

Prairie Opportunity, Inc., C.A.A.
FY 2015-2017

Strategic Plan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Prairie Opportunity, Inc., Community Action Agency is governed by a twenty-one member tri-partite Board of Directors. One-third of the board is elected public officials or their representatives. One-third is representatives of business, industry, labor, religion, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community. One-third is individuals who represent the poor in the area served. The tri-partite composition of membership provides for the actual problems experienced by the poor to be voiced by their representatives and responded to by the representatives of the business and local government.

MISSION STATEMENT:

It is the mission of Prairie Opportunity, Inc., C.A.A. to provide case management services to low income, elderly, and disabled families/individuals to enhance stability and enable them to become self-sufficient.

PURPOSE:

- 1) In order to fulfill the mission of Prairie Opportunity, Inc., C.A.A, the purpose and function of POI shall be:
- 2) To effectively and efficiently administer the programs of Prairie Opportunity, Inc., C.A.A. in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston Counties, Mississippi.
- 3) To work with the three significant groups in the community—the low-income representative, the public sector, and the private sector—to seek out and identify the condition of those in poverty as well as to eliminate its causes.

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- 4) To make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the low income and economically disadvantaged by mobilizing available resources and bringing about a greater sensitivity.
- 5) To plan and develop a system of priorities among projects, activities and areas, as needed, for the most effective and efficient use of resources designed to meet the needs of the community at large.
- 6) To serve the public's interest in charitable and benevolent relief of the low-income, distressed and underprivileged; to promote the social welfare by implementing programs designed to lessen neighborhood tension; to eliminate prejudice and discrimination; to defend human and civil rights secured by law; and to combat community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.
- 7) To achieve—to the fullest extent possible—self sufficiency and empowerment of program participants; thereby, furthering the economic growth and viability of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston Counties, Mississippi.

VISION:

- 1) It is the vision of Prairie Opportunity, Inc., C.A.A. to create a sustainable environment that inspires self- sufficiency, self -respect, and service to others.
- ✓ 2) All families are supported in their goals to be self sufficient. They are viewed as productive citizens who can make a positive difference. We envision families who have the potential to improve their own lives and the determination to help others. Our vision is that all families are self reliant and have support systems in their community.

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STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS:

Commitment to learning, growth and development are the means by which individuals and organizations reach their full potential. POI help families, community leaders, and staff understand how all our efforts must end in results, results that change lives, communities, and society for the better. As a result of our overall mission to assist families in their efforts to become self-sufficient, our agency has built its major visionary principles on three main strategic commitments. These three areas of focus are:

STRATEGIC COMMITMENT #1:

- All families are self reliant and have support systems in their community.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENT #2:

- All communities invest in their people, realizing that human investment reaps the greatest returns.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENT #3:

- POI is an agency committed to ending poverty – one family at a time.

STEPS:

- 1) View each client's situation holistically.
- 2) Expand, build, and leverage our competitive advantage.
- 3) Welcome Community Participation including clients, employees, volunteers, donors, the media, organizational partners, and county and city government.
- 4) Continue to build a sustainable organization. POI will pursue best practices in nonprofit management from client, organizational, and fundraising perspectives.
- 5) Implement a SWOT analyses to examine and investigate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Respect

POI treats all clients, volunteers, and employees the same way it would treat its friends or family, appreciating each individual's worth with dignity and respect.

Integrity

POI acts with professional and personal integrity, and by doing so, it hopes to promote good character and citizenship in clients and volunteers.

Caring

POI employees work collaboratively with each other and other agencies to develop and implement programs and services that provide real solutions to the challenges faced by members of our community.

Honesty

POI communicates our program services, and needs to our constituents in a transparent and straightforward manner.

Education

POI supports personal growth and continuous learning for our employees and offers education that promotes self sufficiency among our clients.

Responsibility

POI demonstrates a level of dedication and attention to detail that provides accountability to funding agencies, benefactors, clients, families and the communities we serve.

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MONITORING PROGRESS:

Progress will be monitored every 6 months that will show trends and measures of success or needs for attention in our low-income, public, and private sector. One representative from each sector (low-income, public, and private) will serve on the tracking committee. The faculty/community and customer satisfaction surveys will be used to make data driven decisions. In our mission statement we specifically state that we will help move people toward self-sufficiency. Yet self-sufficiency might look very different to a disabled senior citizen on a fixed income compared to a single mother with a high school education. Part of our ongoing task is to meet a growing demand with a diversified population and continue to refine our programs to move people in the direction of the desired goal or the needed goal based on the trends of times we live in.

Approved by the members of the Board of Directors of Prairie Opportunity, Incorporated.

Adopted Date: _____

Revision Dates: _____

Board Chairperson: _____

Secretary: _____

Executive Director: _____

AFFIX SEAL