

# WEST OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

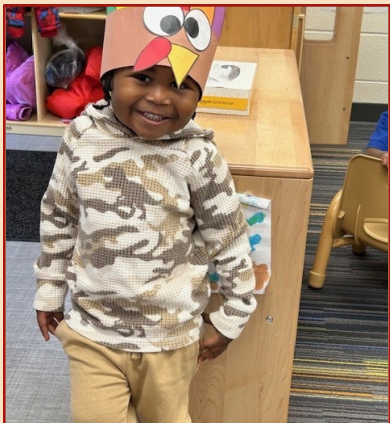
HELPING PEOPLE.  
CHANGING LIVES.



Kimberly Bruns, CEO

## December 2025

As we reflect on a challenging and unpredictable year, our agency is deeply grateful for the strength and resilience of our staff, whose dedication never wavered, and for the unwavering support of our community partners and donors. During a time marked by uncertainty, so many stepped forward to lend a helping hand, ensuring that families across our region continued to receive the resources and hope they needed most. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who stood with us, and we look ahead to the new year with optimism, while staying committed to growth, collaboration, and continued service to our community.



**It's been a tough year...**



**But blessings still surround us.**

**From our family to yours—thank you for being part of the journey.**

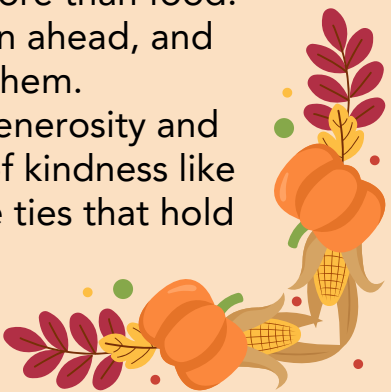


### **Local Church Sponsors Five Families With Thanksgiving Blessing Baskets**

This Thanksgiving season, our community was reminded of the power of compassion and partnership. Rock City Church-Grand Lake reached out to our agency with a heartfelt desire to make the holiday brighter for families in need, and together, we were able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to five local families.

Each basket was thoughtfully prepared and filled with everything needed for a complete holiday meal, including a turkey and traditional sides. The church congregation came together to shop, assemble, and deliver the baskets. For the families who received them, these baskets meant far more than food. They brought relief during a difficult time, hope for the season ahead, and the comfort of knowing their community stands with them.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the church for their generosity and for choosing to partner with us to support local families. Acts of kindness like this truly embody the spirit of Thanksgiving and strengthen the ties that hold our community together.



# 2025-2026 HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM

The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program helps income-eligible Ohioans who are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected, need to establish new service, need to pay to transfer service, or have 25% (or less) supply of bulk fuel in their tank maintain their utility service.

## NOW - MARCH 31, 2026

### Eligible Applicants

Households where total income is not more than 175% of the poverty guideline and one or more of the following apply:

- The main heating source and/or related electric energy source is in disconnect status or has been terminated
- New services need to be established
- Service needs to be transferred
- Amount of remaining bulk fuel supply is at 25% or less
- Heating unit repair or replacement is needed

### Required Documents

- Income for the primary applicant and all household members 18 years of age or older
- Social Security numbers for the primary applicant and all household members
- Most recent electric and gas bills
- Proof of citizenship for all household members
- For furnace repair applicants, a copy of the invoice and/or estimate from a qualified and insured heating unit technician

### Type of Benefits

- **Electric/Natural Gas Utility Assistance:**
  - Up to \$175 for regulated utility customers
  - Up to \$750 for unregulated utility customers
- **Bulk Fuel, Propane, Fuel Oil, Kerosene Assistance:**
  - Up to \$1,200
- **Coal or Wood Assistance:**
  - Up to \$650
- **Heating Unit Repair:**
  - Up to \$1,500 for heating unit repair, replacement assistance

## Stronger Together Fund

The Stronger Together Fund: Created by Mayor Sharetta Smith in partnership with the Lima Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Lima, and other trusted community partners, the Stronger Together Fund ensures that no family in our community goes without support.

### Why It Matters Now

The Stronger Together Fund allows our community to respond immediately when crisis strikes – whether to hunger relief, a natural disaster, or other urgent needs.

1. Supports LOCAL families
2. Utilizes LOCAL partners
3. Powered by LOCAL generosity

Every dollar raised strengthens the local safety net that protects our neighbors in times of uncertainty.

**\$1 donated = 6 meals**  
**Feed Neighbors.**  
**Give Hope. **



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER  
FUND**

This season, gratitude inspires giving.

As we gather around our tables, we're reminded that some of our neighbors are facing empty shelves and uncertainty.

Through the Stronger Together Fund, every dollar donated = 6 meals for local families through the West Ohio Food Bank.

**Give thanks. Feed neighbors.  
Give hope.**

**Donate Today through the Lima Community Foundation**

**Donate by Mail:**  
Stronger Together Fund  
c/o Lima Community Foundation  
207 W. Elm Street  
Lima, OH 45801

**Or Donate Online:**  
<https://buy.stripe.com/14A6oJ4vVgGk8wU6xO8Vi01>  
Link can be found on the City of Lima's Facebook Page or their website



**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](http://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

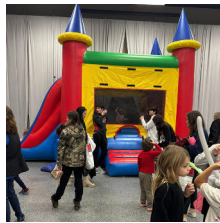


West Ohio Community Action Partnership  
540 S. Central Ave.  
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-227-2586



## 2025 Healthy Families Expo

West Ohio CAP is grateful to have participated in the 2025 Healthy Families Expo, which drew nearly 900 people to access valuable resources and enjoy a day of family-friendly activities. It was great talking to everyone who visited our table and sharing the programs and services our agency has to offer to children and their families. We are looking forward to participating in this event next year.

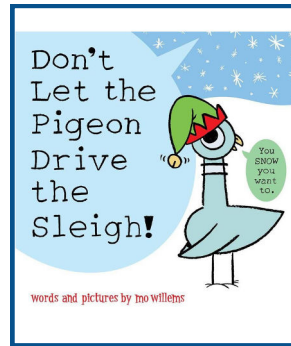


## Excellent Attendance

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 October, we had 61 children with Perfect Attendance.

<b>Central A</b> Carmelo J. Winter S.	<b>The Children's PI</b> Denver C. Brooklyn R. Myles S. Knolan W.	<b>Howard B</b> Zora D. James W.
<b>Fox B</b> Zenesto M.	<b>Trinity-Bear</b> Leighton W.	<b>O'Neal A</b> Zarian G. Jr. Nova Rose S. Jaylen W.
<b>EHS Home Based (JJ)</b> James K.	<b>Central C</b> Chanze B. Cyrus D. Teagan E. Matthew P. Malayah S.	<b>HS Home Based (KC)</b> Emberly K.
<b>Lima Sr. II</b> O'shyn P.	<b>Central D</b> Cooper E. Kellum I. Ameila L. Za'Raeah S.	<b>Market St. I</b> King M. Drentae M. Elena W.
<b>Smart Start</b> Da'miri S.	<b>Central F</b> Breylen A. Brysen A. Desiree B. Kae'Lon F. Ejaun R.	<b>Market St. II</b> Adriana A-E. Aria M. Maxton N. Weston N. Kah'Zylah P.
<b>Little Rascals A</b> Ezran S-J. Amalia U.	<b>Central G</b> La'Mira T.	<b>Central H</b> Peace J.
<b>Little Rascals B</b> Jayce S.		<b>Howard A</b> Hendrix F. Kai'Jor M. Justus P.
<b>Little Rascals C</b> Phoenix S.		
<b>Shawnee-Infants</b> Ka'lani L.		
<b>Shawnee-Terrific 2's</b> Kane H.		
<b>Shawnee-Tinny Toddlers</b> Kh'Air C.		
<b>Shawnee-Wobblers</b> Taytum R.		

## BOOK



### Don't Let the Pigeon Drive The Sleigh

It's the most wonderful time of the year—for driving a sleigh! 'Tis also the season—for driving a sleigh! Oh, and joy to the—the—driving a sleigh! The Pigeon has made a list and checked it once. Can his holiday dream come true? Or will The Pigeon be left out in the cold?

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Christina Barry
- 11 - Janet Buchanan
- 13 - Laura Art
- 18 - Elisabeth Parker
- 21 - Katrina Bogart

## ANNIVERSARIES

- Jennifer Jones - 16 years
- Wendy Wertz - 16 years
- Lisa Haehn - 14 years
- Amy Wannemacher - 12 years
- Chelsea Fleetwood - 1 year
- Stephanie Dubuque - 7 years

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Agency Closed (All Staff In-Service)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Home-Based Family Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> - WOCAP Board Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Policy Council Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Home-Based Family Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> - EHS/HS Winter Break (No Classes)
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Agency CLOSED
- 29<sup>th</sup> EHS Classes Resume
- 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> - HS Winter Break (EHS In Session) HS classes resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>



**READY FOR CHANGE?**



# COME JOIN OUR Head Start TEAM!

Are you looking for a fresh start, rewarding job,  
or a chance to make a lasting impact in the  
community?



Join our Head Start team and become a  
champion for children and families.

**WE HAVE MULTIPLE OPENINGS**



## Why Head Start?

- ✓ Choose the schedule & hours that work for you
- ✓ Grow Professionally with paid training & credential support
- ✓ Enjoy Great Benefits and build a career with purpose



Whether you're changing careers, returning to  
the workforce, or just ready to do something that  
matters -this is your moment



**APPLY ON LINE**

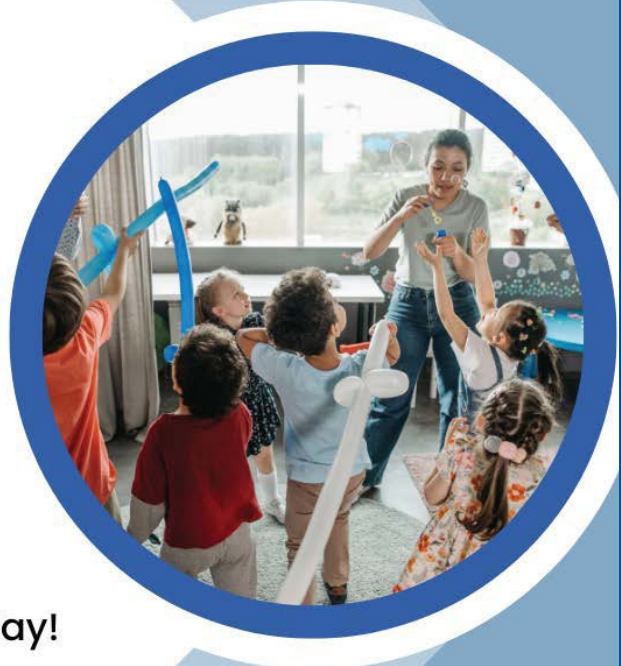
[wocap.org/employment-opportunities/job-openings/](http://wocap.org/employment-opportunities/job-openings/)



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

419-227-2586

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





# 2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

**NEED HELP?  
CALL 2-1-1**

**We're here for you!**

**Live. Free. Confidential. 24 hours a day. 7 Days a week.**

2-1-1 provides callers with information and referrals to social services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services:

- Food
- Clothing
- Childcare
- Youth
- Seniors
- Veterans
- Mental Health Services
- Education
- Employment
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Legal Issues
- Healthcare
- Emergency Shelter
- Transportation
- Prescription Discounts
- Utility/Rent Assistance

**Call Us**  
DIAL 2-1-1

**Toll Free**  
800-650-4357

**Visit Us**  
[allen211.org](http://allen211.org)



Mental Health &  
Recovery Services Board  
ALLEN • AUGLAIZE • HARDIN



**UNITED WAY**  
Greater Lima

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Family Promise

**Patti Hamilton**  
AGAPE Ministries - Auglaize

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MET Housing - Allen

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City of Lima

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