Successful Rural Community Economic Development Initiatives

National Community Action Partnership Conference
August 30, 2017
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.
Primary Service Area:
Choctaw, McCurtain & Pushmataha counties
Designation: Rural
Population: 59,928
Square Miles: 4023
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

Identity: Social Service Agency
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

Agency Founded-1968
Focus on provision of Social Services for Low Income Families:

Early Programs Included:
Head Start
Food Stamp Distribution
Home Weatherization
Energy Assistance
Public Transportation

Fred Tucker 1968-1992
Little Dixie began operating Group Camps at Beavers Bend State Park in the early ’80’s.
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

Bob Yandell 1992-2004

- Strong Background in Housing
- Huge Focus on Economic Development
- Agency budget grew from $3 million to more than 20 million annually
Little Dixie
Community Action Agency, Inc.

Community Meetings to develop 10-year Community-Driven and Developed Strategic Plan:
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

Community Meetings Held in Pursuit of an Empowerment Zone Designation

Enterprise Community Board of Directors
Little Dixie
Community Action Agency, Inc.

Raymond Gary
State Park
Fort Towson, OK

Clayton Lake
State Park
Clayton, OK
Lake Resort Cabins—LDCAA secured a long-term lease with the Corps of Engineers and began developing Hugo Lake into a Tourist Attraction—26 Cabins built to date

Below: LDCAA secured funds and constructed a Full Service Marina and Ships Store constructed at Hugo Lake
Little Dixie
Community Action Agency, Inc.
Little Dixie
Community Action Agency, Inc.

Successful Tourism Development

- Visionary Leadership
- Persistence/Can-Do attitude
- Taking Inventory of your communities assets
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement/Grassroots
- Internal Capacity
- Visibility & Accessibility