

*SIEOC
Community
Action Agency*



2024 Annual Report

Who are we

Southeastern Indiana Economic Opportunity Corporation (SIEOC) is a Community Action Agency that is part of a national network of federally funded Community Action Agencies (CAAs), established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. CAAs are now legislated by the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) that replaced the Economic Opportunity Act in 1981. CAAs administer various programs, on their individual community levels, that assist people of all ages to work towards and hopefully achieve self-sufficiency. Today there are 1,000 CAAs serving residents in every state.

SIEOC is a private, 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation that has proudly provided a variety of services to people in need since 1965. We're a member of the National Community Action Partnership, SIEOC follows The Promise of Community Action, which is: "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

SIEOC's mission is to improve the conditions under which people live, learn and work. To fulfill The Promise of Community Action and SIEOC's mission, SIEOC supports activities and programs that help communities, families and individuals become more self-sufficient. All SIEOC services are provided without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability, or any other category protected under federal, state or local law.



Who we serve

SIEOC proudly serves communities in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland and Union Counties.

SIEOC's Head Start serves Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland Counties.

Office Locations:

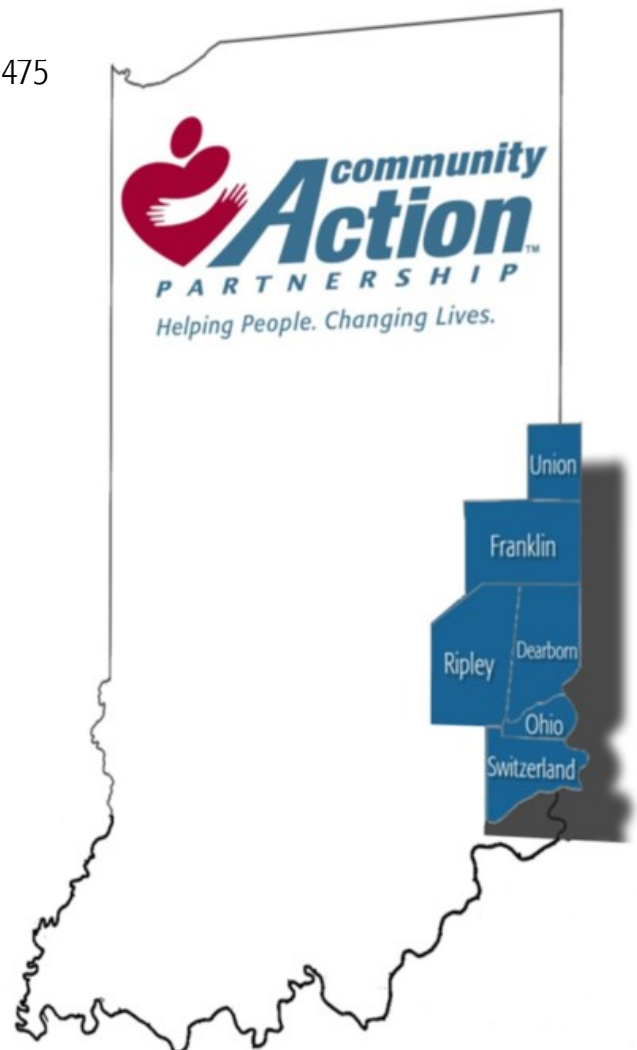
Main Office Location:

110 Importing Street / PO Box 240
Aurora, IN 47001
Phone: (812) 926-1585 or Toll free: (888) 292-5475

Satellite Office Locations:

Batesville Area Resource Center
920 County Line Road
Batesville, IN 47006

Family Service Center
13195 Spangler Road
Dillsboro, IN 47018



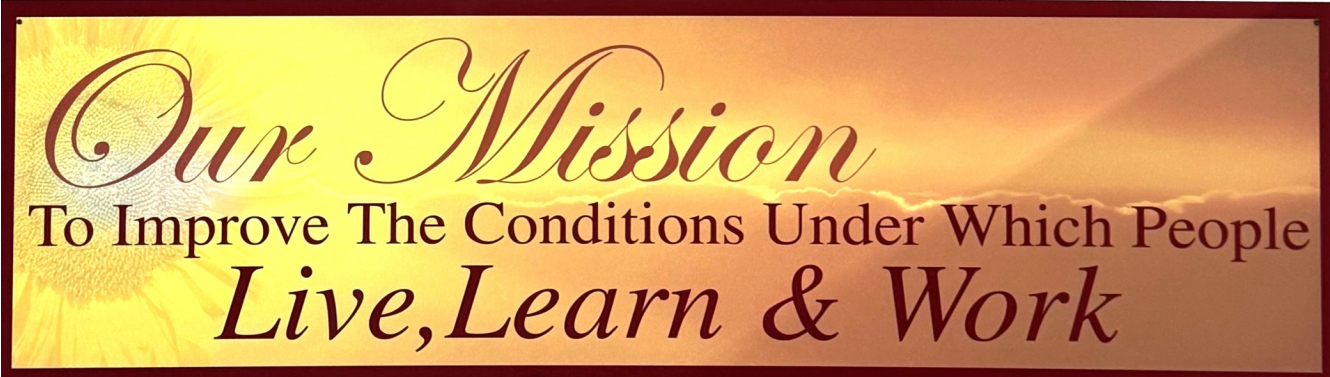
A message from the Executive Director

2024 marked 59 years of service at SIEOC as the local Community Action Agency to our communities. It is a great accomplishment and is made possible by the support from our Board of Directors, and the dedication of our staff and community partners.

I want to thank our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our agency and their dedication to the families we serve. It is through them and our compassionate staff members that we can serve families comprehensively.

SIEOC assisted over 6,000 individuals in many capacities in 2024. Our annual report represents our accomplishments in 2024, and I am very happy to share it with you.

Our focus remains constant and true in improving the conditions under which people live, learn and work. As always, I am deeply proud to work alongside our dedicated board of directors, staff, and community partners as we work to make our communities a safer and more equitable place for everyone. Please enjoy our 2024 annual report.



Our Mission

To Improve The Conditions Under Which People
Live, Learn & Work

2024 SIEOC Board of Directors

SIEOC is governed by a Tripartite Board of Directors who participates in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of the Community Action Agency and their programs. The Board of Directors shall consist of at least one third Public Officials or their representatives, at least one-third low income representation, and the remainder from major groups or interests in the community.

The CSBG Organizational Standards are a new element of Community Action accountability that boards are aware of and consider when carrying out their responsibilities. These 58 Standards address three broad categories: Maximum Feasible Participation, Vision and Direction, and Operations and Accountability.

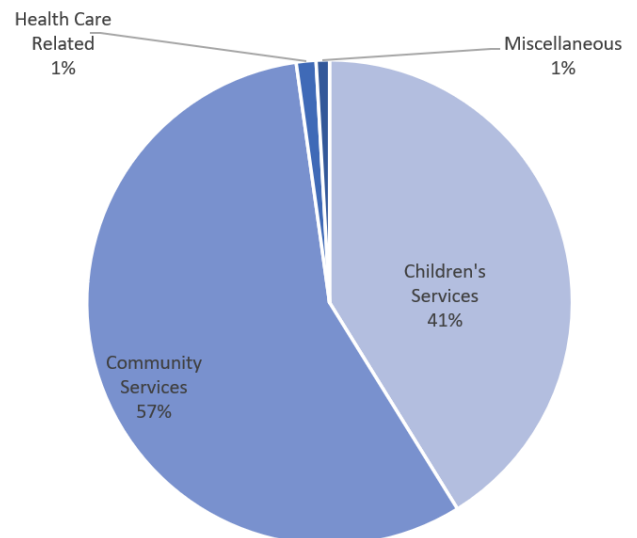
Dearborn County	Franklin County	Ohio County	Ripley County	Switzerland County
Sonia Kaffenberger Member since 2006	Adele Fritz Member since 2012	Annette Richards Member since 2013	Terri Trowbridge Member since 2015	Karen Peelman Member since 2024
Robin Hochstrasser Member since 2017	Mary Lierl Member since 2014	Nancy Swart Member since 2021	Wanda Perry Member since 2016	Nicole Kinney Member since 2024
Bob Ewbank Member since 2010	Linda Vaughan Member since 2024	Robin Siekman Member since 2023	Pam Weiler Member since 2018	Sarah Brichto Member since 2024

2024 SIEOC Financial Budget

Information

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	\$62,603.00
Department of Energy (DOE)	\$272,657.00
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$232,198.00
Head Start	\$2,649,182.00
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	\$136,111.00
In-Kind (Includes 12,395 Volunteer Hours)	\$584,135.00
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$317,852.00
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana	\$107,580.00
Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)	\$1,927,630.00
Energy Assistance Program (EAP)	\$1,593,628.00
Water Assistance Program (ARPA)	\$102,862.00
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)	\$125,803.00
Other non-program related funds	\$72,751.00
Total	\$8,184,992.00

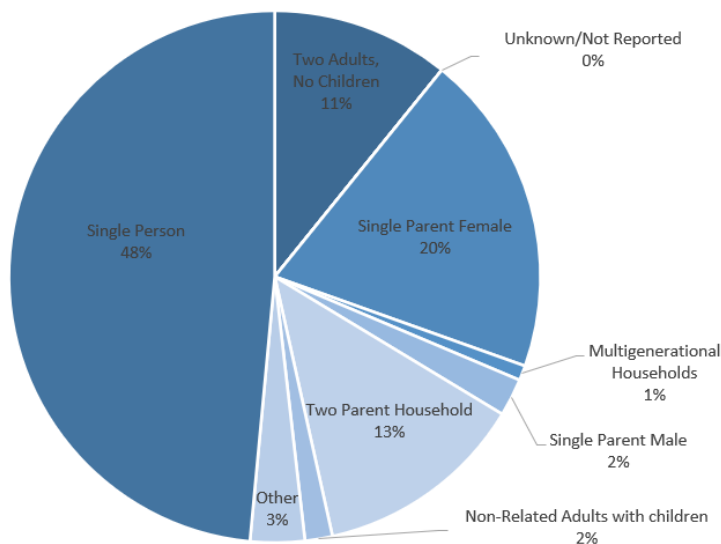
2024 Agency Funding Profile



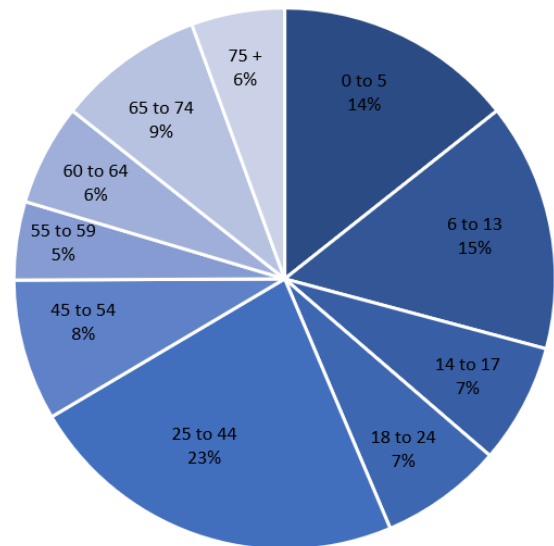
2024 Highlights and Statistics

- SIEOC served 2,752 families, benefitting 6,262 individuals
- Toys for Tots served 600 children. 100% of funds raised were spent on toys. There were 6,413 toys, books, and stocking stuffers distributed
- SIEOC Navigators connected 666 individuals to health coverage, 578 of those individuals obtained health insurance
- SIEOC helped 248 households improve health and safety due to improvements within their home.
- SIEOC assisted 667 seniors (65+) maintain an independent living situation.
- SIEOC assisted 895 individuals with a disability maintain an independent living situation
- SIEOC helped 3,384 people receive utility assistance

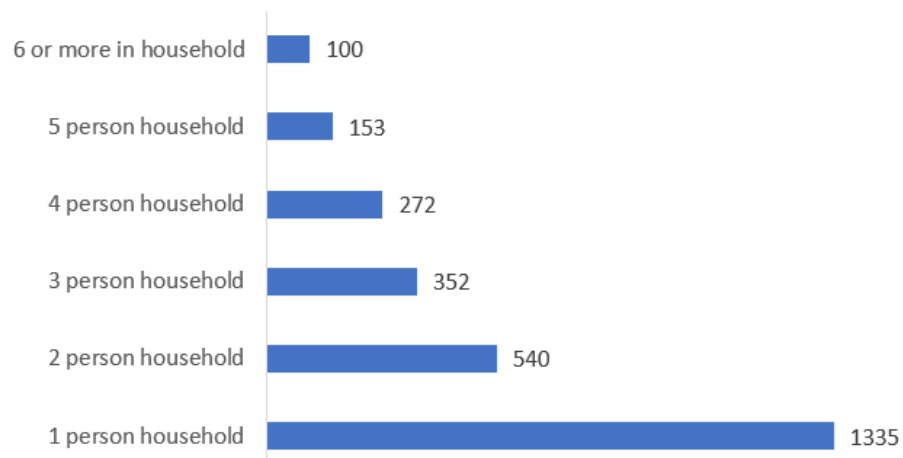
Types of Families served by SIEOC in 2024



Age Categories of People Served by SIEOC in 2024



2024 Family Size Breakdown



Head Start

Melody Minger, Program Director

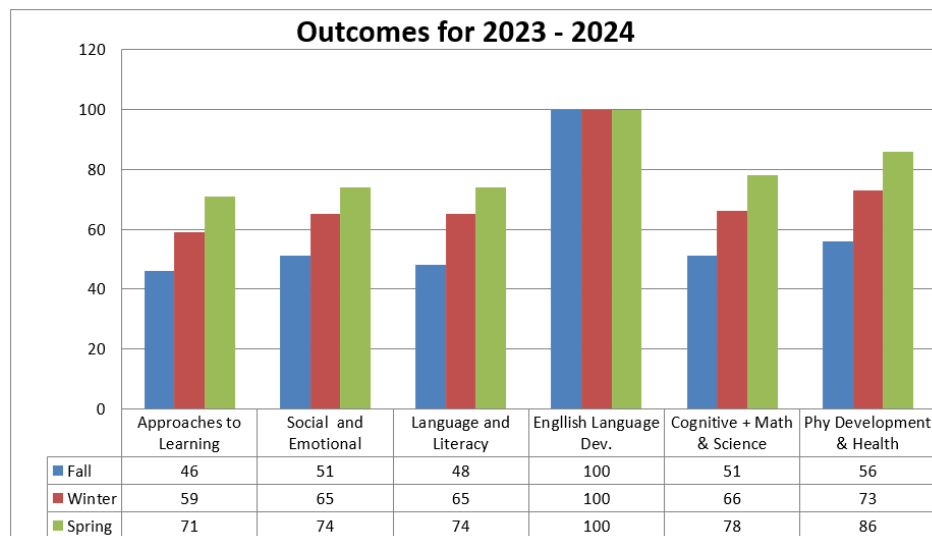
SIEOC Head Start is a not-for-profit, federally funded program that promotes the school readiness of children ages 3-5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland counties.

The Head Start program is funded through the Office of Head Start (OHS), within the Administration of Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services. Head Start provides comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families, which include health, nutrition, social and other services determined to be necessary by family needs assessments, in addition to education and cognitive development services.

Head Start operates 12 pre-school classrooms at 12 different sites throughout our 5 county area with an enrollment of 204 children. Head Start employed 65 staff with 15 being past Head Start parents and 4 are past Head Start children. 7 staff have 5 + years, 9 staff have 10 + years, 4 staff have over 20 years, and 4 staff have over 30 years experience with SIEOC.

Program Highlights

- Slots available: 204
- Children enrolled throughout the year: 258
- Monthly enrollment: Average of 204
- Average daily attendance: 78%
- Children who went on to kindergarten: 86
- Children with disabilities receiving services: 44
- Children completing a dental exam: 71%
- Volunteers: 436, of which 399 were current or former Head Start parents
- Children up to date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care: 89%
- Children with up to date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date: 90%



School Readiness and Child Outcomes

Progress of the Head Start children is measured at three intervals during the school year: fall, winter and spring. Based on information from Teaching Strategies Gold, the 2023-2024 Program Year showed gains in all domains. The graph below shows the growth by points over the school year. The children, as a whole, met or exceeded the knowledge, skills and behaviors that are most predictive of school success.

Head Start

Melody Minger, Program Director

Parent trainings took place with topics on

- Parent involvement in governance
- Center committee elections
- 40 Developmental Assets
- Empowerment Assets
- Reading Aloud to Your Child and other RIF trainings
- Boundaries and Expectation Assets
- "Second Step" parenting video
- Constructive Use of Time Assets For Your Children
- How to Build Positive Value Assets for Your Children
- How to Build Social Competency Assets for Your Children
- How to Build Positive Identity Assets for Your Children
- Home Safety
- My Plate
- Couponing
- Easy and Low Cost Recipes
- RIF Parent Workshops
- Child Abuse Prevention/How to Protect Your Children
- Adult Education and Lifelong Learning
- IN HOME – 123 and More 123

2023-2024 Head Start Parent Policy Council

Aurora

St. Leon

Brookville

Daniel Kuczera

Jennifer Mueller

Marty Brummett

Karissa Turney

Versailles

Dillsboro

Vevay

Dustin Hogston

Kayla Hogston

East Enterprise

Parent Representative

Laurel

Lawrenceburg

Community Representative

Moore's Hill

Danielle Bartley

Sunman

Marcus Lindsey

Rising Sun



Weatherization

Rocky Walton, Weatherization Coordinator

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the HHS Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), funds SIEOC's Weatherization Program. The program has two main goals. The first goal is to ensure the health and safety of clients and the second is to reduce the energy use in the clients home. The health and safety goal is met through extensive testing, repair or replacement of the client's heating system and gas appliances. Energy use reduction is achieved through client education and extensive diagnostic testing to guide measures designed to reduce air infiltration into the home and improve the insulation values of exterior walls, attics and crawl spaces.

SIEOC Weatherization Statistics for 2024

Dearborn County	Franklin County	Ohio County	Ripley County	Switzerland County	Union County
• 25 energy audits completed and 15 homes weatherized • 11 furnaces replaced, 1 furnace serviced • 7 water heaters replaced • 3 electric heat pumps installed	• 10 energy audits completed and 6 homes weatherized • 4 furnaces replaced, 1 furnace serviced • 3 water heaters replaced	• 2 energy audits completed	• 16 energy audits completed and 5 homes weatherized • 3 furnaces replaced, 1 furnace serviced • 1 electric heat pump installed • 1 range replaced	• 15 energy audits completed and 5 homes weatherized • 4 electric heat pumps installed • 1 furnace serviced • 2 water heaters replaced	• 4 energy audits completed and 1 home weatherized • 1 heat pump installed • 1 water heater replaced

Client Satisfaction

"This is a wonderful program. I hope that your crew's can continue to help senior people like myself who don't have the means or skill to be secure in their homes."

"This program is amazing, so grateful for everything that was done for me."

"They really were kind and explained things to me as they did some of the things. Great Group!! Thank you so much!"

Energy Assistance

Linda Morehead, Family Services Coordinator

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The LIHEAP Block Grant provides funds to individual states to assist low-income families with the high cost of home energy. Community Action Agencies are designated by federal regulation as the local agencies administering the Energy Assistance Program. Households meeting the poverty guidelines (45% to 60% of SMI for 2024) can apply for assistance.

The Winter Heating Program assists households with their heating bill or bulk fuel delivery. Crisis assistance helps families that need additional assistance who are in danger of disconnection or have no fuel.

Energy Assistance staff also administered the Duke Share the Light Program for Duke Customers in our service area. The program was funded at \$21,300.00 for 2023-2024 and assisted 85 households for 2023-2024 program years.

Clients that received SIEOC's Energy Assistance Program were also given Energy Education materials.

SIEOC Energy Assistance Statistics for 2024

- 1,893 households were served, benefitting 3,384 people
- 1400 households were served through Energy Education Efforts

Client Satisfaction

"This program helped with things I could not afford."

"I was able to have a little cash to go to the movies. I haven't been in 10 years. Thank you very much."

Housing Choice Voucher

Linda Morehead, Family Services Coordinator

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), funds the SIEOC Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV). Households that want to apply for the HCV program are sent pre-applications and placed on a waiting list. Once funding is available those applications are pulled from the waiting list and are screened for eligibility. If eligibility is met, the applicant is issued a voucher to find housing. Applicants can look for a house, mobile home, apartment, etc. The unit must pass a Housing Quality Standard (HQS) inspection before SIEOC will assist in paying any housing subsidy.

Tenants will not pay more than 40% of their adjusted monthly gross income toward their rent, including utilities, and the remaining portion is paid directly to the landlord by SIEOC.

SIEOC Housing Choice Voucher Program Statistics for 2024

- Partnerships with 112 landlords in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland and Union Counties
- 222 households were served, benefitting 397 people

Salvation Army

Linda Morehead, Family Services Coordinator

SIEOC serves as the Salvation Army Extension Office for Dearborn and Ohio Counties. SIEOC has two Salvation Army representatives that are able to write out checks to help families in need with clothing, food, emergency shelter, etc.

Salvation Army's work is funded through kettle donations, corporate funds and contributions and the sale of goods donated to Salvation Army Family Stores. Eighty-two cents of every dollar the Salvation Army spends supports their various missions across the country. Each year SIEOC employees participate in local kettle drives to help raise funds for Dearborn and Ohio Counties Salvation Army.

Dearborn & Ohio County Salvation Army Statistics for 2024

- 103 Households served, benefitting 258 people
- Clothing - 7
- Food - 2
- Mortgage - 1
- Rent - 22
- Transportation - 9
- Utilities - 54
- Medical - 1
- Other - 7



Bev Henry Emergency Fund

Kimberly Henry, Family Development Coordinator

The Bev Henry Emergency Fund was established years ago as the Emergency Assistance Program. The fund was renamed the Bev Henry Emergency Fund in honor of SIEOC's previous executive director's passion for her job and the community. The Bev Henry Emergency Fund offers a variety of assistance to income-eligible families in a crisis situation in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland and Union Counties. Assistance may include financial assistance for rent, utilities, food and prescriptions. The Bev Henry Emergency Fund is solely dependent on donations from the community. During 2024 SIEOC Employees and community donations totaled \$12,352.41 for the Bev Henry Emergency Fund.

Bev Henry Emergency Fund Statistics for 2024

- 81 vouchers issued, 81 households were served, benefitting 221 individuals
 - Prescription/Medical Needs - 2
 - Rent/Mortgage - 15
 - Utilities - 51
 - Transportation, work related - 3
 - Transportation, medical related - 2
 - Clothing, new employment - 1
 - Clothing, emergency - 1
 - Miscellaneous - 2
 - Food - 4



Family Development

Kimberly Henry, Family Development Coordinator

SIEOC's Family Development Program is a voluntary program for families who want to work towards living a more self-sufficient lifestyle. The goal of SIEOC's Family Development Program is to empower families to eliminate barriers so they can eventually reach self-sufficiency. The families enrolled in family development work directly with one of SIEOC's Certified Family Development Specialists. The Role of the FDS is to help families determine their own strengths and direction, and then is there to support the family in making practical and lasting change. The FDS offers families strategies to reclaim their self-sufficiency through home and office visits, assessments and goal setting. Families, along with assistance from their FDS, can together focus on identifying strengths, addressing obstacles and working to set and attain goals. Through the Family Development Program participants are able to build strengths, stability and resources, which in turn will allow them to be able to provide for their families and contribute to their local community and economy. Support is given to families in many ways such as referrals, group activities, linking families to the communities and advocacy. SIEOC's Family Development Specialists work closely with families to achieve self-sufficiency in many areas, including but not limited to:

- Family Interaction
- Income and Budgeting
- Employment
- Education
- Food and Nutrition
- Housing
- Utility Issues
- Support Systems
- Addictions

Family Development Statistics for 2024

- 42 individuals were assisted with HSE testing fees
- 1 work related transportation assistance
- 23 utility assistance, avoided disconnect
- 14 rent/mortgage assistance
- 27 SNAP applications completed
- 3 TANF applications completed

CKF of SIEOC

Kimberly Henry, Family Development Coordinator

Since May of 2017 SIEOC has been a local coalition member for Covering Kids & Families of Indiana, Inc. (CKF-IN). CKF-IN is a statewide organization committed to ensuring that all eligible children and adults are enrolled in available health-care coverage programs. In 2024 CKF of SIEOC had 3 licensed Indiana Navigators that provided free help to individuals and families to enroll in and understand state and federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid, Hoosier Healthwise, the Healthy Indiana Plan and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Our navigators assist consumers at all points in the enrollment process and will continue to work with consumers to maintain their coverage once approved. CKF of SIEOC serves residents in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties.

Covering Kids & Families of SIEOC Statistics for 2024

- Completed 666 applications, beating our goal of 400
- Had 578 enrollments, beating our goal of 320
- Participated in 44 outreach events and made 2,469 outreach contacts
- SIEOC Navigators had a 89% approval rating, meaning 89% of the clients our Navigators assisted obtained health insurance.



SIEOC Staff Recognition

Congratulations to the SIEOC staff who celebrated 5 or more years of service in 2024. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to SIEOC and the clients we serve.

5 years of service or more

Maria Coudret	Stephanie Isaacs	Summer DeHamer	Lisa Hokey
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10 years of service or more

Heather Hewitt	Kathy Hallgarth	Barb Scholle	Kimberly Henry	Faith Lane	Brenda Taylor
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20 years of service or more

Colleen Lay	Linda Moorehead	Amber Moody	Sally Gregory
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30 years of service or more

Tammy Cunningham	Melody Minger	Rocky Walton	Barb Andrews	Sheila Fletcher
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Yes, I can make a donation to SIEOC and help improve the quality of life for those we serve.

I would like my donation to go to the following SIEOC program:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Bev Henry Emergency Fund | ☐ Family Development | ☐ Weatherization |
| ☐ Covering Kids and Families | ☐ Head Start | ☐ Other: (Please Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Energy Assistance | ☐ Section 8 | _____ |

I am donating: \$_____ Would you like your donation to be in honor or in memory of someone? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, I would like my donation to be:

☐ In Honor of: _____ ☐ In Memory of: _____

Would you like your donation to be recognized in SIEOC's Annual Report?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please complete the information below:

Name(s) of person/organization making donation:

Address:

City

State

Zip

SIEOC is designated a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) agency, therefore, your gift is tax-deductible.

Your donation and teamwork is helping SIEOC to accomplish our goal of helping our clients lead a more self-sufficient lifestyle. Thank you so much for your generosity. Please return this completed form along with your

donation to: Southeastern Indiana Economic Opportunity Corporation

110 Importing Street / P.O. Box 240 Aurora, Indiana 47001-0240

SIEOC would like to thank the many individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous support to SIEOC in 2024.

To those of you who volunteered your time, donated goods or donated funds, we sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you for helping us work towards our mission of improving the conditions under which people live, learn and work.