

# THREE INITIATIVES BUILDING JOBS, HEALTH, & CONNECTIONS

By Osceola Council on Aging

Region 4A • Kissimmee, FL  
osceolagenerations.org



## Job Training • Health • Social Services

### INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Project OPEN addresses economic disparities and the needs of the job market through education and job training. The program promotes establishing a career path rather than simply finding employment.

Another initiative, We Care Osceola, seeks to promote improved access to care for uninsured Osceola County residents by partnering with primary care providers and health care specialists to cultivate a continuum of care for patients.

Finally, the Osceola Social Services Network fosters partnerships between faith-based initiatives, health, and social service agencies, also providing opportunities for agency leadership to assess community needs, strategically plan, and implement change in our community.

### LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED

Our clients are unemployed or underemployed, earning below living wage, or need to increase their incomes. Many clients are medically underserved and precariously housed or homeless.

### ROLE OF CSBG FUNDS

CSBG funds will be used to promote program planning, implementation, and staffing.

### TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Project OPEN equips families to obtain sustaining employment or to move into jobs with higher salaries by establishing strategic partnerships with stakeholders and academic institutions working in



concert to offer education opportunities to disadvantaged and disenfranchised families and individuals residing in Osceola County. A variety of services ensure low-income and housing-insecure residents have an opportunity to improve their family's economic stability and prosperity.

We Care Osceola ensures that the medically underserved have access to affordable quality healthcare by utilizing a network of volunteer medical providers to provide a wide range of medical, dental, vision and behavioral health services to the county's economically disadvantaged residents.

Osceola Social Services Network is collectively developing a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment, establishing interagency agreements, and creating an online peer-to-peer communication tool for front-line case managers.

## EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

These initiatives' evidence-based approach follows the requirements for "transformative impact." Our projects are designed to create measurable community-wide improvement affecting one or more cause or condition of poverty within a defined geographic area. They sport clearly defined and measurable goals and include strategic activities designed to achieve said goals. Finally, the CAA plays a key role in implementing the projects.

## EQUITY LENS

The initiatives include Community Needs Assessments, which collect demographic data used in program analysis and improvement.

## CUSTOMER VOICE

Customer voice is an area that will need additional focus. At a minimum, we anticipate that data will play a large part in the Community Needs Assessment.

## Contact

Osceola Council on Aging

700 Generation Point  
Kissimmee, Florida 34744

Website: [www.osceolagenerations.org](http://www.osceolagenerations.org)  
Phone: (407) 846-8532

*This publication was created by the National Association of Community Action Agencies — Community Action Partnership, in the performance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services Grant Number, 90ET0469. Any opinion, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.*

