



ASSIST AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

When you think of an effective non-profit organization that's having an impact in Acadia, Jeff Davis and Vermilion Parish, which one comes to mind? What does it mean to make a difference?

Community Action Agencies have a different standard than the world of business. Numbers are important, but they aren't the only dynamic. The ASSIST Agency focuses our attention on elevating the standard of living and improving the quality of life for economically challenged individuals, families, and communities in southwest Louisiana.

By doing so, we've had tremendous success in 2020. While numbers don't define us, they do tell a story. They show how our agency is working to strengthen and equip families. As you read these numbers, remember that behind each one is a life impacted by our efforts. Here's a look at what the agency is doing:

4400 INDIVIDUALS
- 1865 FAMILIES
WHO WERE ASSISTED BY THE
ASSIST AGENCY IN 2020

Outcomes

6 INDIVIDUALS
OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

2 FAMILIES
PURCHASED A HOME

12 CHILDREN
IMPROVED LITERACY SKILLS

22 CHILDREN
**IMPROVED APPROACH TOWARD
LEARNING**

31 INDIVIDUALS
OBTAINED SAFE SHELTER

20 FAMILIES
OBTAINED SAFE AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

173 FAMILIES
AVOIDED EVICTION

18 FAMILIES
AVOIDED FORECLOSURE

179 SENIORS
MAINTAINED AN INDEPENDENT
LIVING SITUATION

268 INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES
MAINTAINED AN INDEPENDENT
LIVING SITUATION

Services

313 INDIVIDUALS

**RECEIVED FINANCIAL
COUNSELING**

79 FAMILIES

RECEIVED SNAP BENEFITS

765 FAMILIES

**RECEIVED VITA/EITC TAX
PREPARATION**

121 FAMILIES

RECEIVED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

395 FAMILIES

RECEIVED UTILITY ASSISTANCE

14 FAMILIES
RECEIVED UTILITY DEPOSIT
ASSISTANCE

10 FAMILIES
RECEIVED PERMANENT HOUSING
PLACEMENT

7 FAMILIES
RECEIVED HEALTHY HOME
SERVICES

ASSIST had additional outcomes and services it provided but chose to only present the ones listed in order to keep the report brief, and the numbers achieving the goals for the other indicators were small.

The agency has also had a busy year when it comes COVID-19 CARES Act activities. Our agency's goal with the CSBG CARES Act funding was to support individuals and families with regard to the impact they were affected by COVID-19. This is being accomplished by assisting families in remaining in their homes with rental/mortgage and/or utility assistance up to a \$6,000 limit per household. The agency received this funding in the middle of 2020 with the following results:

97 Families
RECEIVED ASSISTANCE
THROUGH THE CSBG
CARES ACT FUNDING

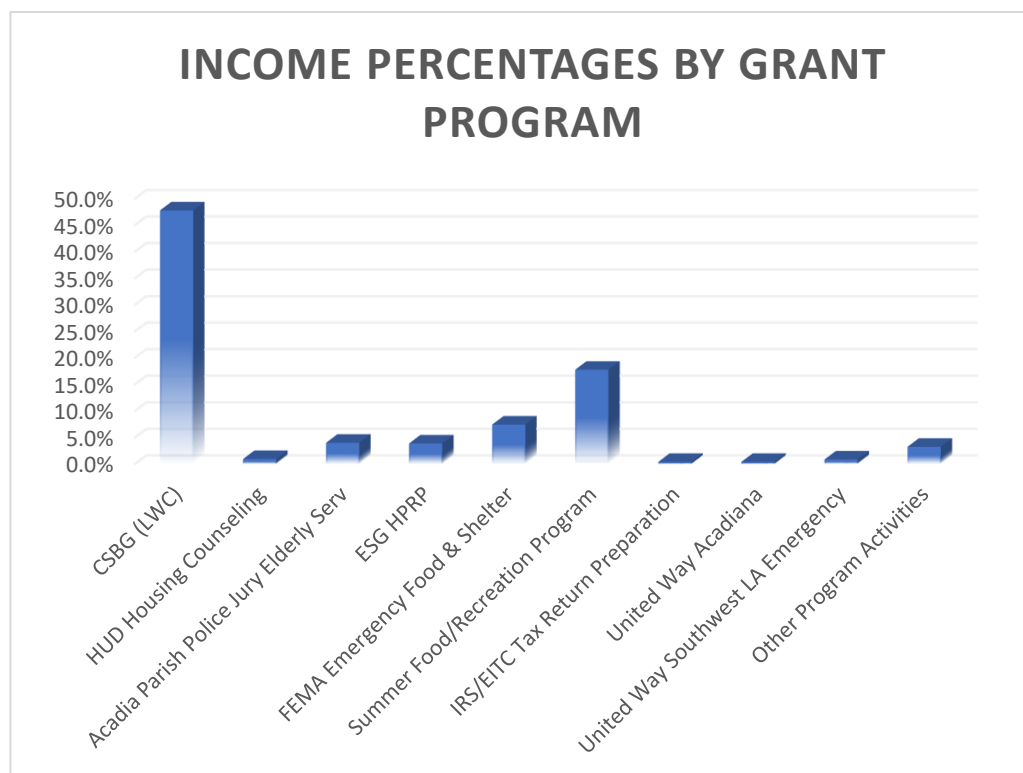
81 Families
Received Rental Assistance to
avoid eviction

8 Families
Received Mortgage Assistance to
avoid foreclosure

74 Families
Received Utility Assistance to avoid
being disconnected

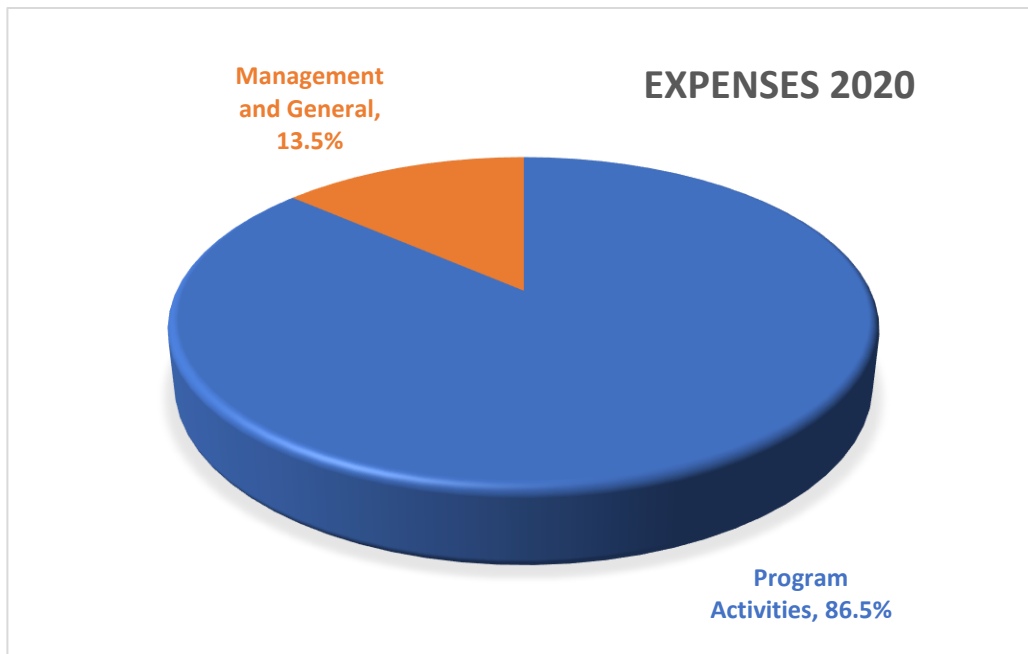
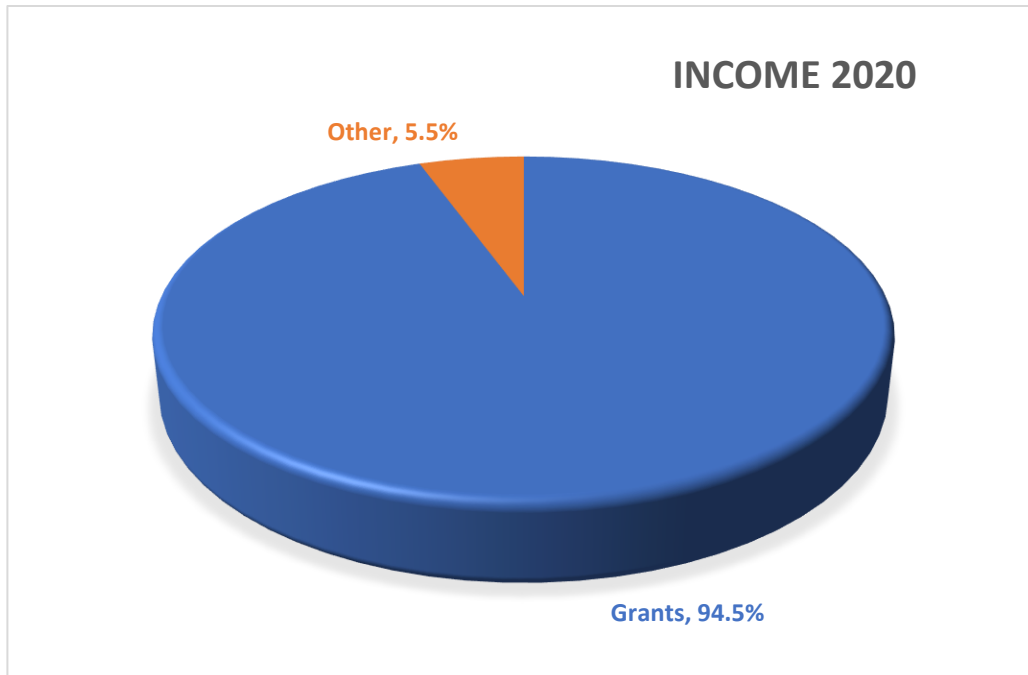
As you can see, the ASSIST Agency is touching lives and making a difference. The CSBG CARES Act funding grant runs from June 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022, or until the money runs out.

The agency received a positive Audit Report for the year 2020 with no “findings” being reported. The breakdown of the various sources of grant-based income is illustrated in the following graph.



CSBG was the main funding source at 47.8% followed by the Summer Food and Recreation Program at 17.7%. The FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program was next at 7.4%, then the Acadia Parish Elderly Program at 4.0%, Emergency Solutions Grant – Homeless Prevention & Rapid-Rehousing Program (ESG HPRP) 3.8%, Other 3.2%, HUD Housing Counseling 0.9%, UWSWLA 0.8%, UWA 0.4%, and IRS/EITC Tax Program 0.4%.

The Income and expenses from the audit report is as follows:



We are grateful for our funders, partner agencies, and the willingness of our many volunteers and supporters to partner with us in this endeavor. We would not be able to do all of this without your support. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and the agency staff, thank you for joining us in assisting individuals, families and communities throughout our service area!

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