



mid michigan
COMMUNITY
Action

"Helping People, Changing Lives."

Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report



Making
Stimulus Dollars
Work

Board of Directors

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Mid Michigan Community Action's 18 member Board of Directors is comprised of three members from each of the agency's six county service area. From each county there is a democratically elected representative of low-income people, a public official and a member from the private sector.

This board make-up ensures that low-income families and individuals are represented by every sector within our communities. In addition to the current board members listed above, the following people served on the Board in FY 2010: Beth Reynolds, Otis Wilson, and Tom Tucholski.

Executive Message



Residents in our local communities have received tremendous support this past year from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The agency has been able to offer unique and enhanced services meeting critical needs of our customers. We were fortunate recipients of nearly \$10 million in ARRA funds supporting programs from 2010-2012.

The stimulus funding has allowed us to significantly expand Weatherization creating more energy efficient homes saving residents needed cash; emergency services were expanded to include assistance with medical, dental, and optical care, back to school, heat and utility, foreclosure prevention, food assistance and specialized services for area veterans and college students; and, our homeless programs were expanded to stabilize more people who need a place to call home.

The timing of this funding was extremely helpful, as the fragile economy introduced us to a different population of people known as the “newly poor.” These are folks that have typically held jobs with decent wages, but have now found themselves without employment or at risk of foreclosure. The majority of these new customers state that they “have never asked for help before.” Therefore our customer base has grown and fortunately our funding has stayed in tune with the needs.

Our Michigan residents continue to demonstrate resiliency as they await a statewide recovery. May we hope that the ARRA funds have held them over temporarily or created new long-term solutions allowing them to move towards self-sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Sutton".

Jill Sutton, Executive Director



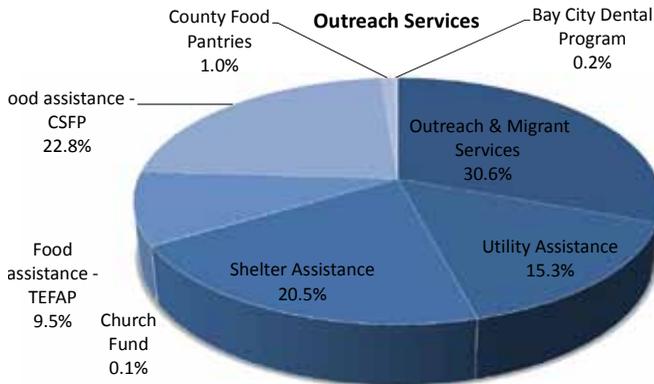
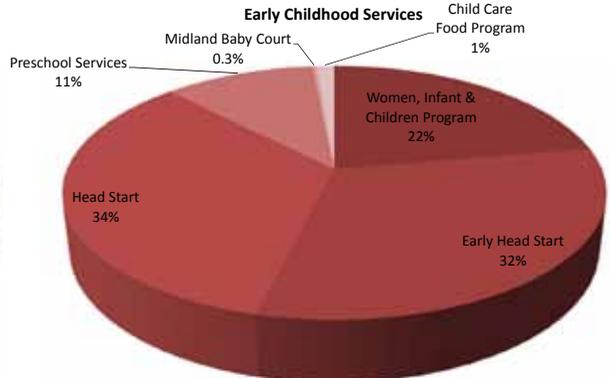
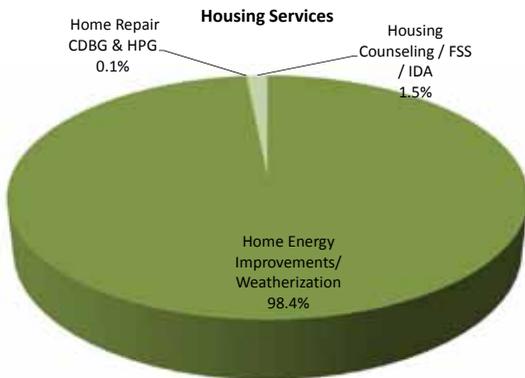
Fiscal Policy

Mid Michigan Community Action increased both the number of households served (7.9%) and the amount expended in services (37.2%). Especially notable were the increases in Outreach Services (73% increase in households) and Utility Assistance (74.9%)

Outreach Services	Households	Amount
Outreach & Migrant Services	8,933	\$1,790,549
Utility Assistance	3,118	\$893,595
Shelter Assistance	565	\$1,198,935
Emergency Church Fund	38	\$3,276
Food Assistance--TEFAP	3,882	\$554,668
Food Assistance--CSFP	2,540	\$1,332,833
County Food Pantries	881	\$60,865
Bay City Dental Program	33	\$10,000
Subtotal	19,990	\$5,844,721
Housing Services		
Home Energy Improvements	482	\$3,487,972
Home Repair CDBG & HPG	2	\$4,978
Housing Counseling/FSS/IDA	141	\$52,535
Subtotal	625	\$3,545,485
Early Childhood Services		
Women, Infants & Children Program	3,136	\$1,438,341
Early Head Start	239	\$2,039,115
Head Start	194	\$2,186,722
Preschool Services	104	\$692,759
Midland Baby Court	12	\$19,751
Child Care Food Program		\$79,915
Subtotal	3,685	\$6,456,603
TOTAL	24,300	\$15,846.809

Fiscal Policy

Mid Michigan Community Action's programs are divided into three departments: Early Childhood Services, Outreach Services and Housing Services. The following is a breakdown of the dollars spent on each department's services. Dollars expended for each department were as follows for FY 2010: Outreach Services a 27.1% increase; Early Childhood Services 26.4% increase; Housing Services a 92.2% increase. This increase is primarily due to ARRA funding.



Early Childhood Services

Year in Review

Mid Michigan Community Action's Early Childhood Services is composed of programs serving children ages 0-5 and their families including Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Teen Parenting Program. Over the past few years the department has worked to fully integrate 0-3 and 3-5 programs to ensure maximum program impact for the children and families served. These efforts have produced the following highlights for FY 2010:

- Increase in transitions from Early Head Start to Head Start and Preschool Services
- Highly successful completion of triennial federal Head Start review
- Increase in involvement of positive male role models throughout the program
- Every child in the Early Childhood Services received up to nine books from "Reading is First" and First Book distributions
- Increased efficiency through the blending of enrollment/recruitment and tracking processes
- Over 3,650 children received Early Childhood services
- Increased collaboration with community partners and collaborative bodies



Early Childhood Services

The Impact of ARRA

While Early Childhood Services did not receive ARRA funding for direct services, it helped to supplement and enhance program infrastructure. Benefits were two-fold, it allowed for a COLA increase, thereby improving the economic security of agency program staff, and it provided for additional training and technical assistance.



Looking Forward

Services for 3 to 5 year-olds have been impacted by the state legislature's decision to reduce funding for the Michigan School Readiness Program (preschool) which resulted in the agency's loss of funding for this program in FY 2011. Despite this unfortunate setback, Early Childhood Services will look to enhance and expand our services in the following ways in FY 2011:

- Successful implementation of a tuition-based preschool classroom to help offset the loss of services in the area
- Increased community presence through community resource events, family programs and emphasis on male role-model involvement
- Identification of additional funding opportunities to expand or enhance our services

Outreach Services

Impact of ARRA

The Outreach Services Department is made up of three specific areas: Emergency Services, Commodity Foods, and Homeless Assistance. All three of these areas were greatly impacted by the release of ARRA funds through program expansion, job creation or capacity building. The following outcomes highlight the successes of this past year in review:

- Thousands benefitted from expanded services that included assistance with heat and utility, medical/dental/optical support, food vouchers, back to school clothing and supplies, mortgage & property tax support, and transportation assistance.
- A pilot program was initiated for foreclosure prevention strengthening the services available through the agency's housing education program.
- New partnerships were developed with the Veterans Programs and Mid Michigan Community College to offer emergency services to these specific populations.
- Five full time jobs were created to support the enhanced programs.
- The provision of homeless assistance was greatly expanded offering rental support and case management to this struggling population.

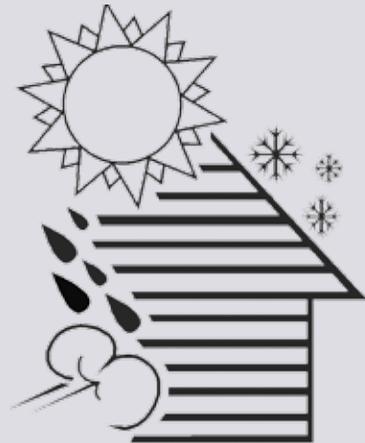


Housing Services

Impact of ARRA

Weatherization, one of the programs within the agency's Housing Services Department, received a substantial boost in funding under President Obama's energy plan. Over \$8 million was awarded to the agency to expand home energy savings to more households in the local service area for the next three years (\$243 million statewide). The timing of this expansion has benefitted the agency's customers on household energy savings as well as employed many contractors who were looking at diminishing work in the deteriorating economy. Here are the accomplishments in review of 2010:

- 15 new jobs were created; 8 within the agency for inspectors, intake workers, and support staff while 7 new jobs were created by the contractors; and, 24 additional jobs were retained by the contractors to meet the needs of the growing program.
- The number of homes weatherized was more than doubled this past year over previous production completing 545 jobs.
- The Weatherization Program participated in Energy Optimization and Direct Connect (sponsored by the utility companies) which has brought in surplus funds and expanded services to the customers to further their energy savings.
- Staff has participated in specialized training to expand their expertise on energy improvements while also increasing the organizations ability to conduct Weatherization on multi-unit buildings.



*Weatherization
Works*

ARRA: Agency Impact

Overall, ARRA stimulus has impacted the agency at multiple levels including direct service, job creation, human resources, training, technical assistance and agency infrastructure. Recovery was the focus, and the agency utilized the funds for a two-fold attack: creating jobs both directly by adding positions internally and indirectly through sub-contracting opportunities with the Weatherization program; and by providing enhanced and innovative services to a low-income population struggling to survive in the dire mid-Michigan economy.

Below are some of the highlights of Mid Michigan Community Action's ARRA impacts:

- **17 positions were created within the agency**
- **2,470 individuals (1,412 households) received services utilizing ARRA funds**
- **31% of those households reported zero income meaning their situations were extreme**
- **1,140 received emergency assistance (food, utilities, shelter, etc.)**
- **Over 110 individuals received services that successfully assisted them in their employment goals**
- **21 community partnerships were created or enhanced due to ARRA related projects**



ClareCastle Senior Housing

Fourth and Beech was once a place where you could get an ice cream cone on a hot summer day. Clare County residents who can recall those bygone days of getting ice cream at Thayer's Dairy have now moved into ClareCastle, a senior housing complex which opened in July 2010.

Located at 144 W. Fourth St., ClareCastle is an affordable limited income community featuring a relaxed feel and spanning more than 35,000 square feet over four levels. A total of 24, two bedroom residential units are included in the upper levels of the complex. Each unit features a private balcony, fully equipped kitchen, full size washer and dryer, individual central AC and heat, internet access, cable TV hookup, carport, 24 hour emergency maintenance and personal emergency assistance.

Fourth Street Senior Housing LDHA LP, a partnership between Mid Michigan Community Action and P.S. Equities of Mount Pleasant, has provided the four-story complex which houses the Clare County Senior Center on the main floor and the living units on the second, third and fourth floors.

The property for the project was provided by Mid Michigan Community Action. Demolition, environmental and site preparation was financed through a Housing and Community Development Fund grant to Mid Michigan Community Action. Financing was provided by Isabella Bank and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The site has also been designated as a Brownfield Project which makes it eligible for Michigan Business Tax credits.





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