

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

Year End Summary

2011

The [Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. \(EOC\)](#) is a not-for-profit organization serving Saratoga County since 1973. The mission of the EOC is to assist individuals and families with low incomes to access services to meet their basic needs and to obtain the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to work towards self-sufficiency. In 2011, the EOC helped thousands of local residents move closer to economic self-sufficiency through the following EOC programs and services:

[COMMUNITY SERVICES](#) provides qualified individuals and families with food assistance via its Emergency Food Pantry, Community Lunch Program, Rural Food Delivery and many other programs. In addition, Community Services provides family development counseling and crisis intervention services.

- Vita Free Tax Service – **80 families/individual tax returns** completed. **78** with a refund.
- Community Lunch Program (soup kitchen) served **24,146 lunches**
- Rural Food Delivery delivered **847 food packages** to the homebound throughout the county
- Emergency Food Pantry provided **3603 families (11,217 individuals total)** with a three day supply of food
- Adopt-A-Family Project distributed Thanksgiving baskets to **780 families** & delivered **625** meals that day
- Family Development Program provided **693 families** with case management assistance
- Crisis Intervention responded to **1185 calls** for emergency assistance and advocacy
- Summer Lunch Program provided **755 lunches** for low-income children Monday – Friday during July and August

[HEAD START](#) is a comprehensive child development program designed to increase the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Currently, Head Start/Early Head Start is funded to serve **434 children** throughout Saratoga County. Of that total, **116 children** participated in New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten. In addition to **15** pre-school classrooms, we operate an Infant room and a Toddler room. We also offer a large home-based program for families with children under age three.

[ENERGY SERVICES - WEATHERIZATION Assistance Program](#) offers HEAP-eligible Saratoga and Schenectady County residents with an energy audit and energy conservation work to help improve home heating efficiency and reduce utility costs. In its most recent program year, the Weatherization program upgraded **231 clients** and **150 units** in Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. The [EmPower NY PROGRAM](#) provided energy reduction services to **51 homes** in the region. An Additional **1400 low income apartments** were Weatherized thru ARRA (American Revitalization & Recovery Act) for the year.

[LATINO COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM](#) (LCAP) provides English language instruction (ESL) and advocacy services to Saratoga County's permanent and migrant Latino population. In 2011, LCAP provided ESL services to over **150 students** and responded to over **600 advocacy calls** during the year. Advocacy needs included securing health insurance for families, school enrollment, prenatal care, GED information, housing, employment and tax preparation assistance. LCAP provided interpreter services to the Saratoga County EOC Head Start Program, the WIC Program, Saratoga County DSS, Saratoga DVRC, Saratoga Springs City School District, Saratoga County Public Health, Saratoga Hospital and many other educational, health, and social service agencies throughout the county. LCAP also hosted the 4th annual *Visión* fundraising event featuring photographs by ESL students with over **200 attendees**.

[WHEELS FOR WORK](#) provides eligible, working families with a reliable vehicle for improved job retention and increased access to affordable housing. Participants also receive budget counseling and family development services as part of this program. In 2011, **11 families** were given reliable transportation, budgeting assistance and counseling through the program.

[WIC \(Women, Infants and Children\)](#) provides eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and children under the age of 5 with vouchers for nutritious foods; nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion, information and support. During 2011, **breastfeeding initiation rates** among our newly delivered WIC moms rose from **63%** in January 2011, to **70.9%** from our most recent Breastfeeding Initiation report. SCEOC-WIC serves an average of **2,010 participants** per month. The average monthly value of redeemed WIC checks for all SCEOC-WIC participants during **2011** was **\$120,176**, or approximately **\$60.00** per participant.

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council
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