

GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2016



The Gateway Transportation Program “Gateway Transit” is now operating out of the Transit Building located at 260 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty Ky. 41472. Transportation will be expanding to cover all of Morgan County beginning July 1, 2016. Rates will be \$10.00

round trip outside of city limits with two scheduled stops. Transportation inside city limits will be \$4.00 round trip with two scheduled stops. Gateway Transit anticipates at least one scheduled Morehead trip per month at a rate of \$15.00 with three scheduled stops.

We plan to host an open house on June 30th at the Transit Building from 9 AM—6 PM. Food will be served from 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. We are looking forward to the expansion and the ability to serve more residents

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*Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of
patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate
persistence.*

— Hal Borland

From the Executive Director's Desk

Happy Spring! It's been a busy few months and a great deal has happened since our last newsletter.

Congratulations are in order for Wendy Crain Lawson, our WIOA/kynect director, and her family. They welcomed a 9 pound 10 ounce bouncing baby boy, Landry Warren Lawson, on April 6th 2016.

As executive director of this exceptional agency, I know the only way to maintain quality while continuing to grow and challenge ourselves is to expect the very best from every employee. External program reviews is one of the many areas where very high expectations exist. The goal, collectively of my team and I, is impeccable onsite monitoring reviews. That goal has been realized this year. To date, each program that has participated in an external review has received an exceptional report. I thank each of you for the important role you play in making that happen!

As outlined in our strategic plan, we continually monitor grants.gov, looking for funding opportunities to address needs in our communities that align with our mission. We have established an internal grant committee that meets often and takes the lead when opportunities arise. Most recently, we submitted a *"Strengthening Working Families Initiative"* proposal that would, if funded, move us into a new and exciting arena and broaden our reach in the community.

We are expanding our transportation program which will extend services throughout the county of Morgan. We are conducting analysis to determine need in other counties and will continue to expand as the need is identified.

News in our housing programs is positive. We have reapplied for our Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funding and have been notified that funding for the Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) has been restored.

Tim Short Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram Dealership donated \$1,000 to be earmarked for assisting clients residing in Morehead. We thank them for giving back to the community and for allowing Gateway to administer those funds.

I wish everyone a spring and summer season filled with joy and happiness, accompanied by new opportunities and challenges that allows you to grow and excel in your professional careers.

Charlene Engle

Executive Director

Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Head Start News

A Publication of :

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Charlene Engle
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Wallace Rose
Weatherization Director

Wendy Crain-Lawson
WIA/Kynect Director

Martina Roe
Head Start Director

Rebecca Allen
CSBG/Transportation
Director

Leah Kohr
Community Initiatives
Director

Gateway Head Start is committed to providing quality services to children and families throughout our service area. After completing an in-depth review of our transportation services, we determined that the need to purchase buses was crucial to program operations.

Due to high mileage and age of the vehicles we currently own, our transportation tracking system reflects the useful life has ceased to exist and has placed a financial burden on our program due to ongoing maintenance costs.

We have been searching for availability of funds over the past few years to replace our older fleet. With the request to carry over a balance of the FY14 funds and the request for a one time supplement, we were granted approval for the purchase of two new buses.

We would like to express our gratitude for the guidance and leadership of the policy council, the board of directors, and Head Start regional office representatives for supporting our program and affording us the opportunity to expand our fleet!



New Pathways for Fathers and Families Program Updates

Having been awarded a five-year grant for The New Pathways to Fathers & Families Program, we are excited to start meeting with clients. Classes and one-on-one sessions will begin July 1st. Currently we are very busy preparing new materials and learning new skills to better meet the needs of our fathers and families. We will work with clients to provide job coaching, financial management tools, and improve parenting and relationship skills. Our goal is to serve 200 clients in this first year. We are also excited about exploring possible partnering opportunities with other Gateway programs such as Head Start and WIOA to ensure our clients are receiving a comprehensive and cohesive set of services.

Housing Updates

The Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) was slated to end on January 31, 2016. With the program coming to an end we worked diligently to get people "in process" before the end date. We took more applications in the first 3 weeks in January than we did the entire 4th quarter of 2015. Some of this is in part to several major plant closings across the state at the end of the year. Now, we are excited to announce that the state of Kentucky has been awarded an additional \$27.9 million for this program. This funding should sustain the Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) for an additional two years. New client applications will be accepted starting May 16, 2016. Tiffany Taul, our new Housing Coordinator, is doing a great serving our clients and we are excited to be able to help even more homeowners with the extension of this great program.

The two year Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) closes in June 2016. Current funding has been obligated and we have submitted a refunding application for additional funds. We currently have thirty (30) clients on a waitlist and daily calls from people interested in the program so we are hopeful new funding will be awarded that allows us to speak to the need.

Our staff continues to stay current on Housing Counseling principles and regulations. In recent years, this counseling has been more of a one-on-one coach/client relationship. Although we will continue to offer these services, the future will bring more community class settings in order to reach more clients in a shorter period of time. We look forward to partnering with our surrounding communities and financial institutions.

Programs

- **CSBG**
- **Head Start**
- **Pathways to Fathers & Families**
- **LIHEAP**
- **Kynect**
- **Transportation Delivery**
- **Unemployment Bridge Program**
- **KY Career Center**
- **Weatherization**
- **HUD**
- **Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

Outreach Offices

Bath County
108 Guggell St.
Owingsville, KY
(606) 674-2502

Menifee County
28B Bible Camp Lane
Frenchburg, KY
606) 768-2369

Montgomery County
103 Bruce Professional Plaza
Suite A
Mt. Sterling, KY
(859) 498-5345

Morgan County
151 University Drive
West Liberty, KY
(606) 743-3133

Rowan County
136 Lee Ave Suite E
Morehead, KY
(606) 784-7735

CSBG Updates

LIHEAP Crisis was extended through April 30th for the entire state! Gateway was able to serve 2793 clients and spent a total of \$613,378.50 throughout Gateway's five counties.

CSBG received a \$16,812 increase in the budget for FY 17. In doing that we were able to hold outreach workers in all counties. CSBG will also offer a scholarship to anyone who is going to attend college or vocational school in the Fall of 2017. Those applications will be available in December of 2016. There will be a scholarship available in each county for \$400. CSBG is looking forward to starting a new year with everyone!!

Kentucky Career Center JobSight (WIOA)

The Kentucky Career Center JobSight will be hosting new Job Clubs in Menifee and Morgan Counties through June 6th 2016. Job Clubs assist job seekers with creating a game plan for a job search, meet with employers in the area who have job openings, learn interviewing skills, tap into the hidden job market and more.

Menifee County Job Club – begins Monday, April 11th – Monday, June 6th at 1:00 pm at the Menifee County Public Library. For more information call 606-768-3352.

Morgan County Job Club – begins Tuesday, April 11th – Tuesday, June 6th at 10:00 am at the Morgan County Public Library. For more information call 606-743-3133.

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing ~ Theodore Roosevelt

A Brief Summary of our Weatherization Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program was created under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. Community Action Kentucky, in partnership with Kentucky Housing Corporation, administers the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program in Kentucky through its network of 23 community action agencies with offices located in all 120 counties in Kentucky.

The purpose of the Weatherization program is to install energy efficiency measures such as insulation and air sealing to reduce a home's energy consumption and lower the household's utility costs. On average, low income families pay a greater percentage of their income towards their utility costs. With rising energy costs and declining incomes, families struggle to meet their utility cost responsibilities. The Weatherization program provides a more long term solution to help meet that need.

Each measure that is installed in a home must be certified as cost effective through the National Energy Audit Tool software that each certified evaluator must complete on each home. This means that the cost of the measure must not exceed the savings that the measure will provide the household over the lifetime of the measure.

How do I apply?

Applications are taken for Weatherization at the local community action agency office in each county. Interested applicants should contact their local office for application procedures. All approved applications are placed on a waiting list and prioritized according to multiple metrics. The demand for Weatherization is great so it is not uncommon for applicants to be on the waiting list for several months.

Facts about Weatherization:

Weatherization saves \$437 in heating and cooling costs year after year at current prices. Savings are higher still if lighting and appliances are upgraded.

Energy savings due to Weatherization average 35% of consumption for the typical low-income home.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.51 to the household and society (of that, \$1.80 is returned in reduced energy bills and \$0.71 is returned to ratepayers, households, and communities).

Important Note:

Not all households that are income eligible for the program live in homes that are good candidates for the Weatherization program. Trained evaluators will make that determination when the energy audit is scheduled.

Employee Anniversaries

May

Christy Jenkins 17 yrs

Wendy Crain-Lawson 11 yrs

July

Kristy Lewis 10 yrs

Cindy Montgomery 2 yrs

Schelena Smith 2 yrs

Chrystal Back 9 yrs

Michelle Cornett 12 yrs

Vickie Williams 6 yrs

June

Wallace Rose 8 yrs

Tristan Daniel 3 yrs



Upcoming Events

Menifee County Job Club: Monday, April 11th – Monday, June 6th 1:00 PM at the Menifee County Public Library.

Morgan County Job Club: Tuesday, April 11th – Tuesday, June 6th 10:00 AM at the Morgan County Public Library.

Transportation Open House: June 30th 9:00AM-6:00PM at the Transit Building, West Liberty.

Head Start Centers

Bath: 606-674-2766

Botts: 606-768-4175

ELC: 859-497-2124

Camargo: 859-497-8776

Frenchburg: 606-768-3818

East Valley: 606-522-8178

Wrigley: 606-743-2419

Morgan Central: 606-743-2252

Rowan: 606-780-0118