

WEST OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

November 2025

HELPING PEOPLE.
CHANGING LIVES.



Kimberly Bruns, CEO

A Gift of Hope: Community Partnership Keeps Head Start Families Moving Forward



In an incredible act of generosity and community spirit, the Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation has stepped forward to ensure that hundreds of local children and families can continue receiving vital early education and care. Through a newly signed partnership with West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP), the Foundation is providing up to \$220,000 in emergency support to sustain our Head Start operations for 2 weeks during the ongoing federal government shutdown. This extraordinary contribution means that more than 300 children in our local Head Start

program will continue to learn, grow, and thrive — surrounded by the teachers and caregivers they know and trust. With federal funds temporarily delayed, WOCAP faced the heartbreaking possibility of having to pause services, close classrooms, and furlough staff. Thanks to the Foundation's support, those doors will stay open, and children will continue receiving two nutritious meals each day, safe learning environments, and the consistent care that helps families build stability. The Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation, the charitable arm of Health Partners of Western Ohio



has long championed community wellbeing by investing in initiatives that support access to healthcare, education, and family stability. Their partnership with WOCAP brings two powerful missions together — both born from the nation's War on Poverty in the 1960s — to ensure that every child and family has the resources they need to succeed.



This collaboration is more than financial support — it's a reminder of what happens when a community stands together. It reflects the shared belief that every child deserves a strong start and that when we lift families up, our entire community grows stronger.



WOCAP extends heartfelt gratitude to the Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation for their compassion, quick action, and unwavering dedication to the children and families we serve. Together, we're proving that even in uncertain times, hope, partnership, and community will always prevail.



HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START REMAIN OPEN – EMERGENCY SUPPORT STILL URGENTLY NEEDED



The West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) is calling on community partners to come together in support of local children and families impacted by the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation, WOCAP's Head Start and Early Head Start programs will remain open for the next two weeks. Their emergency contribution of \$220,000 has made it possible to continue serving over 300 children and families and to prevent the temporary layoff of 79 dedicated staff members.

This funding has also prevented the temporary layoff of 79 WOCAP staff members, preserving continuity of care, education, and stability for both families and employees.

While this immediate relief is a tremendous gift, it is only a short-term solution. Head Start requires approximately \$110,000 per week to maintain operations, and without additional emergency support, the program could again face closure by mid-November.

With the holiday season approaching, the impact of a shutdown would be even more devastating for families already facing economic hardship and reduced access to food and childcare. Now, WOCAP is reaching out to other community partners, organizations, and businesses to join in this effort. Your support, through emergency grants, donations, or no-interest loans, can help bridge the gap and ensure that children continue receiving high-quality early education, nutritious meals, and a safe, stable environment.

If your organization is in a position to help Head Start and Early Head Start programs with some emergency financial assistance, we would be deeply grateful. Support could take many forms, including short-term grants or no-interest loans, and we welcome private conversations to explore what might be possible.

Every contribution helps ensure that children continue receiving early education, nutritious meals, and a safe, nurturing environment during this critical time. We remain committed to transparent communication and will continue to provide updates. If you would like to explore ways to support our efforts or collaborate on interim solutions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Let's come together as a community to ensure that every child continues to learn, grow, and thrive—no matter the challenge. Thank you for your continued partnership, compassion, and commitment to the children and families we serve.

With deep appreciation,
Kimberly Bruns, CEO



Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin'-By World

Do you ever wonder why, no matter what you do, you are unable to get ahead? No matter how hard you work, do you still struggle to make ends meet? If so, Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin'-By World can offer you the answers you are looking for!



Getting Ahead is comprised of 16 small group sessions lead by a facilitator, guided by the workbook *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*, written by Philip E. DeVol. Participants will discuss how poverty impacts their daily lives and their community. They will investigate their own personal resources and the resources in the Lima area, while learning the rules of social classes.

Participant Supports:



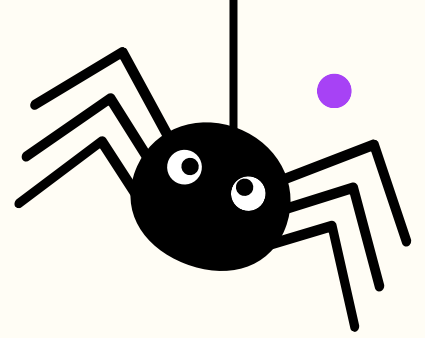
Starting Fall 2025
Meetings will be held
2 days per week for 8 weeks



We are looking for
individuals to participate in
upcoming programs in both
Allen and Auglaize Counties

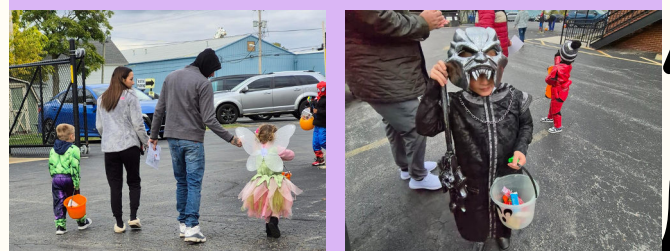
- Meal at each session
- Childcare on-site
- \$25 Walmart Gift card for each session attended
- Free workbook
- Opportunity to share experiences and learn from one another
- Expanded knowledge of the community for future networking

WOCAP TRUNK OR TREAT



Our Early Head Start & Head Start families had a spook-tacular time at this year's Trunk-or-Treat.

Families enjoyed creatively decorated trunks, sweet treats, and lots of smiles. Events like this bring our community together and give children a safe, fun way to celebrate the season, all while connecting with staff and other families in a safe, festive environment. A huge thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers who made this event such a success, and to our families for joining in the fun!



HALLOWEEN



Halloween fun
with classrooms
and staff





**BUS
STOP**



“Baby on Board” is a program started August 2025 through **Allen Co. RTA** and receives technical assistance from **Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission**. It is grant-funded through **Ohio Department of Transportation’s** OTP2 allocation.



Lima/Allen County
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



For more details and resources about “BABY ON BOARD,” please visit: www.lacrpc.com

BABY ON BOARD

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR FAMILIES!

ALLEN COUNTY RTA IS OFFERING FREE FIXED ROUTE BUS SERVICE TO PREGNANT WOMEN OR PARENTS WHO HAVE A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 2 (EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD UP TO AGE 5). GET YOUR FREE MONTHLY PASS BY CONTACTING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNER AGENCIES LISTED BELOW.

GET A FREE “BABY ON BOARD” BUS PASS HERE:



Heartbeat of Lima
421 S. Cable Rd.
Lima, Ohio 45805 419-222-7945



Lima Memorial Health System
1001 Bellefontaine Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-228-3335



Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical
Center 730 W. Market St.
Lima, Ohio 45801 419-227-3361



West Ohio Community Action Partnership
540 S. Central Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-227-2586



Facing utility disconnection?

The Special Reconnect Order* can help!

- Available one-time per utility from Oct. 13, 2025 - April 15, 2026
- No income guidelines
- Payment plan required for amounts owed over \$175
- Reconnection fee is limited to \$36 if service is disconnected—any amount over \$36 will appear on the next bill
- Can delay disconnection up to 30 days for a Winter Crisis Program appointment
- The \$175 may be split between electric and natural gas if used for both at the same time
- Municipal utilities and rural co-ops are not required to offer the Special Reconnect Order

*Authorized by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Learn more at:

www.occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
www.occ.ohio.gov

AD-ASSIST-091825

BOOK



Kiki & Jax

Helping kids prioritize the people and relationships in their lives. Kids will love this sweet story about two friends who take action when they realize things are getting in the way of their friendship.

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Chelsea Fleetwood
- 4 - Liz Demoss
- 5 - Heather Harner
- 6 - Kristina Keller
- 12 - Katrina Collar
- 14 - Sarah Shellhouse
- 16 - Wendell Hill
- 19 - Charlene Adams
- 22 - LaKisha Edmonds

ANNIVERSARIES

- Keith Miller- 5 years
- Angie Osagie - 23 years
- Shirley Garner - 1 year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3rd - Winter Crisis Program Begins
- 6th - Policy Council Orientation 9:30-12
- 11th - Agency CLOSED (Veteran's Day)
- 14th - Home Based Family Day
- 19th - WOCAP Board Meeting
- 20th - Policy Council Meeting
- 21st - Home-Based Family Day
- 21st - No EHS/HS Classes (P/T Conferences)
- 26th - Agency CLOSED
- 27th - Agency CLOSED
- 28th - Agency CLOSED

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 September, we had 127 children with Perfect Attendance.

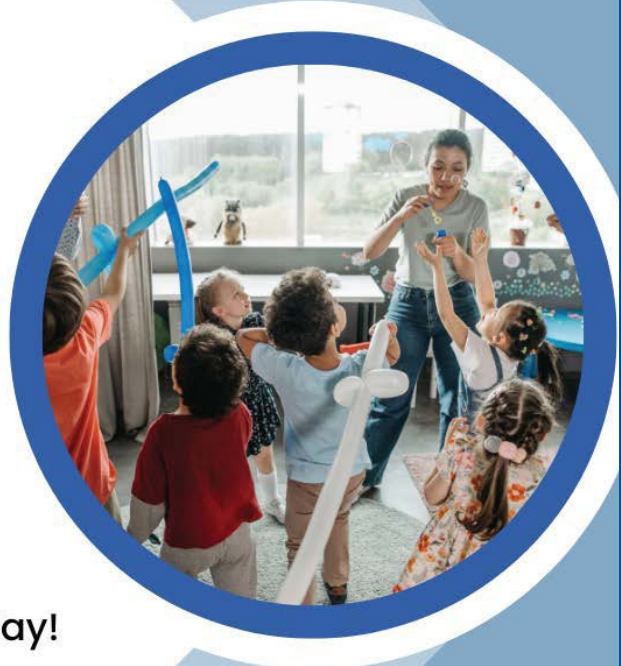
Central A A'Mariana C.	Trinity-Kangaroo Rayshawn A.	Central C Jordyn B. Kari B.	O'Neal A Zarian G. Jr. Khari J. Emmett L. Ferney S.
Central B Maverick S.	Kingdom Elijah A. Josiah A.	Karliah B. Anastasia B. Chanze B. Cyrus D. Teagan E. Matthew P. Malayah S. Quayvion W.	O'Neal B Delahni B. Syion H. Xavion M. Lelen W. Sonnye W.
Fox A Ka'Liyah M-A Christian P. Emma T.	Little Rascals A Elijah N. Amalia U.	Central D Woodensley D. Kellum I. Austin K.	HS Home Based (KC) Daniel B. Stephanie B. Asaiah F. Axis J. Emberly K. Abel M. Camden S.
Fox B Zenesto M.	Little Rascals B Jayce S.	Central F Eja'un R. Ahmir S.	Market St. I Brian A. Jr. Malani D. Eleicia M. Essynce M. King M. Elena W.
EHS Home Based (GG) Za'Kius B. Marc C. Willow T. A'King W. Robert W.	Shawnee Infants Haven S.	Central G Malia C. Zoey C. Jean Rony C. Zyus T.	Market St. II Anna-Stacia A. Taeynn B. Glenn D. Darionte L. Maxton N. Weston N. Kah'Zylah P. Ramijah P. La'Nyiah S.
EHS Home Based (JJ) Josephvoni B. Kiara JB. James K. Pimentel H.	Shawnee Terrific 2's Kane H. Peyton H. Kalayah R.	Central H Daan A. Evonnah B. Kashton B. Oaklynn M. William S. McKinley V.	
Lima Sr. I Safari M.	Shawnee Tiny Toddlers Kh'Air C. Camilla C. Westyn W.	Howard A Kai'Jor M. Levi V.	
Lima Sr. II Legend G. Kayden G. Marthina G. O'shyn P.	The Children's Place Darius F. Ka'Marion N. Brooklyn R. Myles S.		
Smart Start Pae'tience G.	Trinity-Bear Khinyis C.		
	Howard B Zoey T. James W.		



NOW ENROLLING!

OUR PROGRAMS

- **Early Head Start**
- Ages Birth to Three Years
- **Head Start**
- Ages Three - Five Years



Fill out our Pre-Application Today!



www.wocap.org

419-227-2586

www.wocap.org

West Ohio CAP
540 S. Central Avenue
Lima, OH 45804



Parents are involved in decision making and in carrying out the program's activities. Parents serve on Parent Policy Council, parenting groups, and work as volunteers in the classroom. They also help to develop educational and social activities for their children.

FREE program that offers social, emotional and intellectual growth to prepare children for success in life

Head Start is a comprehensive program for children and their families. We offer Home-Based and Center-Based options to best meet your needs. The Home-Based option consists of a home-based teacher, child, and family working together to provide activities and experiences designed to meet the child's needs in the home environment for 1.5 hours.

What Services Are Provided?

Developmental screenings, hearing, vision, dental exam and treatment, lead testing, hemoglobin testing, parenting classes, and various training opportunities. Transportation to the center may be provided for eligible children and each child receives a free snack, breakfast and/or hot lunch daily. Field trips and family days are scheduled throughout the year.

What Are The Requirements?

- Families income must be at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Families/children experiencing homelessness or who are in foster care are also eligible.
- Children with a disability may also qualify.
- Services available for children age birth - five years of age
- Services are available to families/children that live or work in Allen County



Board of Trustees - 2025

Low-Income Representative

Homer Burnett
C.A.L.L. Pantry

Brianna Dysert
Policy Council Representative

Connie Dershem
Allen Co. Council on Aging

Hellen Douglas
Family Promise

Patti Hamilton
AGAPE Ministries - Auglaize

Shannon Tyler
MET Housing - Allen

Private Representative

Linda Chartrand (VP)
Retired

Elizabeth Muether
Mercer Co. District Library

Warner Roach
City of Lima

Josh Unterbrink (President)
Lima Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Knodel
Benchmark Human Services

Rachael Staley
Allen Co. Board of DD

Public Representative

Amy Freymuth
Auglaize Co Commissioner Appointee

Adam Haunhorst
City of Delphos Appointee

Ann Miles
Lima City Schools

Georgiana Saffle
Allen Co Commissioner Appointee

Mayor Sharetta Smith
City of Lima

Shelly Vaughn
Mercer Co Commissioners Appointee

