



## 2025 Annual Report to the Community

**Rooted in Community. Rising in Opportunity.**  
*A Year of Impact across the Ohio River Valley.*



*All OVO services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran.*

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”  
-Helen Keller**

Dear Neighbors & Partners,

If 2025 taught us anything, it is that while our funding may flow from the top down, our true strength is built from the ground up.

This past year tested the very foundation of Ohio Valley Opportunities. When a federal funding freeze and the government shutdown hit, the effect was catastrophic. For an agency like ours, it felt as though someone had cut off our oxygen. The essential resources we use to assist Hoosiers were halted or delayed, threatening the lifelines our neighbors rely on daily.

But then, something remarkable happened.

Because of partners and neighbors like you, we didn't miss a single day of service. You proved that OVO is not merely a “government program”—we are a local lifeline that this community is willing to protect. We survived because you refused to let us fail. Today, we are standing stronger because this community stands with us.

This resilience is what fuels our vision for the future. At OVO, we aren't just aiming for "stability" or "getting by." A safety net is important, but we are building a launchpad.

Our goal is bold and clear: we want to see every aspirational working family in our community move into the middle class. We are working toward a future where the families we assist today become the homeowners, small business owners, and community leaders of tomorrow.

We don't just want our neighbors to survive a crisis; we want them to emerge secure on the other side. Every dollar and every hour of support we receive acts as a spark, igniting a cycle of growth that benefits everyone in our communities—whether they ever walk through our doors or not.

Thank you for being the oxygen that keeps OVO's mission alive.

In Partnership,



Brad Wood, Executive Director

## Board of Directors

Ohio Valley Opportunities, Inc. is uniquely governed by a tripartite board of directors from three community sectors: public, private, and community.

**Sheila Coffin**  
*Board Chair*  
Jefferson County

**Tom Taylor**  
*Vice Chair*  
Jennings County

**Misty Jacobs**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Jefferson County

**Holly Armstrong**  
Scott County

**Casey Goode**  
Jefferson County

**Sharon McCoy**  
Jefferson County

**Leslie Bixler**  
Scott County

**Keith Howard**  
Jefferson County

**Dana Riddle**  
Jefferson County

**Mary Beth Boone**  
Jefferson County

**Tammy Johnson**  
Scott County

**Ralph Rohrer**  
Jennings County

**Ashley Eklund**  
Jefferson County

**Jason Judd**  
Jennings County

**Travis Shirley**  
Scott County

**Steve Sollman**  
*Past Vice Chair*  
Jennings County

**David Sutter**  
*Past Board Chair*  
Jefferson County

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## Agency Leadership

**Jamie Bare**  
*HR Manager*

**Michelle Kimmel**  
*Head Start Director*

**Angela Spurgeon**  
*Director of Programs &  
Compliance*

**Brandi Bivens**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**Jeff Rowlett**  
*Weatherization Manager*

**Brad Wood**  
*Executive Director*

# 2025 Agency Funding



<b>Grant Funding</b>	
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$206,935
Head Start	\$2,481,779
Energy Assistance Program (EAP)	\$3,630,982
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$369,309
Housing Choice Voucher Program	\$2,214,734
Department of Energy (DOE)	\$148,470
BIL	\$278,350
Center Point Duke Rebate	\$53,912
USDA Food Program	\$136,508
Duke Supplement	\$10,555
<b>Housing Properties</b>	
Apple Blossom Court Apartments	\$56,010
Scott Valley Court Apartments	\$226,419
Valley Court Apartments of North Vernon	\$196,939
<b>Local Support</b>	
We Care	\$978
Donations/Revenue to Programs	\$267,611
Duke A/C Project	\$25,000
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	\$61,073
<b>Family Services Centers - Buildings</b>	\$41,976
<b>Total Agency Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,407,540</b>

# Our Impact by the Numbers

12,719

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

5,926

FAMILIES ASSISTED

21%

ARE SENIORS

39%

ARE YOUTH

25%

ARE SINGLE PARENT  
HOUSEHOLDS

\$10,000,000

REINVESTED IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

## Our Programs

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### Head Start Preschool

*Jefferson, Jennings &  
Scott Counties*

### Energy Assistance

*Clark, Floyd, Jefferson,  
Jennings & Scott Counties*

### Housing Choice Voucher

*Jefferson, Jennings &  
Scott Counties*

### Weatherization

*Bartholomew, Decatur,  
Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings  
& Scott Counties*

Keep reading to learn about these programs or visit [ovoinc.org](https://ovoinc.org) for more.

# Head Start Preschool

Promotes the "school readiness" of children ages 3 to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

The program takes a "whole child" approach, focusing on four key areas:

- **Education:** Providing a learning environment that supports growth in language, literacy, and social-emotional skills.
- **Health:** Ensuring children receive proper screenings (dental, vision, hearing) and nutritious meals.
- **Parent Involvement:** Engaging parents as their child's primary teacher and helping them reach their own goals (such as housing stability or further education).
- **Social Services:** Connecting families with community resources and support systems.

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CLASSROOMS

135

STUDENTS

188

CHILDREN

171

FAMILIES



Assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

Unlike public housing, assistance is "tenant-based," meaning the subsidy follows the person, not the building.

- **The Voucher:** Eligible families receive a voucher and are responsible for finding suitable housing (apartments, townhomes, or single-family homes) where the owner agrees to rent under the program.
- **Rent Payment:** Tenant Share: Usually pays a % of their monthly adjusted gross income toward rent and utilities. Program Share: The local Public Housing Agency (PHA) pays the remaining balance directly to the landlord.
- **Portability:** Vouchers are "portable," meaning families can move to another city or state and take their assistance with them (after meeting requirements).

## 304

FAMILIES

## 457

INDIVIDUALS

## 46%

ELDERLY

## 60%

DISABLED

Working with OVO has been a pleasure the last several years. OVO provides us stable rental income, reduced vacancy risk and timely payments. Our residents that work with OVO have proven to be some of our best.

Provides a one-time annual benefit to help low-income households with the high costs of home energy, specifically heating and electricity.

- **One-Time Benefit:** A direct payment to utility providers (electric and gas) to offset winter heating costs.
- **Crisis Assistance:** Additional support is available for households facing immediate disconnection or those who have already lost service.
- **Moratorium Protection:** In Indiana, eligible EAP clients are protected from utility disconnection between December 1st and March 15th each year.
- **Weatherization Link:** Households that qualify for EAP are often automatically eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program to help make their homes more energy-efficient.

5708

HOUSEHOLDS

12,090

INDIVIDUALS

4,624

AVOIDED  
DISCONNECT

2,298

CRISIS BENEFITS  
ISSUED

“ We can't thank you enough for the assistance with our Duke bill. We had no idea there was help out there and had never needed help ever. So this was a huge blessing. We are beyond grateful. ”

"Whole-house" energy efficiency program designed to reduce energy costs for low-income households by improving the energy performance of their homes while ensuring health and safety.

Unlike the Energy Assistance Program (which helps pay bills), Weatherization provides permanent physical upgrades to the home.

- 1. Application:** The household applies through their local Community Action Agency (like OVO).
- 2. Energy Audit:** A professional auditor uses advanced tools—like blower doors and infrared cameras—to identify where energy is being lost.
- 3. Installation:** Trained crews install energy-saving measures (e.g., attic insulation, air sealing, or HVAC tuning).
- 4. Inspection:** A final quality control inspector ensures all work meets federal safety and efficiency standards.

**58**  
HOMES

**116**  
INDIVIDUALS

**\$13,500**  
AVG. COST

**17**  
HOMES  
REHABILITATED

Hard working men! We were very impressed with the workers professionalism and knowledge of weatherization.

Made my home a better place! I will and would refer them.

# Ways You Can Partner

Every donation to OVO is an investment in the resilience of our region. When you give, you provide more than just "services"—you provide the foundation for a lifetime of success. From high-quality Early Childhood Education and Housing Stability to ensuring every Hoosier lives in a safe, stable home, your contribution is the spark. Together, we are helping our neighbors acquire the education, financial mastery, and assets necessary to move beyond "getting by" and start truly thriving.

## Volunteering

Dedicated volunteers work with staff to help meet community needs. You can volunteer as an individual, business, or family.

## Make a Donation

Whether one-time or recurring, your gift will make a real difference in the lives of Hoosiers we assist.

Checks can be made out to:  
Ohio Valley Opportunities, Inc.  
P.O. Box 625, Madison, IN 47250

## Stocks or Securities

We welcome your gift of appreciated stock. Discuss with your Financial Advisor the options that are best for you. This kind of donation lets you maximize your giving while making a lasting difference to our mission.

## In-Kind

Many of OVO's programs rely on in-kind support from our community. We often seek new or like-new supplies like children books and classroom supplies to support our neighbors.

## Remembering OVO in your Will or Trust

You can make an impact for years to come when you include OVO in your estate planning or by making OVO a beneficiary of your retirement account, life insurance, and other assets.

To leave a gift to OVO, consider using the following language in your will:

"I give and bequeath unto OVO, tax ID #35-1125641, \_\_\_% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to be used for general charitable purposes."

## Questions?

Have questions or need to walk through how you can partner with us? Contact Brad Wood, Executive Director, at 812-265-5858.

**OVO is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit and donations are tax-deductible.**

**EIN #35-1125641**