

# IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2025

Shawnee Development Council, Inc.

*Helping People. Changing Lives.*



## Overview

- Since 1965, we've been all about helping people and changing lives. From job training and local job creation to lowering energy costs for working families, our programs are built for our community's real needs, and they make a difference every day.
- With the support of CSBG funding, we have been able to increase capacity and enhance our service delivery infrastructure, allowing us to reach more individuals and families, respond more effectively to community needs, and strengthen long-term outcomes for those we serve.

## Success Metrics: LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- The LIHEAP Program supports hardworking individuals and families by providing essential energy assistance to those facing financial hardship.
- We've utilized 97% of our federal grant funds to date, demonstrating not only strong program management but a clear and ongoing need in our community.
- We have processed 3,248 applications in PY25 and distributed \$2.3 million in funds to local utility vendors across our seven-county region, reinforcing our commitment to supporting working families and strengthening our communities.
- In 2025, LIHEAP has added a new partnership with Ameren to bring energy savings directly to clients through an education program.

## Community Engagement

- Beyond our core programs, we engage in outreach that meets people where they are. From health fairs and back-to-school events to food and toy giveaways, we bring services directly to those who need them most. By partnering with schools, churches, nonprofits, and local agencies, we build strong support networks and work together for wide-scale impact.
- We hosted a "Needs of The Community Meeting" giving community members an outlet to identify current challenges and prioritize the most pressing needs within our community. This collaborative effort will help guide future programming and ensure our services remain responsive, relevant, and impactful.

## Program Highlight: WIOA

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- This program provides career counseling, job training, placement assistance, and supportive services for eligible youth and adults. This assistance has empowered students and displaced workers to pursue their educational and career goals with greater confidence and success and has removed barriers to education and employment.
- Through our Work Experience program, participants gain valuable hands-on work experience that builds both practical skills and confidence while contributing to a strong workforce.
- WIOA aided 75 students and displaced workers in the school year and is on track to spend all allocated funding for FY25 due to increased need.

## Empowering Our Team

- We believe that a strong team builds a strong community. That's why we invest in ongoing staff training to ensure our team is equipped with the latest tools, knowledge, and skills to serve effectively.
- This May, we attended our State Association Conference (IACAA) where we networked and collaborated with state partners and leadership to share ideas, solve challenges, and strategize to better serve our clients. Ongoing training and professional development ensure our team stays informed, connected, and ready to make a lasting impact.
- Staff in our WIOA and CSBG programs have also completed specialized training in food pantry operations and documentation standards, ensuring services are delivered in line with current best practices. Ongoing development like this helps us stay effective, accountable, and client-focused.

# Helping People. Changing Lives. Community Action Month 2025

- Workforce Support: WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) provided essential supplies for program workers, equipping them to better serve our community.
- Community Outreach Events: We attended outreach events to connect with local residents, share resources, and raise awareness about available services.
- Partner with Poshard: We are proud to have partnered with the local Poshard Foundation to distribute \$2,500 in food to children and families in need through our food pantries in Hardin, Pope, and Union Counties.
- Toy Giveaway: Toys were distributed at the CHESI Health Fair in Cairo IL with a great attendance of community members.
- Energy Assistance Partnership: We partnered with Ameren to provide critical energy assistance and information to households facing high utility costs.
- Community Gardening: In collaboration with the University of Illinois Extension, we worked to plant, weed and water the community garden in Cairo, promoting food security and community engagement.
- These activities reflect the spirit of Community Action and our continued commitment to strengthening families and building resilient communities.



618-634-2201



WWW.SHAWNEEDEVELOPMENTCOUNCIL.ORG



# Community Action Month Proclamation



WHEREAS, Community Action creates pathways to prosperity by helping hardworking families achieve economic independence rather than keeping them reliant on government assistance; and

WHEREAS, Community Action is built on innovative, responsive, and efficient programs that are uniquely tailored to meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, Community Action delivers high-impact, cost-effective results that generate a significant return on investment for local communities; and

WHEREAS, Community Action invests in private-sector job creation and career training, ensuring that communities grow through free-market solutions; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies are trusted pillars of the community that engage volunteers who donate their time to advance local progress, support working families, and contribute to lasting community success; and

WHEREAS, Community Action programs are both necessary and popular, delivering effective, high-quality assistance that strengthens community resilience and fosters local prosperity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeremy Lloyd do hereby proclaim May 2025 as Community Action Month in recognition of the hard work and dedication of all Community Action Agencies.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Shawnee Development Council on the 20th of May, 2025.

SIGNATURE OF: [Signature]  
Vice Chairman of Shawnee Development Council, Inc.

ATTEST: Denna Williams