

# July 2023

## West Ohio Community Action Partnership

### AGENCY PROGRAMS OFFERED

<b>Early Head Start, Head Start &amp; Preschool</b> Allen County	Provides comprehensive health, education, nutritional, social and other services to children from birth up to age 5. We provide a Home-based option where a Home-based Teacher will come to the home once a week and work with parents and their children. We also partner with 5 Child Care Centers in Allen County to serve for families with infants & toddlers.
<b>Kindergarten Kamp</b> Allen County	A 5-week summer school program for students in Allen County who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. Kindergarten Kamp is designed to give students an opportunity to develop school readiness skills in a school environment, while engaging with their peers before school starts.
<b>Financial Management</b> Allen, Auglaize & Mercer	Financial Management provides classes that help participants with developing their own finances, budgeting, and identifying resources to help families move towards economic independence.
<b>Homeownership</b>	In collaboration with the City of Lima, eligible first-time homebuyers complete credits by taking classes and meeting with a Housing Counselor towards down payment assistance. This program is offered year-round.
<b>The MVP Program</b> Allen, Auglaize & Mercer	The MVP: Most Valuable Parents Program is a free program available to parents of minor children in Allen, Auglaize and Mercer Counties. The MVP Program offers 10 parenting workshops in a group setting that allows parents time to socialize with other parents, discuss topics related to their children and learn ways to relieve stress.
<b>Start-Up Lab</b> Allen, Auglaize & Mercer	An 8 week program that equips participants with financial literacy and tools needed for a successful business startup.
<b>WOCAP Utility Assistance</b> Allen, Auglaize, Mercer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-The <b>Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)</b> assists elderly and low-income families with seasonal utility bills to avoid utility shut-off.</li><li>-<b>Winter Crisis Program (WCP)</b> runs November 1st through March 31st</li><li>-<b>Summer Crisis Program (SCP)</b> runs July 1st through August 31st if funds are available.</li><li>-<b>Percentage of Income Program (PIPP)</b> assists eligible customers to pay a portion of utility costs based on income</li><li>-The <b>Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)</b> assists income eligible individuals and families (at or below 175% of Federal Poverty Guidelines) with their water and wastewater bills to avoid disconnection of water service</li></ul>
<b>Rent/Mortgage Assistance</b> Allen, Auglaize & Mercer	Provides short term housing assistance with rent, utilities and mortgage payment to individuals in need to prevent homelessness, or to house people who are already homeless or have been impacted by COVID-19.
<b>Homeowner Assistance Program</b> Allen, Auglaize & Mercer	The Utility Assistance Plus program (UAP) can assist homeowners that have been financially impacted by the pandemic. The services provided by this program will cover electric, natural gas, bulk fuel, homeowner's insurance, water/sewer, trash, internet, and property taxes.
<b>Fair Housing</b> Allen, Mercer	Provides information, referral, and public education for fair housing issues in Allen and Mercer Counties. The department accepts complaints regarding housing discrimination, which are then forwarded to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.
<b>Home Repair &amp; Lead Abatement</b>	Home Repair provides emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI. The Lead Safe Home Program offers assistance to low-to-moderate income families with children under the age of 6, or pregnant women, in making their homes lead-safe by eliminating lead hazards
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Provides low-income individuals with needed emergency services such as rent, auto repair, appliances, work uniforms, transportation, eye glasses, dentures, prescription assistance, food, clothing, minor home repairs, and more.

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Jacqueline Fox, CEO



# Early Head Start & Head Start

Our experienced teachers & engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn & grow in a safe, nurturing environment

- Free Program for those who qualify
- Ages 0-5 years old
- Social, emotional & intellectual growth
- Serving Allen County

## Home Based Option

A Home Based teacher, child and family work together to provide activities & experiences designed to meet the child's needs in the home environment

- Ages 0-5 years old
- Serving Allen County



## ENROLL TODAY!



419-227-2586 Ext. 120

Angela Montgomery

**APPLY ONLINE:**  
**WWW.WOCAP.ORG**

## Early Childhood Services Openings

**\*Sign On Bonus of \$500**  
**\*New Minimum Starting Wage**  
**\$13.73/hour**

- **Teacher**
- **Co-Teacher**
- **Primary Caregiver**

## Emergency Services Openings

**\*New Minimum Starting Wage \$14.74/hour**

**Come join our WOCAP team for a new, exciting and rewarding career**

Work in a fast-paced, growing organization, while receiving a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Competitive Wages
- Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance
- 13 Paid Holidays
- 5 Personal Days
- Sick Leave
- Vacation Leave
- Weekends Off
- EAP Program
- Paid Tuition
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness

## HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

If you are interested in any of our job opportunities, please complete the online application on our website & send a resume to:

WOCAP  
(WEST OHIO COMMUNITY  
ACTION PARTNERSHIP)

540 S Central Ave  
Lima, Ohio 45804

Attn: Human Resource Coordinator

(419) 227-2586

[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

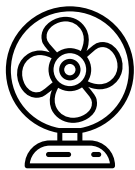
Click on Employment  
Opportunities & then select Job  
Openings from the drop-down

**No longer requiring the  
COVID-19 Vaccine**

## OHSAL JUNE LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Several of our staff attended the OHSAL June Leadership & Professional Development Conference this week. Our very own Vance Cuthrell and Elisabeth Parker sat on the REDI Panel to represent our agency and our efforts towards Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Thank you Vance and Elisabeth for representing our agency and communities so well.





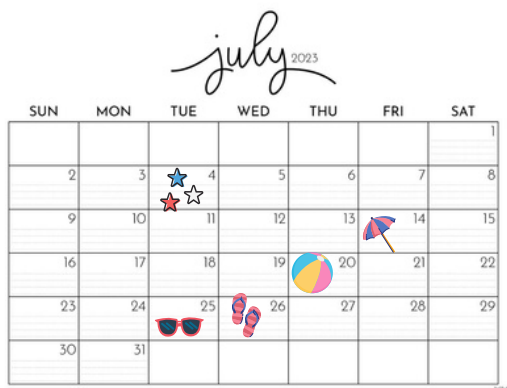
The program runs  
through  
August 31, 2023

## HEAP Summer Crisis Program

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program is a one-time benefit that can be used to pay electric utility bills, purchase air conditioners or fans, or repair central air conditioning units during the summer months

Eligibility is based on many factors, including income, age, certain medical conditions, current standing with utility service, or participation in other energy assistance programs

## IMPORTANT DATES



4th - Agency CLOSED

14th - Home Based Family Day

20th - Policy Council Meeting

25th - Summer Family Engagement Event

26th- Board Meeting

28th - Home Based Family Day

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all of our  
staff celebrating in July

1 – Alexsa Conidaris  
6 – Janet Ward  
11 – Michele Spradlin  
12 – Leora Donley  
24 – Jeannie Taylor  
30 – Bethany Hill  
30 – Shelby Ruhlman

Fair Housing	Financial Management
Providing information, training & educational materials to community	Education on aspects that affect financial security
Please call Housing Specialist for more information Allen & Mercer Counties	Please call 419-227-2586 Ext. 112 or Ext. 156 if interested

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Call WOCAP at 419-227-2586  
or visit our website at  
[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org) to sign up



## Camping Banana Boats



### Oven Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. You can also cook over a campfire.
- Peel the bananas and using a spoon, gently scoop from top to bottom removing the center of the banana, creating a well. Place each banana onto a square of tin foil, bunching the tinfoil around the banana holding it in place.
- Add the crushed graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate chips to the bananas.
- Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the marshmallows are starting to brown. If cooking over a campfire, cook for about 10 minutes. Top with additional graham crackers and a cherry!

Camping Banana Boats are a fun dessert or snack recipe for kids of all ages that can be made in the oven or over the campfire with the help of adult supervision

### Ingredients:

- 4 bananas
- 1 graham cracker, crushed
- 40 mini marshmallows
- 1-2 T. mini chocolate chips
- maraschino cherries

### Directions:

- Peel the bananas and using a spoon, gently scoop from top to bottom removing the center of the banana, creating a well. Place each banana onto a square of tin foil wait to wrap it until after adding the other ingredients.
- Add the crushed graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate chips to the bananas. Wrap the tinfoil carefully around the banana and ingredients
- Place the banana boats onto a grate over a campfire without a flame. Cook for about 10 minutes or until the banana is softened and the marshmallows are melted. Serve with a cherry on top

## BOOKS

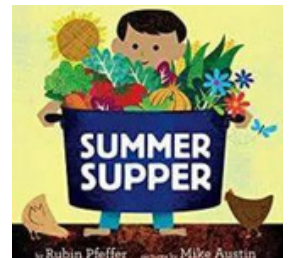
### Summer Color!

A celebration of the wonder and colors of every child's favorite season--summer! In this celebration of the outdoors, two rambunctious children take off on an adventure from their own backyard. In each new scene they discover the wondrous details--and beautiful colors--of nature.



### Summer Supper

Kids will learn about how food travels from farm to table, all in s words! Books like this are an excellent way to get your preschooler to notice individual sounds in words, which is a crucial phonemic awareness skill that will strengthen their reading skills.



## Enroll Your Child Today!

Application forms can be sent  
to your home if you prefer



Scan Here To Apply

## HEAD START ENROLLMENT

Reach us Monday-Friday, 8:00 am -5:00 pm  
at any of the following:

**ONLINE:**  
[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

**PHONE:**  
Angie Montgomery at 419-227-2586 Ext. 120

**EMAIL:**  
Angie Montgomery,  
[amontgomery@wocap.org](mailto:amontgomery@wocap.org)



## EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

Our goal is to prepare your child for their next stepping stone of education whether it is Head Start or Kindergarten. Regular Attendance is an important part of your child's educational, social, and emotional development. When children are absent from school they are missing out on a lot of educational and social opportunities. We would like to thank those parents who assure their child is attending school every day. In the month of May, we had 67 children with Perfect Attendance. Way to Go Parents!

**Central B**  
Sawyer S.  
Zamarie S.  
Island W.

**EHS Home Based (GG)**  
Kolton K.  
Alistair P.  
Ruby S.  
Meena S.

**EHS Home Based (JJ)**  
Analiese G.  
Ja'Mylah L.  
Juanita L.

**EHS Home Based (WW)**  
Emberly K.

**Lima Sr. I**  
Ariel T.

**Kingdom Daycare**  
Terence W. Jr.

**Little Rascals A**  
Braxton E.  
Elena W.

**Shawnee Terrific 2's**  
King L-K.

**The Children's PL**  
Jackson H.  
Harper R.

**Central C**  
Kassidy A.  
Evelyn B.  
Aaron B-T.  
Phoenix B.  
Rosalie C.  
A'Nyius G.  
Jordan J.  
JaZaria L.  
Zander M.  
Hakeem N.  
Wynter P.  
Jazariyo S.  
Malachi W.

**Central D**  
Logan C.

**Central G**  
Emmett C.  
Italayah C.  
Karsyn R-R.  
Kali T.  
E'Kai W.

**Central H**  
Serena S.

**HS Home Based (KC)**  
Olivia K.  
Mario M.  
Illana W.

**Howard A**  
Keillen C.  
Graham P.

**Howard B**  
Kamryn C.  
Brynleigh S.  
Carter W.

**Market St. II**  
Kaiden D.  
K'Marie S.  
Hafsa S.  
A'zon W.  
Alonzo W.

**O'Neal A**  
Madalyn B.  
Kayven C.  
Cadence W.  
Aireona W.

**O'Neal B**  
Olivia C.  
Za'Kiya E.  
Armani S-M.  
Kaydan S-M.

**Philippian II**  
Grant J.  
Konnor J.

**St. Matthew's**  
Carter B.

I know we've talked about the wonders of the local parks around Allen County, but over the course of the next few months I wanted to go into depth about Johnny Appleseed Metro Parks District.

Specifically, the cheaper or free programs they offer.

To start us off, Ms. Beth is holding a summer program called the Imaginature Playgroup. It is a free program located at the Hermon Woodlands Park off Wapak Road. It tends to consist of activities like wading with nets in the creek, or fun ways to play in nature. Best part is, it's a free program and all you have to do is register online prior to the date. You can register online at the URL:

<https://reservations.jampd.com/programs/364/>

I also wanted to mention the Ottawa Metro Park Beach. While it's not free admission, it is incredibly cheap. The rate is \$3 for ages 3-12 and \$5 for ages 13 and up. They have sections of the beach designed for people of all ages or swimming capabilities. There is also a small amount of life jackets for children that do not have their own. Plenty of shaded areas as well as sunny areas for relaxing too. The URL for the Beach is below so you can look at photos and hours.

<https://www.jampd.com/parks-facilities/ottawa-metro-park/>

## PARENT TO PARENT

### JOHNNY APPLESEED METRO PARKS DISTRICT

SUBMITTED BY  
MICHELLE PEAKE-WARREN,  
HEAD START PARENT

## Board of Trustees - 2023

Representatives must be One Third Private Business, One Third Public Entity, and One Third Low-Income

Josh Unterbrink (Private) (Vice President)  
Activate Allen County

Jerome O'Neal (Public)  
Allen County Commissioner Appointee

Mayor Sharetta Smith (Public)  
City of Lima

Shannon Tyler (Private)  
Premier Bank

Natalie Bice (Private) (Treasurer)  
J. M. Green & Associates

Warner Roach (Private)  
City of Lima

Brooke Bohman (Public)  
Auglaize Co Commissioner Appointee

Shelly Vaughn (Public)  
Mercer Co. Commissioners Appointee

Pam Fitzgerald (Low-Income)  
Allen Co Council on Aging

Tiffany Wright (Low-Income) (President)  
Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority

Susan Hord (Private)  
Rhodes State College

Linda Chartrand (Private)  
Retired

Ann Miles (Public)  
Lima City Schools

Homer Burnett (Low-Income)  
C.A.L.L. Ministries

Michelle Peake-Warren (Low-Income)  
Policy Council Representative

James Mehaffie (Public)  
City of Delphos Appointee

Elizabeth Muether (Private)  
Mercer County District Library



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INSTAGRAM**