



AGRABILITY CHIT CHAT

October 2003

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RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY

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CARM'S COMMENTS: Carmen Schacht

The theme for October is "Resources in the Community." Community Action Agencies are a good place to find out about a variety of assistance programs that may help your family. There are 114 Community Action offices across the state, at least one located in every county. Stop by the nearest Community Action Agency if you need assistance with Weatherization and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Transit, Head Start, and WIC/Family Planning.

Right now is the season for LIHEAP energy assistance. Assistance is based on income, household size, type of fuel, type of

dwelling and other factors. Federal income guidelines apply. (CS)

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP assists low-income families in meeting the cost of home heating. Applications are available at the local Community Action Agency and are accepted on a first come/first served basis from November 1, 2003 through April 15, 2004 (October 1 for households with an elderly/disabled member).

Households may qualify for assistance if their income falls within a set range. Proof of income for the last 13 weeks and a copy of heating and electric bills will need to be provided. LIHEAP applications also serve as an application for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

The top income guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	3 Month Gross	Annual Gross
1	3,367.50	13,470
2	4,545.00	18,180
3	5,722.50	22,890
4	6,900.00	27,600
5	8,077.50	32,310
6	9,255.00	37,020

Complete details are on the web at:

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www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/caa/LIHEA/P.html

or call 515-281-0859

or contact Jerry.McKim@iowa.gov

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was established to help reduce the heating and cooling costs for low income persons, particularly the elderly, disabled, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

For more information or to apply for the Weatherization program, call 515-242-6314

or contact Jim.Newton@iowa.gov

Log on to the website at:

www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/cfm/index.cfm/state/abbr=ia

Find out the location of the nearest weatherization office at:

www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/caa/pdfs/LIHEAP/FY04%20County%20Addresses.pdf

EASTER SEALS SERVICES

Easter Seals provides a wide variety of services to Iowans with disabilities or special needs. Employment and vocational services include job placement and training, classes, GED preparation, as well as internships and job shadowing. Respite Services provide temporary care, allowing a break for the regular caregiver.

An Equipment Loan Program is also available through Easter Seals. Hospital beds, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and other miscellaneous equipment are available on loan at a low cost. A simple application is required. Call Easter Seals at (515) 289-1933, extension 222 for details.

To learn about other Easter Seals services, contact:

Easter Seals State Office

Easter Seals Camp Sunnyside

401 NE 66th Avenue

PO Box 4002

Des Moines, Iowa 50333

Phone: 515-289-1933

Fax: 515-289-1281

TTY: 515-289-4069

www.eastersealsia.org

Email: info@eastersealsia.org

IOWA COMPASS

Iowa COMPASS is a non-profit, free, and confidential information and referral service to assist persons with disabilities, their families, and professionals who work with them to locate services. They connect people with organizations that offer employment services, rehabilitation, family support, legal assistance, advocacy, financial support, education, retraining following a disability, medical insurance, and many other services.

Contact:

Iowa COMPASS

Center for Disabilities and Development

100 Hawkins Drive

Iowa City, IA 52242-1011

Phone: 800-779-2001

FAX: 319-356-1343

E-mail: iowa-compass@uiowa.edu

Web:

www.medicine.uiowa.edu/iowacompass

IOWA ABLE

Since 1998, the Iowa Able Foundation has been offering low interest loans to Iowans with disabilities or disabling conditions to purchase assistive technology. (Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment or product system, modified or customized, that is used to improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.) The program is currently being revamped due to a large federal award recently

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received. In the next few months, two new programs will be offered:

Alternative Financing Program: A loan program to purchase assistive technology through a low interest direct loan, a guaranteed loan from a financial institution, or other avenue.

Telework Program: A loan program to purchase assistive technology to enable employment.

Watch for more information in the first quarter of 2004. Or contact:

Deb Kazmerzak
Iowa Able Foundation
c/o State Public Policy Group
200 10th, 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-243-2000
dkazmerzak@sppg.com

HAWK-I

The HAWK-I Program (Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa) provides health care coverage to children under the age of 19, whose families are between 133 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who are not eligible for Medicaid. HAWK-I offers dental care, doctor visits, vision exams and eyeglasses, home health care, and hospice care at a low-cost or free of charge. Children must have no other health insurance, be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien, be in a family that meets income limits, is not a dependent of a State of Iowa employee, and does not qualify for Medicaid.

Applications can be obtained by calling 800-257-8563, Monday through Friday, from 7 am to 7 pm. The call is free and confidential. Applications are also available online at www.hawk-i.org. Completed applications can then be mailed to:

HAWK-I Program
PO Box 71336
Des Moines, IA 50325-9958

WELCOME TO ERIN HAAFKE

Please join me in welcoming Erin Haafke as the new AgrAbility Program Specialist. Erin graduated from ISU with distinction in May 2003 with a major in Child and Family Services and a minor in Gerontology. She has worked as a Senior Day Services Assistant for the Alzheimer's Association in Sioux City and has served as an activities volunteer at the Mill Pond Retirement Community in Ankeny. Erin grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa and looks forward to meeting as many AgrAbility families as possible in the next few months. (Mary Yearn)

FREEWHEELERS' MEETING

The Freewheelers met October 4 in Conrad, IA with 12 in attendance. Tracy Keninger was the special guest. The individuals attending shared many ideas and had a good time visiting – and, of course, eating.

The next meeting will be held in April.

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IOWA AGRABILITY - A joint effort of ISU Extension and the Rural Solutions Program of Easter Seals Iowa. The program can help farm family members with a disability stay in farming.

This newsletter from the Iowa AgrAbility Project will be sent monthly to AgrAbility families and other interested individuals. Please send comments and suggestions to:

AgrAbility Program Specialist
96 LeBaron Hall, Ames, IA 50011
Phone: ISU Answerline at 1-800-262-3804
TDD: 1-800-854-1658.
Web site: www.extension.iastate.edu/agrability/

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Iowa AgrAbility Project

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