

May, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS



Since its creation in 1964, Community Action has responded to local needs in every corner of America and helped make America a better place to live. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have never been tested more than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the startling events and crises of 2020 recede from the foreground, Community Action is presented with a significant milestone: the 60th anniversary of the Economic Opportunity Act, the federal legislation that created Community Action. In so many ways, this mo-

ment demands doing more than observing or commemorating the 60th anniversary of Community Action. KI BOIS Community Action is marking it's own 56th anniversary. The Network is continually turning it's attention to what comes next. Community Action month allows us to share what our agency does and showcase our programs. It allows us to:

- Strengthen the Network's capacity to effectively advance social and economic mobility for all people in America and propel Community Action into a new era responsive to future challenges and opportunities.
- Use the anniversary to create new opportunities to raise awareness of Community Action's role and impact at the national, state, and local levels.
- Create safe spaces in the Network and local communities for listening and dialogue about Community Action's role and vision for a more equitable society.
- Ignite passion and commitment among new staff and invigorate seasoned Community Action staff, board, and volunteers. Through reflection, recognition, celebration, and fun, energize Community Action customers, staff, boards, volunteers, and partners to meet future challenges.

From the beginning, Community Action's mission has extended well beyond supporting individuals and families. Community Action plays an indispensable role in mitigating the economic and social forces that cause or worsen the conditions of poverty and identifying solutions that improve entire communities by serving the best interests of people experiencing poverty.

During Community Action Month, we reflect on the impact that KI BOIS and our network has had on families," said Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO of KI BOIS. "Over the past 56 years, we have served thousands of low-income families with immediately needed services such as shelter and food and strived to provide long-term solutions. We are proud of our communities' participation in the development and oversight of our programs. Their engagement helps us to be more effective in our approach by determining what families in our service area needs."

Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope—some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.

This Administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty, in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join with me in that effort.

It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest Nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it.

President Lyndon B. Johnson

State of the Union, January 8, 1964

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



May 2024 is National Community Action Month. Over 1,000 Community Action Agencies are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Community Action. KI BOIS Community Action staff will be celebrating with events at each of our County Offices.

We are following closely both the federal and state legislation that will determine the funding of our Community Action programs for the coming year. At this time it appears that our federal funding will remain flat until congress and the President can agree on a budget which will probably be in September 2024 We remain hopeful that our programs will receive increases in the new federal budget. Due to revenue increases in the State of Oklahoma we are also expecting an increase in our State funding.

Our KATS program is currently hiring drivers. We are also needing employees in our DD, Advantage, and SSVF programs. We are also advertising for staffing of our new Work Ready Program in Poteau.

SSVF continues to reach homeless veterans across Oklahoma. SSVF continues to make a difference with at risk veterans in Oklahoma.

Thank you for your support of the much needed social programs we operate! Have a great summer!

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Royce Alverson, CCAP - Editor
918-967-3325, Ext. 134
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org

We care about what you think.

Please take time to complete our COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY. Let us know what you think the priorities are in your community. These are YOUR Communities. These are YOUR needs. This is YOUR well-being. We want to hear from YOU.

Share the survey with your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. We will collect surveys from now until 6/30/24.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE SURVEY

What has Community Action's 60-year legacy meant for American families?

- * Stable housing
- * Food on the table
- * Affordable heat and energy
- * High-quality early childhood education
- * Financial empowerment
- * Better jobs

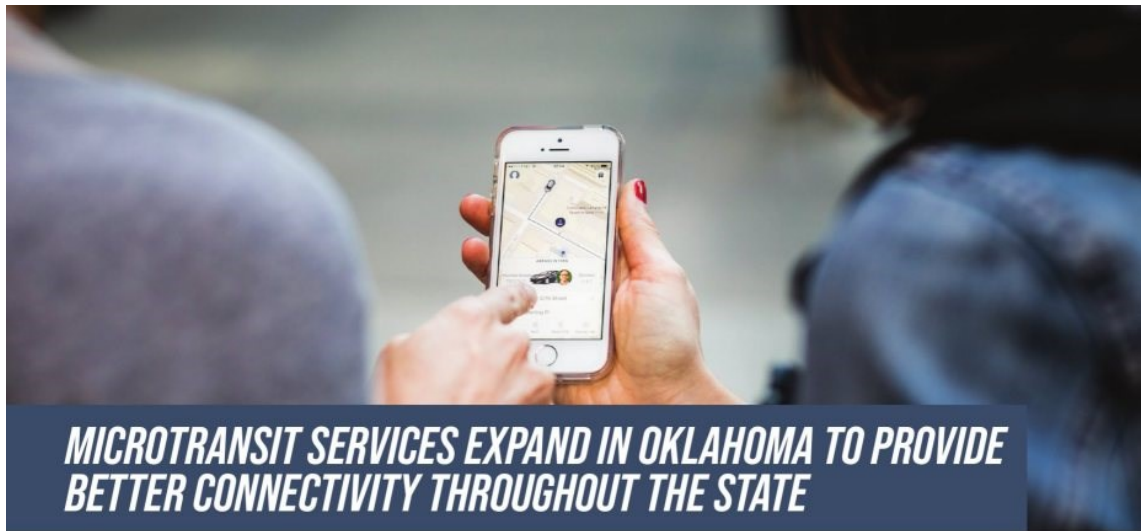


May 12:
May 23:
May 27:

Mother's Day
KI BOIS Board meeting - 3:00 p.m.
Memorial Day
Happy Birthday Carroll Huggins!!!



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #60YearsStrong



The Biden-Harris administration has awarded \$360,378 for the PICK 2.0 project in Oklahoma. The funding comes from the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program, which provides funds for projects in rural areas that aim to improve accessibility, connectivity and safety for residents. The PICK 2.0 project is one of 18 projects selected for the fiscal year of 2023-2024.

The PICK 2.0 project expands on the existing PICK Transportation project that services rural and tribal communities in Oklahoma. This system provides customers with on-demand micro transit services in even the most out-of-the-way communities. Building upon the PICK Transportation pilot program, PICK 2.0 will expand the current service area for wider coverage and more accessibility that will enable new customers to benefit from the project.

"Rural communities face some of the toughest transportation challenges, yet are often left out of major federal investments, a pattern that we are changing that under President Biden's leadership," U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a press release from Dec. 2023. "The grants we're announcing today will make transportation in rural communities better, safer, and more reliable."

PICK Transportation's microtransit availability is an on-demand service that does not require booking ahead of time. This accessibility is crucial to those who live in rural and tribal communities where multimodal transportation is limited, especially during non-peak hours. The fare for PICK Transportation customers is a flat rate of \$3, regardless of the pickup location in Oklahoma.

Receiving the grant award for the PICK 2.0 project is the Grand Gateway Economic Development Association (GGEDA), an organization comprised of local government agencies that collaborate to determine community issues and solutions. The PICK Transportation microtransit service was developed as a pilot program by the GGEDA to provide transit-dependent residents with curb-to-curb rides on demand in rural and tribal communities.

Currently, PICK Transportation is available in the following areas: Bartlesville, Bristow, Catoosa, Claremore, Coweta, Grove, Kiefer, Miami, Ponca City, Poteau, Pryor, Owasso, Sallisaw, Sapulpa, Skiatook, Tahlequah and Vinta. The GGEDA made the service accessible for all potential customers by offering multiple different options for scheduling a ride from any of these locations. Customers can also schedule a PICK Transportation ride from the UBER App at no additional charge. By

providing multiple ways to schedule a ride, the service can reach more potential users due to its ease of use.

PICK 2.0 will expand the current consortium of the program to include an additional four transit agencies: First Capital Trolley, Lift Community Action Agency, Southern Oklahoma Rural Transit Agency and Southwest Community Action Group. This expansion will allow for improved access to the PICK Transportation service and increase connectivity throughout Oklahoma.

The service provided by PICK 2.0 improves mobility for the people who live in the service area and are dependent on public transit systems. PICK 2.0 will be able to offer more people throughout the state a way of getting to where they need to be in a safe and affordable way. PICK Transportation offers direct benefits to those who live in rural and tribal communities that are dependent on transit availability. With expanded services, more people will be able to travel to work, school or enjoy recreational time with loved ones. Having more multimodal options for residents improves the quality of life and equitable opportunities in the historically underserved regions of the state.

When the PICK Transportation pilot program initially launched in June 2021, ridership was 358 in that first month. Since then, ridership has experienced a consistent, gradual increase month after month, surpassing 2,000 trips per month in July and Aug. 2022. As more customers learn about the service and it spreads into new communities throughout Oklahoma, ridership is expected to continue increasing. The PICK Transportation team also uses community events, social media and flyers to spread awareness of the curb-to-curb service they provide. The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program award will allow the expanded operations to not only serve more customers but also have the means to do so.

The ability to have on-demand transportation through the PICK Transportation project is a way to solve mobility issues in Oklahoma's underserved regions and potentially bridge travel gaps that traditional transit is not able to. By establishing relationships among transportation providers PICK Transportation has managed to deliver affordable, on-demand transportation to tribal nations and other rural communities in the state. The expansion of PICK 2.0 will only further the benefits of the project to more regions, creating a more connected Oklahoma.

This article about the PICK project in Oklahoma was featured in the 2024 Transportation in Oklahoma Annual Report. KATS administers this program in several communities.

IN *Action*



The Oklahoma Community Action Network made a strong presence at the Region VI Conference held in Santa Fe, New Mexico April 2-4. Can you find the five KI BOIS staff members who attended?



OKLAHOMA HUMAN SERVICES MOBILE OFFICES

Each Mobile Office contains all amenities found in any county office and is staffed by experienced Family Services Specialists who can serve community members that participate in the food (Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP), medical and child care subsidy assistance programs. Just like in our standard offices, staff will process new applications, complete reviews and changes for active cases, issue EBT cards, receive documents and answer questions.

Watch for upcoming Mobile Office locations at oklahoma.gov/okdhs/library/calendarmobile.

- Haskell County - 4th Wednesday
- Latimer County - 4th Monday
- LeFlore County - 4th Thursday



Royce Alverson, Doyleene Knowlton, Blake Smith, Jan Garner and Carroll Huggins attended the OKACAA Spring Conference in Oklahoma City on April 24-25. This was a hybrid conference, and several staff attended virtually.



Megan Reames and Kandy Abreo represented KI BOIS at the KEDDO Senior Fair at the McAlester Expo on April 19th.



Total Solar Eclipse

April 8, 2024



Clockwise from top left: Poteau Office gets into the groove. Central Office staff sporting their cool eclipse glasses. They made the front page of the Stigler News-Sentinel. McAlester office staff looking south. KATS Administration staff and drivers are checking things out, except for Charla... she's posing for the picture. It's a bird! It's a plane! Nope, it's Doyle, Jeremy & Jan and they are star-struck.



Clockwise from top left: KI BOIS Administration has spotted something in the sky. Tammy Randazzo must think it's nap time. SSVF staff are enjoying this great event in Broken Bow. McAlester staff are mesmerized by the eclipse. Sharron Hammers and Samantha Robertson give a thumbs up!





1964 - 2024



In every corner of America. Helping people, changing lives — for 60 years and counting.

RECOGNIZING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION!

All employment opportunities are posted on our website, www.kibois.org. *These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.* (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.) **Deadline for all openings: Until Filled.** Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.



Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, www.kibois.org. Applications should be returned to:

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462
Attention: Human Resources**



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*.



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.