

What is the Office of Resilience and Community Services?

Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services enjoys a long and rich history in our community dating back to the establishment of a municipal human services focused agency in 1961.

The focus of Resilience and Community Services (RCS) is to provide essential services for Louisville residents, especially for low and moderate income populations, including: preventing homelessness; delivering Meals on Wheels; helping families build financial stability and security; operating LIHEAP to help residents stay safe and warm; making microloans to jumpstart small businesses; and supporting eight Neighborhood Places.

Neighborhood Place, first established in 1993, is a partnership of multiple agencies which serves as the “front door” for thousands of individuals each month providing accessible health care, education, employment and social services

In FY18 year alone, more than 37,000 residents in Jefferson County benefited from the combined RCS programs and services mentioned above.

Resilience and Community Services broadens our reach by administering External Agency Funding grants to local non-profits, including the Community Ministries, which are committed to offering programs or services that align with the Mayor’s and department’s strategic goals. This fiscal year, EAF grants are helping to support the work of 75 external agencies delivering 93 programs. EAF funding to Community Ministries supplements funding received by member churches and faith-based groups residing in their service area.

Community engagement programs are another focus of RCS which provide avenues for nearly 600 low income and/or retired seniors, 55 years or older, to volunteer and engage in the community through partnerships with 73 different community organizations. These two programs, the Foster Grandparent Program and RSVP, are both funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Furthermore, RCS four Advocacy Offices provide opportunities for residents, service providers and community agencies to come together to address issues facing special populations.

The \$29 million operating budget for RCS is heavily grant funded with 67%, or \$20 million, provided by federal, state and other grants. The remaining 33% is provided by Louisville Metro General Funds which also supports EAF and partner agencies.

RCS is a dual-purpose agency, also serving as the community action agency for Jefferson County, part of a network of 1,000 agencies nationwide.

In 2016, the department formerly called Community Services was renamed the Office of Resilience and Community Services with the appointment of Eric Friedlander as the city’s Chief Resilience Officer. This position and resiliency efforts are funded and supported through The

Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities, which selected Louisville to join its network aimed at building urban, environmental and economic resilience.

To learn more about the Office of Resilience and Community Services visit <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/resilience-and-community-services>. Also follow RCS on Facebook and Twitter @LouMetroRCS.

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