OPERATION THRESHOLD

COMMUNITY ACTION

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

2016 Annual Report

Proudly serving Black Hawk, Buchanan, & Grundy Counties

www.operationthreshold.org

Mission, History & Board of Directors

Mission: To collaborate, educate and provide services to help meet the basic needs of people and create opportunities for self-sufficiency.

History

Operation Threshold has been serving the low income residents of Black Hawk County since September, 1964. Operations began in Buchanan County the following year, and later in Grundy County. Operation Threshold, and the 1,000 other Community Action Agencies across the nation, are a result of the Economic Opportunities Act of 1964, and the nation's declaration of War on Poverty.

Fiscal Year 2016 Board of Directors

Black Hawk County

Brian Quirk, Chair

Barry Haskins, Vice-Chair

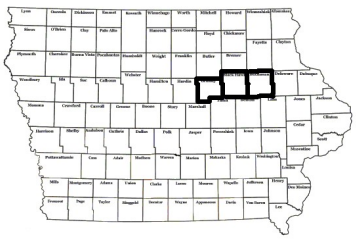
Kari Rae

John Miller

Laroia Van Arsdale

Kim Ross

Amanda Blohn



Buchanan County

Gary Gissel

Kelly Johnson

Dale Ginther

Grundy County

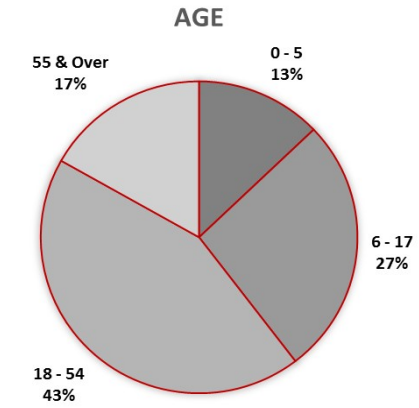
Barbara Smith, Treasurer

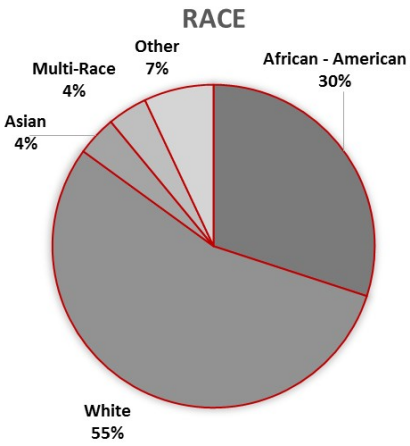
Larry Doughan

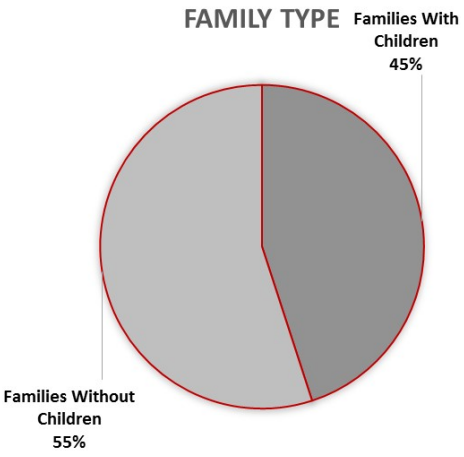
Casandra Weirs

Our Clients At A Glance

In Fiscal Year 2016, Operation Threshold served 15,699 individuals from 6,462 households - representing over 11% of the population of our service area.



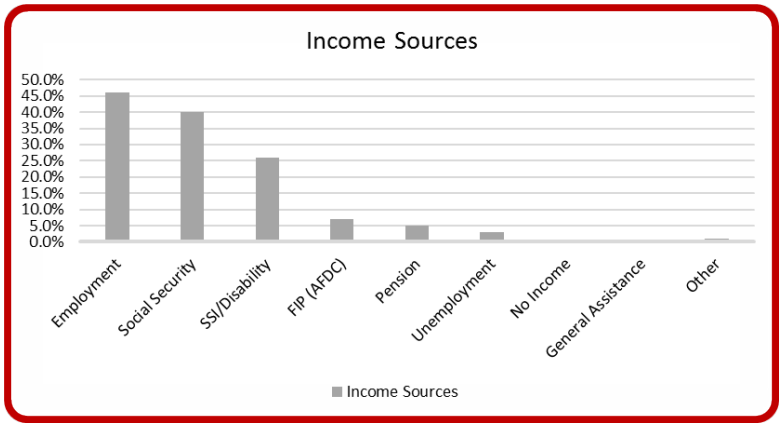




39.6% of our clients were children.

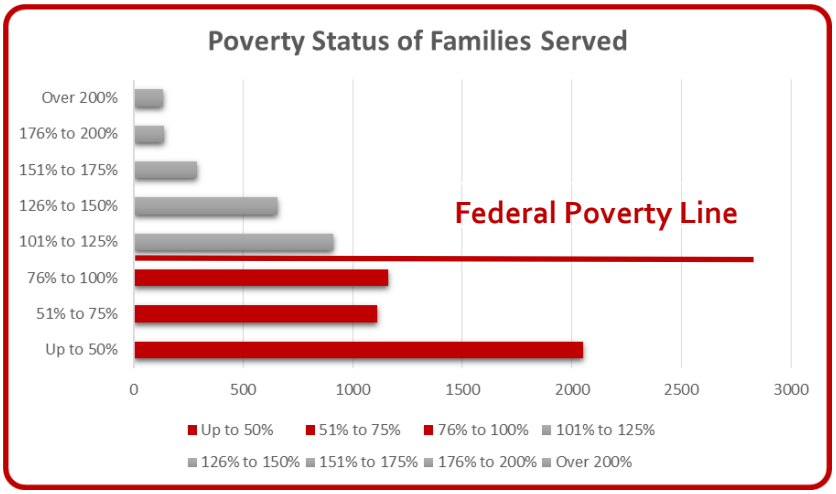
5.5% of our clients were Hispanic.

Income & Poverty



46% of our families earned income through work.

62% of our clients were living below the poverty line.



In 2016 the Federal Poverty Limit was $12,050 per year for 1 person, and $24,600 for a 4 person family.

Individual & Family Impact

In FY 2016 Operation Threshold provided 15,699 individuals (6,462 families) with opportunities to obtain or retain safe, affordable housing. Operation Threshold programming enabled families and individuals to establish or maintain stable living environments, reduce the risk of homelessness, and achieve or maintain self-sufficiency. Programming involved providing housing, assisting clients with obtaining housing, helping clients prevent past due utility accounts and/or maintain utility service, and/or weatherizing homes.

Program	Families Served
LIHEAP	5,372
Crisis Assistance	626
Operation Threshold Rental Units	60
Weatherization & Weatherization Plus	139
Pocket Change	180
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	41
Housing Assistance for Veterans	43

Operation Threshold also continued to offer programming dedicated to meeting the needs of the over 2,500 Burmese refugees and other refugees and immigrants in the service area. Services included assistance with family budgeting, basic needs, parent education, and assistance with various other refugee/immigrant related issues.

Individual & Family Impact

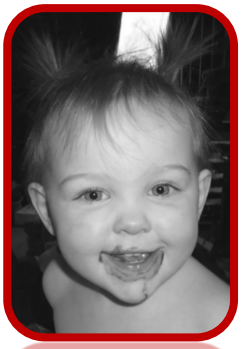
In FY 2016 Operation Threshold continued to expand early childhood and parent support programming. These programs promote child development knowledge, positive parenting techniques, baby/child safety and school readiness. The programs also work to enable families to reduce stressors and empower parents to make healthy choices.

In addition, Operation Threshold continued to serve as the fiscal agent and employer of record for Buchanan County Volunteer Services (Volunteer Co-op) continuing to provide the HOPES-Healthy Families and Crisis Child Care programs for families in Buchanan County.

Program	Families Served
Nest Program	426
Home Visitation Programming: Early Head Start, HOPES-Healthy Families Partners for Healthy Families, Buchanan County Parent Education, & Parents As Teachers	184
Grundy County Coordinated Intake	28
Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visitation Program (MIECHV)	141
Buchanan County Crisis/Emergency Child Care	31

Individual & Family Impact

Programming continued to be offered that aimed at meeting the basic food and nutritional needs of families. In FY 2016 the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provided nutrition education and food assistance to 1,693 women, 2,011 infants, and 2,385 children. In addition, the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program provided support and advice to 428 breastfeeding women.



The Grundy County Food Pantry provided food assistance to 262 families, providing 566 food boxes and 566 food vouchers. In addition, 219 holiday food baskets were provided to families in need during the holiday season.

Offices in Grundy Center and Independence offered special seasonal programming.

This programming enabled families in need to obtain necessary school supplies and/or winter coats for their children and holiday presents for their family. A total of 55 families obtained winter gear, 72 families obtained school supplies and 53 families obtained holiday gifts for their child(ren).

Community Impact

In FY2016 Operation Threshold continued to partner with other community stakeholders to identify issues impacting the poor, improve the quality of life for low-income persons, and address the underlying social and economic conditions that limit opportunities for self-sufficiency. Together we collectively work to facilitate community level change.

Through partnerships, clients received training, education and support to increase opportunities to bring about the change they desire in their communities. The community collaborations/partnerships Operation Threshold participates in include:

Community Collaborations/Partnerships

OT Refugee Services—Engages ongoing support and services for refugees in the community.

Buchanan County Volunteer Services—Maintains critically important child development and crisis care services to families and children in Buchanan County.

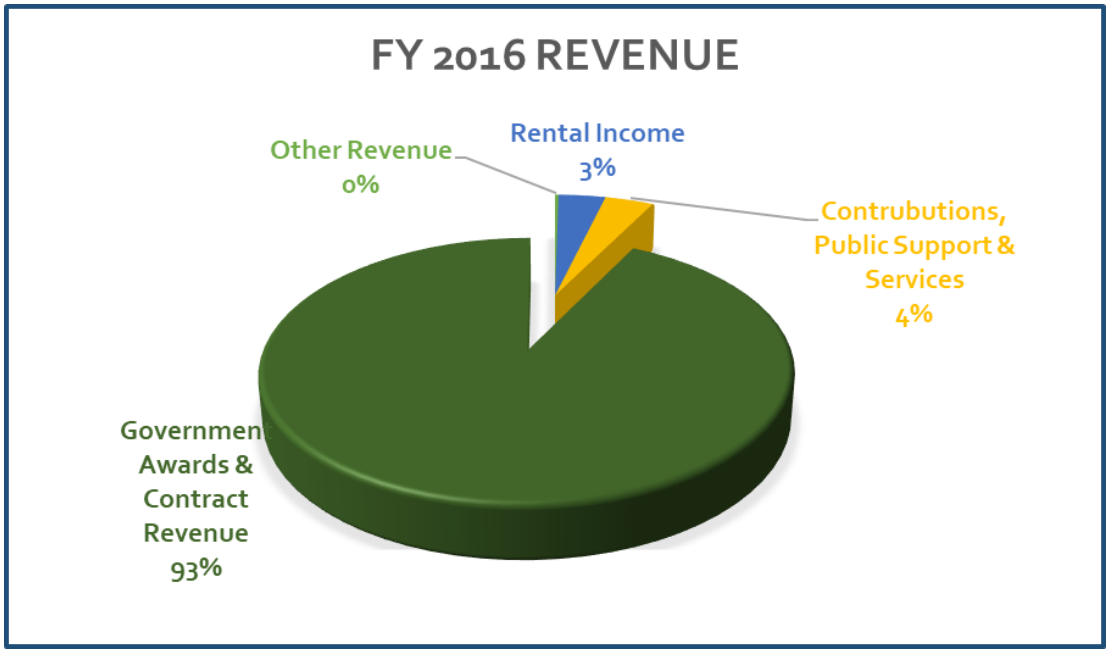
Highway 63 / Renew Waterloo Committee—Invests in the community to expand job opportunities for low-income individuals.

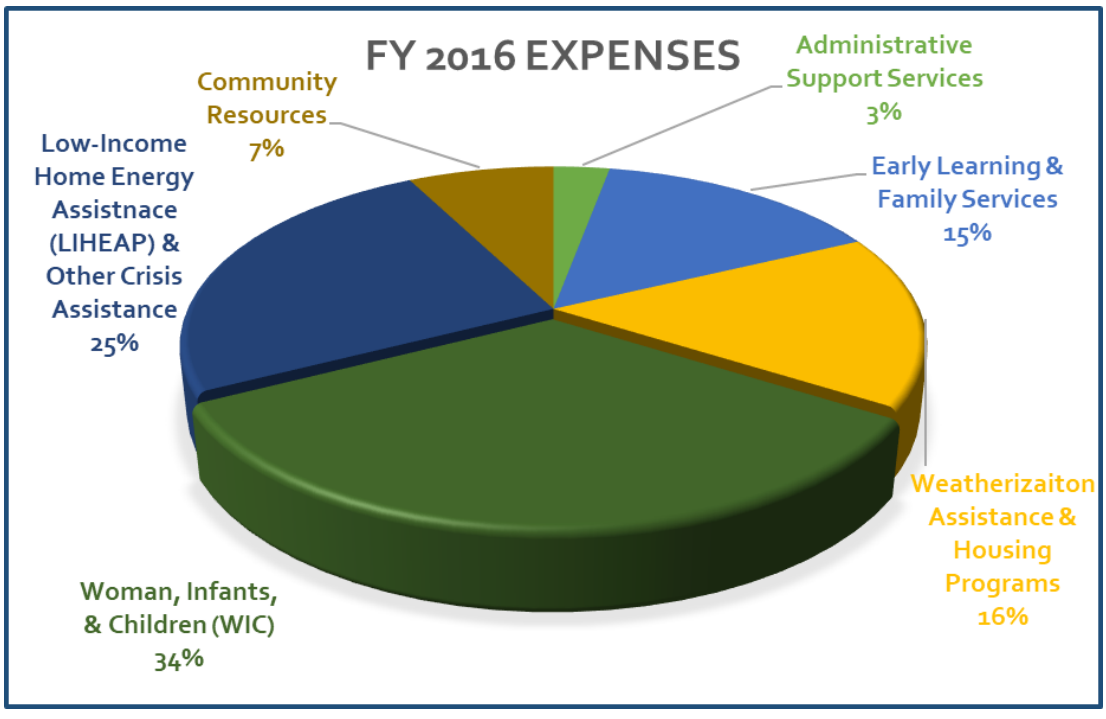
Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV)—Expands and enhances high quality home visitation programming for families parenting children up to the age of 5.

Campaign for Grade Level Reading—Works with area schools, and other community partners (the Cedar Valley United Way, University of Northern Iowa, Childcare Resource and Referral, Successlink, the Black Hawk County YMCA, RJ McElroy Foundation, Guernsey Charitable Trust, and others) to improve 3rd grade reading proficiency and increasing positive outcomes for at-risk children.

Agency Impact

Operation Threshold works to expand and diversify its resource base to provide a solid foundation to achieve its mission. Revenues and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 are shown below.





Agency Impact

Partnerships with other service providers strengthen agency capacity and impact. Operation Threshold proudly partners with a variety of community organizations to promote and provide services for low-income people. Partners and funders include the following:

United Way Cedar Valley United Way Funded Partner

Waterloo Iowa

Iowa Department of Human Rights

Iowa Community Action Association

Cedar Valley's Promise — Uniting for the love of our children

R.J. McElroy Trust

LSI Lutheran Services in Iowa — people focused • results driven

Veridian credit union

Building Direction for Families

Iowa Department of Education — Alliant Energy

Family & Children's Council of Black Hawk County, Inc.

Embrace Iowa

Buchanan County Iowa

Empower Educate Engage Embrace — Together 4 Families

Black Hawk County

Grundy County, Iowa

Waterloo Community Schools

Cedar Falls Community Schools

the YMCA

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Northeast Iowa Food Bank

The Max & Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa — Established in Waterloo/Cedar Falls in

Iowa Finance Authority — Investing in Home and Community

Tri-County Child & Family Development Council, Inc. — Your partner for healthy child development.

Black Hawk County Health Department

Community Foundation Grundy County — For good. For ever. — Affiliate of the Community Foundation of NE IA

MidAmerican Energy — Obsessively, relentlessly at your service.

Black Hills Energy

Community Foundation Buchanan County — For good. For ever. — Affiliate of the Community Foundation of NE IA

Iowa Department of Human Services

Alliant Energy

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health — Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans