CENSUS 2020 and Our Community

The U.S. Census is conducted every 10 years by the U.S. government. The Census is a survey comprised of ten questions and takes less than 10 minutes to complete! Your Census data is IMPORTANT and SAFE! Our state’s population is determined by this count and sticks with us FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS!

Undercounted Means Underfunded. Underfunded means fewer social services available, fewer dollars allocated to area schools and government and fewer seats representing Oklahoma in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your data is protected by law and kept confidential for 72 YEARS! The U.S. Census Bureau is prohibited from sharing respondents’ personal details with other government agencies. Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect your information.

CENSUS DAY is April 1, 2020 but you can fill out the Census anytime between March 12th and July 24th via telephone, paper, online or in person with a Census Bureau Representative.

Still not convinced!? Do you have additional questions? CONTACT US TODAY! We are passionate about providing you with the resources you need to complete your 2020 Census!

YOUR COMMUNITY IS COUNTING ON YOU!
Hi everyone, I wanted to notify the public of our adjustments to services. At this time, Little Dixie's offices will remain open. However, in keeping the safety of our clients and staff in mind we are encouraging all customers to conduct services via telephone or email. For essential emergency services, you may visit our locations by appointment. Please visit our Facebook page and website for contact information for each location and their services. Little Dixie is working diligently to continue its services. If you are in need of emergency services, please contact one of our Homeownership Centers or Family Service Centers in our tri-county area.

- Becky Reynolds

www.littledixie.org

@LittleDixieCAA

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 580.326.3351
ANTLERS FAMILY SERVICE CENTER 580.298.2921
ANTLERS TRANSIT 580.298.6565
BROKEN BOW TRANSIT 580.584.6037
CLAYTON TRANSIT 918.569.7325
HS/EHS/EHSCC/ELC ADMINISTRATION 580.326.7581

HUGO HOMEOWNERSHIP CENTER 580.326.5165
HUGO TRANSIT 580.326.3466
IDABEL HOMEOWNERSHIP CENTER 580.286.9348
IDABEL TRANSIT 580.286.5384
YOUTHBUILD 580.326.9490

TRANSIT
PASSengers MUST ABIDE BY THE THREE FOOT RULE, NO FRONT SEAT ACCESS AND A MAXIMUM OF 4 PASSENGERS PER TRIP

VITA
ALL APPOINTMENTS WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE

HS/EHS/EHS-CC
ALL CENTERS WILL FOLLOW THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHEDULE PERTAINING TO CLOSINGS
Around the Agency

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH Awardees

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for January 2020 was AJ Henslee (top left center). AJ is the Youth First Project Coordinator. Also pictured: Board Chairman Will Smith (top left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for February 2020 was Adina Hill (top right center). Adina is a Bookkeeper in the Administration Building. Also pictured: Board Chairman Will Smith (top right left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for March 2020 was Monique Knight (bottom center). Monique is a Teacher for Head Start. Also pictured: Board Chairman Will Smith (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

FIVE YEARS
ADORA MORRIS
BRYCE NASH (TOP LEFT)
KATELYN NELMS (BOTTOM LEFT)
MATTIE FERGUSON (TOP RIGHT)
RONDA SPEER (BOTTOM RIGHT)
SOMMER MCMURTRY

TEN YEARS
MICHAEL BOUNDS
ROSANNA SOTO

TWENTY YEARS
JUTTA GEE
LDCAA Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program received a donation from the Campbell Global's "Grow the Good" campaign in the amount of $500. Grow the Good Campaign originated in 2008, and serves as a way of continuing the spirit of giving on which the company was founded. Annually, every Campbell Global office is given a designated amount of "seed money." The goal is to grow the seed money and use it in innovative and ingenious ways to improve the lives of people in their respective communities.

LDCAA CASA ADVOCATE COORDINATOR, MARISSA JORDAN (FAR LEFT), VICTIM & YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR, DORIS LONG (LEFT CENTER), CAMPBELL GROUP REPRESENTATIVE, DEBORAH WATERMAN (RIGHT CENTER) AND VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR, DEE DEE ATWOOD PICTURED WITH THE CAMPBELL GLOBAL DONATION.

Antlers Masonic Lodge #39 and Tuskahoma Lodge #491 assisted LDCAA CASA Staff in selling t-shirts to promote awareness for the upcoming Child Abuse Awareness Month. Funds collected are used to purchase Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, gifts, car seats, games and other items for children who are victims of crime.

Thank you Antlers Masonic Lodge #39 and Tuskahoma Lodge #491 for your assistance!
**FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**

*Friday, February 7, 2020*  
Little Dixie Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact Program partnered with the Choctaw County Coalition and other community programs to provide the 3rd Annual Father Daughter Dance in Choctaw County. The Father Daughter Dance is a free event for little girls and the father figure in their lives. The dance helps put a focus on the importance of the father figure and creating healthy and strong relationships that build and promote social and emotional health, starting during early childhood years. When leaving the dance, each girl received a book titled *Butterfly Kisses*, provided by ECCS to the early childhood aged children to promote the importance of early literacy. There were 271 young girls and 187 dads with a total of 458 attendees to make this night memorable. It was a very successful night and we look forward to continuing this effort in the years to come.

**CHILDCARE CENTER PARTNERSHIPS**

At the beginning of our grant in 2016, we fostered partnerships with locally owned childcare facilities within our place-based communities. We recently added two more facilities which are Lighthouse Daycare Center in Choctaw County and Happy Hearts Early Learning Center in Pushmataha County. The purpose of our partnership is to implement the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) which is a developmental screening for children 0 to 5 years of age. ASQ-3 screenings assess the developmental performance of children in the areas of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal-social skills. It is used to identify children that would benefit from in-depth evaluation for developmental delays. We are looking forward to continuing to implement developmental screening within local childcare facilities through the remainder of our grant.

**LITTLE DIXIE HEALTHY START COLLABORATION**

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our collaboration with the Little Dixie Healthy Start Program. During the Healthy Start Participant’s postpartum visits, when a child is due for a developmental screening, the care coordinator will train the parent on how to complete an ASQ Developmental Screening through our online ASQ Family Access portal. The Healthy Start children will then receive a Developmental Screening Kit or a Book Packet upon completion of the screening. When the family exits the program, the parents will have the knowledge on how to continue to screen their child and ensure they are meeting important milestones and help prepare them to be kindergarten ready. The ECCS Team is excited to collaborate with Healthy Start to further enhance our partnership!
ANALYZING OUTCOMES

Data from Teaching Strategies GOLD is collected to show the growth of children from October to February. A final comparison will be reported after the end of the school year. Progress is indicated in all areas for the 4 year olds in Little Dixie Head Start. Information from this data is used to help teachers and administrative staff target areas of growth and concerns. It is also used in planning for teacher training during the year. This is a sample of the outcomes information that is presented to the Little Dixie Community Action Agency Governing Board and Policy Council.

RECRUITMENT HAS BEGUN

Little Dixie Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start – Child Care Programs are currently recruiting for the 2020–2021 school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Advocates will be posting on social media platforms regarding resources available for Little Dixie Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Throughout the spring, many of the Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start – Child Care staff will make posters, flyers and other recruitment materials available to families in an effort to recruit as many children as possible for all the early childhood programs.

To complete an application online, please visit https://littledixie.org/head-start-application

NUTRITION

During the recent months the Nutrition Component Specialist and Assistant traveled to the office of Head Start Region VI in Dallas, Texas to attend a Comprehensive Training over Children with Special Health Care Needs. Topics included Common Childhood Health Care Conditions, Community Resources to Support Families and Programs and Program Components to Support Children and Families with Specials Needs.

Little Dixie Community Action Agency would like to extend a sincere “Thank You” to our local Public Schools who are participating in the “Grab and Go” Meal Service, providing meals to students in the local districts to anyone 18 years of age and younger free of charge. This is a great thing for all of the communities in our area. All information has been sent out to parents by Teaching Staff or Family Advocates so that they may benefit from this program.
Head Start plays a vital role in the tri-county area by serving children and families. This role has been put to the test as our communities have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Head Start program took a proactive approach in handling crisis intervention and closed all locations, while still continuing to serve children and families remotely.

The Head Start families will still receive a holistic service platform that consists of intervention from education, health, and family services. These services are being facilitated by teaching staff, component area specialists, and family advocates. Families are being supported through weekly contacts that cover health and safety facts, educational goals for children, family goals, nutrition resources, disability resources, and any need that is expressed from the family unit.

The first and most important part of this assistance is communication. Teachers are making phone calls, reaching out on Facebook, emails and various types of social media. Activities and websites are made available to parents. Through these techniques, we hope to encourage and help parents with school readiness activities. This includes Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Math domains. As we reach out to families, we are reminded of how important teachers become to children. As I talked to one teacher, she said when calling the parent of a three-year-old student in her classroom, the child became so excited. He began to shout her name and tell her he would be at school to see her.

Children that were receiving speech therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy have been sent packets to continue activities to achieve the IEP goals. The schools are contacting parents to discuss options to schedule IEP meetings that may need to be held while school is dismissed.

Each Spring, Head Start sends a packet of materials to the families of each child that will be transitioning from Head Start to Kindergarten. The transition packet includes a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization record that will be needed for enrollment into Kindergarten. Also included in the packet is a 3-month Calendar of Activities for the parent and child to complete together. These activities will provide the basis for a smooth transition into Kindergarten. The hope of the Head Start team is to triumph through a difficult time in our communities while supporting the resilience of families and children.
**Healthy Start**

**SAFE KIDS EVENT**

Healthy Start Staff teamed up with Safe Kids Tulsa, Idabel Fire Department and State Farm in Idabel to check car seats in the Idabel community. During the Car Seat Check-Up Event, certified technicians taught parents and caregivers how to properly install their car seats, check for recalls and expiration dates. If a parent came to the event without a car seat, an expired seat, or a seat that did not fit the child, the parent had the opportunity to receive a car seat from Safe Kits Tulsa with a $10.00 donation. This event was extremely beneficial to the area residents. Little Dixie Healthy Start is honored to assist residents with this resource.

3 HEALTHY START STAFF MEMBERS ARE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED CAR SEAT TECHNICIANS!

**FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**

Little Dixie Healthy Start Program partnered with the Choctaw County Coalition and other community programs to provide the 3rd Annual Father Daughter Dance in Choctaw County. This is a free event for little girls and the father figure in their lives. The dance is held annually on the first Friday in February. The dance helps put a focus on the importance of the father figure and creating healthy and strong relationships that build and promote social and emotional health, starting during early childhood years. It was a very successful night and we look forward to continuing this effort in the years to come.

187 FATHERS & 271 DAUGHTERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE!

Thank You!
THE 2020 NASCSP WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE

The 2020 NASCSP Winter Training Conference held in Arlington, VA, February 24th - 28th, offered valuable opportunities for professionals from around the country to come together and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges in improved performance, innovation, and accountability in the fight to change the face of poverty across the nation. Sheila Pierce, Housing Director and Terry Wren, Weatherization Auditor attended the NASCSP 2020 Winter Training Conference.

Specifically, the two attended the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) track which focused on the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) WAP initiatives and grantee management issues. Sessions also included updates and discussion of recent DOE WAP policy, program notices, guidance, and future direction of the program.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The mission of Little Dixie's weatherization program is to reduce energy costs for low income families by providing cost effective energy efficiency upgrades while ensuring the health and safety of our clients. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Energy, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

FOUR HOMES WEATHERIZED

VITA PROGRAM

LDCAA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program utilizes LDCAA Qualified Employees (trained by the IRS) to serve as tax preparers. This is a free service to residents in the tri-county area.

193 TAX RETURNS COMPLETED IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA!

HOME BUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Housing Counselors, Ruby Gann and Paula Dillishaw provided a free Home Buyer Education Workshop on March 7th in Hugo at the Homeownership Center.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:
- The Home Buying Process
- How to Get Qualified
- Financing Options
- Preparing for Home Ownership
- What is Escrow?
- The Closing Process
- And Much More

ASSISTED 50 NEW HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOME BUYER EDUCATION!

Helping families take the first steps towards owning their homes!
"Sharing the Vision" - The Mutual Self-Help Housing Conference, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 4 – 6, 2020 was a tremendous success! Approximately 400 individuals, including our USDA Rural Development partners, attended the conference.

This was a great opportunity for Technical and Management Assistance contractors, self-help grantees and USDA Rural Development staff to network, learn and share information regarding the self-help housing programs in their area. The USDA Rural Development staff panel, Roger Glendenning, Cathy Glover, Barry Ramsey, Myron Wooden, Andria Hively and Andrea Birmingham provided a self-help housing regulation update. The panel was positive about the program's status and its future.

During the conference, attendees listened to an inspiring group of guest speakers. Tracy KMier shared information on the history of the Mutual Self-Help Program. Other highlights included a report on the State of the Nation's Housing from Whitney Airgood-Obrycki and a session on Impact without Burnout from author Beth Kanter. Other speakers included Bruce Lammers; Administrator of Rural Development's Rural Housing Service, Eric Vigil; New Mexico Acting State Director, Tom Collishaw; President of National Rural Self-Help Housing Association, Bob Rapoza; the National Rural Housing Coalition and Lance George with Housing Assistance Coalition.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT 1944-I UPDATES

USDA Rural Development has made some significant updates and changes to 1944-1, Section 523 Self Help Technical Assistance Grants and Handbook 1 3550 Chapters 3 and 4 through PN 532. The updated 1944-1 changes were published on December 12, 2019 and can be downloaded by the following link: littledixie.org/download/usda_ruralusda_rd_1944i/

Click on the following link for PN 532: https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/pn532.pdf

INTEREST RATE DECREASE

On March 19, 2020 the USDA Rural Development 502 Direct Note rate was reduced to 2.75% effective April 1, 2020. Visit Rural Development's Website regularly to check for changes.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-direct-loans

CHECK OUT THE LINKS ABOVE FOR MORE INFORMATION!
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS RURAL RESIDENTS & COMMUNITIES

On March 25, 2020 USDA Rural Development announced immediate measures to be implemented to assist rural residents, business and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

- USDA has waived or relaxed certain parts of the application process for single-family housing direct loans, including site assessments, and has extended the time period that certificates of eligibility are valid.
- A direct loan borrower who has experienced a reduction of income by more than 10% can request a payment assistance package to see if he/she is eligible for payment assistance or for more assistance than currently received.
- Moratorium assistance is available for direct loan borrowers experiencing medical bill expenses (not covered by insurance) or job loss because of COVID-19. Qualifying borrowers can receive a moratorium on house payments for a period of time, repaid at a later date.

RECENTLY REFUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

- Interlakes Community Action Partnership received their 8th Rehabilitation Grant to repair/rehab 10 homes in Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody and Turner counties in South Dakota
- Northwest Regional Housing Authority received their 3rd Rehabilitation Grant to repair/rehab 6 homes in Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Fulton, Izard, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Stone, and Washington counties in Arkansas
- Deep Fork Community Action Foundation received their 17th Grant to complete 14 homes in Latimer, Haskell, LeFlore, and Pittsburg counties in Oklahoma
- Proyecto Azteca received their 10th Grant to complete 15 houses in Hidalgo County in Texas.

Congratulations!

Tri-County Indian Nations CDC Recognized

Tri County Indian Nations CDC was recently recognized for their part in guiding families through the process of building their own home via grants and sweat equity through a self-help housing program.

The USDA Rural Development Self Help Housing Program helps to provide individuals and families with safe and secure housing. It also allows the families the opportunity to participate in achieving the goal of homeownership and having a home that is truly their own.

NOTICE:

Little Dixie T&MA contractor staff are currently unable to travel due to travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, we are available via telephone or email to provide technical and management assistance. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support during this time.
What is Stalking?

While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, a good working definition of stalking is:

A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

- Stalking Awareness and Resource Prevention

VICTIM SERVICES SUPPORT GROUP

Safe Place Healing Hearts Victim Services Support Group meets every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Family Service Center in Antlers, Oklahoma and 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Homeownership Center in Hugo, Oklahoma. Domestic Violence Survivors participate in group discussions, book clubs and learn about resources to overcome their experiences.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, or TDVAM for short. Every February across the United States, teens and those who support them join together for a national effort to raise awareness to teen dating violence. Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults. And nearly half (43%) of college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors.

#SURVIVORSUCCESS

Did you know?

Intimate Partner Violence accounts for 5% of all violent crime.

Did you know?

Intimate partner violence for 15% of all violent crime.

#TDVAM

#IThing

SPOTLIGHT

Alicia was nominated for the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) 2020 Morton Bard Allied Professional Award. Alicia makes a critical impact in her community daily. Her unwavering dedication to assisting and empowering victims and survivors of crime is an inspiration!

Congratulations Alicia!
Self-Help Housing

ASSISTING RESIDENTS WITH HOME-OWNERSHIP

Little Dixie’s Self-Help Housing Program serves income eligible individuals and families in Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Love, Marshall, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties. Home ownership is achieved through the involvement of construction of their homes and other participant’s homes, resulting in reduced costs. Contact our Self-Help Program today for more information!

INTERESTED? CONTACT US TODAY!

ATOKA COUNTY . . . . . . . . . . 580.298.2921
BRYAN COUNTY . . . . . . . . . 580.920.2479
CARTER COUNTY . . . . . . . . . 580.226.3030
CHOCTAW COUNTY . . . . . . . . 580.326.5201

LOVE COUNTY . . . . . . . . . . 580.226.3030
MARSHALL COUNTY . . . . . . 580.226.3030
MCCURTAIN COUNTY . . . . . . 580.286.6472
PUSHMATAHA COUNTY . . . . 580.298.2921
Youth First

EMPOWERING YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Youth First Project serves youth, ages 10-17 and their parents in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties. Youth First partners with local organizations to improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce behavior problems, delinquency, drug and alcohol use in children and teens, and to improve social skills and academic performance.

The goal of Youth First is to strengthen the relationship between children, teens and their parents while encouraging them to set short term and long term goals for themselves and providing the tools and support to accomplish those goals.

The project utilizes Strengthening Families Program to significantly improve parenting skills, family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse in children, and improve social competencies and school performance.

THIS PROJECT IS FINANCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS ADMINISTERED BY THE OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS.