

Douglas-Cherokee
Economic Authority, Inc.
Established 1965

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,

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

98,026



Mothers served in TN Strong Diaper Grant

311

Families First Clients Served

234

Children Served With Shoe Vouchers

294

Education Center







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



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