

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMMATIC REPORT

CSBG:

- Our Community Gardens Program currently operates at 11 locations across Winnebago and Boone Counties.
- Our Scholarship Program received 15 applications and is currently in the review process. An email will be sent requesting Board volunteers to assist with conducting interviews and providing final recommendations for award selections.
- A request was submitted to the DCEO Grants Manager seeking approval for a 90-day extension of the board vacancy through July 31, 2026. The current CSBG Bylaws are non-compliant and don't align with our board selection board composition.
- As of April 29, 2026, we have fully exhausted our FY26 EBRF funds, assisting a total of 93 households since December 2025. Assistance included: 4 households with transportation needs (car repairs and/or fuel assistance), 32 households with security deposits and/or first month's rent, and 57 households with rental arrears payments to prevent eviction proceedings. This support has helped clients achieve greater stability by addressing critical housing and transportation barriers while allowing them to secure or maintain employment.

CSBG 2026
January -December

Work Programs	Target	Quarter 1 Jan 1-March 31	Quarter 2 April 1-June 30	Quarter 3 Jul 1- Sept 30	Quarter 4 Oct 1-Dec 31	Total	Percent to Target
Work Program 01.011: Skills Training Goal: 26 income eligible persons will complete training in a field that provides a living wage.	23	14	3			17	74%
Work Program 02.062: Scholarship Goal: 12 income eligible persons will receive scholarship	10	0	0			0	0%
Work Program 03.011: Training (Getting-Ahead) Goal: 10 income eligible persons will graduate.	8	0	7			7	88%
Work Program 04.031: Utility Assistance Goal: 10 Income eligible persons will apply for utility assistance. 10 of those who apply will have their needs meet through Community Action.	10	2	0			2	20%
Work Program 04.041: Housing Goal: 85 income eligible persons will apply for deposit/rent for up to three month for financial assistance. 73 households will successfully stabilize their housing.	73	28	12			40	55%
Work Program 04.051 Life Safety Goal: 30 income income eligible households will apply for home repair. 27 of those will have their met through Community Action.	27	5	1			6	22%
Work Program 07.021 Eligibility Determination Goal: 150 household will be screened for risk factors and linked to appropriate services.	145	15	5			20	14%
*Figures reflect up to 5/1/2026							

**FY2026 Homeless Prevention
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026**

Projected to be served	Target	Quarter 1 July 1- Sept 30	Quarter 2 Oct 1- Dec 31	Quarter 3 Jan 1- March 31	Quarter 4 April 1- June 30	Total	Percent to Target
Total number of Household to be served in FY 26.	250	84	140	71	79	374	150%
Total number of households to receive rental assistance.	190	41	66	30	38	175	92%
Total number of households to receive mortgage assistance.	10	1	7	4	2	14	140%
Total number of households to receive utility assistnace	10	3	3	1	1	8	80%
Total number of households to receive security deposit assistance	180	39	64	36	38	177	98%
Eviction Prevention*		17	62	31	37	147	
*This is not asked in the HP application							
*Figures reflect up to 5/1/2026							

HOMELESSNESS:

05/04/2026	Unsheltered	Total
Veterans	0	5
Chronically homeless	3	3
Youth (16-24)	2	26
Families w/children	2	26
Single adult(s)	44	174
Total	51	234

- Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (IMPACT) program—Positions have been filled, 1 started and hoping the other one will start 5/11/26. Completed on-site visit on 4/22/2026.
- HUD CoC grants—Just received award letter for Quarter 2 grants and now waiting for contracts for FY25. FY26 NOFO application is supposed to be out by 5/29. Drastic changes are still expected to come out in this grant.
- State grants—ESG, Rapid Rehousing, Shelter Diversion, Medical Respite, and IL Homeless Response Collaborative FY27 grants are all open and due between 4/27-5/24. Most are ready to be submitted. Up to date on all reporting.
- Street outreach—continues once a week nightly and during weekdays. Numbers are currently down and we are working on figuring out where unsheltered population has gone since the closing of the warming center.
- We re-filled our youth position on 4/27.

- Joe, Luisa, Joel, and Angie are signed up for Home IL Summit 5/12-13 in Springfield. Angie, as part of her appointment to the statewide Community Advisory Council on Homelessness, has been asked to participate in the opening plenary as a panelist.
- We are currently involved in two separate “challenges”:
 - 100 Day Shelter Diversion Challenge—Completed mid-point review. We will meet the “goal” with no problem because we are almost there now. Once we add in partner info, we will already be over the goal number. Re-Institute has submitted a proposal to present at the IL Home Summit and wanted a community to present...they have chosen us because of how much work we have done. They have asked for Tina & Veronica to participate. As of today, we have prevented 58 families from homelessness and are just 2 away from our total goal.
 - Unsheltered Sprint—Goal of housing 10 unsheltered people per month. Working with stakeholders for this goal. This is something we are working with our “coaches” at Built for Zero on. They have made money available to us for things that are gaps in our current system or barriers to getting people housed. We just received approval of the award for \$75,000 to assist with gaps and flex funding for this process. This “sprint” will be on-going at least for the next 6 months. We have currently housed 30 people in 30 months, meeting our goal.

LIHEAP:

- As of April 30, we have provided benefits to 8671 households, and have taken 9136 applications for the 2026 Program Year.
- This program year, to address the known community needs, we held remote OUTREACH activities two days weekly. Our OUTREACH activities continue to be limited to the first 50-60 applicants with all of their documentation. We have switched OUTREACH locations to better coordinate with our Police Department. We are utilizing the Community Rooms at each police station, as well as Loves Park City Hall. The 3 days of the week not at OUTREACH, staff address file completions and submissions, as well as calling customers with special circumstances that prevent them from attending an OUTREACH event. The reason we continue to provide this OUTREACH, is that it is a grant requirement to offer walk-in activity at a minimum of 1 day per week. The volume of people that come to OUTREACH as walk-ins cannot be handled at the 612 N Church office. The FINAL OUTREACH happened on April 30th. For the remainder of the program year (through August 15), the appointments will be handled by phone, and the occasional walk-in customers will be accommodated.
- Partner sites are open and running. However, several of them are done with the bulk of their applications for their residents – which reduces our monthly totals going forward.
- We received a \$2million Budget Modification to the 2026 HHS grant. This additional funding may require some additional promotion and OUTREACH efforts to fully expend the funds.
- **PIPP**
PIPP/COMED issues from the COMED LIDR are mostly resolved. The issue with re-enrolling people who had large arrearages has been fixed. As of MAY 1, we have 778 households enrolled in PIPP (down from 854 at the beginning of the program year). We continue to neutralize all missed payment interventions because of all the confusion in billings this year.
- **LIHEAP Furnaces**
We have 67 Vouchers issued to the vendors. We now have our 2026 HHS funding in LIHEAP.net, and have plenty of funds to successfully take the program through its completion May 31, 2026.
- This will be my (Martha Strawser) final Director Report for LIHEAP, as I am retiring June 1, 2026. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position, and I thank everyone for the opportunities I have had to make a difference in people’s lives, and help them to reduce the damaging effects of poverty on their lifestyle.

WEATHERIZATION:

- We are towards the end of the program year with a closeout date of 6/30/26.
- The States IWX system continues to throw barriers causing delays throughout the process. Although, it has improved there have been new issues.
- We interviewed a candidate and made a job offer this week. We still have one more Weatherization Specialist I position open.
- This is a bid year for us and we have begun the long process. We will have an RFQ open in a few months with the contract begin date of October 1.