

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.



Empowering Individuals, Strengthening Communities



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

A message from the Board Chairman & Executive Director



Board of Directors

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Janice A. Riley, Executive Director
Linda Highsmith, Deputy Director
Kay Laws, Head Start/Pre-K
Brenda Dalin, Community Services
Diane Tanksley, Weatherization Mgr.

The Mission

The mission of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. is to advocate for families in need and to promote opportunities which will facilitate movement towards self-development, self-reliance, and self-determination.

Each of us contributes to the continuous keeping of the mission statement of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. when we believe in and live by shared values. Values define what each of us believes to be of fundamental importance in our personal and professional lives. It is our belief that these values represent the leadership characteristics essential to implementing our mission statement.

- (1) The client is first and foremost
- (2) Respect for the individual
- (3) Pursuit of excellence
- (4) Promotion of positive change

We proudly present the Annual Report for our 2011 Fiscal Year. So many key factors - a sluggish economy, increased program enrollment, reductions in our program budgets, and demands for critical services - made this a challenging year. Yet, our staff works diligently each day to fulfill our credo; helping people, changing lives.

Our non-profit has been described as a social and economic enterprise, perhaps rightly so, in that we strive to empower people toward self-sufficiency. Our aim is to lessen the causes of poverty with measurable goals; we are in the business of enablement in twenty-five Northeast Georgia counties.

Hubert Humphrey stated that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.

In keeping with the essence of Humphrey's quote, our Community Action Agency proudly asserts that we have rendered a positive impact on the area residents who are in the dawn of life, those who are in the twilight of life and those who are unfortunately relegated to the shadows of life by poverty.

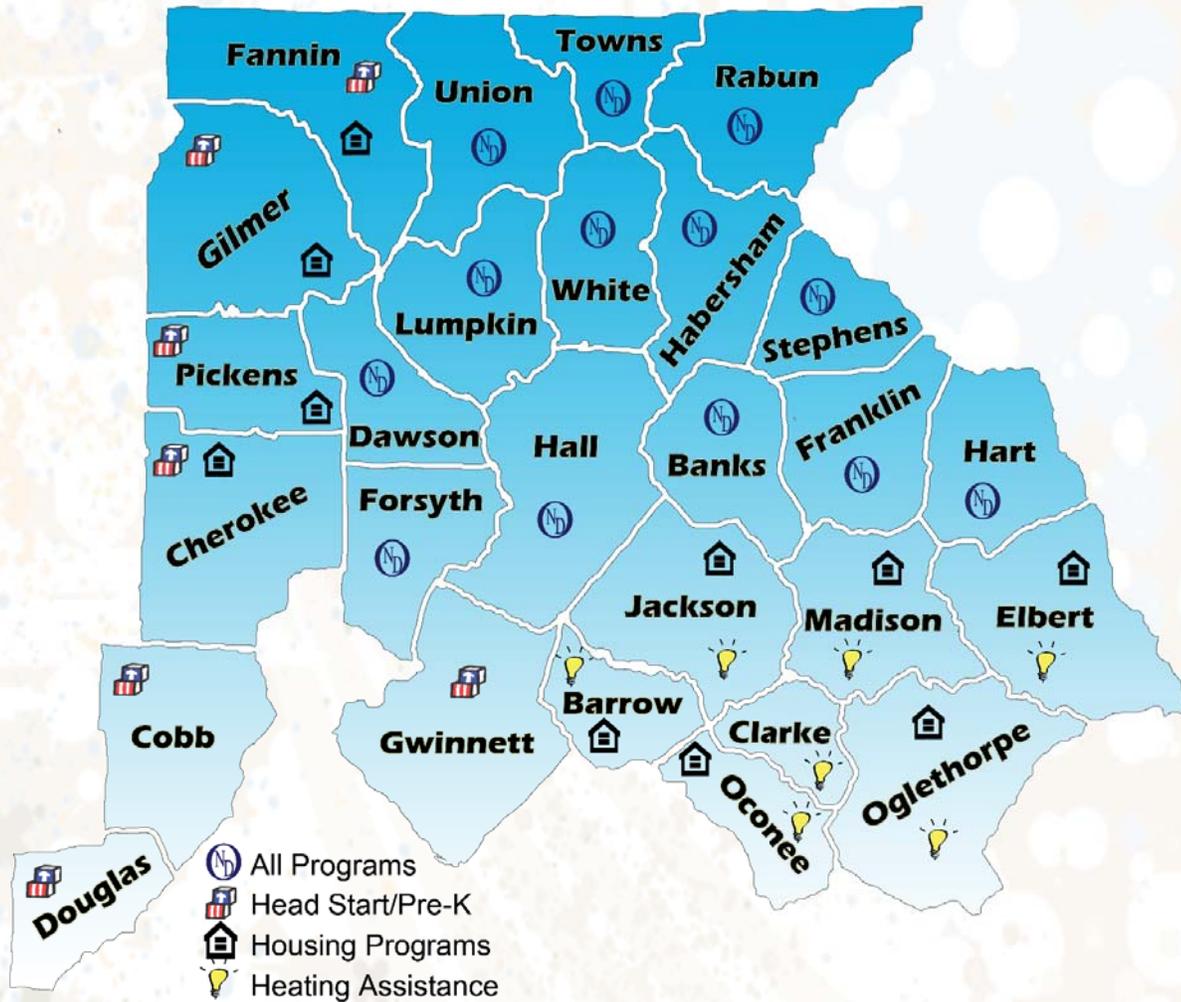
All of what the Agency does, what we offer, what we teach, and what we are is demonstrated through the outcomes and charts contained in this annual report. This past year's achievements result from the actions that depict the essential partnerships we forge with those we serve; and those partnerships with many like-minded citizens, churches, businesses, and local governments which recognize and support our mission and goals.

These pages will cover the breadth of our services in north Georgia. As always, more information is available at our centers or www.ndo.org. On behalf of the entire staff and the individuals and families serviced by Ninth District Opportunity, we thank you for your interest in this report and in our progress.

Garrison Baker
Board Chairman

Janice A. Riley
Executive Director

Service Area



Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. (NDO) is a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1967 with an organizational mission of improving the lives of socially and economically disadvantaged persons. In the agency's forty-four years of operation, NDO has established itself as an integral member of the region's local communities, providing services such as crisis intervention, emergency food assistance, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance, heating assistance, indigent medication assistance, job coaching, work experience, Head Start, Pre-K, self-sufficiency counseling, financial management, resource coordination, and home weatherization.

The organization's 610 employees serve twenty-five Northeast Georgia communities with a high standard of excellence in the areas of case management, resource coordination, energy efficiency, program development/implementation, and early childhood education.

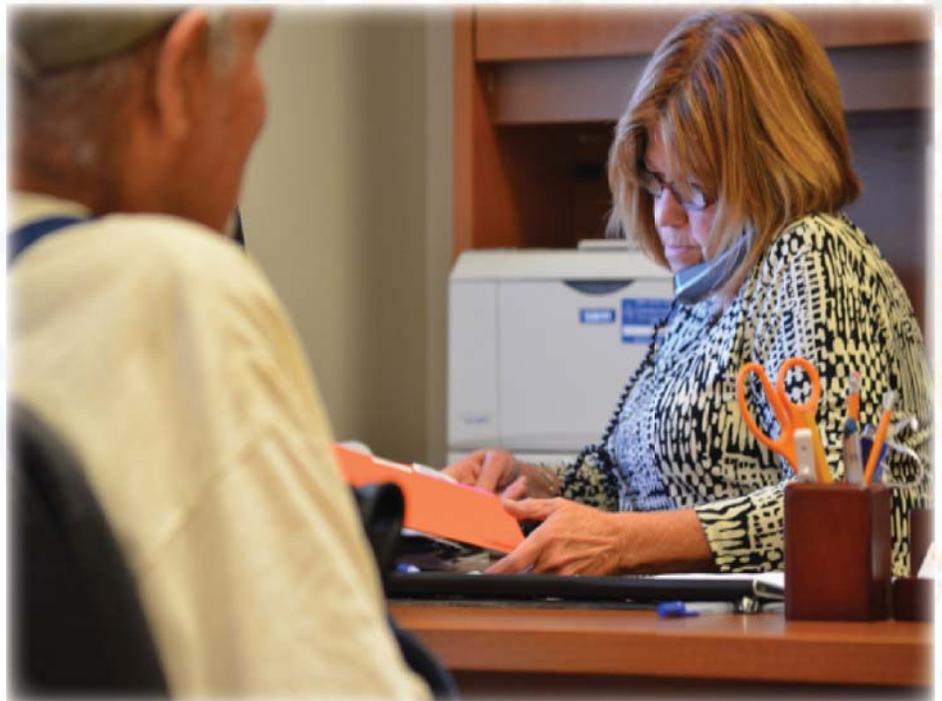
Community Services

Programs

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)
Non-Federal Crisis Intervention (NFED)
Job Coaching Program (JOBS)
Work Experience Program (WEX)
SSI Advocacy Program
SCANA Regulated Program
DCA Homeless Count

Services

Homeless Prevention Assistance
Rapid Re-Housing Assistance
Emergency Utility Assistance
Home Energy Assistance
Job Coaching Assistance
Work Experience Assistance
Transportation Assistance
Emergency Food Assistance
SSI Advocacy Assistance
Landlord Negotiation Assistance
Case Management Assistance
Self-Sufficiency Counseling Assistance
Employment Counseling Assistance
Education Counseling Assistance
Resource Coordination Assistance



The importance of Ninth District Opportunity's Community Services Department is reflected in the outcomes captured from long-term case management services and post-discharge follow-ups. Case managers work in partnerships with clients during enrollment to create a self-sufficiency plan. This plan monitors the household's ongoing progress in multiple categories, allowing case managers to easily identify and address obstacles to economic security.

Results That Matter



115	Unemployed and obtained a job
70	Achieved living wage
649	Obtained skills required for employment
228	Completed a GED
1,533	Obtained health care services
1,672	Obtained/Maintained safe and affordable housing
4,531	Obtained food assistance
149	Obtained child support
1,136	Enrolled in telephone or energy savings program
127	Opened a crisis savings account to prevent future
336	Demonstrated the ability maintain a budget for 90 days

Who we Serve

Gender

Male	13,482
Female	21,100

Age

Under 18	9,939
18-54	12,979
55 +	11,765

Race

White	23,601
Black/African American	6,406
Hispanic/Latino	716
Multi-Racial	351
Asian	101
Other	887

Education Level (Adults Only)

0 - 8	1,400
9 - 12 (Non Graduate)	3,957
High School Graduate	5,155
12+ Post Secondary	1,542
College Graduate	352

Family Type

Single Parent / Female	2,967
Single Parent / Male	230
Two Parent Household	1,927
Single Person	6,934
Two Adults / NO Children	2,199
Other	410

Other Characteristics

Health Insurance	45%
Disabled	17%

Poverty Level

Up to 50%	4,058
51% to 75%	2,638
76% to 100%	4,375
101% to 125%	3,031
126% to 150%	1,837
150% to 175%	1,319

Source of Income

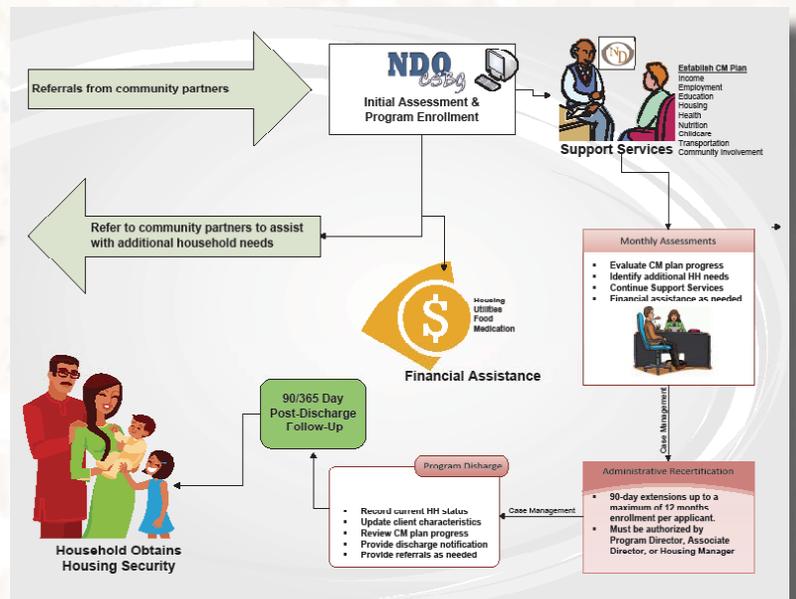
TANF	169
SSI	2,704
Social Security	9,126
Pension	958
Unemployment Insurance	823
Employment	1,493
Other	4,193

Housing

Own	7,417
Rent	5,436
Homeless	45

Family Size

1	4,058
2	2,638
3	4,375
4 or more	4,868



“ I was homeless when I came to Ninth District. Now I’m employed full time and volunteering at the local shelter.” M.A. Gainesville, Ga



Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive preschool programs that help children age 3-5 get a jump-start on the basics before attending kindergarten. Children who attend Head Start and Early Head Start participate in nationally accredited educational activities and receive medical and dental care, sometimes for the first time. NDO's children's programs provide a nurture families through interactive time with parents, nutritious meals and snacks, indoor and outdoor play, and safe spaces in which to learn and grow.

Results That Matter

2,744 children participated in preschool activities that develop school readiness skills (total enrolled)

- Reflects 25% of eligible children residing in the agency's service area
- 2,414 of these children (88%) were accepted based on a family income below 100% of the poverty level
- 198 of these children (7%) were served due to receiving public assistance
- 23 of these children (.83%) were in foster care
- 35 of these children (1.27%) were homeless
- 1,242 of these children (45%) left the program to enter Kindergarten
- 88% average daily attendance

2,634 children received medical examinations (96% of those enrolled)

- 175 of these children (6%) received treatment for an identified medical condition

2,634 children received dental examinations (96% of those enrolled)

- 587 of these children (22%) received dental treatment

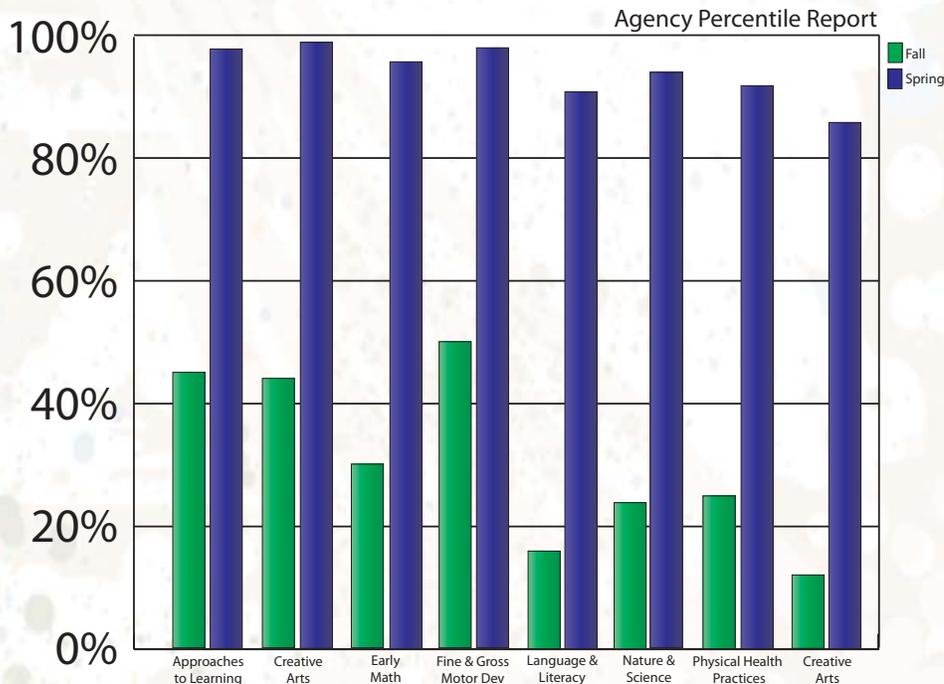
2,559 families improved family functioning as a result of services provided (total families enrolled)

- 1,279 of these families (50%) were single parent households
- 511 of these families (20%) received emergency/crisis intervention assistance
- 59% of parents have a high school education or higher

Program Accomplishments



- * A total of 85 classrooms were operated during the 2010-2011 school year.
- * The program served 390 disabled children. Of this number, 144 were identified to have a disability after they were enrolled.
- * A total of 1,179 vouchers for the flu vaccine were distributed to Head Start families and staff.
- * The Forsyth County Head Start center was successful in renewing its National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Only 7,000 program in the nation receive this honor.
- * Parents at the Pickens County Head Start center have read a total of 24,051 books to their children at home since August 3rd.



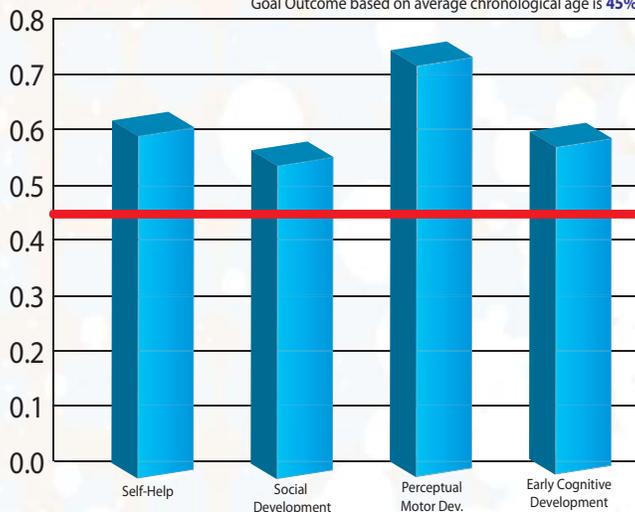
“Overall, the environments in both the Early Head Start and Preschool Head start programs show effective educational environments that foster independence, concentration, self-motivation, and a lifelong love of learning.”



Early Head Start

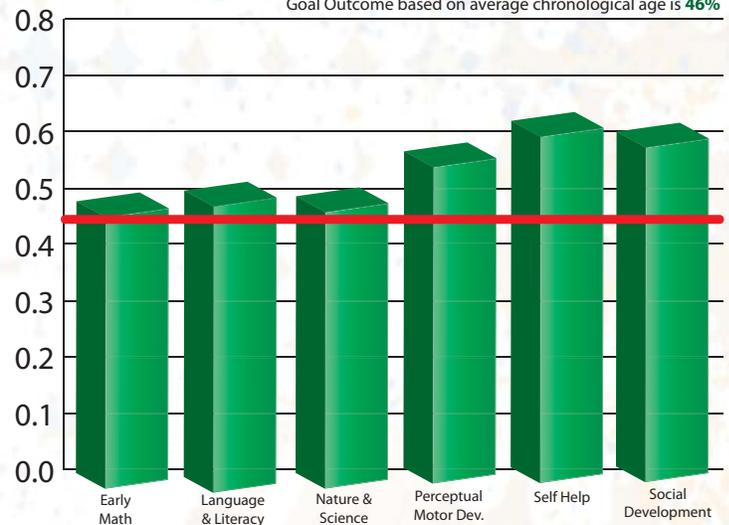
Infant Outcomes

Goal Outcome based on average chronological age is 45%



Toddler Outcomes

Goal Outcome based on average chronological age is 46%



NDO considers two age groups when describing agency outcomes for Early Head Start: Infants and Toddlers. Infant outcomes are broken down into 4 developmental domains, and Toddler outcomes are broken down into 6 developmental domains. Goals have been set for each age group based on average chronological age of the children for each classroom. The Toddler classroom's chronological age for 2010-2011 outcomes is 34 months making the goal 46% of the skills for that age group. The Infant classroom's average chronological age for the 2010-2011 outcomes is 12 months of age making the goal 45% of the skills for that age group. Developmentally, both Infants and Toddlers have met and exceeded the goal in each of the domains.

Results That Matter

123 individuals participated in Early Head Start programs (total enrolled)

- Reflects 1% of eligible children residing the agency's service area
- 90 of those enrolled (73%) were children enrolled in classroom activities
- 30 of those enrolled (27%) were expectant mothers receiving prenatal services
- 117 of those enrolled (85%) were accepted based on a family income below 100% of the poverty level
- 2 of those enrolled (1.6%) were served due to receiving public assistance
- 1 of those enrolled (.08%) were in foster care
- 1 of those enrolled (.08%) was homeless

88 children received baby well-checks (98% of the children enrolled)

- 6 of these children (6%) received treatment for an identified medical condition

88 children received oral healthcare (98% of the children enrolled)

106 families improved family functioning as a result of services provided (total families enrolled)

- 53 of these families (50%) were single parent households
- 31 of these families (30%) received emergency/crisis intervention assistance
- 47% of parents have a high school education or higher

Georgia Pre-K



Complementing Head Start, the Georgia Pre-Kindergarten Program was established in 1993 to provide four year old children with the high quality pre-school experiences they need in order to prepare for kindergarten. Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. operates the program under the direction of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This year, all teachers were required to have a BS or higher degree in Early Childhood Education and assistants were required to have at least a CDA. Due to budget cuts, the number of class days was reduced from 180 to 160 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Results That Matter

1,836 children participated in preschool activities that develop school readiness skills (total enrolled)

- 1,387 of these children (76%) were enrolled directly through Pre-K funding

- 449 of these children (24%) were enrolled through a partnership between Head Start and Pre-K

- 1,523 of these children (83%) were classified as "at-risk"

1,817 children completed age-appropriate immunizations (99% of those enrolled)

1,652 children received health screenings (90% of those enrolled)

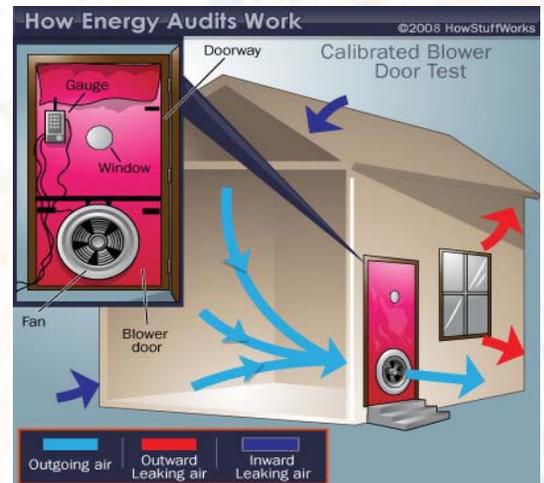
Home Weatherization



Demographics

- 137 Elderly
- 24 Disabled
- 23 Disabled Elderly
- 11 Age 2 & Under
- 17 Ages 3-5
- 29 High Energy Burden Households
- 260 Single Occupancy Owned
- 119 Mobile Home Owned
- 29 Single Occupancy Rental
- 11 Mobile Home Rental

Ninth District Opportunity's Weatherization Program is designed to reduce energy loss by making homes more energy efficient. In addition to making people safer and more comfortable, the program strives to increase the financial resources of participants by reducing the amount of income spent on home energy costs.



Results That Matter

418 households experienced a reduction in energy costs due to Weatherization services

- The average amount of energy savings was 34%
- 142 of the households served (34%) experienced an energy savings of 40% or more
- 11 of the households served (2.6%) received an energy efficient water heater
- 137 of the households served (32%) received low-flow showerheads
- 221 of the households served (52.6%) received plumbing repair work
- 25 of the households served (6%) received energy smart thermostats
- 104 of the households served (25%) received whole-house fans
- 55 of the households served (13%) received energy efficient refrigerators
- 14 of the households served (2.7%) received insulated doors



Financial Report

Bright from the Start

Homeland Security

GEFA

Local/State/Private

DHHS

GA DHS

DCA



\$20,827,052

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- \$20,810,148 *Head Start*
- \$1,281 *Head Start ARRA*
- \$1,523 *Early Head Start ARRA*
- \$6,000 *Child Care & Development Block Grant ARRA*
- \$8,100 *Child Care and Development Block Grant*

\$6,787,945

PASSED THROUGH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

- \$894,761 *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)*
- \$5,736,185 *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*
- \$7,993 *SSI Advocacy*
- \$139,237 *Job Coaching*
- \$9,769 *Work Experience*

\$867,071

PASSED THROUGH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA)

- \$867,071 *Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program ARRA (HPRP)*

\$1,629,613

PASSED THROUGH THE GEORGIA BRIGHT FROM THE START

- \$1,629,613 *Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)*

\$88,395

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

- \$88,395 *Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)*

\$2,852,773

PASSED THROUGH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (GEFA)

- \$304,789 *Weatherization Assistance Program*
- \$2,547,984 *Weatherization Assistance Program ARRA*

\$6,679,841

STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SOURCES

- \$5,404,023 *Pre-K*
- \$1,275,818 *Agency Management*