



A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping People. Changing Lives.

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation

P.O. Box 928
1805 South Banker Street
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: (217) 342-2193
Fax: (217) 342-4701
Email: cefs@cefseoc.org

For more information about our Agency and Programs, scan this code with your smartphone or visit www.cefseoc.org



C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Aging, for information, call 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TDD), or the Civil Rights Coordinator, Illinois Department on Aging, 421 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, IL 61702, Telephone (217) 785-3357.

AGENCY SERVICES GUIDE



2025



A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping People. Changing Lives.

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) Community Action Agency serving economically and socially disadvantaged persons in the seven rural Illinois counties of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Shelby, Moultrie, Montgomery, and Christian.

CEFS is responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of social service programs designed to meet the needs of the people in the area it serves.

CEFS Mission Statement

Provide opportunities for people in our communities through education and support to achieve and maintain stability.

All services through CEFS are dependent on eligibility and funding.



The CEFS name comes from the first four service counties in 1965, *Clay, Effingham, Fayette, and Shelby*. Moultrie County was added in 1966 and Christian and Montgomery counties rounded out our seven-county service area in 1967.



Find us on Facebook!

Many of our programs have their own Facebook pages where they share important program announcements, updates, and more.

Go to Facebook and type these names in the search bar to Like and Follow!

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation

CEFS Adult Literacy Program

CEFS Central Illinois Public Transit

CEFS Effingham County Public Transportation

CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program

CEFS Senior Services

CEFS WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Community Action Promise

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.

CEFS Service Area

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation provides services and support to seven Central Illinois counties stretching across 4,213 square miles and with a population of over 167,700.

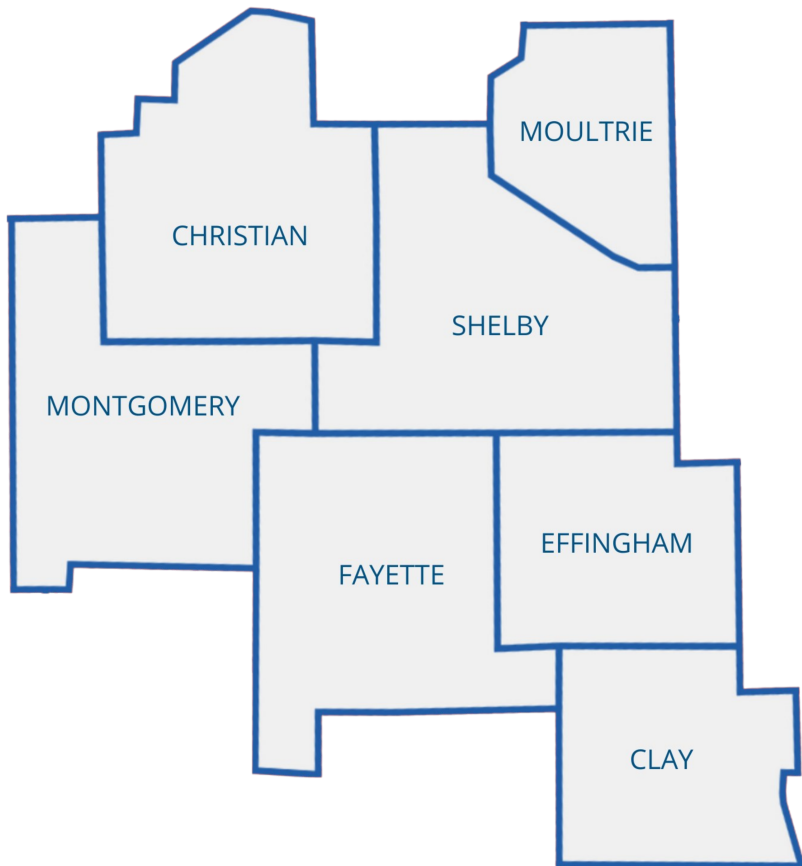


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CEFS Outreach Offices

To access services, please contact your county's Outreach Office listed below. Counties with food pantries have an * next to the county name.

All Outreach Office hours are:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

(Arrangements for appointments outside these hours can be made upon request.)

Christian County Outreach

220 W Franklin
Taylorville, IL 62568
(217) 824-4712

Montgomery County Outreach*

8353 Route 127
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
(217) 532-5971

Food Pantry Hours:

Wed & Thur 9-11am & 1-3pm

Friday 9-11am

Clay County Outreach

835 West North
Flora, IL 62839
(618) 662-4024

Fayette County Outreach*

517 W Gallatin
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-2631

Food Pantry Hours:

Thursday 1-4pm

Friday 9:30am—12:30pm

Effingham County Outreach

1010 W Jefferson
Effingham, IL 62401
(217) 347-7514

Moultrie County Outreach*

114 E Harrison
Sullivan, IL 61951
(217) 728-7721

Food Pantry Hours:

Tue—Friday 9-11am & 2-4pm

Shelby County Outreach

515 N Cedar, Shelbyville, IL 62565
(217) 774-4541



CEFS Opportunities for
Helping People. Changing Lives.



Volunteer Opportunities

All of the CEFS Programs can benefit from volunteers! If you would like to be a volunteer with CEFS, you can scan this code with your smartphone to be taken to our Volunteer Sign-Up or visit www.cefseoc.org/volunteer to get started.



Donations and Memorials

If you would like to make a donation to CEFS or any of the CEFS Programs, you can scan this code with your smartphone to be taken to our Donate page or visit www.cefseoc.org/donate



Memorials for loved ones can also be made to any of the CEFS Programs. Memorials are a great way to ensure the continuation of the CEFS Programming and Services. For more information, please contact our office at (217) 342-2193.

Local Workforce Innovation Area 23 (LWIA 23)

LWIA 23 aims to assist businesses and individuals improve economically through its support of education, workforce, and economic development resources. LWIA 23 covers 13 counties: Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Moultrie, and Richland. While LWIA 23 oversees the WIOA programs through its Board of Directors and county CEOs, LWIA 23 also provides services to local businesses.

Incumbent Worker Training

Purpose:

- Help businesses address skills gaps in current staff
- Boost company's competitiveness
- Prevent layoffs

Services:

- Reimburses business for training and training expenses

Requirements:

- Provide required documentation of training program
- Sign a contract agreeing to the terms of the program
- Meet match requirements as set out in the contract

Business Service Coordinator Dawn Bennett (217) 342-2193 ext. 2122 dawn.bennett@cefseoc.org	Workforce Development Director Cindy Mayer (217) 342-2193 ext. 2121 cmayer@cefseoc.org
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CEFS Outreach Homeless, Rental Services, and Community Services Block Grant

All people experiencing homelessness should be referred to CEFS regardless if another agency is assisting them.

Services available

- Emergency Hotel Vouchers— For people who have no where to stay, a hotel voucher can be provided. This program will require participation in case management and permanent housing search.
- Housing Assistance—Outreach offers rental and utility assistance to prevent people from becoming homeless or to assist those who are homeless obtain a safe and affordable place to live.
- Supportive Services—For those experiencing homelessness and enrolled in our homeless housing assistance programs, Outreach provides supportive services based on the need of each individual. Supportive services can include clothing, household goods, life skills, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, health care and dental assistance, and transportation.
- Rental Housing Support Program provides rent assistance for low-income households. The rent subsidies are based on income and those receiving a subsidy cannot be receiving any other rental assistance.
- Disaster Relief—When a family experiences a natural disaster (tornado, flood, earthquake) or a house fire, this program can be utilized to meet their immediate needs which may include food vouchers, hotel vouchers, clothing, household goods, and hygiene kits.

For more information can be found online at
www.lwa23.com

CEFS Outreach Homeless, Rental Services, and Community Services Block Grant

- Food Pantry—Food pantries are available at the Fayette, Montgomery, and Moultrie County Outreach offices. Households may receive a food box one time per month or on emergency basis. **See page 4 for hours and locations.**
- Youth Activity Scholarships—Through the CSBG program, scholarships are given out to families who have school-aged children wanting to participate in a camp, class, or extra-curricular activities. The household must meet income guidelines. Applications are made available each year and can be completed at each of the CEFS Outreach Offices.
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)—CSBG covers a large array of services including information and referrals to other resources and public benefit programs enrollment. The following assistance may be provided through the CSBG program: Housing assistance and utility assistance.

Seasonal Programs

- VITA—Tax preparation and filing assistance for low-income households. This service is usually available February through April.
- CSBG Scholarship—Annual income-based scholarship provided through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Applications are posted on the CEFS website, Facebook, and available in each Outreach office. Applications are also sent out to schools and news releases are made.

More information can be found at
www.cefseoc.org/outreach

CEFS WIOA Program Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs

Adult Program

The Adult Worker Program provides training services and helps jobseekers achieve gainful employment and focuses on low-skilled and low-income workers.

Dislocated Worker Program

The Dislocated Worker program supports those individuals that have been affected by a layoff or business closing. The Dislocated Worker Program offers services to help eligible individuals who are 18 years of age and older find suitable re-employment.

The Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs services include:

General Services

- Job search assistance
- Resume and interview assistance
- Local job listings assistance
- Labor market information exploration
- Career planning and counseling
- Comprehensive assessment
- Career and academic testing
- Interview preparation
- Follow-up services

Training Services

- Vocational/classroom training
- Short-term training opportunities
- On-the-job training
- Registered apprenticeship opportunities
- Paid work experience
- Supportive services such as transportation, childcare assistance, required tools, uniforms, etc.

For more information can be found online at
www.cefseoc.org/wioa
or by calling 217-347-2101.

CEFS WIOA Program

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides services to the following counties: Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Moultrie, and Richland. WIOA is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get people—including those with significant barriers to employment—into high-quality careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

Youth Program

The WIOA Youth Program provides employment and educational services to eligible out-of-school youth, ages 16 to 24, and low-income in-school youth who face barriers to employment.



Youth Program services include:

- Vocational/classroom training
- Tuition assistance
- GED support
- Paid work experience
- Job search assistance
- Resume development
- Leadership skills
- Adult mentoring
- Job readiness training
- Financial literacy
- Supportive services such as transportation, child-care assistance, required tools, uniforms, etc.
- Follow-up services

WIOA Youth Program Application can be found by scanning this code with your smartphone.



CEFS Adult Literacy Program

The mission statement of **CEFS Adult Literacy Program** is to *utilize volunteers and other resources to help adults in our service area meet their literacy goals and to promote education as the key to personal, economic, and social stability.*

The CEFS Adult Literacy Programs provides **free** individual tutoring to adults 17 or older who are not enrolled in a traditional high school. We customize all lessons according to the needs of each learner:

- Reading
- English as a new language
- Life Skills (filling out job applications, counting money, telling time, basic technology, more)
- Math



We welcome new learners. We never charge for our services. We welcome volunteer tutors, who must complete a 12-hour pre-service training and pass a background check.

CEFS Adult Learning Center

1010 W Jefferson
Effingham, IL
(217) 347-7033
swilson2@cefseoc.org

More information can be found by scanning this code with your smartphone or visiting www.cefseoc.org/literacy



This project was made possible by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds designated for literacy.

CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program



Serving children and families in Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties.

The CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program is a federally funded program that offers center-based (half and full-day classroom sessions) services to preschool children and home-based services to pregnant women, infants and toddlers.

Who is eligible for Head Start Services?

- Families who earn at or less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are income eligible to receive services. Families may also qualify under an eligibility category (receipt of TANF funds and/or SNAP benefits, supplemental security funds, or homelessness as per the McKinney-Vento Act).
- Up to 45% of the program's enrollment can be from higher income families or families experiencing emergency situations. Head Start is required to provide services to children with disabilities who make up 10% of the total enrollment.

How to apply

Applications for enrollment into the CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program are accepted throughout the calendar year.

For more information
Call or text (217) 663-7822

Applications can also be started online at www.cefseoc.org/headstart or scan this code with your smartphone.



CEFS Senior Programs Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

The Senior Health Insurance Program is a free statewide health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

**SHIP is not associated with any insurance company.
SHIP counselors do not sell or solicit any type of insurance.**

SHIP counselors are trained to educate consumers, answer questions, and assist with enrollment for

- Medicare
- Medicare supplements
- Enrolling in Medicare part D
- Securing financial assistance

SHIP works closely with the Illinois Department on Aging to provide counseling services to the aging population and aligns with the Department's mission to help older individuals maintain their health and independence while remaining in their homes and communities.



More information can be found at www.cefseoc.org/seniorservices

CEFS Senior Programs

AmeriCorps Seniors Retired Seniors and Volunteers Program (RSVP)

The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP connects Americans aged 55 and over with volunteer service opportunities that meet their personal interests and make a difference in their communities. Their knowledge, skills, and life experience are of immeasurable value to the organizations and people they engage.

What are the requirements to register with RSVP?

- The volunteer must be 55 years of age or older.
- There is no special education or skill required, just a sincere desire to be of useful service to the community and a commitment to serve neighbors and friends.
- Each volunteer will complete an enrollment record which includes an agency background check.
- Volunteers choose how and where they want to serve.



RSVP Service Ideas

- Making quilts for preschool classrooms, lap robes, afghans, and wheel chair/walker caddies for elderly residents
- Visiting and assisting residents in nursing homes
- Visiting or calling seniors wanting to remain living independently
- Serving and delivering meals for senior nutrition programs
- Assisting at local food pantries and thrift stores
- Providing transportation to seniors for medical appointments
- Writing pen pal letters to area school children

More information can be found at
www.cefseoc.org/seniorservices

CEFS Head Start 0-5 Program

Home-Based Program (Pregnant Women, Infants and Toddlers)

- No entry or registration fees; no cost for services
- Weekly 90-minute home visits
- Monthly home visits for pregnant women
- Year-round program
- Parenting education and skills building
- School readiness activities; family engagement
- Bi-monthly family playgroups
- Health, nutrition, and social services
- Assistance with medical and dental appointments

Center-Based Program (Children ages 3-5)

- No entry or registration fees; no cost for services
- High-quality, fun-filled educational setting
- Classroom sessions 4 or 5 times a week during school year
- Small class size and high staff-child ratio
- Healthy meals and snacks
- Bus services or transportation assistance where accessible
- School readiness activities; family engagement
- Health, nutrition, and social services
- Assistance with medical and dental appointments

Mission Statement

“Engaging children and families to build a strong foundation for future success through community partnerships, education, and support.”

CEFS Central Illinois Public Transit & Effingham County Public Transportation

Serving Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

CIPT/ECPT is a rural demand response public transportation system serving the transportation needs of our seven county service area. Transportation services are available to everyone. Services can be utilized for almost any transportation needs, including employment, medical, and business needs. ETrax is a regularly established transportation route in the City of Effingham that has pick up and drop off at specified locations and times.

<p>Service Hours</p> <p>Monday—Friday 6 am to 5 pm</p> <p>Effingham County ONLY Monday—Friday 6 am to 8 pm</p> <p><i>ETRAX</i> (City of Effingham) Monday—Friday 8 am to 4 pm</p>	<p>Dispatch Hours</p> <p>Monday—Friday 6 am to 6 pm</p> <p>To schedule a ride, call 855-755-2478</p> <p>TTY 711 or 1-800-526-0844</p>
<p><i>Closures and limited routes on holidays.</i></p>	

Helpful Rider Tips

- Same day trip reservations are allowed but availability may be limited. We suggest at least 24 hour advanced request.
- All vehicles are wheelchair accessible and meet ADA guidelines.
- Service animals are permitted on all vehicles. Personal animals are permitted in an appropriate carrier.
- Please be advised that the bus may arrive 15 minutes prior to or after your scheduled pick up time. Please schedule accordingly to allow for this variation. (Does not apply to ETrax.)
- Drivers have a 5 minute wait time from arrival time before proceeding with route. (ETrax has zero wait time.)

CEFS Senior Programs Meals on Wheels

Please call your local Meals on Wheels site to reserve a meal.

Meals should be reserved a day in advance.

<p>Effingham (217) 347-2851</p>	<p>Dieterich (217) 925-5461</p>	<p>Altamont (618) 483-6912</p>
<p>Beecher City (618) 487-5401</p>	<p>Flora (217) 994-3191</p>	<p>Vandalia (618) 283-1040</p>
<p>Ramsey (217) 994-6189</p>	<p>Pana (217) 562-5611</p>	<p>Taylorville (217) 287-7268</p>
<p>Kincaid (217) 237-4328</p>	<p>Litchfield (217) 324-3032</p>	<p>Taylor Springs / Hillsboro (217) 532-3662</p>
<p>Morrisonville (217) 526-3621</p>	<p>There is a suggested donation.</p>	

Find more towns and locations only served by home delivered meals on our website.



More information and monthly menus can be found at
www.cefseoc.org/seniorservices

CEFS Senior Programs Meals on Wheels

CEFS Meals on Wheels provides congregate and home-delivered meals to seniors in the five-county region of Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, and Montgomery.

Meals on Wheels is available for anyone age 60 and older to participate and provides the following for participating seniors:

- Enhanced quality of life through meals, fellowship with other seniors, and connections to other needed services in their community.
- Improved nutritional status—the fresh meals we serve contains 1/3 of the recommended nutrients for older adults.
- Daily check-in—Meal delivery volunteers are able to do a daily check-in and say “hello” on those unable to attend a congregate site.

Participants are encouraged to contribute as they are able, but no one will be denied a meal on the inability to donate.




MORE THAN JUST A MEAL.

CEFS Central Illinois Public Transit & Effingham County Public Transportation

Fares

(Drivers do not make change. Please have the correct amount ready.)

In-County Rides ONLY	\$3.00 per one-way trip (Children 0-5 ride free with paying adult)
	Children 6-12, \$2.00 per one-way trip
	Monthly Pass (unlimited rides), \$35
Reduced Fare Program <small>*Must present Reduced Fare Card. Applications available on website.</small>	Seniors (60+) ride for a suggested donation
	Disability Monthly Pass (unlimited rides), \$15
	Disabled & Veteran—suggested donation, Effingham Only
Out of County Trips—\$1.00 per mile	
 (City of Effingham)	\$1.00 per boarding (no charge for transfers from demand response routes, ECPT monthly passes honored, and Reduced Fare Cards honored)
Medicaid payments accepted for medical transports.	

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS
PUBLIC TRANSIT**

1-855-755-CIPT(2478)



CIPT Title VI Policy

CIPT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. To file a complaint, please visit us at www.cefseoc.org/transportation-services
Financial support comes from: Illinois Department of Transportation ~ AgeLinc (Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland) ~ Midland Area on Aging ~ IDHS-Title XX ~ FTA.

More information, Reduced Fare Application, and passenger handbooks can be found at
www.cefseoc.org/transportation

CEFS LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The LIHEAP program is designed to help low-income households pay on their heating and electric bills. The program provides:

- One-time benefit to eligible households to help reduce energy costs
- Reconnection Assistance to help restore their service
- Furnace repair or replacement for homeowners
- Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) – Ameren customers only, no new enrollments currently accepted

Low-Income Discount Rates (LIDR)

The new rates provide Ameren natural gas customers a monthly discount on their bill. The amount of the discount depends on the household's income level as determined by the LIHEAP program.

Warm Neighbors/Cool Friends (WNCF)

Ameren customers who have monthly incomes over the LIHEAP limit may qualify for Warm Neighbors/Cool Friends (WNCF). The WNCF program matches customer payments up to \$500 from September 1 to May 31, and up to \$200 from June 1 to August 31.

Energy Efficiency Education

- LIHEAP helps customers save money on their utility bills with energy efficiency education. This is done through community events and individual education.
- LIHEAP helps Ameren customers sign up for free energy kits and home audits.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and State of Illinois provides the funding for LIHEAP; funds are distributed through the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The funding for WNCF is through the Energy Assistance Foundation.

CEFS IHWAP

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

Please contact your local CEFS Outreach Office to get your name on the Weatherization list.

Christian County Outreach	(217) 824-4712
Clay County Outreach	(618) 662-4024
Effingham County Outreach	(217) 347-7514
Fayette County Outreach	(618) 283-2631
Montgomery County Outreach	(217) 532-5971
Moultrie County Outreach	(217) 728-7721
Shelby County Outreach	(217) 774-4541



More information can be found at www.cefseoc.org/weatherization

CEFS IHWAP

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) is designed to help low-income residents save energy and money while increasing the comfort of their homes.

Weatherization services include having an assessment performed by a weatherization professional. Depending on the circumstances and condition of the dwelling, some of the following weatherization work may be done:

- Insulate attics and walls
- Insulate foundation
- Seal cracks with caulk or foam
- Repair doors and windows
- Repair or replace heating system
- Repair floor

Who is Eligible?

Eligibility is determined by family size and household income in accordance with federal guidelines. Weatherization services are free to households that meet the eligibility guidelines.



CEFS LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Please contact your local CEFS Outreach Office to apply for utility assistance.

Christian County Outreach	(217) 824-4712
Clay County Outreach	(618) 662-4024
Effingham County Outreach	(217) 347-7514
Fayette County Outreach	(618) 283-2631
Montgomery County Outreach	(217) 532-5971
Moultrie County Outreach	(217) 728-7721
Shelby County Outreach	(217) 774-4541



More information and income guidelines can be found at
www.cefseoc.org/liheap

WHO WE ARE Programs

- Transportation
- Head Start
- WIOA- Workforce
- Housing & Homeless Programs
- Adult Literacy
- Weatherization
- Food Pantries
- LIHEAP- Home Energy
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Services

WHAT WE DO Services & Strategies

- Education & Training
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Relief
- Financial Counseling
- Food Assistance
- Home Energy Programs
- Homebuyer Education
- Housing Assistance
- Medicare Counseling
- Pre-employment Programs
- Scholarships
- Tax Filing Assistance
- Public Transportation
- Volunteer Engagement

WHAT WE ACHIEVE Outcomes

- Community Engagement
- Energy Efficiency
- Food Security
- Financial Awareness
- Health Stability
- Independence
- Job Readiness, Attainment, & Retention
- Leadership Skills
- Life Skills
- Safe Housing
- School Readiness
- Social, Academic, & Cognitive Development
- Transportation to work, school, medical, and more

Established on our mission to provide opportunities for people in our communities through education and support to achieve and maintain stability

see more at www.cefseoc.org