Recognizing National NeighborWorks Week  
June 5-12: Unity & Resilience

During National NeighborWorks Week, more than 50 volunteers including residents and LDCAA Staff participated in several community clean up events. Volunteers cleared out old buildings, picked up trash along roadways and removed dead trees and debris from vacant lots.

LDCAA partnered with the City of Hugo to identify projects and had so many volunteers that it allowed for enough crews working across the City to complete five separate clean up projects.
Around the Agency

LITTLE DIXIE CAA CELEBRATED “NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH” DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY.

National Community Action Month was “created by the Community Action Partnership to reinforce Community Action agencies’ role in helping low income families achieve economic stability.” Each year, during the month of May, Community Action agencies engage in events that serve to raise awareness and promote the programs and services they provide that help families achieve self-sufficiency.

LDCAA engaged in a Social Media Campaign throughout the entire month of May using both Facebook and Twitter. Using the calendar from the National Community Action Partnership toolkit, LDCAA posted photos, graphics and stories that correlated to the activities listed for each day throughout the Month.

May 21st, 2021 was National Pizza Day and LDCAA bought and delivered more than 75 pizzas to first responders throughout our service area of Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties in recognition of all they do every day. LDCAA Board of Directors were on hand to help out with this event.
April 10-16 marks the Week of the Young Child, which is held annually across the U.S. to focus attention on the importance of early childhood education in helping young children succeed. Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) partnered with the Little Dixie Community Action Agency Early Childhood programs to celebrate students by promoting literacy and electrical safety. Louie Lighting Bug visited Little Dixie students in Antlers, Broken Bow, Idabel, Valliant and Hugo, with Executive Director, Becky Reynolds, to gift teachers with books for their classrooms and share safety messages and educational materials with students (provided by PSO). Students enjoyed the special visit by Ms. Reynolds and Louie and looking forward to new adventures during story time through the new books that were donated. Little Dixie Head Start/Early Head Start
#WOYC #PSOklahoma #PSOcommunity
**Around the Agency**

**Employee of the Month Awardees**

**April**

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for April 2021 is Kinsey Cox. She is the Data Entry/Planning/Public Relations Specialist.

![Congratulations Kinsey Cox!](image)

**May**

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for May 2021 is Darla Galyon. She is the Director over our Headstart/Early Headstart/Early Headstart CC Programs.

![Congratulations Darla Galyon!](image)

**June**

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for June 2021 is Branden Billy. He is the Data and Public Relations Specialist – Victim and Youth Programs.

![Congratulations Branden Billy!](image)

**Service Award Recipients**

**5 Years**
- Barbara Sheets, Family Advocate - Head Start Program
- Sara Moore, ERSEA Specialist – Head Start/EHS/EHS-Child Care Programs

**10 Years**
- Johnny Driggers, Weatherization Carpenter – Housing Program

**15 Years**
- Kathy James, Senior Program Planner – Administration

**20 Years**
- Janice Holleman, Driver – Transit Program
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact

In April, Little Dixie Community Action Agency held a Virtual Family Fun Day for Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties. Developmental screenings were available for parents to complete through our Ages and Stages Family Access Portal. Upon completion of a screening, families received a Developmental Skill Building Kit. During the Family Fun Day, parents were provided with helpful resources, activities, and family engagement ideas to do at home as a family. This virtual event allowed families the opportunity to take advantage of receiving helpful incentives like board books and educational toys from the comfort of their smartphone. Over 50 people interacted during the event and completed a developmental screening on their child.
Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

POTTS FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

Little Dixie Community Action Agency’s HS, EHS, EHS-CC were pleased to receive a grant from the Potts Family Foundation for $10,000. This grant will have a three-part aim to increase literacy/numeracy domain gains and educational achievement of the children served, improve family literacy and well-being overall, and increase child protective factors to promote resilience against Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Pictured (L-R) Lindsey Miller – LDCAA Associate Director
Sara Jane Smallwood Cocke – Director of Government Relations for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Darla Galyon – Director of HS/EHS/EHS-CC
Jordan Mack – Assistant Director of HS/EHS/EHS-CC
Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

Count down to the end of the year activities!
Day 3 Battiest Headstart went on a Field Trip to Beaver’s Bend Depot & Park!

Battiest Head Start Students received their participation certificates for attending.
We are currently taking applications for next school year!

Head Start Forward Campaign

The Office of Head Start has launched it’s “Head Start Forward Campaign.” This campaign is designed to launch programs across the nation into fully in-person comprehensive services. Numerous webinars are being created to help grantees work through moving forward after facing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The topics being covered will range from eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, and attendance, mental health and staff wellness, health and safety considerations, and equity.

The projects described were supported by grant numbers O6H010715 and O6HPO00312 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Administration for Children and Families or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This report has been prepared in order to comply with the Head Start Act.
Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

Mental Health & Wellness Camp

Staff Mental Health & Wellness Camp

Early Head Start/Early Head Start CC programs were able to participate in the first ever “Staff Mental Health & Wellness Camp.” This camp was focused on staff coming together to learn techniques that will promote positive mental health and wellness. The camp was hosted at the Endangered Ark Foundation, where everyone participated in pachyderm calming therapy, relaxation stations, mental strength activities, and rejuvenation activities. A primary focus of moving into the approaching school year is to help staff members learn techniques to be productive and happy teachers!
Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

**Early Head Start & Early Head Start-CC In-Service**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of how programs operate, including trainings for staff. Training during the course of 2020 and 2021 have been held virtually. During the month of June 2021 the first in-person training commenced for the EHS and EHS-CC staff. The training was held in the Head Start Administration Event Center from June 23rd – June 25th. The training topics included fire safety, workplace safety, medication administration, blood borne pathogens, mental health, food allergies, disabilities, education just to name a few. The staff were also treated to a training covering infant mental health by Dr. William J. DeMeo, Developmental Psychologist. Dr. DeMeo is known for having a unique training style that is designed to educate staff while keeping them actively engaged.

**Head Start Launches Outreach Services**

Little Dixie Head Start is excited to introduce the new Outreach Specialist position. As part of the Head Start/Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care Programs, the Outreach Specialist will work to conduct outreach services to Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties and to increase enrollment within each program, including eligibility, referral/application/intake processes and related support services. The Specialist will ensure that quality care coordination is provided according to policies, procedures, and protocols, and will serve as a liaison between Help Me Grow Oklahoma, Head Start/Early Head Start/Early Head Start -Child Care Programs and the community. The focus of Help Me Grow Oklahoma is to advance developmental health, early detection, and linkage to services to support healthy development of all young children through our centralized access point (Resource Line).
Healthy Start staff members have been busy this summer working the local parades. Every parade season we come out to represent our program throughout the counties we serve. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most parades were cancelled last year. We were very eager to be back in the parades this season.

**Healthy Start**

JAYLEIGH PETTYJOHN, MISTY JAMES, MELISSA WATERMAN, AND ASHLEY STAGGS AT THE HUGO RODEO PARADE.

DAVID JOBE AT THE HUGO RODEO PARADE.

JENNIFER GOODMAN AND NICHOLE BARRICK AT THE WRIGHT CITY PARADE.

Healthy Start staff members have been busy this summer working the local parades. Every parade season we come out to represent our program throughout the counties we serve. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most parades were cancelled last year. We were very eager to be back in the parades this season.

DAVID JOBE, MISTY JAMES, MARY VANNOY, JENNIFER CANNON, AND SARAH FAUDERE AT THE ANTLELS HOMECOMING PARADE.

MICHELLE PULLIAM, AMANDA TERREBONNE, MELISSA WATERMAN, SHYANNE AND SILAS BACON.

"THIS PROJECT IS/WAS SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) UNDER H04MC27826, HEALTHY START INITIATIVE-ELIMINATING RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES, $1,144,121.00. THIS INFORMATION OR CONTENT ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OR POLICY OF, NOR SHOULD ANY ENDORSEMENTS BE INFERRED BY HRSA OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."
Tri County Opioid Response Project

Tri-County Opioid Project (T-CORP) visited 14 Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the tri-county area. We provided Narcan education and supplied 42 boxes of Narcan to those fire departments.

On April 24th T-CORP partnered with local law enforcement, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, OSU extension office, Regional Prevention Coordinators, Choctaw Nation, Drug Free Community Support Program, and Youth Services to host a tri-county Drug Take Back Day. There was a total of 33lbs of prescription medication turned in for disposable by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.

June 14-16 Brooke, Susan and Dionne attended Mental Health First Aid instructor training. Brooke is also certified as a Youth Mental Health First Aide Trainer. With the training T-CORP staff can now offer Mental Health First Aid training at low or no cost to the community.

Prevention:
The core prevention activities for the RCORP Implementation Grant will work to reduce stigma around opioid use and other drugs while raising awareness concerning prevention of SUD/OUD. Additionally, the project will increase access to naloxone within the rural services area as well as provide training on overdose prevention and naloxone administration. The project will partner with community programs and groups to develop drug take back programs in the tri county area, while also increasing and supporting the use of school and community based prevention programs to prevent misuse of opioids and other substances.

Treatment:
Core treatment activities will assist community partners with identifying what works or does not work for our communities. The core activities will include increased screening as well as providing or referring to treatment patients with SUD/OUD who have infectious complications, including Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Viral Hepatitis, and Endocarditis, particularly among injecting users. The project will assist partners in becoming trained and/or qualified as Medication Assisted Treatment providers, increasing the number of providers who are able to identify and treat SUD/OUD, and provide professional development opportunities and recruitment incentives. The project will work to strengthen collaboration with law enforcement and first responders to enhance their capacity to respond and/or provide emergency treatment to those with SUD/OUD. The project will assist partners in identifying and optimizing reimbursement for treatment encounters through proper coding and billing training for providers and partners. Additionally, the project and its partners will help to enable individuals, families and caregivers to find, access, and navigate affordable treatments for SUD/OUD.

Recovery:
The project will link community consortia and partners with those in recovery to provide support throughout the recovery process. Core recovery activities will include assisting local county/city jails, Drug Courts, and District Attorney’s Office with the discharge process to link individuals to appropriate community resources. Community Recovery and Response Specialists (CRRS) will encourage and recruit individuals in the recovery community to become involved as Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) and in turn, develop—with the assistance of consortium members and partners—a layered recovery support community network.

WHAT IS ADDICTION
Addiction is described as “a disease of the mind, body, and spirit.” That’s because the condition involves a physical and psychological craving or compulsion to use mood altering substances, and because recovery from addiction involves physical, psychological and emotional healing.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $1,000,000 with 100% funded by HRSA/HHS and 0% funded by nongovernment source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.
Housing Services

MAY YARD OF THE MONTH

Ms. Kathryn Hudson “93” years old, Tenant at Kiamichi Place Sr. Housing, Inc. at 1307 S.E. 3rd Street in Antlers, was awarded MAY YARD OF THE MONTH, sponsored by the Antlers Garden Club, and Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce, award was presented by the Chamber president Harolynn Wofford.

LITTLE DIXIE RECEIVES A THANK YOU FROM A REVERSE MORTGAGE LENDER!

Mr. Freddie Gonzalez, a reverse mortgage loan officer called this week to say thank you for Little Dixie's HECM (Home Equity Conversion Mortgage) Counseling program our agency offers.

He could not believe that we did not charge a fee for counseling and that he received the HECM certificate the same day the homeowners completed counseling.

He said he was going to look into how he could get the word out about Little Dixie because he wants to tell everyone about Little Dixie's free HECM Counseling. It is a much appreciated service for his low income clients.

May 26, 2021 Little Dixie's Housing Counselor, Ruby Gann attended Hugo Lion's Club meeting as guest speaker. She shared with the group services offered at Little Dixie's Homeownership Center in Hugo. She provided handouts and brochures to share with other members and community members that may be interested in knowing more about Housing Counseling, Weatherization, RX of Oklahoma, Homebuyer Education, HECM Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention Counseling.
Housing Services

LITTLE DIXIE PROGRAMS COLLABORATE TO “MAKE THE DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP A REALITY”

Kristen Ross dreamed of owning a home of her own but wasn’t sure how to achieve that dream. A friend told her about Little Dixie’s Self-Help Housing Program. Kristen met with Sommer and Brandy in the Durant office who explained the intake process and how the program works. She knew she had some credit issues and would need to save a little extra money before she applied. Sommer provided information about Little Dixie’s Housing Counseling program that could supply her with the tools and knowledge to achieve those goals. She met with one of Little Dixie’s housing counselors (Ruby Gann) and began working on improving her credit and established a goal of building her savings. Throughout Kristen’s journey, she encountered unexpected turns and events which led to making difficult decisions, but with the guidance of her housing counselor, Kristen was able to transition those turns with ease and confidence. In the end Ms. Ross chose to purchase an existing home through the USDA Rural Development 502 Direct loan program and went from renter to homeowner with the help of three programs coming together with one goal in mind, “Helping to improve the lives of individuals and families in our communities.”

GUESS FAMILY CLOSED ON THEIR SELF HELP HOME

Ruby Gann, LDCAA Housing Counselor serving Choctaw county helped welcome Travi Anna and David Guess into their new home May 27, 2021. This program is funded through USDA/Rural Development.

Ruby assisted the couple with pre-purchase counseling and homebuyer education and continued to help throughout the loan application process.

Travi Anna said she couldn’t believe this day is already here. Ruby asked her if there was one piece of advice she would share with a person just starting the program and she said, “It takes time but it’s worth it.”
Region II Self-Help Housing

The Spotlight website: https://www.selfhelphousingspotlight.org/ is a great tool to promote your self-help housing program. The website was created to highlight the success of the Self Help Housing Program. If you have a success story or pictures that you would like to share, please send the story along with photos and we'll include it on the website. Submit your stories to pprice@ldeaa.org

Current Interest Rate
Effective June 1, 2021, the current interest rate for Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans is 2.50% for low and very low income borrowers.

FY 2021 Area Loan Limits
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 area loan limits (based on the guidance in Handbook 13550, Chapter 5, Paragraph 5.6 A) were effective February 1, 2021. This information can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_SFHAreaLoanLimitMap.pdf

FY 2021 Income Limits for 502 Direct and 504 Grant/Loan Programs
The 2021 Income Limits were released May 12, 2021 for Sections 502 Direct and 504 Grant/Loan Programs. The information can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_DirectLimitMap.pdf

USDA Launches Resource Guide to Help America’s Rural Workforce Build Back Better
On June 10, 2021 United States Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson unveiled a resource guide to help rural community leaders start and expand employment opportunities and access resources to train, recruit and create a sustainable rural workforce. The press release can be found at the following link.

USDA Issues Authorization Providing Option to Refinance for Homeowners
USDA Rural Development issued a temporary authorization to accept applications from existing Section 502 and Section 504 direct loan borrowers, to refinance outstanding loans which are, or have been, in an approved COVID-19 moratorium. This temporary authorization is needed in response to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 to ensure mortgage payments are more affordable post moratorium. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 appropriated an additional $39 million of Budget Authority (BA) for section 502 and 504 direct loans, to remain available until September 30, 2023. The Agency’s initial focus will be to refinance existing Section 502 and Section 504 borrowers who have received a payment moratorium related to COVID-19. Click here to read the entire notice.
Region II Self-Help Housing

Andria Ilively- USDA Rural Development Branch Chief of Special Programs Andria Ilively has been selected as USDA Rural Development Branch Chief of Special Programs. Previously Andria had served as a Finance and Loan Analyst in the Special Programs and Initiatives Branch of the Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division National Headquarters Office at Rural Development. Congratulations Andria!

USDA Celebrates National Homeownership Month

Information provided by USDA Rural Development press release

On June 1, 2021, USDA Rural Development Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack kicked off National Homeownership Month, as part of a national wide celebration to highlight U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to provide access to affordable housing for rural Americans.

“Safe, energy efficient, affordable housing is essential to the vitality of communities in rural America,” said Secretary Vilsack. “The American Rescue Plan is providing critical relief to rural homeowners and helping to keep more Americans in their homes. USDA is committed to using our resources to help support healthy, resilient and more equitable communities through homeownership.

Arkansas grantees host community events to promote efforts to help rural Americans realize the dream of homeownership.

UHDC Hosts “Unity in the Community” Event 6/11

Information provided by Beverly Massey, UHDC

Universal Housing Development Corporation of Russellville, AR hosted a “Unity in the Community” Event at their office on Friday, June 11th to promote Homeownership Month and celebrate the 38th annual NeighborWorks Week. The event kicked off at 11 a.m. with a chicken and/or hot dog lunch provided and prepared by Tyson® Foods. Local businesses affiliated with the housing industry in the area – Centennial Bank, ARVAC, Inc., Farm Bureau Insurance, Russellville Housing Authority, Bank OZK, Chambers Bank, Brown & Brown Insurance and USDA Rural Development – set up informational booths that included door prizes. Simmons Bank also helped everyone “beat the heat” by providing a large tent for a shady lunch area. The event continued to 1 p.m. with more door prizes provided by Barrett & Associates and Ridout Lumber Company.

“This event was months in the planning and would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all of our staff.” Executive Director Beverly Massey commented. “We could not have done it without the support of our vendors, door prize sponsors and Neighbor Works America. We are thankful for our local affiliations that helped us support ‘Unity in the Community’ this year. We would also like to thank Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc for all of their support.”

Universal Housing Development Corporation is a 501(c)3 non profit organization, a chartered member of NeighborWorks America and an equal housing opportunity provider. Universal Housing Development Corporation provides services such as: housing choice voucher programs, home rehabilitation programs, homeownership counseling and education. Self Help Housing, delinquency/foreclosure counseling and more. The company was founded in 1971, celebrating 50 years of service this year to the River Valley of Arkansas.
**Region II Self-Help Housing**

**Mutual Self-Help Housing closes homeownership gap for families with low incomes**
Catherine Nolte  Fort Smith Times Record

For families with low incomes, homeownership can seem like an impossible dream.

This dream turned into reality for Lizeth Solis, who received the keys to her new home in Cedarville on July 1st.

Like Solis, new homeowners across the River Valley have received assistance through Mutual Self-Help Housing. The program allows individuals and families to use volunteer hours contributing to the construction of their home as their down payment.

Solis laid the floors, did the trim and painted the walls of her new home.

"It was like little baby steps, and I knew it would take time," Solis said. She added that it didn't really sink in that she was a homeowner until she received her keys.

Mutual Self-Help Housing is a program out of the Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council located in Fort Smith. It is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, which designed the program to "very-low- and low-income families get affordable, clean and safe homes of their own in rural areas," according to their website. Click here for the news article.

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**Homebuilders Struggle with Rising Building Material Prices**

OKLAHOMA CITY (KFOR) – Homebuilders said they are struggling amid rising building material prices and thieves taking materials from construction sites in an already rough housing market.

Millie Eubanks, a sales and marketing manager with R&R Homes, said thieves have been on the hunt at some construction sites as lumber and other products have become hot commodities.

Click here to read the full article.
Congratulations New Homeowners!

On Wednesday, June 30, 2021, Northwest Regional Housing Authority and USDA Rural Development joined Gabriel and Amanda Smith along with their three children in celebrating the completion of their new home.

When Gabriel and Amanda initially applied for the 502 Direct in 2018, they were approved. They faced numerous challenges, including having to re-apply for the program. In the face of these challenges, the Smiths have remained diligent in the process, and positive in the outcome.

The Smiths have been amazing participants in the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program and have said the program is a blessing to them. They are excited and know not only that this home is theirs but, they built it with their own hands. Northwest Regional Housing Authority is thankful for the opportunity to work with them.

The Smiths built their 1200 sq. ft. (living space) 1840 sq. ft. (under roof) home for $116,400. There were no cost overruns, because of the sweat-equity provided by the family. The Smiths roofed, sided, finished their own cabinets, and many other cost-saving items beyond our normal family labor.

Pictured at left are Johnny James, USDA RD, Neal Gibson and Cliff Kollin, NWRHA
Region II Self-Help Housing

T&MA Contractor Tips and Tools

SAFETY IS NOT EXPENSIVE ...IT IS PRICELESS.
"AUTHOR UNKNOWN"

Little Dixie T&MA Contractor Notes...on self-help housing is a bulletin of observations and recommendations written and distributed by Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. T&MA Contractors to assist Self-Help Grantees. The bulletin is updated monthly on the Little Dixie CAA website. https://littledixie.org/tma/

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email : Kyle White, T&MA Contractor Program Director kwhite@ldcaa.org or Pam Price, T&MA Contractor Program Analyst pprice@ldcaa.org

T&MA Contractor Self-Help Training Guides
A complete listing of available USDA Rural Development training guides produced to train and assist grantee staff can be found on the Little Dixie CAA website at https://littledixie.org/tma/.

SHARES

USDA Rural Development staff and T&MA Contractors have been working on making changes to SHARES. If you notice some things have changed, look different or have questions regarding SHARES, please contact Jason Stillwell at jstillwell@ldcaa.org or call (580) 326-5165 for SHARES technical assistance.
Region II Self-Help Housing

Successful Grant Management

The successful management of the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program calls for a degree of competency in handling and directing resources intended to accomplish its grant goals and defined objectives.

Management Basics

There are five basic functions of management. These functions are planning, organizing, coordinating, leading/directing and controlling. All of these are crucial to successfully running a self-help housing program and are discussed in more detail below.

Planning

This is the initial managerial function, which consists of determining what should be done in the future. It involves setting goals, objectives, policies, procedures, assessing resources and developing action plans needed to achieve the purposes of the organization and the program. Typically, the entire team is involved on different levels of the planning process. Planning is primarily intellectual in nature. It means thinking before acting, looking ahead and preparing for the future, laying out in advance the road to be followed, and thinking about what and how the job should be done.

Organizing

The organizing function primarily answers the question, “How will the work be divided and accomplished?” This means that the supervisor groups various activities and job duties into distinct sub-departments, sections, units, or teams. Organizing means designing the department’s structure, within which job duties are to be performed, and deciding how such duties are related to one another. The organizational structure will expand horizontally and vertically with the increase of functions.

Coordinating

The coordinating function brings together all program elements and helps the self-help team to work together in a more efficient way. Setting goals, developing strategies, implementing action plans and getting the self-help team in the right place at the right time to carry out their tasks needs coordination. Communication and leadership are key ingredients of this function and when all activities at all levels are synchronized, the program will do better.

Leading/Directing

This function of management includes selecting, guiding, teaching, and supervising the self-help housing team. This includes developing the abilities of workers to their maximum potential by directing, teaching and coaching them effectively. Directing plays a major role in employee morale, job satisfaction, productivity and communication. It is through the directing function that the supervisor seeks to create a climate that is conducive to employee satisfaction and at the same time achieves the objectives of the department/organization. Supervisors will probably spend most of their time with this function.
**Region II Self-Help Housing**

USDA Rural Development Quarterly Reporting

Quarterly reports reflect the status of the organizations’ progress. Grant information is reviewed to see if the organization is on track and has a plan to complete the grant goals in the timeframe given. The quarterly meeting provides an opportunity to review performance for the previous quarter as well as the entire grant period. The following information is reviewed during a quarterly meeting.

- Current status: Is the organization on track to complete the planned number of homes/EUs
- Budget: Amount of funds drawn down and will the remaining funds sustain the grant to grant completion
- Issues or concerns

Quarterly reports must be completed and entered into SHARES or via your reporting method each quarter and are due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarterly Reporting Period</th>
<th>Report Submission Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1 – March 31</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 – June 30</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 – September 30</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 – December 31</td>
<td>January 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quarterly reports are prepared after the above listed report submission deadlines and should be completed by the dates listed above regardless of the meeting date. Quarterly reports are submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office, the USDA Rural Development grant manager (or Rural Development staff who oversees your grant) and your T8MA contractor.

Required documentation for quarterly reports and quarterly review meetings:

- Form Exhibit B of 1944 I and/or SHARES Quarterly Report
- Cover letter including current progress, delays or difficulties, 523 funds drawn to date, and if you will finish your homes/E.U.'s on time and within budget.
- Updated Implementation Schedule if modified
- Family recruiting statistics
- Most recent Section 523 Budget to Actual Report
- List of all Section 502 Loan applicants who you received eligibility determinations from Rural Development (approved or denied) during the quarter
Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Little Dixie RSVP volunteers were recognized throughout Choctaw, McCurtain & Pushmataha counties through a COVID friendly process the program called “Recognition Relay”. RSVP staff delivered new signage for stations and recognition bags with PPE supplies & a newly branded AmeriCorps Seniors shirt to wear while volunteering was given to station supervisors or door dropped to volunteers throughout the months of April & May 2021.
Drug Free Communities Support Program

WHAT’S NEW?

Our most recent project is a Coping Kit. What is a Coping Kit? It is a small kit that contains items (journals, pens, stress balls, bubbles, and a plant to nurture) and resources (emergency contact information) to help our youth cope with stress, anxiety and depression. We decided to focus on those things due to the fact that those are huge contributing factors that lead to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use in minors.

A HUGE HELP!

There were 700 kits that needed to be made for our students, and we couldn’t do this alone. We had lots of help from the community when it came to gathering the items to put into the kit, donations, assembly of the kits, and also with distribution.

Distribution to Healing Hearts in Hugo, OK

Distribution to Red River Counseling Center in Hugo, OK

Distribution to Choctaw Country Market in Boswell, OK

Thank you!

We would like to express our gratitude to the following agencies and businesses for their donations, time, and support:

First United Bank  First Banc  Sequel Care  State Farm  Buffalo Grill
Jackson Street Nursery  My Brother’s Place  LDCAA Healthy Start  Healing Hearts.

“THIS LITTLE DIXIE DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AS PART OF A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD TOTALING $25,000 WITH 100 PERCENT FUNDED BY CDC/HHS. THE CONTENTS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF, NOR AN ENDORSEMENT, BY CDC/HHS, OR THE US GOVERNMENT.” GRANT # 1H79P00758
Court Appointed Special Advocates

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Branden Billy & Marissa Jordan putting up pinwheels in Antlers to raise awareness about Child abuse prevention.

CASA volunteers meet and have lunch and inservice training on April 2nd

Marissa Jordan and Branden Billy speak at the Hugo Rotary Club on June 15th to recruit new volunteers for CASA. Pictured with Kevin Cory LDCAA Board Member and Rotarian and Volunteer Lauren Wren

"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."

This project is supported by VOCA Grant #Subgrant No. IS 2020-VOCA-LITTLE DIXIE CAA-19 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Oklahoma District Attorney's Council
Our program is looking for volunteers to be positive mentors and youth aged 6-17 to participate in the Passport to the Future Mentoring Project. The mentors will be matched with a child who has similar interests and who resides in their area. Our program covers Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain Counties. The mentor and mentee will work out a schedule together to meet for one hour per week or at least four hours per month. All mentors are thoroughly checked on their background, personality and character. We will host several activities for everyone to attend and participate. This is a free program that will make a difference in the life of the youth and their Mentor. If you’re interested in becoming a mentor or enrolling a child in the program please contact: AJ, Henslee, Program Assistant ahenslee@littledixie.org or Doris Long, Program Director dlong@littledixie.org or call us at 580-298-2921.
Safe Place Healing Hearts and Victim Services

LDCAA Staff Wore Denim on April 28th in Recognition for National Denim Day

Denim Day is a campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, what started as a local campaign to bring awareness to victim blaming and destructive myths that surround sexual violence has grown into a movement. As the longest running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history, Denim Day asks community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence. Excerpt taken from (https://www.denimdayinfo.org/why-denim)

Jodie Allen SPIII victims service coordinator, recognizes Diana Miller with Choctaw Nation, one of the programs many partners.

Pictured above are Jodie Allen and McCurtain County Sheriff Officers Alicia Manning & Richard Williamson. They are displaying shirts that reads stand up against Child Abuse in April in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness month.

Serving Pushmataha, Choctaw and McCurtain Counties

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Little Dixie YouthBuild coordinated with the Hugo Area Chamber of Commerce during Community Action Month to install a new exterior pamphlet holder. Local businesses can use this feature to promote their business and community events. A portion of the old holder was preserved and re-finished to maintain its historical value. Program participants Rowdey, Shylene, Caleb, Niki, Rodney, Ethan and Jeremy assisted Construction Instructor Stacy Dennis with this project.