



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

Letter from the Executive Director



As I close out my 5th year as Executive Director, I reflect on all the good changes that have been made at our Agency.

- Additional paid time off, plus more flexibility (full month to use Birthday Holiday)
- Higher wages through program raises, field staff adjustments, and updated wage scales
- Work/Life flexibility with a new operating schedule
- Streamlined services to better support our communities
- Mental Health, Wellness, and Leadership training opportunities offered to staff in all programs
- Biennial All Staff Fall Festival
- Employee of the Month Awards/Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon
- Increased the Agency's healthcare contribution so employee only elections on the lowest cost plan saw zero rate increases
- Casual Dress
- A place where everyone can have fun and still excel in their career

This list is not all-inclusive of the changes that have been made, these are just a few of my favorite ones.

Every year I talk about change, and that is because it is required of us to thrive in the current environment we live and work in. One thing that hasn't changed is our staff's focus, dedication, and attitude towards serving those in need. One of my favorite quotes is from Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Douglas-Cherokee has been at the forefront of serving others for 62 years. We will continue to carry the banner for those in need, presently and into the future.

Cicero said, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others." I am truly grateful that I have been given the opportunity to lead this Agency. I want to continue to foster a culture of appreciation, where staff are engaged, happy, and strongly connected to our mission. Together, we have accomplished so much, but our call to serve our communities remains steadfast. I know our best days are ahead!

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Barnard".

Megan Barnard, Executive Director

Our Team



David Sigler
Fiscal Officer



Amanda White
Human Resources
Director



Haley Moore
Assistant Fiscal
Officer



Mary Jones
Director of Planning



David Alvis
TRIO Director



Curt Amos
Head Start Director



Anna Mendoza
Affordable Housing
Director



Tonya Purkey
Education Center
Director



Logan Johnson
Community Services
Operations Manager



Tee DeMoss
Community Services
Finance Manager



Tommi Lindsey
Energy Services
Program Manager



Penny Blakeley
Senior Nutrition Client
Services Manager

Workforce At A Glance



Employees By Program

Admin	14
Affordable Housing	39
CSBG	13
LIHEAP	6
Education Center	26
Families First	4
Head Start	258
Senior Nutrition	11
TRIO	19

Employees:

390



Full-Time

309



Part-Time

34



Substitutes:

47



Average Years of Service:

7



Retention:

72%



Male

25



Female

365



Financial Report

Revenues	Federal	\$ 18,746,691
	State	\$ 737,739
	Locals	\$ 233,500
	Miscellaneous	\$1,275,497
	Housing Management	\$880,870
	TOTAL	\$21,874,297
Expenses	Personnel	\$ 12,354,486
	Contracted Services	\$ 286,237
	Supplies	\$ 1,016,034
	Communication	\$ 304,194
	Occupancy	\$ 1,074,527
	Other Maintenance	\$40,716
	Printing	\$95,269
	Postage	\$21,668
	Travel	\$206,778
	Conferences/Meetings	\$51,908
	Insurance	\$154,552
	Asset Purchases	\$83,000
	Client Benefits	\$5,238,645
	Miscellaneous	\$69,711
	TOTAL	\$20,997,725
	Fund Balance	\$876,572

***Note: These are not final financials as we are still working on closing out grants for FY 2026.**

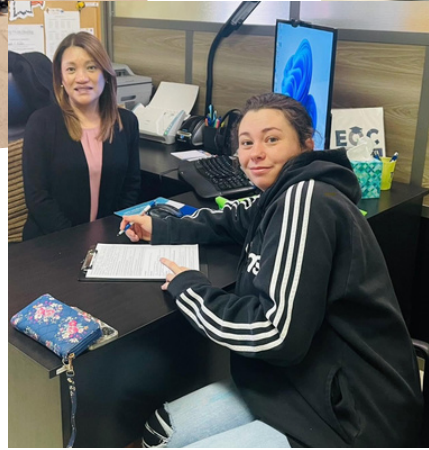
Client Satisfaction



1,033 clients completed a client satisfaction survey in 2026.

→	98%	Helped in timely manner
→	98%	Treated with respect/understanding
→	97%	Received info/services needed
→	98%	Would recommend to a friend

TRIO



→ Participants Served **2,067**

→ FAFSA Applications **1,278**

→ Summer School Participants **99**

→ Graduated High School/HiSET **365**

→ Paid Work Study Hours **480**

→ College Tours **20**

Head Start



**Head Start
Children Served**

794



**Infant/Toddlers
Served**

131



**Pregnant Women
Served**

3



Enrollment

99%

Affordable Housing



Tenants Served

2,682



New Tenants

213



Satisfactory
Management
Reviews

100%



Satisfactory
REAC Inspections

79%



Occupancy Rate

94%

Community Services



LIHEAP Clients Served

10,301



Rental Assistance Clients Served

55



Seniors Helped With Property Taxes

9



Senior Clients Served With Meals

900



Senior Congregate Meals Served

2,630



Senior Home-Delivered Meals Served

198,026



Mothers served in TN Strong Diaper Grant

311



Families First Clients Served

234



Children Served With Shoe Vouchers

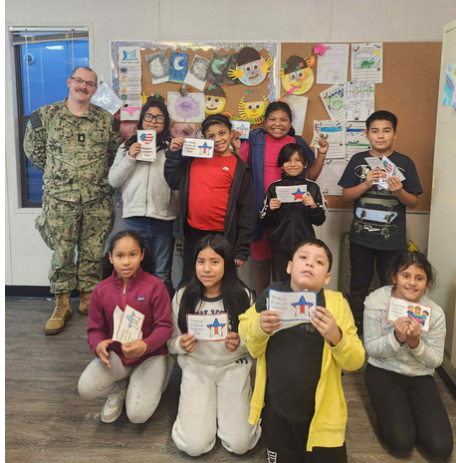
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Education Center

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DOUGLAS-CHEROKEE ECONOMIC AUTHORITY, INC.



→ 21st Century Students	111
→ LEAPs Students	226
→ 21st Century Students With 180+ Hours	86
→ LEAPs Students With 180+ Hours	143



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