or 17.12% of them are children, each month. Without proper nutrition, children are more likely to suffer from poor health (both physical and social-emotional), higher school absentee rates, more suspensions and/or behavioral issues, and lower academic performance on achievement tests.

On average, food insecure individuals have higher overall healthcare cost and poor healthcare outcomes. The COVID-19 virus has shown a bright spotlight on the issue. This is due to the fact that food insecurity is associated with hypertension, heart disease, kidney disease and depression. A study conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention determined the healthcare cost of food insecurity. In Peoria County the estimated increase in healthcare cost is \$30,922,575, in Tazewell County the estimated increase in healthcare cost is \$7,452,016 and in Mason County the estimated increase in cost is \$2,305,350 (State-Level and County -Level Estimates of Healthcare Costs Associated with Food Insecurity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July, 11, 2019). These cost include payments made by private insurers, Medicaid, Medicare, clinic visits, emergency room visits, inpatient hospitalizations, prescriptions medications, and durable medical equipment.

Availability, access and affordability of food were major barriers for a large portion of low-income Central Illinois residents. For those who had the resources the initial response to the spread of the outbreak has included panic buying to stock up on food staples and other supplies, including toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies. Low income individuals are disadvantaged in such an environment: many struggle to afford what they need for the immediate future, much less large shopping purchases to prepare for a quarantine. In Peoria School District 150, 31.8% of families have income below the poverty level and 42.6% receive SNAP benefits. In Peoria County, there were 17 Food Desert Census Tracts, of which 77,792 individuals were included in those tracts.

In Peoria County, of the low-income population (61,048), approximately 12,895 or 21.12% reported having low food access, considerably higher than the state (14.68%) and national rates (18.94%). Approximately 7% of residents had limited access to healthy foods as compared to 4% of residents in Illinois. According to Feeding America's Map the Meal survey 14.3% of households in Peoria County were food insecure.

Peoria Public Schools District, continued to be a reliable, consistent source of nutritious meals for its students. The Tazewell County School District has served more than 100,000 meals in the spring of 2020 (Tazewell County Public Schools Reopening Plan 2020)

Free and Reduced Price Lunch

Report Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Peoria County	45%	25%	45%	53%	50%
Illinois	39%	21%	45%	54%	49%

Source: County Health Rankings. 2020.

Key Findings: The table above shows the percent of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program during the period 2014 - 2018. Approximately 50% of the students in Peoria County were eligible for free or reduced price lunches, compared to a statewide rate of 49 %.(CountyHealthyRankings.org)

	<i>Individual.</i>	<i>d families R,</i>	<i>SNAP Benefit.</i>
May 2020		Households Receiving SNAP	Persons Receiving SNAP
Peoria		21,959	42,373
Tazewell		9,857	18,944
Mason		1,258	2,401

Source: www.dhs.state.il.us/

G. Education Profile

Early Childhood

Illinois is home to 451,799 babies, representing 3.5 percent of the state's population. As many as 39.2 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2018, about \$50,000 a year for a family of four), placing them at economic disadvantage. America's youngest children are diverse and are raised in a variety of family contexts. In Illinois, 48.9 percent of babies are children of color and 5.4 percent of the state's infants and toddlers live in rural areas. A broad array of policies and services are required to ensure all of them have an equitable start in life.

Educational attainment is a powerful predictor of well-being. Young adults who have completed higher levels of education are more likely to achieve economic success than those who have not. In addition to qualifying one for a broader range of jobs, completing more years of education also protects against unemployment. Peoria SD 150 reported 38.2% of students did not meet expectations in English Language Arts and 29% did not meet expectations in Mathematics. Level 1 percentage was significantly higher than the state in both ELA and Mathematics.

In Peoria County, even though the graduation rate was 78% in 2015 and 77% in 2017, the overall graduation rates remained somewhat stable during the past four (4) years, being consistently lower than the state graduation rates. In-school suspensions nearly doubled at Peoria SD 150 from 2015 - 2017, while out of school suspensions experienced a decline. In 2017, thirteen students received education services as compared to two (2) students who did not receive education services. In 2017, Peoria SD 150 had a dropout rate of 2.1%, of which 10.7% were Language English Proficient students and 2.1% were homeless students. In Peoria County, an estimated 2.6% of the population, age 25 years or older, had less than 9th grade education, lower than the state rate of 5.3% and national rate of 5.6%. Data also reflected that 7.3% of residents did not have a high school diploma, higher than the state rate (6.4%). Approximately 27.6% of the population in Peoria County had a high school diploma or GED, slightly higher than the state rate of 26.5%. Approximately 23.0% of individuals in Peoria County had some college, slightly higher than the state rate of 21.1%. An estimated 11.2% of individuals in Peoria County obtained a graduate or professional degree, as compared to 12.7% for the state.

Approximately 15.1% of women who gave birth within the last 12 months had less than a high school education in Peoria County, higher than the state (11.7%) and national (13.7%) rates. However, the majority of women who gave birth within the past 12 months (33.8%) had some college or Associate's Degree, slightly higher than the state 29.7% and national (31.8%) rates.

Child care - An increased need for quality early child care, especially for infants and toddlers was identified. Within the service area, there were approximately 4,816 available children ages 3 - 5, of which 1,387 would be potentially eligible for Head Start services. There were approximately 8,108 available children below age three (3), of which an estimated 2,335 would be potentially eligible for Early Head Start services. According to 2016 - 2017 Program Information Report (PIR), PCCEO Head Start served 585 children, and Early Head Start served approximately 145 infants and toddlers, of which 34 were funded from non-federal sources. PCCEO currently serves 42% of eligible Head Start children and only 6.2% of eligible infants and toddlers within the service area.

Social Emotional/Mental Health - It is estimated that 22.4% of all households were living in poverty within Peoria County, compared to the national average of 17.2%. Of the households in poverty, female-headed households represented 56.3% of all households in poverty, compared to 2.5% of married households. Economic hardship was the most prevalent adverse childhood experience, followed by divorce, alcohol, and violence for children in the State of Illinois.

Approximately 32% of Illinois children experienced at least 1 or 2 adverse childhood experiences and 9% experienced 3 or more. Approximately 29% of children in Illinois experienced economic hardship, 16% experienced divorce, 9% experienced alcoholism and 9% witnessed violence in the home.

"Peoria Public Schools and OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center received a \$1.1 million grant this year that will be used to create a Trauma Recovery Center based at two south side schools for children and adult survivors of violence.

The center, a pilot project that will be based at Manual Academy and Trewyn School, is the first in Illinois funded through a major criminal reform package sponsored by state Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, in 2017.

The grant is renewable up to three years, said Gordon-Booth, which means the school district and the medical center could eventually reap \$3.3 million in federal funding funneled through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Trauma recovery centers must be connected to hospitals with a Level 1 trauma designation, but the collaboration between a school and a hospital is unique, according to Gordon-Booth." (Source: Pam Adams, Peoria Journal Star, March 27, 2018).

Marriage/Relationship Education - Family stabilization efforts was identified as a need in the county. Among children in two-parent families, those living with both biological parents in a low-conflict marriage tend to do better on a host of outcomes than those living in step-parent families. Children whose parents are divorced also have lower academic performance, social achievement, and psychological adjustment than children with married parents. Family relationships and household structure influence a child's development from birth through the transition to adulthood. Single parent households are steadily increasing. Children are at greater risk for adverse consequences when born to a single mother because the social, emotional, and financial resources available to the family may be limited. Unmarried mothers are at higher risk of adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight and infant mortality than married mothers. They are also more likely to live in poverty than married mothers. The divorce rate for males 15 years and older in Peoria County (10.7%) was slightly higher than the state rate of 8.5% and national rate of 9.6%. The percent of males who were married, but now separated (47.9%) was slightly lower than the state (49.6%) and national (49.8%) rates. The divorce rate for females 15 years and older in Peoria County (12.9%) was slightly higher than the state rate of 11.0% and national rate of 12.2%. The percent of females who were married, but now separated (43.7%) was slightly lower than the state (46.0%) and national (46.4%) rates. According to ACS, there were 6,503 children within the service area living with only one parent, of which 1,341 children lived with their father. There were 1,266 children residing with mothers who were not in the labor force.

Based on information from the Illinois Early Childhood Access Mapp:

Children, ages five and under, residing in selected geography (2015 estimates)

IECAM shows the number of children age 5 and under in the state of Illinois, based on projections completed by University of Illinois demographers using census data.

IECAM 2015

Zip Codes	Children Birth to 2 years	Children 3 and 4 years	Children 5 years	Total Number of Children Under 5
61603	917	615	309	1841
61604	1228	825	414	2467
61605	958	642	323	1923
61606	240	161	81	482
61614	838	562	283	845

IECAM 2015

Although the need continues to serve families living in other zip codes, we are finding it increasingly difficult to provide services in areas where we have no program space to open additional Head Start sites.

In the 61603 and 61604 zip codes where there exist few other for-profit or non-for-profit early childhood education programs that can serve those families, an estimated 6% of the eligible families in 61603 speak Spanish.

Zip Codes 2010	Children age 6 weeks – 2 years	2-year-old children	3- and 4-year old children	5-year old children
61602	31	20	20	15
61603	178	80	146	92
61604	123	80	151	119
61605	96	55	64	66
61606	9	2	0	0
61614	206	166	304	184
61615	221	167	258	152

The capacity of licensed child care centers broken out by age group in selected geography (FY2014 - Illinois Early Childhood Access Mapp)

To respond to the increasing demand for full day center-based services for children six weeks to five years old, there is a need within the service area of Peoria County for PCCEO HS/EHS to acquire suitable space, a facility, or make renovations to existing property, remains a priority. This may also require amendments of program budgets to reconfigure/reorganize/restructure the Early HS program options and take into consideration of transferring a percentage of home visitor positions to early childhood positions to meet the required child care ratios.

High-quality Early Childhood Education for infants/ toddlers and preschoolers is attained when provided in a safe and structurally sound environment. A return on this investment will offer the world a skilled and proficient manpower to serve in various sectors of our county! Our project goal would be:

- To identify and create another developmentally appropriate child-occupied birth to five (0 - 5) classroom environment in which to serve young, low-income and disadvantaged children
- Stabilize facility expenses
- Avoid yearly rent increases
- Eliminate moving and moving expenses
- Apply for funding opportunities and attain the approval to use grant funds for reasonable renovations
- Attract diversified/certified early childhood teachers and or early childhood assistants who have sufficient competencies to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

The anticipated effect will be improved program enrollment, provision of more activities and services at an affordable and accommodating location, where infants and preschoolers are receiving comprehensive services until the age of five.

An article from the Peoria Journal Star regarding Peoria Public Schools states, **"More than 40% of students were chronically absent last school year. Chronic absenteeism in Peoria Public Schools rose in 2021. The Illinois State Board of Education deems a chronically absent child as one who misses 10% (18 days) or more of school days per year either with or without a valid excuse. In Peoria Public Schools, the number of chronically absent children rose to 43.4% in 2021. That's more than twice the average, 22.8%, for districts throughout the state, according to data provided the ISBE's Illinois Report Card." (Renkin, Leslie, "More than 40% of students were chronically absent last school year.", Peoria Journal Star, September 4, 2022)**

Serving Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of the PCCEO Early Head Start and Head Start programs to provide for the early identification of and intervention for children with disabilities age birth through five. Early Head Start and Head Start provide 10% of their enrollment to children with disabilities. These children are included in every aspect of the program, with adaptations made where needed. Inclusion helps to promote awareness and acceptance by children and adults.

For the 2019-2020 program year, Head Start had 35 Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Of that number, 31 received speech or language only, and 4 had multiple disabilities and one of the four was diagnosed with Autism. At the point of school closure due to COVID, 26 children had been referred to the LEA for evaluation. (9 pending speech and language and 17 pending Full Case Study Evaluations). Four (4) of the pending FCSE were children with suspected Autism.

Services to special needs children transitioned to remote delivery during the School closure due to COVID -19 (April -June). Services were delivered via Zoom conferencing, email, teleconferencing, no contact drop off and pick up of needed materials. The LEA and Head Start's Speech and Language Pathologist provided weekly instruction to parent/guardians so that children remained actively engaged in services activities related to their IEP's. Information and services were provided to parents to assist them with home schooling during the pandemic shelter in place mandate.

Challenge: Some families lack technology to fully participate in remote learning.
Recommended Corrective Action: Program to provide technology and training on the use of technology to all families of children with special needs. Program to develop a mechanism (lending library program) whereby families can access laptops/tablets, Wi-Fi, software and training as needed. It is also recommended that the program provides technology and training to staff to ensure quality service delivery to children and families.

Challenge: Delay in follow up to referrals and intervention services due to staff shortage and COVID-19 shutdown. All children receive a Developmental screening within 45 days of attendance in the Head Start program. When a child scores significantly below the cut-off for their age on the Brigance III Screening and is suspected of having a delay, the child is referred to LEA/PPSD #150 for evaluation to determine IEP services. Due to LEA/PPSD #150 having a shortage of therapist/service providers, there has been a delay in receiving follow up services. At the time of School closure due to COVID-19, Head Start had 30 children with active IEP's (The program had also identified and referred 26 children with suspected delays to LEA for evaluation. **Recommended Corrective Action:** Collaborate with Bradley University and other Universities in the surrounding area to identify and recruit graduate students to intern and potentially be employed by LEA and/or Head Start to provide services to special needs children.

For Early Head Start, during the 2019-2020 program period, there were 18 children with Individualize Family Services Plans (IFSP). Of that number, 11 received speech or Language Impairment only, one (1) Physical- Therapy, and six (6) multiple disabilities. (Autism, hearing, speech, physical)

Early Head Start is in session all year round.

During the summer months (June, July, August), when our local school district #150 is out on summer break, weekly play-based groups are planned and implemented so that children remained actively engaged with the various activities related to language, literacy, cognition, and general knowledge. In terms of improved milestones from our current child outcome data, these particular domains ranked lower than social emotional, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development.

Peoria City County Health Department reported approximately 4,657 live births in 2016.

Preschoolers with special needs (ages 3-5) may be served in Preschool For All sites, Head Start programs, child care settings, early childhood special education classrooms, or the home.

Services in Peoria for children 3-21 are provided by our school district. Head Start has a signed partnership agreement with the local Lead Education Agency, Peoria Public School District #150 (LEA) to provide disability services to children ages 3 to 5 in Head Start.

Types of disabilities identified include:

- Phonological Delay
- Speech/Language Delay
- Motor Delay
- Sensory Concerns
- Developmental Delay
- Premature birth
- Vision Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Autism
- Orthopedic
- Downs Syndrome

Services provided to children with disabilities include:

- ▶ Physical therapy
- ▶ Speech language pathology and audiology services
- ▶ Social work services
- ▶ Speech instruction/developmental therapy
- ▶ Psychological services
- ▶ Transportation and related costs
- ▶ Service coordination
- ▶ Vision services
- ▶ Early identification screening and testing
- ▶ Family training, counseling and home visits
- ▶ Health services necessary to enable a child to benefit from the other early intervention services
- ▶ Medical services (for diagnostic or evaluation purposes)
- ▶ Nursing services
- ▶ Nutrition services
- ▶ Occupational therapy to develop fine motor skills

Pregnant Women's Breastfeeding Challenges and Concerns: New Strategies to promote breastfeeding

Although the advantages of breast feeding is regularly shared with all Early Head Start pregnant women and expectant families, our data (inclusive of prenatal and postpartum) has been a challenge to track for the Early Head Start Program. Even with local partnerships in place, we do not have a coordinated method of tracking breastfeeding rates.

Program staff have identified the following as reasons our pregnant women do not report their intent to breast feed:

- Don't want to be "tied down" to nurse
- Caring for newborn if mom has COVID-19, or fear of the unknown if newborns will get the virus that causes COVID-19 before, during or after birth from close contact with an infected person
- Improper latching by the baby
- Mother does not producing enough milk to satisfy the baby or breast becoming engorged and painful due to too much milk being produced
- Concerns regarding passing medications from the mother to the child through breast milk, and the baby being improperly nourished resulting in poor weight gain.

One study reported from the Centers for Disease Control found that mothers who stayed in hospitals that did not follow suggested breastfeeding steps were eight times as likely to stop breastfeeding before their infants were 6 weeks old as mothers who stayed at hospitals that followed breastfeeding steps. The following slides were provided by the Heartland Breastfeeding Initiative in December of 2019 which identified healthcare disparities in rates between income, race and locale from St. Francis Medical Center:

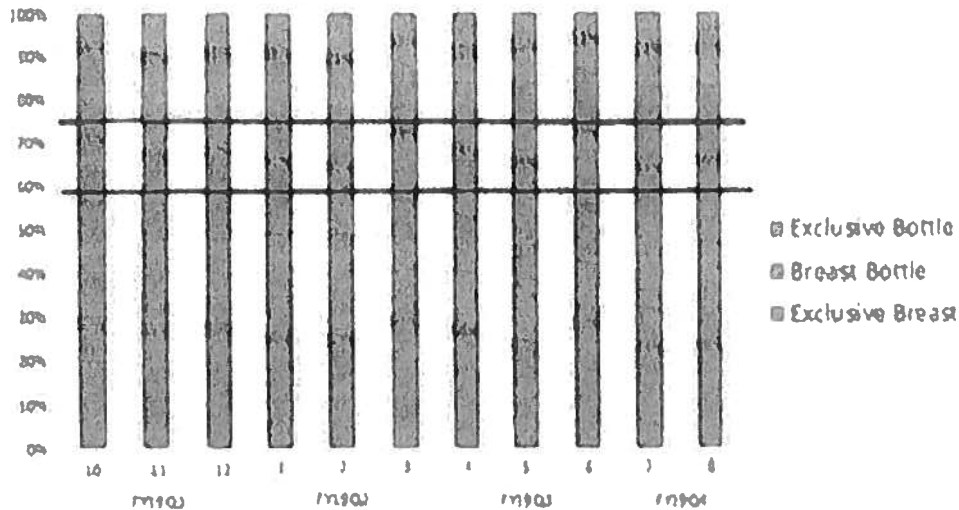
Healthcare Disparity Initiation Rates - SFMC



Newborn Feeding Method - Within the Hospital Episode

Goals: Exclusive Breast (Blue) 70%

Breast Bottle - Exclusive Breast (Blue + Orange) 60%



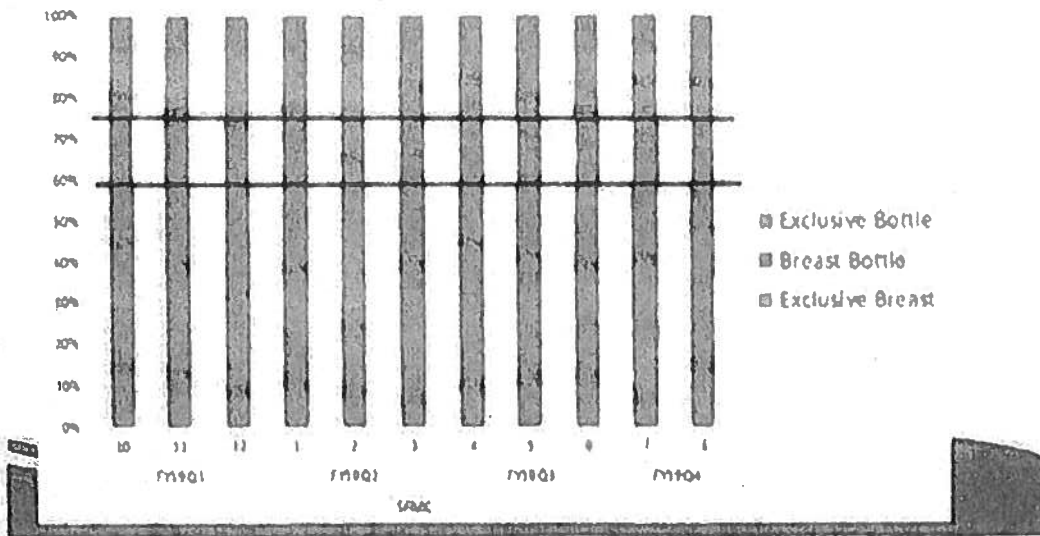
African American - SFMC



Newborn Feeding Method - Within the Hospital Episode

Goals: Exclusive Breast (Blue) 70%

Breast/Bottle + Exclusive Breast (Blue + Orange) 90%



We intend to improve breastfeeding strategies to mothers and babies through support from our registered nurse and local medical providers. We will promote action steps such as:

- Initiating Peer support programs - enrolled mothers from our community
- Expand professional presentations - during socializations
- Data analysis and tracking of rates - Myheadstart
- Meeting families where they are is necessary to provide services to them
- Continue 08 and pregnant mom engagement via local health department, and our collaborative partner Unity Point hospital.

Program content area services most needed for Head Start/Early Head Start (ages 0-5)

Provide education and supports to families, educators, medical professionals and others who care for children with special needs. Doing so will increase awareness identification and early intervention.

According to Amanda Estes, Executive Director of Autism Collective, although we do not know how many children have been diagnosed with autism in Peoria County due to the fact that there are multiple diagnosticians and services providers, and some families even leave the area or state to seek out professionals, what we do know is that based on CDC estimates, there are approximately 783 children living with autism in Peoria County.

- Most children are still being diagnosed after age 4, though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2.
- Minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often.
- Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan.
- Wait times for diagnostic evaluations can be 6-12 months, or longer.
- Both older age of diagnosis and longer delay in diagnosis are associated with different health services utilization patterns among younger children with ASD. Prompt and early diagnosis can be associated with increased use of evidence-based therapies for ASD.
- Children who display hand flapping, toe walking, and sustained odd play are often diagnosed earlier than children who may have an oversensitivity to pain and hearing impairment.
- Delay in autism diagnosis often stems from the fact that there is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less.
- ASD begins before the age of 3 and last throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time. Some children with ASD show hints of future problems within the first few months of life. In others, symptoms may not show up until 24 months or later. Some children with an ASD seem to develop normally until around 18 to 24 months of age and then they stop gaining new skills, or they lose the skills they once had. Studies have shown that one third to half of parents of children with an ASD noticed a problem before their child's first birthday, and nearly 80%-90% saw problems by 24 months of age.

Geography	Autism Prevalence		
	Children	Adults	Totals
Central Illinois (43 counties)			
Peoria	783	3,163	3,946

CDC estimated prevalence of children with ADS under age 18. Based on surveillance of 8-year old's. Rate 1/54 or 1.85%	CDC Est. of Adults with ASD 18 years and older. Rate 1/45 or 2.22%
2016 prevalence & 2019 population est.	2017 prevalence & 2019 population est.

Providing education and supports to families help to stabilize and strengthen family relationships. Providing special needs education and supports to daycare providers and teachers will reduce stress on the educational system thereby improving the quality of education. Providing special needs education to healthcare and other professionals will increase the rate of early intervention.

CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION

Challenges: Identifying experts in the field, building new partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships for disabilities services.

Recommended Corrective Action: HS/EHS/PI value collaboration and understand when partners work together effectively, families receive comprehensive effective services with providers who build on each other's expertise. The programs goal is to assist in the development of a network of providers committed to improving outcomes for young children with identified disabilities or suspected delays and their families. A network of providers who will share information, pull resources together to address the needs of the special needs population.

Challenge: Delay in follow up to referrals and intervention services. All children receive a Developmental screening within 45 days of attendance in the Head Start program. When a child scores significantly below the cut-off for their age on the Brigance III Screening and is suspected of having a delay, the child is referred to LEA/PPSD #150 for evaluation to determine IEP services. Due to LEA/PPSD #150 having a shortage of therapist/service providers, there has been a delay in receiving follow up services. At the time of School closure due to COVID-19, Head Start had 30 children with active IEP's. The program had also identified and referred 30 children (14 speech and language and 16 full case study evaluations) with suspected delays to LEA for evaluation.

Recommended Corrective Action: Collaborate with Bradley University and other Universities in the surrounding area to identify and recruit graduate students to intern and potentially be employed by LEA and/or Head Start to provide services to special needs children.

Challenge: Shortage of qualified special needs service providers in Peoria County.

The program has experienced the loss of two key contracted providers of special needs services. Mrs. Terri Travis and Ms. Ann Bannon, both retired after having served as Speech Pathologist for 20+ years with the Head Start program.

Recommended Corrective Action: survey existing Head Start staff to see if staff have an interest/desire to continue their education to become disability service providers for the Head Start program. If so encourage and support them in doing so. Collaborate with Bradley University and other Universities in the surrounding area to identify and recruit graduate students to intern and potentially be employed by Head Start to provide services to special needs children.

Challenge: Disruption in continuity of disability services due to high turnover of Disability Coordinator position as well as position vacancy. The school closure due to COVID-19 caused an interruption in the onboarding process of newly appointed Disability Services Coordinator.

Recommended Corrective Action: The corrective action is already in progress as the program has filled the Disability Services Coordinator vacancy effective 3.01.20. The program has also provided T&TA, an onboarding plan and other supports for the Coordinator. Program to continue to provide training and supports to Disability Service Coordinator and complete onboarding process for at least one year, and longer if needed.

Challenge: Disability Service Plan was outdated. At the beginning of each program year, and on an ongoing basis throughout the year, PCCEO Head Start is required to review and update the Disability Service Plan. The plan had not been updated for more than five years.

Recommended Corrective Action: The corrective is currently in process. The Disability Coordinators for Head Start and Early Head Start have drafted a birth to 5 Disability Service Plan. The plan was developed with the guidance of T&TA and with a coordinated approach. The 1st draft is complete and has been submitted to the Parent Policy Council for approval.

Challenge: The current practice/procedure for documenting and monitoring Brigance III data is antiquated. Brigance data is currently being documented on a paper screen form and is passed to multiple Coordinators and then given to data entry staff who takes from. The data is then transferred from paper and input into the MyHeadStart system.

Recommended Corrective Action: To upgrade to the Brigance III Online Management System. Imputing screen data into OMS stream lines the process so screen data is inputted into OMS in real time. Doing so will reduce the length of time for coordinators to access data for monitoring, reporting and providing services. Staff to be trained to input screening data into the Brigance III Online Management System (OMS).

Early Head Start consisted of two (2) center classrooms one (1) one classroom is located in the 61604 and the other center classroom is located in the 61605 zip code. PCCEO Head Start will be opening a birth to 5 preschool in October 2020 and Early Head Start will have additional classroom, which will be in the 61614 zip code. Early Head Start will have three (3) full day classrooms of 32 children.

Replacement of an aging bus fleet is a high priority. The cost of transportation services increases every year due to the constant repair needed for an aging fleet of buses. It has also become increasingly challenging to identify, recruit and retain qualified bus drivers willing to work full-time. Increases in employee benefits and Head Start's inability to be competitive in bus driver salaries continue to be barriers Head Start struggles to overcome.

It has also become increasingly challenging to identify, recruit and retain qualified bus drivers willing to work part-time only. Increases in employee benefits and Head Start's inability to be competitive in bus driver salaries continue to be barriers Head Start struggles to overcome.

More and more Head Start and Early Head Start families are joining the work force and/or attending school full-time. As a result, the need for full day services has grown, as has the need to provide extended day services to working parents and those going to school.

Early Head Start and the Prevention Initiative Program could benefit from hiring a doula on a contractual basis to support our very young and pregnant parents. Many times our mothers (birthing person) does not have the emotional, continuous, physical support, one-on-one care, knowledge nor support of a family member or significant other during labor and birth process.

Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Peoria Public Schools District #150 is the fifth-largest public elementary and secondary school system in the state of Illinois. A seven-member, nonpartisan board of education appoints a superintendent by majority vote.

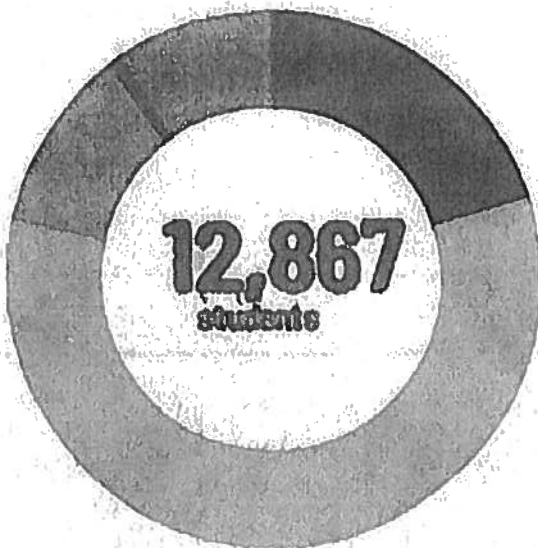
There are 76 public schools in Peoria County, Illinois, serving 27,899 students. Minority enrollment is 56% of the student body (majority Black), which is greater than the Illinois state average of 50%. The student to teacher ratio of 12:1 is better than the state average of 13:1.

Offering private educations are the Peoria Catholic Diocese, Concordia Lutheran, the Hebrew Day School, Peoria Academy, and Peoria Christian.

Peoria County, IL public schools have a diversity score of 0.32, which is higher than the Illinois average of 0.3. The most diverse school district in Peoria County is Peoria School District 150 School District. The most diverse school in the district is Von Steuben Middle School.

Peoria School District 150 Student Characteristics:

Fast Facts



Student Characteristics

White	20%
Black	58%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	1%
American Indian	0%
Two or More Races	9%
Pacific Islander	0%
Low Income	70%
English Learners	8%
With IEPs	18%
With Disabilities	-
Homeless	3%

Source: Illinois At-a-Glance Report Card 2018-2019

Colleges and Universities

Bradley University, founded in 1897, enrolls more than 6,000 undergraduates and offers 90 undergraduate and 32 graduate programs in such fields as business and accounting, all major engineering specialties, music, nursing, and teacher education. Eureka College, located in Eureka, is a four-year liberal arts college and is the alma mater of former President Ronald Reagan. The

University Of Illinois College Of Medicine at Peoria, the Bradley University School of Nursing, and nursing schools at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and Methodist Medical Center grant degrees in medical sciences and provide continuing education for health care professionals throughout the Midwest.

Illinois Central College is a two-year institution that schedules courses for more than 12,000 students in university transfer curricula and vocational and continuing education programs. Degrees are offered in 105 fields of study; certificates are offered in more than 60 subjects. Among colleges and universities within commuting distance of Peoria are Illinois State University in Normal, Western Illinois University in Macomb, and Carl Sandburg College and Knox College in Galesburg.

H. Child Care Profile

Currently Preschool for All is designed to eventually reach all 3- and 4-year-old children whose families choose to participate. Funds are distributed through a competitive grant process to school districts, qualified early child care centers, and education providers by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The first priority in awarding grants for PFA must be given to applicants that propose to serve primarily children who have been identified as being at risk of academic failure. "At risk" is defined as those children who, because of their home and community environment, are subject to such language, cultural, economic and other disadvantages as they have been determined, as a result of screening procedures, to be at risk of academic failure. For this analysis, we use children in families with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.

Counties	Number of Head Start Sites	Head Start Funded Enrollment	Number of PFA Sites	PFA Proposed Capacity
Peoria	5	585	1	1,262

Capacity of Child Care Centers in Peoria County

Type of Provider	Age Group Served	Number of Sites	Enrollment /Capacity
Preschool for All	3 to 4	25	1161
Head Start	3 to 5	5	585 funded enrollment
Early Head Start (EHS)	Birth to 3	3	32 funded enrollment
EHS Prevention Initiative	Birth to 3	1	35
Licensed Child Care	Birth to 5	41	4511
Exempt Child Care	Birth to 5	6	535

Community Activism

Because of the increase of gun, violent and abuse crimes, Head Start/Early Head Start and Prevention Initiative families (parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles) are engaging more than ever before in community activism. Our families are increasingly expressing their voice how the violence has impacted their children's life during home visits, center meetings, vigils, and marches being within the community.

"Peoria had 760 violent crimes per 100K and 3,847 property crimes per 100K with a population of 115,099. In 2016, there were 875 violent crimes in Peoria with 10 murders, 70 cases of rape, 305 robberies and 490 aggravated assaults. There were 4,429 property crimes." (Source: Herald&Review, *Most Dangerous Cities in Illinois - 2018*, June 13, 2018)

"In 2014, the most recent available data from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, African Americans going through the Peoria County judicial system were admitted to prison at a rate almost three times the number of whites (313 blacks; 134 whites). The demographic makeup of the county is nearly the inverse of the prison statistic. The county population was 72 percent white and 19 percent black in 2014. The numbers of admissions by race are consistent through the years, according to the ICJIA data provided to the Journal Star.

Karen Wilson is secretary of the local NAACP and a child of the 1970s who recalls visits to school by Officer Friendly. "The black community no longer thinks that Officer Friendly is all that friendly," Wilson said. "Parents have to teach their black male children how to behave when they're stopped by the police. But these days even acting respectful and compliant doesn't always keep you safe." she said." (Source: Scott Hilyard, Peoria Journal Star, *Data: Peoria-area minorities far more likely to be arrested and imprisoned*. August 27, 2016).

Through scheduled socializations and parent center meetings, we will continue to engage with our families to share their ideas, make recommendations and suggestions. This may include but is not limited to: family night out, transitioning and preparing your child for pre-school events with various door prizes, field trips to museums, the library our local school board meetings, and community events.

Language and Literacy

Young children learn best with highly interactive, experiential learning activities (Chambers et al., 2010; Galinsky, 2006). The most effective curricula provide support so that teachers can be responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of children, families, and communities (Galinsky, 2006). Children in early childhood programs, in which teachers speak the children's home language, show better development of social skills (Chang et al., 2007). By supporting both the development of English and of the children's home languages will help economically challenged children who are dual-language learners' increase their proficiency in both languages (Winsler, Diaz, Espinosa, & Rodriguez, 1999). PCCEO's early childhood and family development staff will need continued training, guidance and instruction through coaching methods of adapting activities, materials, and the learning environment for children with special needs to improve language and literacy scores.

To close the language and literacy gap, parental engagement is crucial. Along with continued training, guidance, coaching, support for program staff, and strong parent engagement opportunities, a shift in positive student outcomes in the area of language and literacy can be achieved.

To achieve specific learning goals:

- Specific, measurable, child-focused, and developmentally appropriate goals for each learning activity will be designed.
- There will be an alignment between the learning goals of the learning activity and the content within the learning activity.

The Positive Effect of Male Involvement on Children

Male involvement, supported by responses from babies and women, have measurable, positive effects on the development of children. In their studies of preterm infants, Gaiter (1984) and Yogman (1987) found that early paternal involvement had a significant mitigating effect on the long-term vulnerability of these at-risk infants. Potentially as important were data suggesting that the more present and involved the father, the more rapid the weight gain and earlier the discharge of the baby.

Parke and Sawin (1975) found that the more fathers participated in bathing, feeding, diapering, and other routines of physical care, the more socially responsive the babies were. Furthermore, a year later these babies seemed more resilient in the face of stressful situations.

Men within our community such as coaches, teachers, neighbors, husbands of friends, men from the family's religious community, Big Brothers, friends' dads and grandfathers, uncles can all bring the male presence into the lives of even very young children who are hungry to discover what the masculine presence has to offer them.

PCCEO's Early Head Start and Prevention Initiative programs will distribute informational fliers during socialization, center meetings and parent policy council meetings to boost male involvement. We intend to recruit coaches, big brothers, friends' dads, grandfathers, uncles, teachers, neighbors, husbands of friends from the community to promote well-being of our children and families.

Trauma Informed Care

To meet the needs of our most vulnerable infants, toddlers and pre-school children in the child protection system or at risk of being, PCCEO's early childhood programs partners with FamilyCore, a behavioral health and social emotional provider to implement trauma-informed care and practices that are implemented through a licensed clinical social worker.

The use of reflective consultation is becoming a standard of the pre-school education industry to support staff as they work closely with their client families to develop young minds and support families. It is through the discussion held with service providers and direct supervisors, that support is offered and received. Scheduled consultations focus on discussing the areas of strength and struggle experienced by the service provider, *with the supervisor*, helping to overcome systemic barriers and make suggestions to maximize their strengths.

PCCEO serves as a referral source for Peoria District 150's Wrap Around Services. Center staff has been given a list of the services PCCEO provides, as well as the requirements that need to be met to receive the services. PCCEO was one of many Peoria social services agencies who participated in the grand opening of the center on August 18th. The picture below was published in the Peoria Journal Star and captures the staff recruiting Head Start and Early Head Start families as a part of the grand opening. PCCEO is in the process of developing a formal partnership.



Childhood Immunizations

The CDC estimates that the vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2013 will prevent 322 million illnesses, help avoid 732,000 deaths, and save nearly \$1.4 trillion in total societal costs

According to Americas Health Rankings (Americashealthrankings.org) 68.1% of children living in Illinois at or below poverty level received proper immunizations in 2019. During COVID-19, many offices and clinics no longer had walk in hours, which made parents less likely to bring their children in for immunizations on time. Some clinics and walk in centers closed their doors for a few months, causing people to be behind in their preventative health care. The fear of contracting COVID-19 and growing anxiety over social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders have kept people in their homes, and unable to find transportation, make appointments, and stay up to date on their preventative healthcare.

Income

Immunizations - Children - Above Poverty



Immunizations - Children - Below Poverty



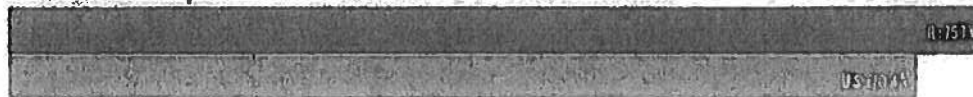
Percentage of children ages 19-35 months

Race/Ethnicity

Immunizations - Children - Black



Immunizations - Children - Hispanic



Immunizations - Children - White



Percentage of children ages 19-35 months

<https://www.pcchd.org/>

<https://search.ilecam.illinois.edu/cgi-bin/ilecam/search.asp>

[https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/immunize/population/immunize child poverty/state/IL](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/immunize/population/immunize%20child%20poverty/state/IL)

Barriers to Immunization

Over one half of PCCEO's Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative home-based children are out of compliance with current immunizations. As in the past years, states, clinicians, and parents are still challenged in getting all the recommended doses during the second year of life. There are logistical barriers to immunization, such as inconvenient clinic hours, distance that parents must travel, lack of transportation, and difficulty taking time off work (CDC, 2015) Early childhood programs play an important and influential role in the lives of infants and young children, whether through home visiting services, Early Head Start programs, or child care centers. Parents may seek the advice of program staff when it comes to health and safety issues, especially if their child does not have a regular primary care provider.

PCCEO Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative programs will promote on-time immunizations of children under 2 years old in several ways:

- Provide training for all staff, as well as our families with basic information about childhood immunizations schedule and the benefits and risks of vaccination
- Analyze data more often through our management information system and meet regularly with our local health department.
- Utilize the State of Illinois Immunization Registry "I-CARE"
- Host specific socializations with an emphasis on immunizations and well-check checks.

Source: Zero to Three Journal, Vol. 37 No. 6 July 2017

Supporting Children's Social-Emotional Development

It is well established that maltreatment affects a developing child in a myriad of ways. Maltreatment often negatively alters brain development; neurobiology; social relatedness; emotional, behavioral, and physiological regulation; and self-development (Kaufman & Henrich, 2000; Schechter & Willheim, 2009). Children who experience abuse in the first few years of life are especially vulnerable, as early experiences have an integral role in creating the neural pathways that underlie current and future functioning. The timing, chronicity, and severity of maltreatment are unique for each child, and these factors affect functioning and recovery in ways that cannot be precisely calculated. Parents of these young children also often have their own history of abuse and neglect and can benefit from assessments and interventions that bear in mind the effect their caregiving histories have on present parenting strategies.

Some traumatized young children in foster care receive no therapeutic intervention. Some are placed on several strong medications to try to lessen their problem behaviors. Others are moved from foster home to foster home when their post-traumatic symptoms are too difficult to handle. Some end up in long-term group homes without a consistent primary caregiver to help them heal. PCCEO's Head Start, Early Head Start and Prevention Initiative Programs have the need to continue mental health services to help those children receive the intervention that is needed to lay the foundation toward a healthier future.

Source: A. Breidenstine, PhD, Tulane University School of Medicine 2017

PCCEO serves as a referral source for Peoria District 150's Wrap Around Services. Center staff has been given a list of the services PCCEO provides, as well as the requirements that need to be met to receive the services. PCCEO was one of many Peoria social services agencies who participated in the grand opening of the center on August 18th. PCCEO is in the process of developing a formal partnership.

Role of Racism in Trauma and Child Well-Being

We would be negligent without specific attention to highlight how the role of racism in trauma impacts child health. Factors that intersect with trauma and child well-being include poverty, culture, disability, and gender. Children of different races are exposed to trauma at different rates. A 2018 study (Wamser-Nanney et al.) found that Black children are more likely to be exposed to multiple types of trauma, experience more community violence, and be placed in protective custody more frequently than White children. "Racial trauma or race-based traumatic stress occurs when individuals experience or witness racism, whether as microaggression, as threats of harm, or as blatant hate crimes and physical assaults (Comas-Diaz, Hall, & Neville 2019; Sue et al. 2007". Microaggressions are "daily verbal, visual, behavioral, or environmental indignities" toward people of color that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults (Sue et al. 2007, 271)." This may include but is certainly not limited to name-calling, such as "colored," "Oriental," or "you people" conveying rudeness or insensitivity. Within a NAEYC article titled Trauma and Young Children, microaggressions are often manifested in a learning environment where books, materials, room decorations, and photos reflect only the dominant culture and where children of color, especially Black boys, are unfairly targeted as disruptive or the perpetrators of anything that goes wrong (Friedman & Mwenelupembe 2020).

Through contractual services with our mental health provider FamilyCore, a **licensed clinical social worker** is used to engage families and staff in scheduled **Trauma-Informed sessions** of Overcoming Traumatic Setbacks (OTS). Families will complete the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) survey and self-report to gather information early on to design early intervention strategies that target neglect, violence, or other concerns. Parent and staff sessions are held separately.

Source: Sarah Erdman, L.J. (2020). Trauma and Young Children: Teaching Strategies to Support and Empower.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease is painful, common, blister like rash that cover the feet, palms of the hands, around or in the month. Sometimes the knees, elbows, buttocks and genital area.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease, or HFMD, is highly contagious through saliva and body contact. This illness is caused by a combination of different viruses. It is mostly common in infants and children birth to 5 years age, because they do not yet have immunity (protection) to the viruses that cause HFMD. Also older children and adults can also contract HFMD as well, but the illness isn't as severe as it is with the younger population. In rare cases, an infected child can develop meningitis and polio- like paralysis, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) which can be fatal. In the United States it is more common for people to get contract HFMD during spring, summer, and fall. Over 200,000 cases are reported yearly according to "Mayo Clinic Healthy Living".

Within our services area of Peoria County, four (4) families have self-reported that a least 1 of their children who attends a local day care has contracted HFMD. ESH/PI will continue to educate and encourage the families we serve on the importance of practicing good hand hygiene and maintaining a clean and disinfected environment to promote a healthier living through sanitization pack.

Reference: Mayo Clinic, Mayo Clinic Healthy living
([https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hand-foot-and-mouth-and-mouth.](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hand-foot-and-mouth-and-mouth))

Center Of Disease (<https://cdc.gov>)

I. Housing Profile

Poverty and vacancy rates are especially high in the lowest income areas, which include neighborhoods located on Peoria's Southside. The Southside area of Peoria is generally defined as neighborhoods south of downtown in City Council District 1. The district is bounded by three major corridors: Western Avenue, McArthur Highway and Adams Street and contains 2,003 housing units and approximately 4,536 residents. A TIF study identified the need for rehabilitation of existing properties and the need for new housing and commercial development to stabilize the neighborhood. There are a significant number of vacant buildings (13%), and one of the highest violent and property crime rates in the city. Crimes in the Southside area represent 27% of all violent and property crimes in Peoria.

Housing Occupied (City of Peoria)	
Total Housing Units	52,836
Owner Occupied	26,252
Renter Occupied	20,781
Vacant HU	5806
Median Home Value	\$127,200
Medium Rents	\$ 740

* 2012-2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Of the 47,239 occupied units, 60% (28,386) of the housing units built are pre-1978. In reviewing the City's 2014- 2018 Consolidated Plan, it states, "A disproportionate greater number of severe housing problems is defined as when a member of a racial or ethnic group at an income level experience housing problems at a greater rate (10% or more) than the income level as a whole. The City of Peoria's population is 115,007, with 62.4% White, 26.9% Black/African American, and 4.6% Asian, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Other race categories have an insignificant proportion of the population and do not have severe housing problems. The data shown as follows: severe housing problems exists only for Black/African Americans, where 48% have one or more of the four housing problems (lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, Cost Burden over 50%) and 57% have no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems when compared to this category for the jurisdiction as a whole. The Plan shows the charts of 0-30% AMI, 30-50%AMI and 50-80% AMI. This speaks to the demand for affordable housing for a target population that we serve.

According to the 24/7 Wall Street Report for 2018, the homeownership rate is at 31.4% for black households while 76.1% for white households. The report continues, "While segregated housing has been illegal nationwide since the passage of the Fair Housing Act of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, a recent federal lawsuit alleges that there are still housing codes in place in Peoria being used to unlawfully target African Americans. Filed in August 2017 by the Illinois-based nonprofit HOPE Fair Housing Center, the lawsuit claims that Peoria's chronic nuisance ordinance, which requires landlords to evict tenants from homes that have been the subject of multiple police contacts, is being selectively enforced in predominantly black neighborhoods." (Source: <https://24lwallst.com/special-report/2018/11/09/the-worst-cities-for-black-americans-4/4/>).

J. Health Profile

Access and education regarding healthcare and prenatal services was indicated to be a considerable need in the area. Most Peoria County residents report they have health care insurance (92.5%). However, residents have economic hardships that impact their ability to obtain health care services. Data revealed that Peoria County reported three (3) health care facilities that were designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas" (HPSAs). In Peoria County, 100% of the population lived in a HPSA.

In 2014, there were 1,482 (786.5 per 100,000 persons) reported cases of chlamydia infections, considerably higher than the state rate (515.6) and the national (456.08) rate and 450 (238.8 per 100,000 persons) reported cases of gonorrhea infections, considerably higher than the state rate of 124 and national rate of 110.7.

According to County Health Rankings, Peoria County residents reported experiencing 3.6 days per week with poor mental health, higher than the state (3.4) but slightly lower than the national average of 3.7. Peoria County reported an age-adjusted suicide death rate per 100,000 population as 10.8, higher than the state rate (9.7), but slightly lower than the national rate of 12.5. Health People 2020 target is less than 10.2. The percentage of alcohol-impaired driving deaths (40%) was higher than the state average (34%). Approximately 77% of Peoria County residents reported that they did have access to exercise opportunities. In Peoria County, 17% of adults reported smoking, while 18% of adults reported smoking in Illinois. There were less primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers per resident in Peoria County than was reported for the state. In Peoria County, the mental health provider's ratio was 500:1, lower than the state's ratio of 580:1. Diabetic monitoring (88%) was higher in Peoria County than the State (86%). The percentage of mammography screenings was 68% lower than the state screening rate of (64%).

According to Kids Count, 10.9% of babies were born preterm in Peoria County as compared with 10% for the state. The rate of low birth weight babies has been consistently higher than the state rate for the past decade. The infant mortality rate also has been consistently higher than the state rate for the past decade.

Oral Health in Peoria County: Children from low-income, minority families experience more untreated cavities, more restricted activity days related to dental pain. They are less likely to have dental exams on a routine basis than their more affluent counterparts. Infants and toddlers are at high risk for poor nutrition, growth delay, and lack of weight gain as a result of dental disease. In January 2018, two Kroger stores closed down, this left the families in the East Bluff and South Side with less healthy food options. This continues to be a barrier for our families.

Monitoring children's oral health is something parents need, taking steps to prevent disease, treating problems early, raising public awareness, and devoting sufficient resources are key to improved oral health outcomes. Oral Health has been identified as one of the top three health issues in Peoria County. Two reasons why we see tooth decay in younger children are lack of education of letting children sleep with a bottle and breastfeeding. A study comparing three-year-old children who had dental caries as a result of poor hygiene habits after nursing and bottle feeding.

During the 2019/2020 program year, 68 (55.28%) children were current with dental screenings; which left 43 children (37.4%) that were past due. These results of these dental screenings were parents were able to receive education on how to continue to promote positive oral health.

Early Childhood Caries Planning Submitted by Dr. Susan B. Bishop, DMD Dental Director Peoria City/County Health Department August 2010 Retrieved from <https://www.pcchd.org/DocumentCenter/View/260/Early-Childhood-Caries-Assessment-PDF?bidId=>

SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Community Services

PCCEO Community Services Program provides emergency rental assistance, emergency food assistance, emergency lodging, education financial assistance, and third-party transportation to the low-income population in the community. Community Services provides third party transportation (bus passes/tickets) to address transportation gaps. Services are provided to our walk- in and online customers and customers are referred through the network of area social service agencies and numerous referral from members of our local continuum of care. The program service delivery is effective through comprehensive coordinated services throughout the community by partnering with a network of agencies.

Services include, but are not limited to rental assistance, food vouchers, housing counseling, emergency lodging, and education financial assistance for college and certification students. PCCEOs' Community Services Program is not the main service provider in the community. Delivery of services remain successful through collaborating with agencies and the Heart of Illinois Continuum of Care.

Peoria Area Food Bank (PAFB)

The Peoria Area Food Bank was formed in 1984 to help supplement the dietary and nutritional needs of low-income families. As the needs of our low-income population in Peoria and our three surrounding counties increase, we are finding it difficult to keep the shelves consistently stocked with shelf-stable food to assist our 80 food pantries in feeding the hungry.

The Peoria Area Food Bank provides pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters, drug and alcohol rehab centers, senior housing, youth detention centers and low-income day care centers (all of which are designated 501(c) (3) with the ability to purchase various amounts of food such as cereal, canned goods, meats, soft drinks, juices, snacks, fresh fruits and vegetables (when in season) for low and moderate-income families located in the two surrounding counties of Peoria. Our focus is to provide not only food related items to these pantries, but hygiene items, paper and cleaning products also. The Peoria Area Food Bank provides fresh produce to our pantries as well. However, because of logistic issues these services are limited. In a Peoria Journal Star article released in May, 2018, the GITM Foundation reported that local food pantries may receive large donations of fresh produce, but because of inadequate refrigeration and storage coupled with their limited hours of operation, they are at a loss as to what to do with the left-over excess. The Peoria Area Food Bank faces the same problem in that it could procure more fresh produce items if not for the lack of refrigeration and storage space, and the inability of the pantries to take more fresh produce from the food bank due the aforementioned issues.

The families that participate in this program usually have a household income below the federal poverty levels and/or because of uncontrolled circumstances (i.e., loss of job, loss of spouse, etc.), are participating for the first time or only for a short time. Without these pantries, soup kitchens and social service organizations, many of these parents, children and elderly would go hungry.

Our intention is to eradicate hunger for every child, parent or senior in the city of Peoria and the surrounding counties we serve. Our goals are to go from distributing 2.5 million pounds of food in 2017 to distributing 3.5 million pounds of food in 2019, increase efforts for more collaboration in distributing excess food, and develop a backpack food program for children and adults in areas or census tracts with high percentages of food insecurity by 2020.

Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income households pay for winter energy services. The LIHEAP (Energy Assistance) Program is comprised of four programs: Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), the Reconnect Assistance Program, PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) and the Emergency Furnace Program.

LIHEAP (Energy Assistance) provides a one-time benefit to eligible households for use towards their energy cost. The payment amount is based on the number of people in your household, 30-day income fuel type and geographic location. Individuals seeking help must meet low-income eligibility guidelines. Applications are taken on a first come first served basis.

The Reconnect Assistance Program is a one-time service provided to households whose utilities have been disconnected due to non-payment. The Emergency Furnace Program begins in October and is for homeowners only. Your furnace must be non-operational in order to apply. PCCEO will send a Quality Control Inspector to your home to determine if the unit can be repaired or if a replacement is needed.

PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) is available for LIHEAP eligible households who are customers of Ameren. Under PIPP, you will pay a percentage (6%) of your gross monthly income towards your utility bill.

Weatherization

PCCEO's Weatherization Program helps low-income individuals and families save fuel and money, while increasing the comfort of their homes. The following services are available to eligible households:

- Sealing cracks with weather-stripping and caulk
- Providing insulation for attics and walls
- Repairing windows and doors
- Checking furnaces to determine if it needs to be cleaned or services
- Providing furnace repair or retrofit to update current system
- Furnace replacement

Community Development/Engagement

PCCEO through its partnership with PNC implemented a Neighborhood Academy Program. The Academy provides residents with the skills and resources through workshops to improve their quality of life, increase community engagement and strengthen existing neighborhood associations. The intention is to serve as an incubator and resource for development of grassroots community leaders for low income neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Academy is held on Saturday mornings for a 3 hour period. A cohort normally consists of five (5) workshops. Average attendance is fifteen (15) people. Workshops include: Community Organizing #101, participants learn basic grassroots organizing skills; Effective Communications, participants learn advocacy through communications; Accessing Community Resources Pt 1 & Pt 2, participants connect with people in positions of power i.e. the Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools, Chief of Policy, City and County Officials; and Financial Literacy, which includes credit counseling and money management.

Head Start/Early Head Start

The Head Start program provides comprehensive services to 585 children 3-5 years of age and Early Head Start serves 111 children 0-3 years of age, pregnant women and their families in Peoria County. Our Pre-School for All/Prevention Initiative Program serves 35 infants and toddlers, which is funded by the Illinois Board of Education. Families enrolled in the programs must meet verified income eligibility criteria as determined by the Federal Government. Head Start/Early Head Start Families must meet or be less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Head Start continues to offer transportation to its part-day center (Webster). Full-day centers will be transported by parents. These centers include: Trewyn, Harrison, Manual and Woodruff.

Early Head Start Families are served in both center based and home based settings and provides transportation for socializations only. The service delivery is good in the community. The request for full day slots are increasing each year and the need to add additional full day classrooms is well documented. However, as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, center enrollment numbers has had to be decreased to accommodate adherence to social distance guidelines as recommended by the CDC. Additionally, in person home visits have been replaced by virtual contact and limited in person contact with proper PPE's. Socializations that require face to face interaction and/or transportation has also been suspended or the numbers of attendees limited to provide the safest environment for our children, families and staff.

Considerations to Adjust Program Options: Community Assessment information indicates the need for additional center-based Early Head Start programming. PCCEO EHS will explore the various strategies available for meeting this need.

School Readiness can be described as children possessing the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and later learning. PCCEO Head Start and Early Head Start has established School Readiness goals that are appropriate for the age and development of children in the following domains;

- Language & Literacy**
- Cognition**
- Approaches to Learning**
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development**
- Social & Emotional Development**

These goals are aligned with the Head Start Outcomes and Framework, Illinois Early Learning Standards, goals and expectations for the local school systems and parent input. Based on the goals that were developed, a plan was created for achieving these goals that includes assessing, aggregating and analyzing data three times a year. The results of the data is used for program planning, examine patterns of progress and professional development.

Lack of services provided to Early Head Start families has been affected due to a lack of stability within the community. For example, according to the 2020 Heart of Illinois United Way Community Assessment, there has been an increase in households earning less than 35,000 a year. The household income has been affected by race and educational level, significantly affecting families with female heads who have children under 18 years old (Way, 2020). The average household income by race has decreased for Black people between 2015 and 2017, with the families only making \$27,022 in 2017. Average household income showed significant increases for Asian and Hispanic/Latino families, with Asian families increasing their income by \$10,242 and Hispanic/Latino families increasing their income by \$21,605.

Education levels throughout the community have affected females despite the level of education received. The average earnings for males 25 and older are higher for all degree levels. A woman with a graduate or professional degree is only 14% higher than a male with some college or associate degree. Single-family households of women require services the most in Peoria County. As stated by Dr. Weizimmer, "It is vitally important for the community to target these women with services and programs." If basic needs are fulfilled for women, it will lead to a "more sustainable community (Dr. Laurence G. Weinzimmer, 2020)" and provide better care for Early Head Start families. For example, the poverty rates for households with children under 18 in Peoria County in 2017 was 14%, only a difference of 1.5% from the state level. For 2015 and 2017 in Peoria County, female households with children under 18 years old are still the highest demographic for poverty between family composition. Most of the families severed under this demographic are part of or in need of Early Head Start.

Works Cited

Dr. Laurence G. Weinzimmer, Q. Z. (2020). *United Way 2020 Peoria Area Community Assessment*. Peoria.

Way, H. o. (2020) . 2020 *Heart of Illinois United Way Community Assessment*. Peoria.

For 2019/2020, strategies have been developed and implemented to ensure, at minimum, 85% mastery of school readiness goals, for all Head Start children transitioning to kindergarten. The data depicts the average number of milestones achieved in the following domains;

Social & Emotional Development

- Social & Emotional Development: 82.03%
- Approaches to Learning: 72.06%

Language and Literacy

- Language and Communication: 73.50%
- Literacy: 73.00%
- English Language Development: 82.56%

Perceptual Motor, and Physical Development: 92.78%

Cognition

- Mathematics Development: 79.69%
- Scientific Reasoning: 82.18%

PCCEO Early Head Start programming has produced moderate results in children's developmental outcomes. The tables below details Early Head Start children's progress for the 2018 program year.

EARLY HEAD START E-LAP OUTCOMES REPORT 2018			
Domain	Beginning	Mid-Year	Change
Social & Emotional Development	75.59	79.93	4.35
Approaches Toward Learning	76.88	81.61	4.73
Language and Literacy	61.10	68.45	7.34
Cognition and General Knowledge	67.62	72.53	4.91
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	75.82	79.62	3.81

For the upcoming program year, we will enhance children's language and literacy by focusing on discovering ways to support families' critical considerations and use of various digital tools in an appropriate manner to maximize children's language and development.

LINKAGES

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. (PCCEO) develops linkages to fill identified gaps in services by establishing relationships with the local Illinois Partners for Human Services chapter members, the Tri-County interagency Council members and the City of Peoria. PCCEO, reaches out to low-income people in their community, addresses their multiple needs through a comprehensive approach, develops partnerships with these community organizations and administers a full range of coordinated programs designed to have a measureable impact on poverty.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start families rely on linkages throughout the community to effectively meet their needs. Under the umbrella of PCCEO families are referred to the CSBG Programs. Referrals are made to partners that provide mental health services and health services.

With the start of the 2021-22 program year, there are a number of new Head Start initiatives being introduced to strengthen families and encourage effective parenting. Our early childhood programs will continue our efforts to engage more families, especially fathers and the growing Latina population.

Early Head Start collaborates with FamilyCore's Single Parent Program and also Carver Center's Families First, both which give effective parenting training. Early Head Start provides parents with child development, health and safety, financial planning, and mental health trainings throughout the year.

Peoria Area Food Bank

The Peoria Area Food Bank (PAFB) reaches out to the client population through the 80 food pantries throughout a three-county service area. By monitoring the pantries and evaluating the reporting requirements submitted by pantries, the PAFB ensures comprehensive services are provided. The PAFB works with the pantries and listens to their suggestions to improve outreach to clients. Working with the Feeding America Network. PAFB is also supported with food donations from Aldi, Sam's Club, Target, and Walmart on a weekly basis.

Community Services

The Community Services program reaches out to the client population through collaboration with agencies and networks as well as participation in community events. Referrals are provided by other PCCEO programs, social service agencies, and local colleges.

Outreach has improved through the utilization of public relations including website enhancement and brochures distributed at community events and resource fairs. Community Services is also a partner with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Energy_ Assistance

Energy Assistance linkages activities include:

- Providing LIHEAP applications to the surrounding apartment complex (Cityscapes, Landmark, River West, Village Green, Pierson Hills and Lexington Hills).
- Public Service Announcements utilizing Media Services, PCCEO Website and social media
- Local newspaper
- Application Intake Sites in Limestone Township, Chillicothe, Princeville and Richwood Township, Peoria Friendship House, and the Peoria Dream Center.
- Networking and collaborating with other entities such as Peoria Housing Authority, Advocate for Access, Neighborhood House, the Blind Center, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dream Center and Southside Mission.
- Explaining the benefits of having your home weatherized to LIHEAP customers and encourage landlords to participate.

Weatherization

Weatherization linkages activities include:

- **Sending correspondence to all of elected officials in Peoria County including Peoria City Council, County Board and Township Supervisors informing them about the program's services and requesting an opportunity to conduct informational meetings in their jurisdiction**
- **Meeting with neighborhood associations and homeowner groups to inform them about the weatherization services**
- **Providing home visits to the elderly and disabled**
- **Distributing Weatherization Brochures to social service and human service organizations throughout Peoria County.**
- **Conducting Public Service Announcements utilizing local media, social media, PCCEO's newsletter and township offices**
- **Networking and collaborating with other entities**
- **Marketing the program to churches, schools, social groups, local fraternity and sorority chapters**
- **Explain the Weatherization Program to LIHEAP customers and encourage them to apply**

COORDINATION

PCCEO reaches out to the client population through collaboration with agencies and networks as well as participation in community events. Referrals are provided by other PCCEO programs and social service agencies. Outreach has improved through the utilization of public relations including website enhancement and brochures distributed at community events and resource fairs. Monthly reporting as well as conducting on-going monitoring of each program component assists with the coordination and establishment of linkages to assure the effective delivery of and coordination of CSBG services to low-income people and communities and avoid duplication of services.

CSBG & WIOA Partnership

PCCEO and other partners established a MOU providing the specifics of the role of each partner. Each person representing a partner agency according to WIOA is a part of this Committee. The Committee implements direct linkages, cross training, and overall certification of the One Stop. PCCEO provides through technology the availability of CSBG staff capable of answering CSBG services questions during the normal hours of the One Stop.

Head Start/Early Head Start

PCCEO Head Start and Early Head Start works collaboratively with the following primary partners to effect change and provide resources in the community that could be used to address the needs of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children and their families, including assessments of their availability and accessibility:

Child and Family Connections
Child and Family Hearing Associates
Career Link 16
Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.
Early Childhood Network and Forum
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
Family Matters
FamilyCore
Heartland Community HealthCenter
Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois Central College
IL Department of Health and Human Services
IL Department of Child and Family Services
Lincoln Branch Library
Local interagency Council
Lutheran Social Services
OSF St. Francis Medical Center
Peoria Education Partners
Peoria Public Schools District 150
Peoria City/County Health Department
Peoria Housing Authority
Southside Mission
Tri County Peoria Urban League
Unity Point Health Methodist Medical Center
Unity Point Health Methodist College
United Way Success by Six Page Turner Program
UPGRADE Corporation

PCCEO has a formal collaboration agreement with:

- o DCFS
- o Family Core
- o Heartland Community Health Clinics
- o Helping Hands
- o Hult Health Education Center
- o IDES (Unemployment office)
- o Methodist Medical Center
- o OSF Sisters Community Health Care
- o Peoria Park District & Public Library
- o Peoria Township Relief office
- o Planned Parenthood
- o Prairie State Legal Services
- o Salvation Army

- o Share Foods
- o Illinois Department of Human Services
- o Peoria Housing Authority
- o Peoria City/ County Health Department
- o Hearing, Vision and Dental Providers
- o U of I Extension
- o Peoria Public School District 150

Peoria Area Food Bank

The PAFB coordinates both internally and externally through a network of food banks and Central Illinois Pantries to provide resources for clients. Formal partnerships include Eastern Illinois Food Bank (a member of Feeding America), Feeding Illinois, Aldi, Sam's Club, Target, Walmart, Woodforest National Bank, Midas, First Farm Credit Services, and Busey Bank.

Community Services

Community Services has become an active member of the Heart of Illinois Homeless Continuum of Care and has developed service linkage agreements with the following agencies:

Aspen Bluff Apartments
 The Heartland Apartments
 South Side Mission
 Friendship House
 Common Place
 The Salvation Army
 Upgrade Companies
 South Side Office of Concern
 Neighborhood House
 Peoria Housing Authority
 Peoria Opportunities Foundation

Community Services is also a partner with WIOA, several health care related programs, and community organizations, and has developed service linkages with the following:

Illinois Central College
 AMT
 Methodist College of Nursing
 OSF College of Nursing
 Midstate College
 MTI
 Helping Hands
 Graham Hospital School of Nursing
 Capital Area School of Practical Nursing
 Jobs Partnership
 Minority Business Development Center

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED INITIATIVES

Community Services

The Community Services Program has implemented a process of coordinating inter-agency referral to strengthen families in the fight against homelessness with the Heart of Illinois Continuum of Care. The Education Financial Assistance, which is for CSBG eligible college and certificate students, provides funding for, but not limited to: books, college fees, mandatory uniforms and tools. In addition, Community Services has developed partnerships with community organizations whose programs align with the goal of self-sufficiency and personal and professional growth. These programs include: Re-Entry Program presented by Jobs Partnership and Entrepreneurship Program (Business Start-Up Boot-Camp) presented by the Minority Business Development Center.

Neighborhood Academy Program

PCCEO through its partnership with PNC implemented a Neighborhood Academy Program. The Academy provides residents with the skills and resources through workshops to improve their quality of life, increase community engagement and strengthen existing neighborhood associations. The intention is to serve as an incubator and resource for development of grassroots community leaders for low income neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Academy is held on Saturday mornings for a 3 hour period. A cohort normally consists of five (5) workshops. Average attendance is fifteen (15) people. Workshops include: Community Organizing #101, participants learn basic grassroots organizing skills; Effective Communications, participants learn advocacy through communications; Accessing Community Resources Pt 1 & Pt 2, participants connect with people in positions of power i.e. the Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools, Chief of Policy, City and County Officials; and Financial Literacy, which includes credit counseling and money management.

YOUTH PROGRAMING

Peoria Area Food Bank

The Peoria Area Food Bank addresses the needs of youth in low-income communities by collaborating with local pantries to distribute food for back pack programs.

OUTCOMES

This section will detail problem statements and put forth the strategy and rationale for addressing the identified challenges within the Peoria County service area. The Community Action Plan is reflective of the needs of the low-income population. The work programs and outcome measures are listed in the order of the CSBG work programs.

CSBG Work Program - Employment

1.021 Career Counseling

Summary

A majority of income eligible customers are unemployed as customers struggle with lack of relevant workforce skills and transportation as they start employment or vocational training opportunities to advance into the workforce. Transportation costs, training and education fees, workforce clothing and supplies, and expenses related to necessary resources to access training and/or employment are needed in order for individuals and families to access and/or sustain employment and advance economically. PCCEO will provide financial/employment coaching, income support services, and resources for income eligible customers to allow them access to educational and vocational training opportunities, transportation resources, educational supplies and workforce supplies as they transition through a period of unemployment, underemployment, or require education or vocational training to advance into the workforce. PCCEO will partner with local agencies, educational institutions, and professional training programs to provide educational supports, and access to employment and training resources for customers seeking to retool for the workforce or for those seeking to enter and/or sustain employment. Or provide CSBG-eligible adults with enrollment and program follow-up to skills trade training in a vocational field leading to employment or self-employment opportunities.

By December 31, 2023, fifty (50) unemployed or underemployed CSBG-eligible adults will increase their households' economic stability as they access resources that will enable them to access workforce training to gain employment, access resources to directly enter new employment, or aid them in maintaining their current employment in order to stabilize their individual and/or family economic situation.

Outcome Measures:

- 01.08 Employed participants in a career advancement related program who entered or transitioned into a position that provided increased income and/or benefits
- 01.02 Unemployed adults who obtained employment (up to a living wage)
- 01.02A Unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days (up to a living wage)
- 01.05 Unemployed adults who obtained employment (with a living wage or higher)

CSBG Work Program - Education and Cognitive Development

02.061 Educational Financial Aid Assistance

Summary

The rising cost of college tuition, fees, books and other materials, as well as child care needs, transportation and housing expenses may create barriers for some CSBG income eligible students to complete their pursuit of higher education. PCCEO will provide scholarships for CSBG eligible persons for post-secondary education to help them achieve their career goals.

By December 31, 2023, PCCEO will provide ten (10) income eligible undergraduate students with funding for higher education or vocational training at an Illinois Accredited Institution.

Outcome Measure:

- 02.08 Individuals who obtained a recognized credential, certificate, or degree relating to the achievement of educational or vocational skills

CSBG Work Program - Income, Infrastructure, and Asset Building

03.011 Training and Counseling Services

Summary

Participants who seek to own their own homes will be provided comprehensive training in homeownership.

By December 31, 2023 PCCEO will provide homeownership training to ten (10) CSBG eligible customers who are currently renting their home and provide the community economic and housing development opportunities for economically challenged individuals and families.

Outcome Measure:

- 03.08 Individuals engaged with the Community Action Agency who report improved financial well-being

CSBG Work Program - Housing

04.011 Housing Payment Assistance

Summary

Individuals and families in Peoria County may be without income and other stabilizing resources to support basic needs. PCCEO will assist CSBG low-income eligible persons with housing needs. These include emergency shelter or transitional housing for eligible homeless persons and housing assistance to help stabilize the family during times of crisis. When funding is available, this will include rent payment up to \$3,000 and deposit payment assistance up to \$750 paid directly to their landlord to cover missed rent payments.

By December 31, 2023, ensure that individuals and families of Peoria County who have lost income and other stabilizing resources due to crisis or those experiencing unexpected financial hardship retain basic shelter to mitigate the threat of future eviction.

PCCEO will provide fifty (50) households stabilizing housing resources by December 31, 2022.

S 04-03 Provide housing assistance in the form of rental payments to help stabilize the family during a time of crisis. CSBG low-income eligible persons can be assisted with three month's rent assistance up to \$3000 maximum.

S 04-04 Provide housing assistance in the form of assistance with a portion of the first month's rent to help the family secure permanent housing.

S 04-13 Provide advocacy, information/referral and temporary emergency shelter to CSBG eligible low-income families or individuals whom have been displaced while assisting them in finding more permanent housing.

Outcome Measures:

- 04.05 (S-04-03) Households who avoided eviction
- 04.02 (S-04-04) Households who obtained safe and affordable housing
- 04.01 (S04-13) Households experiencing homelessness who obtained safe temporary shelter

CSBG Work Program - Health and Social/Behavioral Development (Includes nutrition)

05.072 Nutrition and Food/Meals

Summary

Provide assistance obtaining necessary food for low-income eligible individuals and families in order to maintain nutritional health.

PCCEO will supply food to local pantries.

By December 31, 2023, PCCEO will provide 3.8 million pounds of food through the Peoria Area Food Bank to non-profit agencies and organizations that provide direct nutritional services to 14,000 low income clients.

Outcome Measure:

- 05.02.B Households who demonstrated improved physical health and well-being

CSBG Work Program - Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

06.000 Civic Engagement and Community Involvement Strategies

Summary

Neighborhoods in PCCEO's service area have been identified as areas of low income, poor infrastructure, higher crime rates, and food deserts or have documented vulnerabilities that can lead to poor health and safety conditions. Our community is facing new challenges from the impact of national pandemic. Communities will be strengthened by people who increase their engagement in activities that create change as a result of the tools, training, and resources offered by PCCEO and collaborating agencies.

By December 31, 2023 at least thirty (30) community members will engage in community meetings, forums and/or public events to suggest and promote community involvement and advocacy for themselves and their families. They will increase their community and leadership skills and increase their community involvement to address local community issues. PCCEO will produce and distribute educational information to the community informing low-income individuals of PCCEO's services and engage them in participating.

Outcome Measure:

2.06.C Percent increase of people participating in public hearings, policy forums, community planning, or other advisory boards related to the CSBG Eligible Entity's delivery of service and/or implementation of strategies to address conditions of poverty in the identified community.

CSBG Work Program - Services Supporting Multiple Domains

07.011 Case Management

Summary

CSBG income eligible families have difficulty with accessing stabilizing resources, budgeting, money and resource management. PCCEO will provide referrals to internal resources and income support coaching to individuals with a desire to improve their individual and/or family economic stability.

By December 31, 2023, PCCEO will provide seventy-five (75) customers with case management services to improve their individual and/or family stability.

Outcome Measure:

06.01C Community Action program participants who gained other skills, knowledge and abilities to enhance their ability to engage
04.02 Households who obtained safe and affordable housing

CSBG Work Program - Services Supporting Multiple Domains

07.031 Referrals

Summary

To provide information and referrals to alternative community programs in order to expand service delivery.

By December 31, 2023 PCCEO will provide information and referrals to customers whose needs cannot be met by the agency.

PCCEO will Work with the City of Peoria to address the needs of low-income families in order to provide the family with a means to resolve barriers such as access to childcare, food, education, transportation, and affordable housing.

Outcome Measure:

06.01C Community Action program participants who gained other skills, knowledge and abilities to enhance their ability to engage

CSBG Work Program - Agency Capacity Building

09.011 Agency Capacity Building Activities

Summary

PCCEO employees and board members will participate in training related to the National CSBG Organizational Standards. T & TA funds to be used to pay for expenses associated with the OMB Circular training, and any training needed for agency capacity building.

By December 31, 2022, fifteen (15) PCCEO Board of Directors and ten (12) PCCEO Management staff will participate in training related to the National CSBG Organizational Standards.

Outcome Measure:

00.01 Hours of Board members in capacity building activities

00.02 Hours of Agency staff in capacity building activities

Appendix A

Staff Survey (N=88)

Table 118: Staff Survey

From your observations in the last year, have you seen an "Increase", "Decrease" or "No change" in each of the items below:

Indicator	Increase	Decrease	No change	Don't know
Number of low-income families contacting your agency				
Number of families over your income guidelines				
Need for licensed childcare or early childhood education providers				
Job availability in the local community				
Number of families with an incarcerated parent or an incarcerated adult				
Number of teen parents				
Number of grandparents as the primary caregiver				
Number of children with autism or other severe disabilities				
Number of children with health issues				
Number of children with nutrition issues				
Number of children with mental health issues				
Number of families with social service needs				
Number of homeless individuals/families in the local community				
Number of non-English speaking individuals and families				
Number of diverse ethnic groups in the local community				
Available and accessible modes of transportation				

Teaching and Education Staff	Ties to the community	Family Involvement	Comprehensive services	Case Management Component

Strengths in your local community

Culturally diverse	Lots of social service agencies	Good resources	School District	Community involvement

What is your dream for the community?

Replace the 2 Kroger stores that are closing	Jobs/higher-paying jobs	Better education	Healthy environment and thriving community

If you could change anything about where you live or work, what would it be?

Location of our schools	Leadership	More affordable housing	More funding for the community	People to be accountable for their actions

--	--	--	--	--

What do you believe are the major issues and challenges in working with and serving our families?

State and governmental policies	Lack of funding	Getting parents to cooperate	Lack of jobs	Transportation

What other services or programs do you believe your program can provide to better serve the children and families?

After school care to siblings of children in our care	More resources	Job Readiness and GED Programs	Classrooms for kids transitioning from EHS to HS when slots are unavailable	Provide library cards to families

--	--	--	--	--

More surveys	Better resources	Understand each department better	Better public relations	Staff receive proper training



Family Strengths & Needs Assessment

Child _____ D.O.B. ___/___/___ Center/Class _____
 Parent/Guardian _____ Address _____ Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian _____ Address _____ Phone _____
 Total Number of Children in the household _____ Ages of the children _____
 Email Address _____ Email Address _____
 Emergency contact person name & phone _____ Preferred Doctor _____
 Preferred Hospital _____ Does your child have any chronic illnesses or allergies? _____

Please circle all that apply

Family Type:

Single Mom * Single Dad * Two Parents Married * Two Parents Unmarried * Relative foster placement
 Nonrelative foster placement * Grandparents * Other _____
 Is either parent incarcerated? No Yes _____

Employment/Income:

Are you currently employed? Yes No _____
 Where are you employed? _____ Full-time or Part-time
 Would you like assistance finding employment or better employment? Yes No
 What type of work is mom looking for? _____
 What type of work is dad looking for? _____

Circle the benefits you are currently receiving: * Unemployment Benefits * TANF/Cash * Child Support
 Child Care Connection * Energy Assistance * SSI * Other _____

Education:

Mom's highest grade completed _____ Dad's highest grade completed _____
 Is either parent in job training, GED Class, High School, College? No Yes Where _____
 Does either parent need assistance with enrolling in school/GED class? Yes No _____
 Does either parent need assistance with paying for school/training? Yes No _____

Housing/Utilities:

What is your currently housing situation? Subsidized Apartment * Section 8 housing * Paying Full Rent *
 Is your rent affordable? Yes No _____
 Homeowner * Live w/relatives * Homeless * Emergency shelter * _____
 Do you feel safe in your home? Yes No _____
 Is your home in need of repair? Yes No _____
 Are you in need of furniture/appliances? Yes No If so What do you need? _____
 Do you need assistance with paying your utility bills? Yes No _____
 My housing goal is _____

Health and Development:

Are you pregnant? Yes/No If so what is your due date? ___/___/___ Would you like to be referred to EHS? Yes/No

Do all family members have health insurance: Yes No Medical Card or Private Insurance _____
Do all family members have a medical home: Yes No Do you need a referral? Yes No _____
Have family members had physicals within the last year? Yes No _____
Are child(ren) current on immunizations/well child exam? Yes No _____
Family member being treated for an acute/chronic health problem Yes No _____
Able to obtain prescription medication/medical device needed? Yes No _____
Does family have a dental home? Yes No Do you need a dental referral? _____
Is either parent retired or disabled? No Yes _____

Nutrition/Subsistence:

Do you have enough food on a regular basis? Yes No _____
Do you receive Link/Snap? Yes No Do you receive Women, Infants and Children (WIC)? Yes No _____
Are you able to prepare nutritious meals? Yes No Would you like guidance in preparing meals? Yes No _____
Would you like assistance/guidance with reaching desired weight? Yes No _____

Clothing:

Does your family have clothing that's appropriate for each season? Yes No _____
Do you have access to laundry facilities Yes No _____

Transportation: (circle all that apply)

Do you have a driver's license? Yes No Have you ever held a drivers license? Yes No _____
Do you own a car? Yes No If no do you have access to a car? Yes No _____
Do you have auto insurance? Yes No _____
Do you Utilizes City Link public transportation? Yes No If so are you able to afford bus passes? Yes No _____

Legal Assistance Services: (circle all that apply)

Do you needs assistance with: Establishing court ordered child support * Court cost * Employer/employee dispute * tenant/landlord dispute * Obtaining order of protection * immigration * DCFS * separation/divorce * Visitation * Adoption * Establishing Legal Paternity * Other _____

Mental Health Services:

Are you currently: Receiving counseling, taking prescription medication, in a support group, receiving substance abuse treatment, in need of a counseling referral Yes No _____

Head Start Involvement:

Want to serve on Parent Policy Council? Yes No _____
Are you able to participate in parent center meetings? Yes No _____
Are you able to volunteer in your child's classroom? Yes No _____

Changes

Has your family experienced any of the following changes in the last year?
Marriage * Separation * Divorce * Family Member Incarcerated * Serious Illness * Loss of Job * Death
Change in school or work * Birth of a child * Move to a new home * Other _____

Do you currently have a service plan with another agency, such as : Lutheran Social Service, Catholic Social Service, Counseling And Family Services? Agency _____ Caseworker _____

Family Goals

You may establish a employment, education and/or personal goal for yourself and your child.

Long Term Goal: _____

Short Term Goal: _____

Barriers to Goal Achievement: _____

Activities Steps toward goal	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	Date Accomplished

Questions/Comments/Concerns: _____

Print Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature _____

Family Services Specialist _____ Date _____