

# OUR PROGRAMS

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE** The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers assistance with energy costs to households meeting income eligibility requirements. The Emergency Assistance Program is a one-time service provided to people whose utilities have been disconnected because of non-payment. Through the Emergency Furnace Program homeowners are able to receive furnace repairs or replacements.

**HOME WEATHERIZATION** The Weatherization program helps eligible applicants by sealing cracks, installing attic and wall insulation, repairing windows and doors, or repairing/replacing heating and/or central air units.

**HOME REHABILITATION** Helps bring your home up to county code by contracting repairs such as roofing and siding, electrical and plumbing repairs, and repairs to walls and porches.

**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. Head Start provides transportation, nutritious meals, health services, individualized training and special needs programs.

**EARLY HEAD START** Early Head Start offers education, information, special activities, and help in accessing child care services for you and your child age 3 and younger. The cornerstones of Early Head



Start are child, family, community and staff development.

## **FOSTER GRANDPARENTS**

This program offers seniors 55 or older the opportunity to remain physically active through volunteer service in their community by providing infants, toddlers and preschool children one-on-one daily attention. Foster Grandparents work 20-40 hours a week in schools, hospitals, drug treatment centers, Head Start and Early Head Start centers and at day care centers in Peoria and Tazewell counties. They receive a monthly, tax-free stipend and an annual physical. Volunteers are also provided with transportation to and from their work site, meals while on duty and reimbursement for mileage.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION SCHOLARSHIPS**

Community Action Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1500 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. Applicants must complete a needs assessment form and interview prior to acceptance. Scholarships are renewable. Applications are generally accepted between May and July for the following fall semester.

**PEORIA AREA FOOD BANK** Serves 5 counties in Central Illinois, providing over 80 active food pantries with food and USDA Commodities. Although the Food Bank relies heavily on corporate manufacturers and government funding for food donations, it also receives support from private donors and annual can-a-thons in the Peoria area.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM** Provides



assistance to older Americans (age 60 or older) or disabled persons in obtaining needed prescription medications. Participants in the Prescription Drug program must be income eligible.

## **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 but will not exceed 14 days. Client must meet eligibility requirements.

# AND SERVICES

## COMMUNITY CORE INITIATIVE

PCCEO has partnered with Greater Peoria LISC to offer the Community Core Initiative on Peoria's South Side. The Community Core Initiative aims to create demonstrable, visual impact that addresses South Side as identified by residents and local leaders: blight and safety. This comprehensive approach aims to achieve a "ripple effect" of positive change. Resources and community assets are focused within designated blocks within each neighborhood to create core improvement zones. The Community Core Initiative includes a number of grant programs designed to address resident concerns: Pain & Porch Program; Lawn & Landscape Program; Locks & Lights Program; Vacant Lot Program.

## PEORIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Okpara, L.P., a housing partnership which owns the [Peoria Affordable Housing Initiative](#), has constructed a total of 140 single family homes on Peoria's south side through assistance from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, South Side Bank, Busey Bank and Mid Illinois Bank. This initiative, in demonstration of its commitment to revitalizing our neighborhoods, has begun to allow the occupants of the home to purchase them at a purchase price of no greater than the original mortgage.

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS CATERING** At present, the PCCEO kitchen serves over 800 meals a day, five days a week to participants in the Senior Meals and Head Start programs. Services of Central Illinois Catering are available for weddings, parties, receptions, etc., and moneys received from such catering serve as fundraising for PCCEO.

**MEDIA SERVICES** Provides marketing and public relations for PCCEO in order to promote the organization and its programs. Media Services distributes information on the agency via video and printed publications.

## OUR MISSION

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.

## OUR VISION

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. Helping People, Changing Lives, for every stage of Life.

### WE ARE:

Leaders in human service organizations

Educators of our young children, youth and adults

Advocates for the interests of others

Providers of quality services to those in need

Servants of our Community

Innovators dedicated to creative solutions

Partners in economic growth

### WE CARE!

[www.pcceo.org](http://www.pcceo.org)

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PEORIA CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC



**"COMMUNITY ACTION  
CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES,  
EMBODIES THE SPIRIT  
OF HOPE, IMPROVES  
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AMERICA A BETTER PLACE  
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