



HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES,  
FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.

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PEORIA CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

# people helping people

JULY / AUGUST 2016

## Summer Scholarships Awarded

PCCEO's CSBG Scholarship program was able to offer additional funds from the 2015 scholarship program to students who attended summer classes this year. It is rare we are able to do this but we are excited to have awarded these summer scholarships to the following students:

**Doris Peat**

Illinois Central College

**Holly Robinson**

Saint Francis Medical Center  
College of Nursing

**Monica Smith**

Illinois Central College

Scholarship recipients for the 2016-2017 school year will be announced in September.

Scholarships are generally awarded in the fall, to cover fall and spring courses. Applications for 2017-2018 CSBG Scholarships will be available in spring of 2017.

## Community Core Sponsors Clean-up Day

PCCEO's Community Core Initiative was proud to partner with Greater Peoria LISC, Southside Community United for Change, the City of Peoria and the residents of the Community Core II, in the second annual Community Clean Up day on Peoria's Southside.



200 youth volunteers from Dream Center Peoria's Mission Peoria youth group, joined forces with our partners to beautify the neighborhoods within the Community Core II boundaries. The youth were divided into 8 teams of 25 kids, ranging from 6th graders to high schoolers. 7 of the teams walked the streets picking up garbage and debris. Volunteers from LISC, SCUC and the City of Peoria coordinated collection and disposal of garbage bags, and provided lunch to Mission Peoria volunteers.

The 8th team of youth assisted with the installation and painting of 16 planters. Donna Crowder, Community Organizer, and friends cut recycled tires which were then turned inside out by men from the Federal Halfway house. These planters were placed on several corners in the Community Core II boundaries. Elona Mason installed plantings after the paint had dried, and residents of the Community Core II have agreed to keep the planters watered.

# Illinois Hardest Hit Fund Provides Assistance to Home Owners

Do you need help paying your mortgage? Have you experienced a drop in household income? If so, you may qualify for up to **\$35,000** in federal assistance at no cost to you.

Starting August 1, 2016, Illinois homeowners can apply for assistance under the Illinois Hardest Hit program. However, homeowners who have previously received Illinois Hardest Hit assistance are not eligible to reapply.

The Illinois Hardest Hit Fund® program provides mortgage assistance to homeowners who have experienced at least a 15 percent income reduction due to a qualifying hardship event and who meet the eligibility criteria. The assistance allows eligible households to avoid foreclosure while they work to regain employment and financial stability.

**What is a qualifying hardship event?** Applicants must have experienced a reduction in income due to a qualifying hardship event that was through no fault of their own. Hardship must have occurred after January 1st, 2010 and after proper-

ty purchase date. Qualifying hardships include:

- Unemployment
- Underemployment
- Decrease/Loss of in Business Income
- Loss of Income Due to Disability or Health-Related Event
- Death of a Spouse or Title Holder
- Divorce of a Spouse or Title Holder

## What are the eligibility criteria?

- Property located in Illinois
- Primary residence of applicant(s)/ title holders
- Property is owner occupied 1-4 unit
- Property is single family, multi-family (4 unit max), townhome, condominium, mobile home on a permanent foundation
- Household must have experienced a 15% reduction in income.
- Household income cannot exceed 120% Area Median Income
- Household liquid assets cannot exceed \$17,500
- Loan must be secured by a 1st lien position (Home Equity Loans are accepted if in 1st position)
- Unpaid principal balance must not exceed \$500,000

- Loan must be fixed rate or an adjustable (No interest-only or negative amortization loans)
- Lender must be participating in the HHF program and willing to accept payments on applicant's behalf
- Applicant(s) must not have been convicted of a mortgage related felony in the last 10 years

**What types of assistance is available?** The Illinois Hardest Hit Program offers two types of assistance:

**1. Reinstatement Assistance (RA)** is a one-time payment of all mortgage arrearage, fees, and penalties.

**2. Monthly Mortgage Payment Assistance (MPA)** pays 100 percent of monthly mortgage payments for up to 12 months.\*HHF assistance is provided as a 5 year forgivable loan recorded on the property. This assistance is forgiven over the 5 year loan term. All borrowers approved for the program will complete a full set of loan documents. Funds may have to be repaid to IHDA if you sell your home at a profit or refinance during the 5 year loan term.

## Are You Registered to Vote?

### Registration Deadlines 2016 General Election Deadlines

- Last day to register to vote: **Tuesday, October 11, 2016**
- Grace period registration: **Wednesday, October 12, 2015 - Monday November 7, 2016 and Tuesday November 8, 2016 at each polling place**
- Registration will resume: **Thursday, November 10, 2016**

### Grace Period Registration

**For the November 8, 2016 General Election:** People who do not register to vote by **Tuesday, October 11th** may register to vote in our office and any Early Voting site from **Wednesday, October 12th through Monday, November 7th**. You may also register on Election Day at your Polling Place. **Please contact us at (309)494-8683 for more details. \*If you register to vote during the grace period and want to vote in the upcoming election, you must vote at the time of registration.**

### Voter Registration Sites within the City of Peoria

Peoria Election Commission  
542 SW Adams  
**City Hall**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
419 Fulton St. Suite 401  
**Peoria Public Library**  
107 NE Monroe  
**Lakeview Branch Library**  
1137 W. Lake St.  
**Lincoln Branch Library**  
1312 W. Lincoln Ave.  
**McClure Branch Library**  
315 W. McClure Ave.

## Head Start Gears Up for a New Year

Head Start is busy preparing for the 2016-2017 school year and the program is anticipating a few changes.

We are awaiting confirmation to convert some of our half day classrooms to full day. If this happens by August 15<sup>th</sup> then we will have full day at Harrison, Trewyn, Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center, Manual Academy, and the Urban League. Only classrooms at Webster will remain part- day (morning and afternoon classes). If we do not get the confirmation by August 15<sup>th</sup> we will remain the same for this year, which means Harrison and Trewyn will be half day.

Head Start classes will begin September 6, (the day after Labor day) to give us time to notify parents of the changes that may take place.

The parents that have applied to Head Start have been notified of new start dates by mail.

Another letter will be going out August 3<sup>rd</sup> notifying parents of parent orientation on August 17<sup>th</sup> (5:30 to 7:30pm), and August 18<sup>th</sup> (10am-12pm). On August 16<sup>th</sup> a second letter will go out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> parent orientation scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>.

We are currently finalizing the parent handbook. It will be distributed at parent orientations.

We are currently taking applications for Support Service Clerks and Substitute teachers/assistant teachers, and drivers.

There will be no first day of school festivities, however we will have a back to school event at each site after school starts and a Head Start Awareness event this fall. (October).

**YES, WE ARE STILL RECRUITING.** We will take applications Monday through Friday at Webster Head Start and we will have staff that can do home visits to get an application started. Parents must have social security cards, proof of income and a current physical with immunization records for children. Transportation is available for those who need it.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/peoriacommunityaction](http://www.facebook.com/peoriacommunityaction)

# contact

## Administration

Central Illinois Catering  
Emergency Services  
Energy Assistance  
Human Resources  
Media Services  
Weatherization

**(309) 671-3900**

## Foster Grandparents

**(309) 671-3950**

## Peoria Area Food Bank

**(309) 671-3906**

## OKPARA Leasing (Affordable Housing)

**(309) 673-1508**

## Early Head Start

### Administration

**(309) 495-5254**

### Pierson Hills

**(309) 839-2106**

### Harrison

**(309) 672-6522 ext. 6851**

## HEAD START CENTERS

### Webster

**(309) 671-3960**

### Trewyn

**(309) 671-3958**

### Manual

**(309) 672-6600**

### Valeska Hinton

**(309) 672-6810**

### Harrison

**(309) 672-6522**

### Urban League

**(309) 673-7474**

# Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Dates Set

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income households pay for winter energy services.**

Two Priority Groups have been established under the 2016 Low Income Home Energy Assistance State Plan.

PCCEO's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will begin with **Priority Group I** (households with a person who is elderly and/or has a disability) on September 1, 2016. Seniors and disabled households who are without energy service can apply at this time also!!

**Priority Group II** appointments are scheduled October 6, 2016 and included households with families with children age 5 or under (includes all children who are not yet 6 years old, that is up to 5 years and 364 days old) and disconnected households. Families with children and disconnected households who are without energy service can be served at this time.

Appointments will be made at Carver Community Center, 710 W. Third Street in Peoria beginning at 8:00am. Appointments can also be made by calling 309-671-3900 beginning at 8:30am.

Eligible house must meet the above guidelines, as well as

income guidelines. Applicants should present proof of income for the last 30 days, the most current utility bill, and social security cards for everyone in the household.

November 3, 2016 LIHEAP will accept applications for all income-eligible households.

For more information, contact PCCEO at (309) 671-3900.



**Peoria Citizens Committee for  
Economic Opportunity, Inc.**

711 W. McBean St.  
Peoria, IL 61605

## ***THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION***

***Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.***

***We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.***