



“The Advantage of Opportunity”

Economic Opportunity Program Inc. 2007-2008 Annual Report



Values

We Value:

- ◆ **People living with Dignity**
- ◆ **Families and communities as the foundation for individual stability and growth.**
- ◆ **Diversity and the unique contributions of each individual.**
- ◆ **Active community participation and involvement by government, community leaders, donors, human service providers, and others in enabling people to enjoy economic stability and growth.**
- ◆ **A living wage for all individuals and families to promote financial stability.**
- ◆ **Excellence in services that create positive changes in individuals and families.**
- ◆ **Effective and efficient use of all human, material, and financial resources.**
- ◆ **Integrity in allocating our resources and providing services.**
- ◆ **Collaborative partnerships in the community.**
- ◆ **Competent and caring staff to deliver quality services that honor people's rights to confidentiality.**
- ◆ **Recognition of staff and volunteers as our most valuable resource in carrying out the mission of EOP.**
- ◆ **Human resource development and support as a primary means for ensuring personal and professional growth.**

EOP's Vision and Mission

The Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung and Schuyler Counties (EOP) envisions a future where all people in our community live with dignity and have the opportunity and ability to live economically productive and satisfying lives.

To achieve this vision, EOP provides services that create positive change in individuals, families, and our community; and encourages and facilitates participation by all people who can help make our vision a reality.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to 2009!

The Opportunity for Excellence ...means that we Care more than others think wise, *Risk* more than others think safe, *Dream* more than others think practical, and *Expect* more than others find possible. The Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.(EOP) experienced a year of *Caring, Risking, Dreaming and Expecting* for the community. A continued pursuit of the *Opportunity for Excellence* inspired EOP to accomplish the vision and mission for a future *where all people of our community live with dignity and have the opportunity and ability to live economically productive and satisfying lives.* Our programs and services create positive change in the lives of individuals, families and the community. We believe that all people can participate to make EOP's vision a reality. Our strategic focus on *People, Financial Performance and Project Success* supports **excellence** in programming that provides a foundation for families and the community to stabilize, revitalize, grow and develop.

As a community action agency, EOP *Cares, Risks, Dreams and Expects* by providing **excellence** in programs and services. Our programs and services in **Childcare, Family Development, Youth Care and Community Services** create positive change in the lives of individuals and families. In 2007-2008, our strategic focus of expansion was achieved as we moved into new neighborhoods and provided services for a broader population.

Projects like the Ernie Davis Community Center Expansion, Hilfiger Ernie Davis Essay Program, Juneteenth Community Celebration, School Readiness Project and the New Day After school program support active community participation and involvement by community participants, leaders and human service and business partners. One of the many highlights for EOP is providing 434 area children Head Start programs in 11 different locations throughout the region.

Our board of directors provided focused leadership and navigated the agency through difficult times. Their guidance and commitment demonstrated **excellence** in leadership and board governance. We thank all of you for your support, resources and heroic volunteerism. With more than 150 volunteers, we are better positioned to serve more of our community.

Our caring, committed and competent staff of 196 people has delivered quality services to both Chemung and Schuyler County for 44 years. Through our service, we supported more than 4000 members of the community. It is impossible to share all that was accomplished in 2007-2008, yet we present the highlights with a strong sense of accomplishment and expectation as we anticipate another year of service to the community. As you read our annual report, we hope you are inspired to achieve **Excellence** in 2009.



Andrea J. Ogunwumi
Chief Executive Officer



What is EOP?

At its base EOP is a vehicle to provide an opportunity for individuals and families to earn a decent living wage, learn to protect and save the money they earn, and provide a positive present and future for themselves and their children. For 44 years EOP has been a multi-service organization for family success within the community. Through a combination of family development services, and energy services, EOP demonstrates its commitment to the community and promotes self-sufficiency.

2007-2008 Strategic Goals

People: Performance of best-practice human service methods.

Financial Performance: Human resources managed for service excellence and cost Effectiveness.

Process Improvement: Renewed focus on process quality, public policy advocacy and information technology functionality.

Leadership in the community: Sharpened focus on service and devotion to the community.

Advocacy: EOP successfully advocates to develop information and update participants and community

2007-2008 Audit Results

Economic Opportunity Program's State and Federal Audit Results:

Economic Opportunity Program Inc. (EOP)

The Department of State Conducted a Grantee Comprehension Assessment Protocol audit on October 29-31, 2007. It was determined that there were no significant findings or deficiencies, with EOP receiving a 96% rating overall. The agency is commended on the positive direction that has taken place throughout the community.

OMRDD Family Support Audit

Every year the OMRDD Family Support Services Program has a Contract Renewal Audit process administered by the Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Office (FLDDSO) regional office in Rochester NY. This audit was performed in July 2008 by the Regional Family Support Office coordinator. Service Access, Recreation and Family Reimbursement programs were all reviewed.

The FLDDSO reviewed for units of service, funding amounts, DDP enrollment and eligibility status. All components contractual requirements are reviewed for units of service, number served, and funding transactions expensed to date.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Ernie Davis Community Center was audited and received a perfect 100% score. The program was audited for number of students served, recreational activities, and nutritional and academic outcomes. As a result the center was awarded increased funding for 2009.

EOP's Family Development Programs

First Choices Program:

First Choices is a referral based employment program designed to assist participants who meet certain criteria in obtaining employment. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year 366 participants were referred to an educational program or gained employment. Career specialists work with individuals to identify specific goals for employment, education, and training. First Choices also helps to facilitate employment possibilities by providing access to community services, child care, transportation, development of networking skills, guided job searches, resume development, and individualized support. The Job developer matches the skills of qualified individuals with available jobs in the area. Program success is achieved when participants are able to obtain gainful employment.

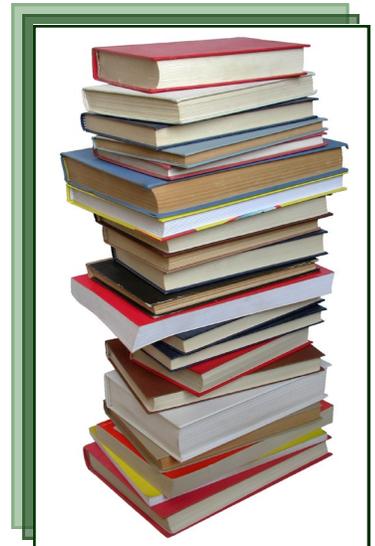


Next Step T.A.S.A. of Chemung and Schuyler Counties and Chemung County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CCAPP):

Teen pregnancy is a serious issue that effects a large number of families within the community. Next Step currently works with 221 teens throughout the region, and offers pregnant teens or teens that are already parents assistance to provide a better life for themselves and their children. This includes helping them pursue an education, find work, or secure child support. Next Step offers these teens a chance to create a stable work and living environment for their family. Next Step and CCAPP also provide two peer education programs called CAPTeen and Teen Parent Panel, which advocate abstinence and healthy decision making in teens' lives.

Literacy Volunteers of Chemung and Schuyler Counties:

Adults with literacy problems that inhibit them from being able to accomplish necessary daily activities are offered a chance to either learn how to read or learn to read more proficiently. Community volunteers are trained in the most efficient methods and strategies of educating adult learners, and are then matched with an individual who needs reading assistance. The tutors help these individuals to build the skills necessary to reach their personal goals, and become contributing members of their communities. Of the 78 participants enrolled in the program in the past year for literacy or ESOL training, 70 are in active learning matches and 48 met at least one of their personal literacy goals. Literacy Volunteers has also reinstated its program at the Monterey Shock Camp in Schuyler County, and five participants left the facility with improved literacy skills. The program has also combined efforts with Elmira College and radio station WENY allowing learners the opportunity to participate in the Mark Twain Project. Participants in this program read books by Mark Twain and complete projects.



Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Clinic (ADRC):

This outpatient and medically supervised program assists individuals who have become dependent on drugs or alcohol. This year the clinic, along with targeted case management, assisted 707 participants on the long journey to recovery and gave them the best opportunity for success. The rehabilitation services offered included group and individual therapy, family counseling, relapse prevention, life skill development, nutritional counseling, and world readiness. It is easy to make the wrong choices and fall into the abyss of chemical dependency, but extremely difficult to return to a clean and sober lifestyle. ADRC gives these people the help they need to recover.

EOP's Family Development Programs (Continued)

Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) Family Support:

OMRDD provides services to meet the unique needs of 36 families and individuals with disabilities. The services offered include reimbursement for the extra costs generated for goods and services related to the disability. The support provided to OMRDD participants with disabilities and their families can lead to more enjoyable and fulfilling lives as members of the community.



EOP's Energy Services Bureau

Energy Services Bureau:

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Energy Services Bureau was able to exceed their goal of weatherizing 105 households by servicing 106 within Chemung and Schuyler Counties. Recent economic turbulence has made it imperative for most individuals and families to pay close attention to their finances and stay within a maintainable budget. EOP's Energy Services Bureau provides weatherization services which allow households to conserve energy and fuel usage. This makes the homes more safe and efficient, which in turn reduces the cost of utilities. Weatherization includes attic and wall insulation, air sealing, heating system analysis, weather stripping and caulking, and correcting any possible health or safety concerns. Partnership with Empower NY, Energy Services provides electric reduction services, which include replacing inefficient appliances with Energy Star models, use of compact fluorescent light bulbs, and conversion of electric dryers, and water heaters to gas models. EOP's Energy Services provide an average household reduction in fuel usage of 20-40%, which results in lower energy costs and less of a financial burden for that family.



EOP's Child Care and Youth Programs

New Day Program:

Students ages 5-12 at Diven, Beecher, Riverside, Fassett, and Parley Coburn Elementary Schools in Elmira are provided after school programs that are designed to enrich them physically, socially, and academically. A curriculum called Second Step advocating non-violence and positive behavior is used with the students. This curriculum strengthens the student's ability to work through challenges that they may encounter on a daily basis. As part of the program, students work on academics to develop educational growth and activities that promote social advancement.



The Ernie Davis Community Center:

Carrying on the proud tradition of the Neighborhood House, also known as "the Nabe," the Ernie Davis Community Center provides after school activities and educational assistance for area youth from the ages of 13-21. Recreational activities include martial arts, basketball, USA amateur boxing, and dance. In 2008 the program received funding for an arrest diversion program called PROS through New York State Juvenile Justice. This program works with youth to keep them out of the court systems. To compliment this program the youth work in group sessions to plan positive activities and participate in community services to earn credit for school. The center also provides academic tutoring and nutritious meals each day to support the mental and physical development of area youth. The delivery of these programs and services are provided by several Elmira College students each year. The Ernie Davis Community Center enriches the community and continues to carry on the legacy of the great Ernie Davis.



EOP's Head Start Program

EOP's Head Start program strives to build real and lasting foundations that support children and families toward gaining interdependence. This program offers social, physical, cognitive, and language development growth that provides positive and healthy experiences for three to five year old children within the community. Children learn as they play, developing essential skills for future social and educational success. Medical, dental, and mental health services are also provided to ensure that all of the children are able to maintain a sound body and mind for developmental success. Nutrition is a key element to the proper growth of young children; the Head Start program offers healthy snacks and meals to suitably nourish each child. Parents are encouraged to participate in all facets of the program, allowing growth to take place throughout the entire family. Families develop together providing a more positive living environment for the success of both parent and child. On average the Head Start program is preparing 350 children a month for kindergarten and beyond.

Head Start for the Future:

Head Start equips children from lower income families with the same opportunities and knowledge that their peers from higher income families are able to obtain.

The results say it all:

- Over 90% of 3 year-olds are at or above the appropriate age level in each developmental area.
- Over 80% of Head Start 4 year-olds meet or exceed developmental milestones for their age group
- The number of 3 year-olds testing above their age level grew on average by 54% between the start of the school year and the following Spring.
- 31% more 4 year-olds on average tested at a higher developmental age level after several months in the program.

Head Start gets parents involved

The head start parent involvement component for 2007-2008 included:

- ⇒ Conducting a parent interest finder
- ⇒ Parent training events such as:
 - ◆ 123 Magic
 - ◆ Grandparents support group
 - ◆ Father involvement discussion group
 - ◆ Taking care of yourself mind & body
 - ◆ Pedestrian Safety
- ⇒ Policy council meetings throughout the year to conduct program business.
- ⇒ Held events such as:
 - ◆ Open house
 - ◆ Family Dance
 - ◆ Head Start Carnival
 - ◆ Volunteer luncheon
- ⇒ Attended center level parent meetings to act as a resource for parents.
- ⇒ Provided parents with a parent handbook and community resources book.
- ⇒ Provided opportunities for parents to volunteer in class rooms as well as act as paid substitutes within Head Start.
- ⇒ Encouraged advocacy through community involvement.
- ⇒ The Snack Pack Program, servicing 53 children.



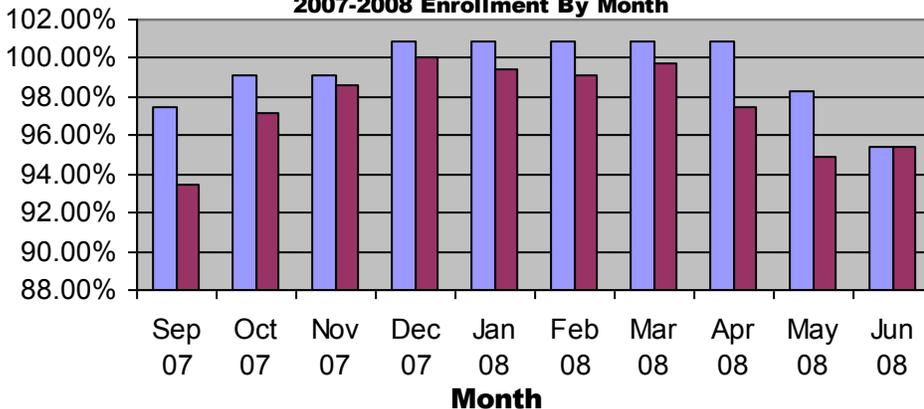
Total Children served.....434
Average Monthly Enrollment.....350
% of Eligible Children Served.....43%
% Receiving Medical Exams.....100%
% Receiving Dental Exams.....95.88%



Head Start By the Numbers (Proposed 2007-2008 budget covers all program operations, administration, and expenses)

Program	Federal \$	Local \$	Total \$
Head Start	\$2,836,399		\$2,836,399
In-Kind		\$829,469	\$829,469
CSBG	\$50,000		\$50,000
United Way		\$22,331	\$22,331
CACFP	\$171,160		\$171,160
Drop-In Center		\$133,091	\$133,091
Wrap Around		\$160,000	\$160,000
School Readiness		\$167,604	\$167,604
HRFC		\$25,902	\$25,902
ECSD Learning			\$40,951
Total			\$4,436,907

2007-2008 Enrollment By Month



Legend:
■ Total Monthly Enrollment
■ Actual Month-End Enrollment

Fund Development News

EOP continues to solicit unrestricted dollars through grants and charitable contributions in order to provide participants in all programs the best services possible. Needs that may not be attained under standard program funding can be reached and exceeded with the help of donations. Unrestricted contributions allow the agency to build upon its current infrastructure to improve efficiency and effectiveness in advancing the EOP mission.

2007-2008 fund development success included:

- Capturing 99% of capital campaign pledges
- Raising over \$149,885 in unrestricted donations
- Continuing the EOP Membership Campaign
- Continuing the Nabe Alumni Association
- EDCC is now under the ownership of EOP, PLEASE GIVE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE II !!!

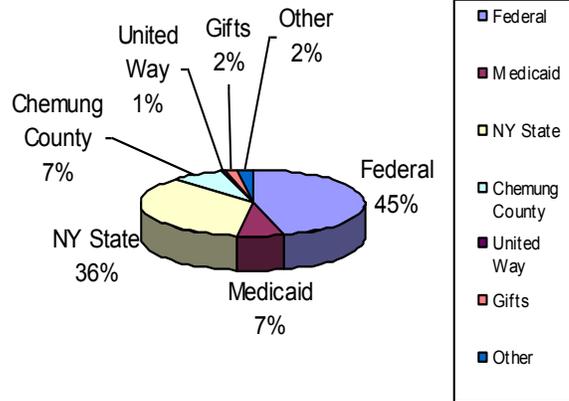


Financial Stewardship

The following information provides a summary of EOP's funding sources and program funding allocations.

2007-2008 Funding Sources

Federal Government.....	45%
Medicaid.....	7%
New York State.....	36%
Chemung County.....	7%
United Way.....	1%
Gifts.....	2%
Other.....	2%

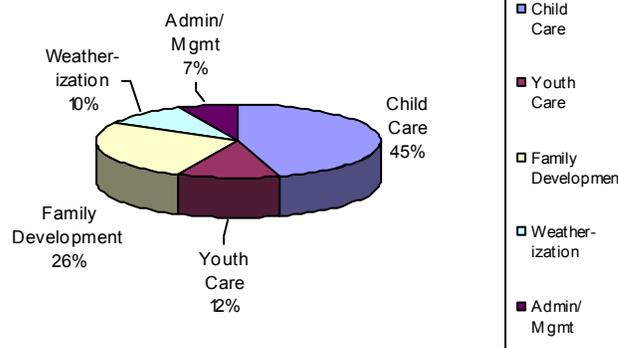


EOP 2007-2008 Program Expense Budgets

Youth Care	
Ernie Davis CC	\$168,832
New Day	\$439,092
Child Care	
Head Start	\$3,287,443
EOP Child Care	\$112,474
Family Development	
Community Svcs. Block Grant	\$376,903
Next Step	\$681,043
Literacy Volunteers	\$54,735
OMRDD	\$53,492
First Choices	\$212,482
Achieve II	\$141,621
Chem. Depend. Assessment	\$82,303
ADRC	\$732,787
Energy Services Bureau	
Weatherization	\$732,007
Total	\$7,075,213

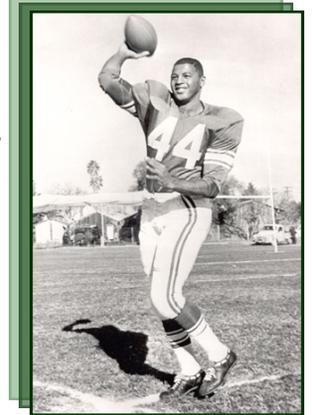
2007-2008 Program Allocation Percentages

Child Care.....	43%
Youth Care.....	12%
Family Development.....	26%
Weatherization.....	10%
Admin/Mgmt.....	7%



The Legacy of Ernie Davis

Ernie Davis grew up in Elmira in the early 1950's, where he honed his athletic abilities at the local community center known as the "Nabe." Upon graduating from Elmira Free Academy Davis enrolled at Syracuse University and quickly became the schools star running back. In 1961 Davis made history by becoming the first African-American to earn the prestigious Heisman Trophy. Ernie entered the NFL with the Cleveland Browns, but tragically was never able to fulfill his dreams of professional stardom. At the age of 23 his life and legacy were cut short when he passed away from leukemia. The story of Ernie Davis stands as a beacon of hope for youth in the Elmira area, demonstrating that through adversity, hard work and perseverance dreams can prevail. Ernie Davis was not only an exceptional athlete but also a loyal friend, a dedicated student, a strong member of the community, and a humanitarian. In remembrance of the spirit of Ernie Davis a community center was established in his name that provides the youth of today an opportunity to chase their dreams.



Our Donors

\$5000-\$10,000

The Hilliard Corporation
The Anderson Foundation, Inc.
Tommy Hilfiger

\$1000-\$4999

Melvin E. Pride
Sallie Mae Community Outreach
Wal-Mart
General Revenue
Corning Federal Credit Union
Women's Task Force (ADRC)
Lockheed Martin
Welliver-McGuire

Joy Amisano Charitable Foundation
The Community Foundation Elmira-Corning Area
Islamic Association of the Finger Lakes

\$500-\$999

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