



LIFT Community Action Agency History

Starting in 1964, three separate Community Action Agencies served Oklahoma's Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain Counties, providing emergency food and medical services, neighborhood centers, and Head Start programs. To better serve the needs of southeast Oklahomans, the three agencies merged in 1968, creating a new entity named the Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. to provide programs for an area covering over 4,000 square miles.

Per the 1970 census, 63.6% of the residents in this area lived below the federal poverty level. Due in large part to the Little Dixie Community Action Agency's work, the poverty levels for the tri-county area had decreased to 22.8% as of the 2019 census. Over the course of its 53-year history, the organization continuously expanded and added new programs, and now operates over 25 programs with a budget nearing \$22 million.

To reflect this growth, the Board of Directors and agency leadership undertook the process of changing the organization's name in 2021, seeking input from customers, staff, benefactors and more to decide the direction of the agency's identity. On August 10, 2021, Little Dixie Community Action Agency became LIFT Community Action Agency, Inc. to embody the organization's core mission of lifting Oklahoma residents out of poverty through community programming.