TWO RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL OF PUBLIC OFFCIALS PY23 AGENCY REPORT



"Community Development Through Regional Cooperation"

Table of Contents

About TRRC - Mission, Vision, Values, and History Director's Statement Successes **Community Actions Programs** Home Weatherization Workforce Development **Community Development Financial Report** TRRC by the Numbers **Board Members** Services Provided Funders/Donors



MISSION:

To grow stronger and more positive communities through relationships. As a connected community of individuals, families, businesses and government; we focus on supporting the basic needs of our community, fostering resiliency, and developing economic opportunity for all.

VISION:

A thriving community of inter-connected individuals, families, businesses, and government.

VALUES: SERVICE

TRRC provides a safe environment for individuals and communities to build relationships and identify needs.

INTEGRITY

TRRC maintains trustworthy relationships, internally and externally, so that our standards are beyond reproach.

DIGNITY

TRRC mindfully meets people where they are with respect and confidentiality.

EMPOWERMENT

TRRC creates connections that make individuals stronger and more resilient. These connections help TRRC build a thriving community where everyone's voice is heard.

SUSTAINABILITY

TRRC is committed to stewarding resources for long term growth and self-sufficiency.

COMMUNITY

TRRC strengthens relationships to promote interconnectedness and sense of belonging for all.



Two Rivers was established in 1974 as a way to assist local units of government within the counties of Adams, Brown, Pike, and Schuyler with professional planning assistance. The Community Development Department is involved in research and planning for the physical, social, and economic development needs of their member counties. The Community Services Department provides services to the low-income of the area.

The council began administering the first services targeted to low-income families in 1976 with the Weatherization program. In 1982 the Council was formally recognized as a Community Action Program (CAP) agency by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and now provides a wide range of direct services to low and moderate-income families in the counties of Adams, Brown, Pike, and Schuyler. Those services include emergency shelter and meals, rent, utilities, food, furniture, clothing, scholarships, a variety of youth services, housing rehabilitation, weatherization, a small business loan program, and much more.

The agency administers the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program for Adams, Brown, Pike, and Schuyler counties. WIOA works with low-income and untrained individuals, displaced workers and displaced farmers, low-income youth, and business expansion and retention.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In this past year, we celebrated 49 years of community involvement, accomplished a significant amount of work, and achieved many milestones. Our team has shown exceptional dedication and commitment in the face of challenges, and we have emerged stronger and more prepared for the future.

We have seen committed staff retire and move on to new things and had a close colleague, that brought a lot to the agency over the years, pass away. We have also welcomed new members to our team who have brought fresh ideas, perspectives, and energy. The diversity of our team has enriched our work culture and bolstered our organizational capacity.

Over the past year, we have worked to expand our community recognition and involvement. Our commitment to making a positive community impact has seen us engage with local communities in various ways. We partnered with Ameren Illinois to distribute air conditioners over the summer, sponsored local youth baseball, and assisted with many community and hiring events. This work has brought about tangible benefits for our neighbors, and it has also fostered a stronger sense of purpose and connection among our team members. As we move into the next year, we are excited to continue these efforts and find new ways to contribute positively to our community.

The agency has been working to improve our building in Pittsfield, IL, and make it a better place for our services in Pike County. As we close in on the end of 2023, construction is nearing completion, and we should be finished shortly. The staff located in that building have been working tirelessly to make sure services have remained available. We have many community partners that have assisted us in that effort. Our thrift store staff have also taken this opportunity to find new and creative ways to keep the thrift store open in some capacity. Our online and parking lot sales have kept our store open even while the building has been closed to the public. As we end one year and prepare to begin another, it's incredibly gratifying to look back at our community engagement achievements. The connections we've fostered, the lives we've impacted, and the change we've initiated – these are the accomplishments that truly matter. They speak to who we are as an organization and underscore our commitment to growing stronger and more positive communities.

While we're proud of what we've accomplished, we also know that the journey of building a thriving community of interconnected individuals, families, businesses, and government is never truly complete. There is always more work to be done, more lives to impact, and more positive change to effect. As we move into the new year, we remain dedicated to our mission of enriching our community. We look forward to deepening our existing initiatives and exploring new opportunities to make a difference.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our team of dedicated staff, board members, partners, and community members who have joined us in this commitment. Your support and participation have been invaluable. Here's to another year of community, collaboration, and positive impact as we celebrate our 50th anniversary as an organization.

JEREMY OSHNER

TRRC Executive Director

Success Stories



Sarah Littlefield, of Pittsfield, Illinois, received an Individual Achievement Award representing Region 14 at the 2022 Illinois Workforce Partnership Luncheon on September 8th at the Crown Plaza in Springfield. The Individual Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose progression through the services leading to their goal was timely and focused, and who attained a credential and/or job in their field of training. Sarah epitomizes what the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Western Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, and Two River Regional Council of Public Officials' Workforce Development clients can achieve. She was determined to make a better life for herself and her children. She knew she was capable of more, and she was right.

Sarah started in the program at \$15 per hour barely making her monthly expenses, but she was able to keep her Pell Grant. She later received a raise in 2022, and this enabled her to move into a fourbedroom home. As an LPN, Sarah now makes \$27/hour at her current employer. Sarah has almost doubled her income in less than a year, moved into a home that fits her family, and has a sustaining career thanks to the WIOA program.

Sarah stated, "I did want to add a huge thank you to you, and the WIOA program. I couldn't have done this without the support. Your program allowed me to not only complete the program, but absolutely thrive. With your help, and the support from WIOA, I graduated valedictorian."



Particia Crebs lives in a three-bedroom Dutch Colonial Revival style home which was estimated to have been built in the 1920's. During our intake process, she reported to us that the furnace had issues. We assessed the home and found it to be heated by a 42-year-old forced air furnace rated at 100,000 BTU (over-sized for the home and only designed to be 70% efficient). After calculating the heat loss of the home to determine the proper size furnace, we were able to install an 80,000 BTU model designed for 95% efficiency. In addition, we were able to replace two window air conditioners with more efficient models, replace her 41-year-old natural draft water heater with a power vent water heater, add R40 insulation to the attic and R12 to the crawlspace walls and rim joists.

We were able to replace 24 incandescent and CFL lightbulbs with much more efficient LED bulbs and replace her 38-year-old refrigerator with a more efficient Energy Star rated model. We replaced the weatherstripping and sweeps on her doors and sealed several areas where air was able to infiltrate through the walls and around the windows. Several Health & Safety items were installed. This included smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, an ASHRAE bath fan, a new dryer vent kit, and a Visqueen moisture barrier over the dirt floor of a crawlspace area. The program's goal is to achieve energy savings of 20% to 30% on the homes we weatherize. I believe it is likely Patricia's home will see savings greater than that, and the climate control appliances will be safer, more reliable, and make the home more comfortable.

"Two Rivers recently fixed up my mom's house through the weatherization program. What a great program! Everyone involved was very nice and professional. My mom is 89. She will probably be able to stay comfortably in her home of 63 years, several more years, thanks to Two Rivers. Quentin Bremmer was very helpful during the process as well as your whole team. Please pass our thanks to everyone at Two Rivers." - Tony Crebs

Community Services

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials is a member of the Illinois Association of_Community Action Agencies. TRRC provides staff to develop and administer programs and policies that further the efforts of local governments and aid the economically disadvantaged throughout the region. The TRRC Community Service Center is located at 706 Maine Street in Quincy, IL. Community Action includes programs like the Food Pantries, Reachout Center, and Energy Assistance.



Funds are available through different programs that will assist households in emergency situations.



The TRRC Brown County Christmas Basket Project contains everything needed to prepare a holiday meal, including a turkey and ham.

The Community Services Department provides services through a variety of programs that help move households toward self-sufficiency.



TRRC administers utility assistance programs including Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), and Warm Neighbors, Cool Friends



Home Weatherization



The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) is designed to help low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient while increasing the comfort of their homes. Additionally, IHWAP addresses some home health and safety issues especially where they are connected to indoor air quality. IHWAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Supplemental Low Income Energy Assistance Program (SLEAP).

Although most dwellings waste energy, different types of houses and apartments have different energy problems. Depending on the circumstances and condition of your dwelling, some of the following weatherization work may be done: 1.) Air-sealing structural cracks, holes, windows and doors with weather-stripping, foam, and caulking. 2.) Insulating attics, walls, foundations, and/or floors.

3.) Replacing heating and cooling systems when doing so results in increased energy efficiency.
4.) Baseload measures such as LED lamps, energysaving replacement refrigerators and /or freezers, faucet aerators, and low-flow showerheads.
5.) Health and Safety items such as limited moisture control barriers, exhaust ventilation, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors.



Workforce Development



Workforce Development promotes the development and implementation of workforce education strategies for occupations in high-growth/high-demand industries. Workforce education often includes job search assistance, assessment, vocational classroom training, work experience, and supportive services.

It further develops and implements workforce education programs that enable low-skilled, low-income, adults to embark on career pathways and earn family sustaining wages. Dislocated workers receive training and assistance to find and retain work after a layoff.





Some assistance is available for help with resumes, job applications, career interest inventories, referral to other appropriate agencies, and applying for Unemployment Insurance benefits. These services are also available in each county office by appointment. Eligible youth, ages 17-24, in or out of school, can receive assistance with getting their GED, workforce education, work-based learning, or apprenticeship opportunities. Veterans receive preferential treatment.



Community Development



The Community Development Department is dedicated to assisting local governments in improving their communities. From strategic planning to project administration the Community Development staff assists local communities meet their needs. The department researches and finds funding opportunities for projects such as infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, transportation improvements and disaster mitigation. Once funding is secured the Community Development staff can assist in implementing these projects. Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials assists local governments to find, gain access to and benefit from various programs on State and Federal levels as well as non-governmental sources. This includes project planning, grant application preparation and administration. The Community Development Department provides economic development services for the region of Adams, Brown, Cass, Pike, Schuyler and Scott counties, through a grant from the Economic Development Administration. In order to facilitate the growth of the region, TRRC partners with other agencies to do surveys and studies.

FINANCIAL REPORT

-Client Benefit* Annual Report Analysis

*Client Benefit would be monies that is paid to or on behalf of clients for services provided by TRRC.

Depart	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Yr Avg	FY23 % Inc		
WorkForce							
SNAP	11,916.82	17,434.56	47,434.67				
TANF	4,330.73	4,762.65	17,736.42				
S2S	8,000.00	3,444.93					
Total	24,247.55	25,642.14	65,171.09	38,353.59	154.16%		
Liheap							
State	789,809.74	651,504.50 1	.,434,908.43				
HHS	1,994,789.26	3,348,509.78					
Amerer		2,000.00	42,127.00				
Total	2,800,099.00		4,472,781.53	3,758,298.27	11.76%		
CSBG	95,519.62	92,511.62	147,623.28	111,884.84	59.57%		
WX	27 5 0 2 7 4	104 504 65	100 070 01				
DOE	27,582.74	104,564.65	123,378.91				
State HHS	71,186.53 32,079.37	84,410.84 158,401.85	193,223.03				
Amerei		-	3,733.96				
Total	59,662.11	334,153.03	404,746.74	266,187.29	21.13%		
, o tat	00,002.11	00 1,100.00	101,710.71	200,207.20	21.10/0		
Other							
Housi	ing 151,903.00	181,596.00	176,582.00				
Uway	-	21,088.17	24,268.97				
Food	569,352.35	266,731.86	30,545.65				
	ol Supply -	2,401.92	-				
Toy Drive 250.53							
	er 40,595.00	·	-				
	AP 27,958.40						
Total	762,100.88	540,371.35	469,292.22				
Total	3,741,629.16	4,994,692.42	5,559,614.86	4,765,312.15	11.31%		
Total E	xp 4,630,000.0	0 6,241,330.00	7,313,470.59	6,061,600.20	17.18%		
%	80.813%	80.026%	76.019%	78.615%			

TRRC By The Numbers Community Services Department Annual Report

REACHOUT Thrift Store: Our REACHOUT Thrift store located at 120 S Madison in Pittsfield continues to serve Pike County and surrounding areas. Clothing and household items are available at a low cost; we provide for fire victims and the homeless. We work with our local school district on various projects. Our historic building is undergoing renovations and we look forward to the grand opening.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The LIHEAP program served **3,391 households** totaling **\$3,521,748.00**. The LIHEAP program is designed to assist households with their winter energy costs by providing a one-time benefit paid directly to the vendor. A component of this grant is emergency furnace assistance. We were able to assist eleven owner-occupied homeowners by making their heating systems safe and energy efficient totaling **\$52,233.81**.

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP): New this year. This program provided funds to assist eligible households with water and sewer bills. We were able to assist **971 households** totaling **\$262,375.00**. Payments are sent to water districts on behalf of the household.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP): We assisted **254 households** totaling **\$453,261.00**. This program is designed to make energy bills more affordable and to help maintain home energy service throughout the year.

Rental Assistance: We were able to assist **123** households with rental assistance totaling **\$59,405.00**. We were able to assist **33** households that were affected by COVID with their rental needs total of **\$25.511.00**.

Car Repairs: We assisted **12 households** with car repairs that needed to get to their job, job interviews, or doctor appointments totaling **\$ 5,059.24**.

Food Pantries: We have food pantries in Brown and Pike Counties. The pantries receive donations from local churches, gardeners, Boy Scout food drives, common carriers, private donations, and Dot Foods. This past year, we received **22,608 lbs**. of donated food items from the communities. Dot Foods donated a total of **82,027 lbs**. between the two pantries. Access Illinois donated **19,525 lbs**. of deer meat to our Pike County pantry and **6,206 lbs**. to our Brown County pantry.

Our Brown County food pantry served an average of **90-100 families per week**. Pike County served an average of **180 families weekly**. The food pantries are seeing an increased need in our communities. In addition to food, we can provide hygiene and cleaning supplies sporadically throughout the year.

Our Brown County food pantry received **\$5,000.00** for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program through Dot Foods. We were allowed to select items to stock our pantry shelves. A Dot semi truck delivered to the pantry and TLC volunteers helped unload the food and stock the pantry shelves.

Family Dinner Project: TRRC applied for and received a grant for the Family Dinner project through the Tracy Family Foundation. This project focuses on families coming together for meals. Our food pantry in Brown County fills food boxes with ingredients to prepare a meal. Some boxes include recipes and conversation ideas. We ask families to complete a survey. If they complete the survey, they are entered into a drawing to win kitchen items. The kitchen items are matched to the items in the box to prepare. We purchased a crock pot and baking sheets for prizes, with additional prizes for future surveys.

Back to School Project: TRRC offers school supply applications in Brown County, Pike County, and in Schuyler County. Bookbags, markers, crayons, pencils, pens, highlighters, expo markers, rulers, pencil pouches, erasers, colored pencils, folders, paper, and notebooks, Kleenex, and hygiene kits (including shampoo, conditioner, bars of soap, deodorant, and razors for older children) are provided. Local churches provide support to this project financially and with purchasing socks and undergarments. In Brown County, The Brown County State Bank provides shoes for children. The kids can view the shoes and pick out which ones they like.

Christmas Basket Project: In 2022 TRRC became the lead on this project. We continued to keep this day as a drive-through event at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. We were able to continue with home deliveries to our elderly in the community. This project starts in July with purchasing food as sales allow, local farmers volunteering to donate a pig for processing, and securing a local locker to process for our December date. In October we partnered with Brown County United Way for a local food drive. In 2022, we served **272 families** from Brown County. This is truly a community project with the help of RSVP, IL Dept. of Corrections Clayton Work Camp, Brown County High School students, Dot TLC, local churches, and community members.

Christmas Toy Give Away: In December we allow parents and grandparents the opportunity to come to the TRRC office at a scheduled time and choose a toy for their child or grandchild to unwrap at Christmas. Richard Johnson and Patty Jennings coordinates community donations, and Quails Unlimited provides toys, stocking stuffers, underwear, and socks.

Kids Coat Project: New this past year the Knights of Columbus asked us to partner with them to provide coats to children in need in our community. Hats and gloves were also available thanks to local donations.

Scholarship Program (DCEO): Alexis Smith received the Frances L. Snyder Memorial Scholarship from Two Rivers Regional Council for the school year 2022-2023. With this scholarship, she attended both Blessing Riemann College of Nursing and Quincy University where she is planning on graduating with her bachelor's for Science of Nursing.

Weatherization Department Annual Report

28 homes were Weatherized during the Program Year of 2023. Total costs to upgrade homes was a little over **\$360,000**.

The goals of the Weatherization Program are:

- 1.) Help reduce energy bills by making homes more energy efficient.
- 2.) Increasing comfort in homes
- 3.) Fix health and safety concerns
- 4.) Make the client feel safer!

Improving the energy efficiency of a residence can reduce the energy demand and may drastically decrease utility bills.

The work completed would not be possible without the help our hard-working contractors: E & L Siding, Bruening Heating and A/C, Vinson and Sill Inc., and Prairie Insulation.

Workforce Development Department Annual Report

TRRC Workforce Development seeks to prepare individuals to embark on successful career paths to help them become self-sufficient by providing personal and employment skill development to meet the employment need for our area. This is accomplished through our multiple workforce programs. The programs we offer allow us the ability to assist individuals with a vast array of employment services. We offer services and workshops to assist with job search, résumé writing, interviewing, soft skills, and anything else that someone might need for employment. We also offer assistance with apprenticeships, work-based learning, internships, and vocational training.

Workforce Development has been a component of TRRC for over thirty years. Over the years, TRRC Workforce has demonstrated the ability to secure community partners for workforce programs. TRRC has developed relationships with many employers, state agencies, and community-based organizations in the four county service areas.

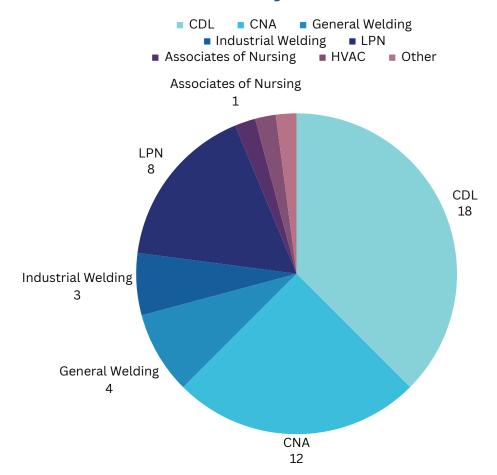
As the federal mandates for the pandemic ended, employees returned to work, and employers sought new ways to maintain their workforce numbers. Job openings are everywhere, and the Illinois minimum wage continues to increase yearly. A new employer moved into the tri-state area requiring over 300 new welders. Renewed partnerships re-opened internship and work experience opportunities to clients. Healthcare, manufacturing, and logistic fields continue to dominate the help-wanted advertisements. Our department staff were able to assist our customers in obtaining **47 credentials** in various employment sectors. Many customers were recruited by employers while still in vocational training. These credentials assist with their immediate and long-term employability in this area. This also increases our skilled workforce in the community.

The impact of our customers attending schools was spread over all our four counties, with many attending John Wood Community College on Quincy, Pittsfield and Mount Sterling campuses, Spoon River campus in Rushville, and Hannibal-LaGrange University. Each of our communities and employers reap the benefits of a better trained workforce.

TRRC Workforce Development Employment Sectors

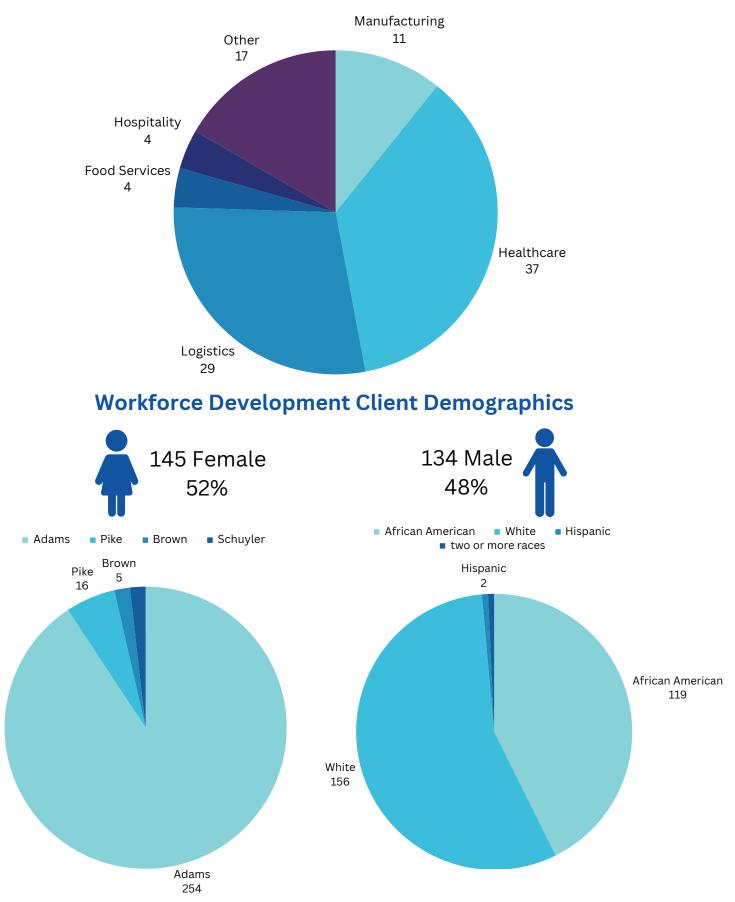
TRRC Workforce Development strives to help individuals gain employment that is full-time, head of household wages, and that have good long-term employability. To that end, we target our placement and training programs for manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare based on local labor market information. In Program Year 2022, participants gained employment or obtained new employment.

For PY22, there was a total of **279 program participants** with **13 co-enrollments** across all programs.



Placement by Credentials

Placement by Industry



Clients included five veterans. Seventeen clients were homeless upon acceptance into the program.

"The Two Rivers Workforce program has been and continues to be an important partner to the John Wood Community College Adult Education program. Representatives have presented information on program services to GED classes in all of our centers, increasing student awareness and accessibility to job training and employment opportunities. During the past year, the program has provided funding for GED completers who have transitioned to CNA classes and in their work with the ACER program, Workforce has helped students obtain industry recognized credentials which led a recent GED completer to full time employment with a local manufacturing company. The Workforce partnership is able to provide Adult Education students with both financial and support services to make full time, head of household employment a reality." - Monica Foster with JWCC Adult Education.

Community Development Department Annual Report

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials has helped over **100 clients** in the past year with rental assistance applications using the Illinois Rental Payment Program.

TRRC has helped over **300 clients** in the past 18 months with applications and information using the Homeowners Assistance Fund program and Court Based Eviction Program totaling near **\$1,000,000** in assistance.

The Two Rivers Land Bank Authority, which is overseen by TRRC, has started the process of getting over **45 properties** out of abandoned status and into a productive and usable status that benefits the communities.

TRRC assisted over **35 businesses** in the past year to apply for emergency grant funds to aid with Covid 19 based issues.

Board Members

Governing Board Members - Establish corporate and administrative policies, authorize agreements and contracts, adopt the budget, approve committee appointments

County	Voting Member		
Adams	Jon McCoy		
Adams	Dave Bellis		
Adams	Keith Callaway		
Adams	Steven DeMoss		
Adams	Bill Stalder		
Adams	Mark Sorensen		
Adams	Steve McQueen		
Brown	Mark Yingling	TREASURER	
Brown	Jenna Harrelson		
Pike	Mark Sprague		
Pike	Derek Ross	CHAIR	
Pike	Natalie Roseberry	VICE CHAIR	
Pike	Joseph Cobb		
Schuyler	Tim Kettering	SECRETARY	
Schuyler	Chet Esther		
City	Non-Voting Member		
Quincy	Mayor Mike Troup		
Mt. Sterling	Sterling Mayor Matt Bradbury		
Pittsfield	Mayor Gary Mendenhall		
Rushville	Mayor Carson Klitz		

Community Action Board - Assists program staff in establishing goals and objectives for the Community Action Programs

TOT THE COMMUNICY AC	Tor the community Action rograms						
County	Member						
Adams	Sara Goodapple						
Adams	Robin Thomson	VICE CHAIR					
Adams	Brittany Weise						
Brown	Heather McClelland						
Brown	Charla Meyers						
Brown	Heidi Welty						
Pike	Michelle Gates	CHAIR					
Pike	Connie Lerch	SECRETARY/TREASURER					
Pike	Reta Hoskin						
Schuyler	Burl Boyd						
Schuyler	Holly Cain						
Schuyler	Mindy Garrett						

Foundation Board Members - Comprised of Governing and Community Action Board Members. Manages the affairs of the Foundation.

Mark Yingling Derek Ross Natalie Roseberry Tim Kettering Keith Callaway Gary Mendenhall Sara Goodapple Brittany Weise Holly Cain

Services Provided

Utility Assistance and Reconnect - Worknet One-Stop Facility - Home Weatherization - Rental Assistance - Furnace Replacement - On the Job Training - Financial Literacy Training - Supportive Services - Grant - Management - Food Pantries - School Supplies - Scholarships - Thrift Store - Internships - Job Search Assistance -Emergency Shelter - Economic Development - Tuition Assistance

Funders & Donors

Federal Government U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR** U.S. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT State Government ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ILLINOIS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Private ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES TRACY FAMILY FOUNDATION UNITED WAY OF ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SERVING WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS & NORTHEAST MISSOURI



Regional Council of Public Officials "Community Development Through Regional Cooperation"

TRRC wants to thank the community we serve for 49 wonderful years.

trrcopo.org

