



**YEARS OF SERVICE**



Staff members recognized by MATURA are in 3-year and 5-year service increments along with longevity awards. The community action agency's staff member with the longest tenure and team members having the most years have been added to the ICAA Conference recognition ceremony.



Staff member names and years of service: Karen Dreager (5 years), Joana Putvain (5 yrs), Janet Thompson (5 yrs), Johnnie Comacho (3 yrs), Heather Cruz (3 yrs)

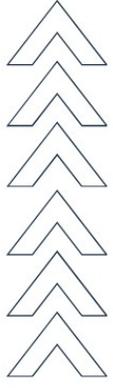


Staff member names and years of service: Tracy Miller (3 yrs), Taha Pezala (3 yrs), Amelita Robinson (3 yrs), Jessica Stoffen (3 yrs)



**CSBG Client Characteristics FY 2024**

 Total Individuals Served (unduplicated) <b>4,617</b> ↓ 0.75%	 Total Households Served (unduplicated) <b>2,226</b> ↓ 0.003%	
Single Person Households <b>1,026</b> ↑ 6.54%	Two Adults No Children <b>346</b> ↑ 8.125%	Two Parent Households <b>280</b> ↓ 4.44%
Single Parent Male <b>33</b> ↑ 10%	Single Parent Female <b>249</b> ↓ 13.24%	Multi-Generative Household <b>148</b> ↓
Homeless <b>8</b> ↓ 57.89%	Military Veterans <b>163</b> ↑ 19.85%	ACP ↓
Households Who Own Their Home <b>960</b> ↑ 2.54%	Households Who Rent <b>1,180</b> ↑	
Households with Non-Cash Benefits ↓		



# FY 2024 MATURA ACTION CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As we close another remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together—and to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support.

This year has been one of growth, resilience, and impact. Despite challenges in our community and beyond, our team, volunteers, and supporters have continued to show extraordinary commitment to our mission. Because of you, we have helped over 90 households with utility service continuity, beyond the 1,542 household who received LIHEAP assistance and 41 households that received utility service continuity through ECIP funds. Our outreach centers distributed 2,094 food boxes and provided critical support to families in need through gas vouchers.

None of this would have been possible without the collective effort of so many—our dedicated team who work tirelessly every day, our volunteers who give their time and heart, our board whose guidance keeps us focused, and our donors and partners whose generosity fuels everything we do.

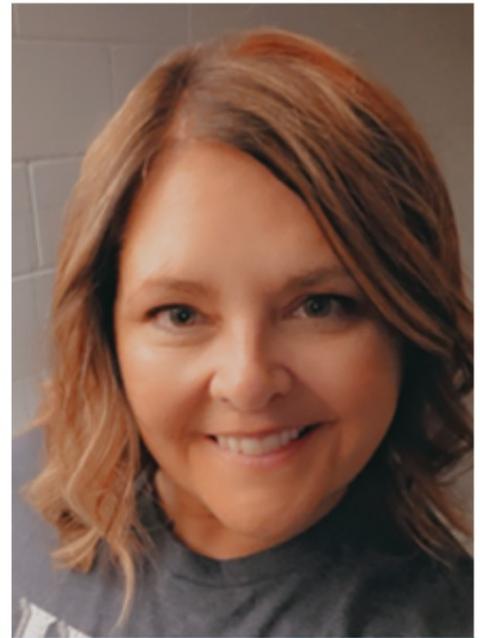
As we look ahead to the new year, we are filled with hope and determination. We know there is still much work to be done, but we also know that together, we can continue to create lasting change.

Thank you for being part of our story—your belief in our mission makes all the difference.

With gratitude and warm regards,



Danna Buls  
Executive Director  
MATURA Action Corporation



### DANNA BULS

*Danna Buls, a committed team member of MATURA since 2004, began as a Head Start teacher.*

*In 2007, she transitioned to PROMISE JOBS, where she served for eight years as both Employment Specialist and Supervisor.*

*Her journey continued in 2015 with the Weatherization Assistance Program, where she advanced from Assistant to Coordinator. In 2017, she took on additional responsibilities as Director of Outreach and Energy Assistance.*

*Danna was appointed Interim Executive Director in 2020 and became Executive Director in 2021. Her steady leadership and deep commitment make her a trusted and proven advocate for those we serve.*

MATURA Action Corporation  
207B N Elm Street  
Creston, IA 50801

641-782-8431

[www.maturacommunityaction.com](http://www.maturacommunityaction.com)



## MATURA PROFILE

MATURA Action Corporation has been providing community-level services to Madison, Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, and Adams (MATURA) counties for more than 60 years in order to solve the challenges faced by low-income families.

Our WIC/MCAH programs provide services in Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Fremont, Lucas, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, and Wayne Counties.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) encourage self-sufficiency, and they rely on volunteerism, particularly from the underprivileged population. The primary federal funding source for the agencies is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). A range of grants from federal, state, and local sources are also administered by agencies.

## MISSION STATEMENT

MATURA Action Corporation partners with the community to provide quality programming for families and individuals in need, assisting them in achieving self-sufficiency, in strengthening families and in improving their quality of life.

*Photo to the right: Teri O'Grady, Adams County Center Director, receiving food donation from Nick Wetzel, Farm Bureau*



## MATURA GOVERNING BOARD

Each CAA is governed by a board of directors consisting of at least one-third low-income community members, one-third public officials, and up to one-third private sector leaders.

This board structure is defined by federal statute and is known as a tripartite board.

### Adair County

Jodie Hoadley  
John Gruss  
Marie Warner

### Adams County

Leland Shipley, Chair  
Megan Boswell, Secretary  
Teresa Brace

### Madison County

Heather Stancil  
Cheryl LaVan

### Ringgold County

Steve Knapp  
Michell Ricker

### Taylor County

Ron Fitzgerald  
Diana Fisher  
Donna Melvin

### Union County

Dennis Hopkins  
Elizabeth Green, Vice-Chair  
Catherine Bristow



## VOLUNTEERS

MATURA utilizes volunteers throughout the agency primarily assisting in our outreach centers and Head Start classrooms. Low-income individuals make up almost half of this time. This framework supports MATURA's mission of empowering others. Figures are for FY 2024.



**236 volunteers**

(includes 177 Head Start volunteers)

**10,721.22 total volunteer hours**

(includes 1,667.72 Head Start volunteer hours)



# MATURA FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended September 30, 2024



The full 990 and Audit are posted on the Home Page of agency website:  
[www.maturacommunityaction.com](http://www.maturacommunityaction.com)

## REVENUE

Federal grant revenue	\$3,347,348
State and local grant revenue	697,832
Program income	20,468
Contract revenue	212,599
Rental income	52,244
Thrift store sales revenue	116,705
Contributions	228,886
Other income	101,704
In-kind contributions	<u>240,636</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,018,422</b>

## EXPENSES

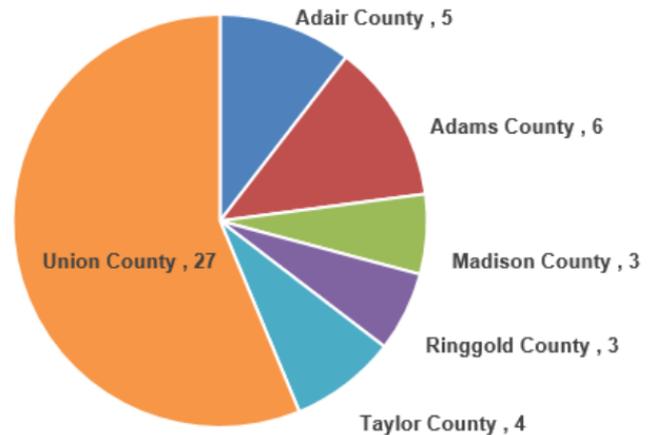
Program activities:	
Child education	\$1,567,464
Weatherization/energy assistance	1,169,156
Food/nutrition programs	514,463
Community services	1,121,122
Discretionary programs	291,855
<b>Total program activities</b>	<b>\$4,664,060</b>
Management and general	316,286
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$4,980,346</b>
Changes in net assets	38,076
Net assets - Beginning of year	1,843,887
<b>Net assets-End of year</b>	<b>\$1,881,963</b>



The Des Moines Register solicits donations for Embrace Iowa and partners with the Iowa Community Action Association to help households experiencing an emergency or hardship with short-term financial help, up to \$750 maximum.

MATURA was able to pass on those funds to pay for items not normally covered by MATURA funds. The chart below shows the breakdown of how funds were dispersed.

## Number of Unique Households Served by County



### Top 3 Categories

#### Awarded:

- Car repair
- Appliances
- Dental/eye

**48**  
grants awarded

**\$611.00**  
average amount  
requested from all  
processed applications

**\$26,270.35**  
total funds spent

### The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

### Follow us on Facebook:



- MATURA Action Corporation
- MATURA WIC-ISmile-1st Five
- MATURA Adair County Outreach Center
- MATURA Madison Co. Outreach Center



## 1ST FIVE

1st Five is a public-private partnership bridging primary care and public health services. 1st Five supports health providers in earlier detection of social, emotional and developmental delays and family risk-related factors in children birth to 5, and also coordinates referrals, interventions and follow-up.



## CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (CAH)

The CAH program strives to ensure that children receive periodic comprehensive health screening services that include dental screening and education, immunization, and developmental/behavioral screening.

The program also provides presumptive eligibility services for children who may appear to be eligible for Medicaid or Hawki, informing services for children who are newly Medicaid enrolled, care coordination services to help families access regular health care check-ups for their children through medical and dental homes, and links families to other community-based services based upon needs.

## CHILD CARE NURSE CONSULTANTS (CCNC)

**76.41%**

(81 out of 106) of Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs in Collaborative Service Area (CSA) 9 participate with the CCNCs.

## HAWKI

Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (Hawki) is designed to provide affordable health insurance to uninsured or underinsured working families.

## I-SMILE

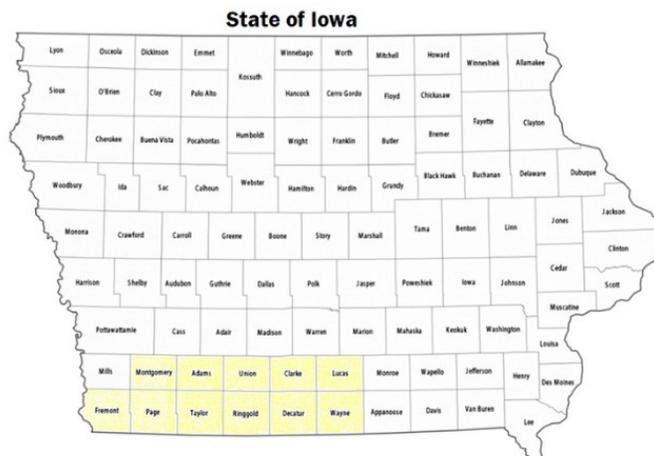
I-Smile is designed to ensure dental access to all children regardless of insurance coverage.

## WOMEN, INFANT, AND CHILDREN PROGRAM (WIC)

WIC services include nutrition education, health screenings and referrals, supplemental food assistance, and food packages tailored by dietitian to meet specific needs of each individual. WIC is designed to serve: pregnant women, postpartum women, nursing moms, infants and children 0-5.

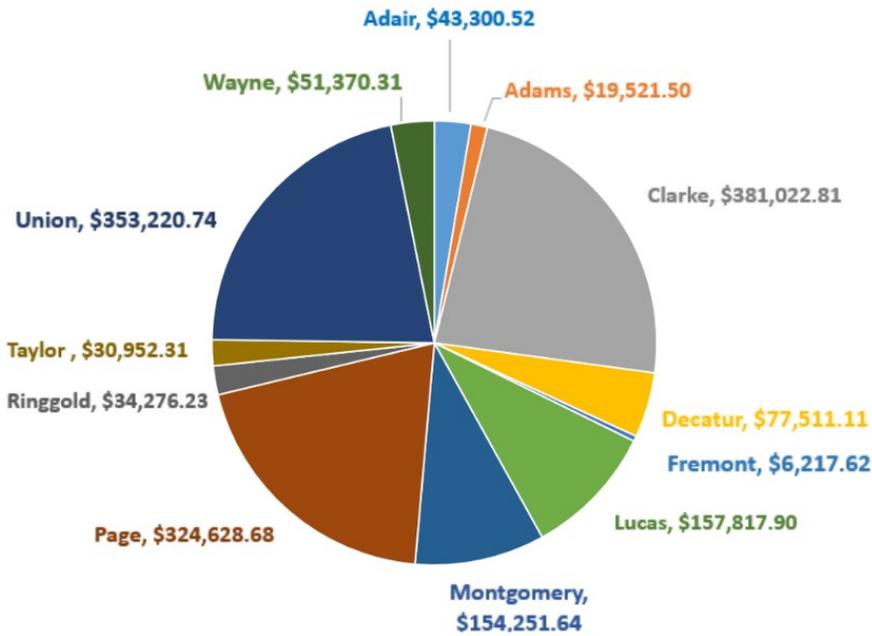
## CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (CAH) COLLABORATIVE SERVICE AREA (CSA 9)

We provided  
**21,318 services**  
to **7,189 participants**  
(unduplicated) in FY 2024



Our service area (CSA 9) for CAH, 1st Five and WIC are Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Fremont, Lucas, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union and Wayne Counties.

WIC/CAH: **\$1,634,091.37** in healthy food and formula benefits were provided to **1,989** participants. The services included by these programs include: dental screen, oral hygiene instruction, nutrition education, hemoglobin checks, breastfeeding education, vision screenings, fluoride varnish, and care coordination.



## HEAD START



### Parent Engagement Information

The following family engagement opportunities were offered throughout the program year:

- Two home visits
- Two parent-teacher conferences
- Family partnership assessment & goal setting
- Policy Council meetings monthly
- Parent Committee meetings
- Resiliency Training held at multiple program sites
- PACT time
- Creative Curriculum “end of study celebrations”
- Holiday programs
- School transition/Kindergarten round-up opportunities
- Several community event opportunities were encouraged (Kids Jamboree, etc.)
- All classrooms had events to celebrate the end of the school year

### Enrollment School Year 2024-2025

Funded Enrollment	Head Start	<b>98</b>
	Early Head Start	<b>8</b>
	*Cumulative Enrollment	<b>99</b>
Average Monthly Enrollment	Head Start	<b>74</b>
	Early Head Start	<b>8</b>
	*Cumulative Enrollees Requiring IEP	<b>17%</b>
Children with Health Insurance		<b>97.8%</b>
*(includes any child enrolled at least one day)		

### Medical & Dental Information

Children who received physical exam:	<b>95.6%</b>
Children who received dental exam:	<b>90%</b>



**MATURA Head Start Child Assessment Summary**

The area of mathematics and literacy had the lowest percent of children meeting or exceeding expectations. Professional Development for the 2025-26 school year will include evidence-based instructional strategies for mathematics and literacy, and data-driven intervention planning.

**Number of center-based Classrooms**

Bedford (in partnership)	1
Creston Head Start	3
Creston Early Head Start	1
Mt. Ayr (partnership dissolved 3/28/25)	1
Winterset	1
Corning (AM/PM session w/full day option for Head Start)	1

**Fiscal Year 2024 Funding**

Budget w/COLA	1,240,681
Training	16,429
Non-federal Share	314,278



November 2024 Greater Connections Child Care Center officially began serving Early Head Start participants. The eight slots acquired remain occupied.



**“Educating Children, Empowering Families”**



Collaboration continues with Crossroads Behavioral Health, Hannah Campbell as the Mental Health Consultant will implement opportunities for Early Head Start families/ children during the 2025-2026 program year.

**Federal Review Information**

The most recent federal monitoring review was conducted in May 2025. A program performance summary report was received. It has been determined that our program has at least one area of noncompliance. Actions have been taken to meet area of noncompliance.

**2024-2025 Child Outcomes:**

The percentage of preschoolers who met or exceeded expectations on GOLD assessments from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025.

- Social Emotional: 68%** (Fall) to **94%** (spring)
- Physical: 88%** (fall) to **99%** (spring)
- Language: 75%** (fall) to **94%** (spring)
- Cognitive: 76%** (fall) to **96%** (spring)
- Literacy: 49%** (fall) to **87%** (spring)
- Mathematics: 49%** (fall) to **88%** (spring)

Despite significant growth across all developmental areas from fall to spring, literacy and mathematics began the year with the lowest percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations—both at 49% in the fall. While spring data shows marked improvement (87% in literacy and 88% in mathematics), these areas remain a priority for continued instructional support.

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
Personnel	667,839	650,405
Fringe	191,246	183,279
Travel	1,171	2,894
Equipment	48,739	48,739
Supplies	37,456	51,622
Contractual	53,209	33,475
Other	120,279	159,387
Indirect	120,742	110,880
Total	1,240,681	1,240,681



**Audit Information**

The MATURA Action Corporation annual audit report was found in compliance and provided to the board in March 2025 by Wipfli LLP. Full report available on the MATURA website.



## WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a low-income energy efficiency program designed to make the homes of low-income clients more energy efficient thereby saving money. The program also provides important health and safety services. Energy saving measures include sealing air leaks, installing insulation in attics, walls, and crawlspaces, and tuning or upgrading heating systems.

At the beginning of FY24, we had two newly hired individuals training to become Auditors/Inspectors, but one decided it wasn't for him. It took most of FY24 to get the training and job shadowing needed for our new hire. As FY24 came to an end, we were able to get a few homes weatherized and look forward to getting more homes completed in the next fiscal year.



## LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

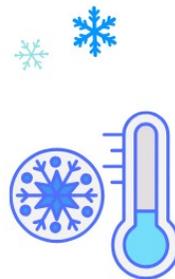
The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help eligible households stay safe and warm in the winter by providing a one-time payment to help with home heating bills and protection from disconnection until from November 1<sup>st</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**\$725,361.69**  
Total LIHEAP funds paid out



**1,542**

Households received heating assistance



**\$48,391.00**

Total paid out through Energy Crisis Intervention Payment (ECIP)

### ECIP funds assisted households in crisis with:

**41** Service continuity

**3** Furnace repairs

**7** Emergency reconnects

**17** Furnace replacements

**9** Emergency deliveries



## OUTREACH CENTERS

MATURA Outreach Centers work with households that are in crisis, providing emergency assistance. These centers are successful due to the help of very generous volunteers in the community. Below shows (unduplicated) counts of those we've helped through the outreach centers:

### County General Assistance

Emergency assistance is provided for low-income county residents through our outreach centers in Adair, Adams, Madison, Taylor and Union Counties. Information concerning this program can be obtained by contacting the outreach centers listed on the back cover.

**963 families**  
**2,094 individuals**  
assisted with emergency  
food packages



**126 families**  
**353 individuals**  
assisted with essential  
non food items

**18 families**  
**42 individuals**  
assisted with  
school supplies

**39 families**  
**69 individuals**  
assisted with housing  
crisis assistance



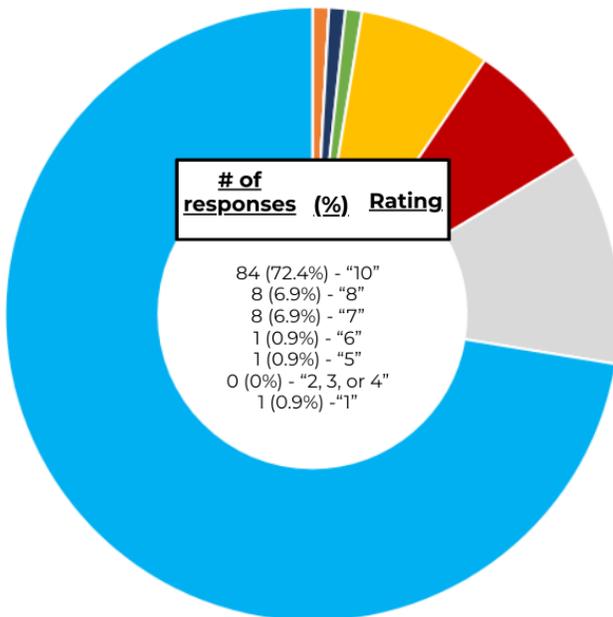
**285 families**  
**672 individuals**  
assisted with emergency  
utility assistance

**664 families**  
assisted with Holiday  
food packages.

**332 families**  
**923 individuals**  
assisted with  
Christmas gifts

We asked through a Customer Satisfaction survey, "How likely they are to refer someone to receive our services?"

(scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest)



We then asked "Why that rating?" responses included:

*"GREAT SERVICE"*

*"Because they help in times of need when life gets heavy with financial issues that pop unexpectedly they try to help where they can."*

*"They are always helpful & knowledgeable."*

*"It's the only available option for my parents' needs."*

*"Because I don't feel judged there..."*

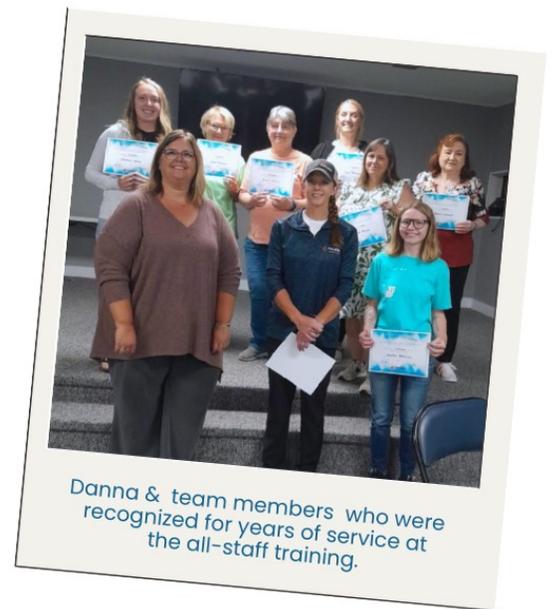
*"Great prices"*

*"willing to help you"*

*"Because I'm always very pleased with the help I get from Matura"*

*"Very helpful & friendly."*

## YEARS OF SERVICE



Team members are recognized by MATURA in 3-year and 5-year service increments along with longevity recognition. Each community action agency's staff member with the longest tenure and team members having been here three years have been added to the ICAA Conference recognition ceremony.



Angie Larson  
15 yrs



Courtney Adair  
5 yrs



Karen Dreager  
5 years



Joana Putvain  
5 yrs



Janet Thompson  
5 yrs



Johnnie Camacho  
3 yrs



Heather Cruz  
3 yrs



Stephanie Haffner  
3 yrs



Emily Ide  
3 yrs



Stacy Miller  
3 yrs



Tisha Pleake  
3 yrs



Amillia Robinson  
3 yrs



Jessica Steffen  
3yrs

## MATURA 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

For 60 years, MATURA Action Corporation has been helping address issues facing low-income families by bringing resources to the community level in Madison, Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, and Adams (MATURA) counties

MATURA celebrated 60 years of service with partners at an outdoor event serving food to thank the community for its support. Partners provided resource information.



# CSBG Client Characteristics FY 2024



Total Individuals Served  
(unduplicated)

**4,617**

↓ 0.75%



Total Households Served  
(unduplicated)

**2,226**

↓ 0.003%

Single Person  
Households

**1,026** ↑ 6.54%

Two Adults  
No Children

**346** ↑ 8.125%

Two Parent  
Households

**280** ↓ 4.44%

Single Parent Male

**33** ↑ 10%

Single Parent Female

**249** ↓ 13.24%

Multi-Generational  
Households

**148** ↓ 38.33%

Homeless

**8** ↓ 57.89%

Military Veterans

**163** ↑ 19.85%

Active Duty Military

**5** ↓ 37.5%

Households Who Own  
Their Home

**960** ↑ 2.54%

Households Who Rent

**1,180** ↑ 0.94%

Households with Non-  
Cash Benefits Only

**345** ↓ 1.71%

Households with Other  
Income & Non-Cash  
Benefits

**956** ↓ 0.62%

Households with Income  
from Employment, &  
Non-Cash Benefits

**593** ↑ 0.508%

Number of Households	Poverty Level	Percentage of Change
716	Up to 50%	↑ 7.03%
286	51% to 75%	↑ 13.94%
361	76% to 100 %	↓ 1.10%
351	101% to 125%	↑ 4.15%
234	126% to 150%	↓ 12.36%
150	151% to 175%	↓ 18.03%
85	176% to 200%	↓ 18.27%
24	201% to 250%	↓ 35.14%
19	Over 250%	↓ 5.00%



## OUTREACH CENTER LOCATIONS

MATURA Outreach Centers are located in each of our six core counties in order to better serve populations where transportation can be a barrier.

Each center is run by a MATURA Outreach Center Director with the help of volunteers to help in their thrift stores (where available) and to assist in their food pantries.



**Adair County**  
Raedeen Bigelow  
354 Public Square  
Greenfield, IA 50849  
(641) 743-2424



**Adams County**  
Teri O'Grady  
1402 Hull St.  
Corning, IA 50841  
(641) 322-4096



**Madison County**  
Sara Reed  
1724 N. John Wayne Dr.  
Winterset, IA 50273  
(515) 462-4704



**Ringgold County**  
Joana Putvain  
306 S. Garfield  
Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
(641) 464-2401



**Taylor County**  
Lydia Brumfield  
607 Madison St.  
Bedford, IA 50833  
(712) 523-3144



**Union County**  
Ashley Bolinger  
207B N. Elm St.  
Creston, IA 50801  
(641) 782-8431



*"Sharing our abundance,  
strengthening our community"*

MATURA team members served Open Table community meal in October 2024 at the Creston Depot. (L to R) Katie Christensen, Tiffany Ossian, Stephanie Haffner, Jackie Pafford, Joel Lamb, and Danna Buls. Not pictured: Emily Ide



**MATURA**

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

 (641) 782-8431

 [www.maturacommunityaction.com](http://www.maturacommunityaction.com)

 207B N Elm St, Creston, IA 50801