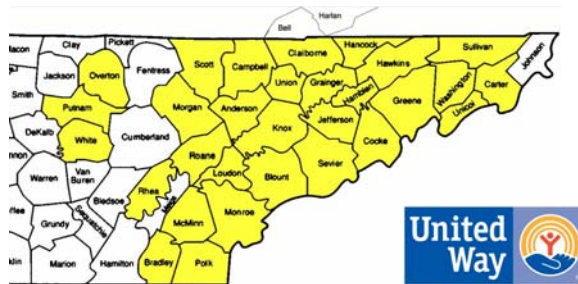


Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. is a Community Action Agency serving six core counties in East Tennessee—Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe and Sevier. The purpose of the Agency is to help families living in poverty improve their lives by providing them with assistance and services that they are not able to provide for themselves. The focus of the Agency is to help people help themselves.

Our mission is to provide resources, tools, and opportunities that help low-income families and individuals of all ages achieve personal, economic and social stability.

Our goals are to:

- Reduce barriers to personal, economic, and social stability by preventing low-income families and individuals from achieving self-sufficiency.
- Mitigate the effects of poverty for the elderly and people with disabilities who may not be able to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Develop and sustain partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people.
- Increase the capacity of the agency to help clients achieve positive outcomes.
- Work with partners, to create and/or improve community development opportunities that result in increased self-sufficiency for low-income community residents.



Services Directory 2020

Main Office Located at:
534 East First North Street
Morristown, TN 37814

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1218
Morristown, TN 37816

(423) 587-4500 or (866) 631-4120
www.douglascherokee.org

Programs & Services

Workforce & Education

Richard Tidyman rtidyman@douglascherokee.org

This program has facilitated a Teacher Externship program which allowed 36 teachers to participate in a yearlong program educating them on soft and hard skills needed for industry including allowing them to work for one full week in one of the manufacturing facilities. Other activities include resume presentations conducted at the high school level for over 300 students; donation of workforce development books suggested by the Department of Labor to all the Pre-K classes in the Hamblen County School System; participating in the Junior Achievement BizTown program which is a workplace simulation for 5th graders; coordinating industry tours for high school classes; and helping the community with workforce related events and activities including recruiting of TN Scholars and mentors.

Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels

Kate Luker (423) 318-6936

kluker@douglascherokee.org

The nutritious meal, friendly visit and safety visit help senior adults deal with three of the biggest threats of aging: hunger, isolation and loss of independence. Meals on Wheels receive funding from: East Tennessee Human Resource Agency, United Way, Monroe County Government, Meals on Wheels America, March for Meals, participant contributions, private pay, monetary donations, in-kind donations and program assistance by CSBG.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Kim Paxton (423) 318-6938

kpaxton@douglascherokee.org

The LIHEAP program is funded through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. The program is designed to help low-income families with assistance toward their energy expenses. The funding allows DCEA to help with electric, natural gas, wood, propane, kerosene or heating oil. Clients can be served by LIHEAP once per fiscal year.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Curt Amos (423) 587-4501

camos@dceaheadstart.org

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program provides services in Blount, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, Sevier and Union Counties in the southern portion of Middle East Tennessee. DCEA HS/EHS comprehensive services are greatly needed in the very rural areas that are served. Early Head Start services are provided in one county, Hamblen.

The program has an ongoing funded enrollment of 892 preschool slots and 72 infant, toddler and pregnant mommy slots. This is a total of 964 slots. The program operates out of 60 classrooms in 41 facilities. The program is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and governed by the Office of Head Start. Head Start services are free. Low-income children and families are recruited for the program on a yearly basis and ongoing during the program year. Three service options are provided: part-day/part-year, full-day/school year and full-day/full year.

The HS/EHS program partners with parents to ensure they have the needed tools to help prepare their children for public school and beyond. Children receive comprehensive services including: health, dental, nutritional and mental health screening and follow-up, classroom educational services and in some centers, transportation is provided to and from the center.

CSBG

Neighborhood Service Centers

Amie Whitworth (423) 318-6924

awhitworth@douglascherokee.org

The Neighborhood Service Centers are primarily funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) through the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Funding provided by United Way, East Tennessee Foundation grants, local government, churches, school groups, local utility companies and individuals is also administered through the Neighborhood Service Centers. The centers provide services in the form of vouchers for assistance with rent/mortgage evictions, utility disconnect notices, food, medical/dental needs and other qualified needs presented by eligible county residents. The NSC's also administer and distribute USDA Commodity foods on a quarterly basis, provide case management services and administer limited transportation services for any qualified DCEA program participants. Services are provided to eligible households that reside in Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, or Sevier counties.

Educational Opportunity Center

Terri Hall (423) 318-6916

thall@douglascherokee.org

The DCEA Educational Opportunity Center program is a \$264,482 annual grant funded program from the U.S. Department of Education for five years. The Educational Opportunity Center provides assistance with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), college/vocational school admissions, financial literacy information, scholarship search, career guidance and test preparation. Our goal is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll with postsecondary education whether in college or vocational school.

The DCEA Educational Opportunity Center has been in existence since 2002 and currently serves 1,000 adults in Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Hancock, Jefferson and Monroe Counties each year. All services are FREE!

Talent Search

Jenny Collins-King (423) 318-6931

journeygirl89@douglascherokee.org

DCEA Talent Search is a program that helps encourage and prepare students in grades 7-12 to pursue a college education. Talent Search serves the following schools in Tennessee: Campbell, Jellico, Scott, Robbins Elementary and Claiborne High and Harlan County, Middlesboro and Pineville High Schools in Kentucky. Talent Search offers ACT Prep, College Application Assistance, FAFSA Assistance, Tutoring, Mentoring, College Campus Visits, ACT Fee Waivers, various workshops, and many other useful college and career preparation services.

Affordable Housing

Anna Mendoza (423) 586-1494

amendoza@douglascherokee.org

Douglas-Cherokee's Affordable Housing has provided quality, safe and affordable housing to thousands of rural households since 1991. The program targets mostly seniors and serves 24 counties across East Tennessee. Currently, the program sponsors and manages 59 rental properties with over 1,500 resident households. Affordable Housing receives funding from HUD, THDA, USDA Rural Development, THDA Home Trust Fund, FHLB and Section 8 vouchers.

Upward Bound

David Alvis (423) 318-6930

davidalvis@douglascherokee.org

Upward Bound is a federally funded program that started in 1964. Serving Grainger, Hawkins, Morgan and Scott counties. The program is designed to enable high school students to graduate high school, enroll in and graduate from a 2 or 4 year university or college. Students meet with their advisor in high school once per week and attend one Saturday session per month at Carson Newman University. On these Saturdays, students are exposed to a wide array of academic enrichments such as financial literacy, ACT prep, non-cognitives, Juniors and Senior seminars and a host of electives. During the summer, Upward Bound hosts a 6 week summer program at Carson Newman University. Students move in, experience college life in an actual dorm setting and get real life experience. Students take classes in everything from Algebra 2 to Japanese. Some students get to participate in Upward Bound's work study program in which they work in an office on campus during the six weeks or they may want to participate in the bridge program. In the bridge program, students take classes at Carson Newman during the summer and receive actual college credit. At the end of the summer program, students are taken on an exciting 1 week cultural trip. Some past destinations include NYC, Chicago, Washington D.C., New Orleans, Houston, Philadelphia and Williamsburg.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Shannon Collins (423)318-6912

scollins@douglascherokee.org

Established in 1971, RSVP engages Americans age 55 and older in citizen service that addresses the nation's most pressing challenges— everything from fighting the opioid epidemic, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting Veterans to jobs and benefits, preparing today's students from tomorrow's jobs, ensuring seniors age independently and with dignity, and help Americans rebuild their lives following a disaster.

While serving, RSVP volunteers also improve their own lives, staying active and healthy through service. A growing body of research points to mental and physical benefits associated with volunteering, including lower mortality rates, increased strength and energy, decreased rates of depression and fewer physical limitations.

The RSVP program will run through June 30, 2020.

SRAE

Karen Gaby (423) 581-5420

kgaby@douglascherokee.org

Wyman's Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®) is a comprehensive, evidence-based youth development strategy that promotes the positive development of adolescents through a combination of curriculum-guided group discussion and volunteer service learning. Our goals for the youth we serve include: improve social and emotional learning and life-skills, strengthen their connection to others, develop a positive sense of self, and improve academic outcomes and decrease risky behavior. As a TOP® provider, we believe by empowering teens to identify better choices, they will become leaders with a powerful vision for their future. TOP® is provided at Hancock County Middle School, Lincoln Heights Middle School, and Meadowview Middle School. At Miller-Boyd Alternative School, we use a character-based abstinence education program called Game Plan. Game Plan is designed to help teach students how to make healthy choices and gain insight to their own decision making. Students engage in classroom instruction, discussions, and activities which cover topics such as goal setting, decision making, avoiding risky behavior, character development, and the importance of healthy relationships. This project is a S.R.A.E. Program funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and a supported program of the Family and Youth's Services Bureau.

Afterschool Programs

Betsy Hurst (423) 581-5420

bbj.hurst@gmail.com

The goal of the afterschool programs is to provide educational/enrichment activities and counseling to at-risk students and parents. Intensive afterschool tutoring, counseling and academic enrichment activities are offered to underachieving students enrolled at target schools. Other activities at all sites include arts and music programs, character education and recreational activities for students as well as parent involvement including family literacy programs, job search, and employment-based computer workshops for family members. Afterschool program sites are located in Grainger, Hamblen and Union counties.

Rural Accelerator Initiative

Kathy Holt (423) 623-1987

kholt@savechildren.org

The Rural Accelerator Initiative provides money, training, and other resources to create lasting partnerships and accelerate progress toward cradle-to-career outcomes for children, beginning with kindergarten readiness.

The initiative aims to help all children in Cocke County while recognizing certain groups of children are more marginalized. Efforts will help all kids while closing gaps between subgroups.

Administration

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