

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS & HEAD START

## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 2023



### **Channell Wilkins**

#### **President/CEO of OCEAN, Inc.**

OCEAN INC. Welcomes our District partners to the fold. We all work to support our families in whatever way possible. We know the Schools and Teaching staff are critical to the development of our next generation. Our goal is to provide supports that enhance the families and teachers' opportunities to provide outstanding educational experiences. Our services extend beyond our Pre-k children to any income eligible families in the districts. Happy Valentine's, Presidents Days and Black History Month.

### **Meg Saunders**

#### **V.P. of Children Services**

I want welcome you to our Head Start Partnership Program with your School District, we are very excited to have the opportunity to serve and work with your child.

The collaboration between early childhood staff, families, and community agencies builds positive relationships. These relationships support parents' progress toward their goals for themselves and their children. Community partners provide culturally and linguistically responsive services and helpful resources.

Let us connect you to the community to help your family identify and reach your goals!

We can assist with:

**Job Training | Social Service Benefits | Housing | First Time Home Buyers Program | Home Energy Assistance | Weatherization | Banking/Financial Literacy & Much More!**

To apply for our Head Start Program you can scan the below QR code with any smart device and proceed to our Online Application



Or contact:

**Ms. Jenna Stallworth**  
**Community Action/Family**  
**Partner Coordinator**

**jstallworth@oceaninc.org**  
**732-244-5333 EXT 1424**

**We would love to hear from you!**

*Here are some of the wonderful opportunities our families have participated in!*

### ***CAFE Empower Financial Literacy Program***

O.C.E.A.N. Inc. provided over 150 eligible individuals with financial literacy through on-line modules in partnership with 1<sup>st</sup> Bergen Federal Credit Union to gain financial empowerment. Each eligible individual who completed the financial literacy program, received a \$50 Wawa or Shop Rite gift card, met one on one with a personal banker and received a \$1,000 incentive! Congratulations to all participants!

### ***Shop with A Cop***

Shop with a Cop is an event where uniformed police officers and volunteers assist eligible children with their holiday shopping, free of charge to the child and their families within Atlantic, Ocean and Cape May counties. Shop with a Cop promotes social justice and positive police relationships for families as they gain the skills, knowledge and enhance their ability to engage within the community. Throughout the shopping spree, police officers were paired with a child, items pre-scanned and calculated their assigned child's order to ensure they were within \$150 before proceeding to the checkout. While shopping, officers engaged in conversation with each child while shopping and selecting their holiday gifts.

Once at the register, O.C.E.A.N. Inc. presented each child's

family/guardian with a \$50 Shoprite Gift Card to assist with food insecurities.

### ***Hearing and Visions Services in The Community***

Healthy vision supports learning, early literacy skills, social and emotional development, motor skills, physical activity, and self-image. It is not always easy to tell when children have difficulty seeing because many vision problems are invisible. Therefore, vision screening throughout early childhood is important to identify and ensure treatment of vision disorders. O.C.E.A.N. Inc. Head Start nursing department assisted with training district nurses on hearing and vision equipment to complete screenings throughout partnership pre-school programs.

### ***Holiday Assistance***

All Head Start families received a \$50 holiday assistance gift card to help combat food insecurities and ensure families can have a meal together for the holiday.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Bergen Federal Credit Union***

Need help building your credit? Need a bank account, savings, CD or loan (auto, personal, secured)? To be a member, 1<sup>st</sup> Bergen Federal Credit Union only requires you to live, work, worship, go to school, or volunteer in Ocean or Bergen County! Contact them today at (201) 968-0202 or visit the agency webpage at: <https://oceaninc.org/credit-union>

### ***Housing Program***

The goal of the Housing Division of O.C.E.A.N., Inc. is to increase the supply of safe, sanitary and affordable housing in Ocean,

Monmouth and Atlantic Counties and expand access to affordable housing for low-income households.

### ***LIHEAP and USF (Low Income Home Energy Assistance and Universal Service Fund)***

The Home Energy Assistance and Universal Service Fund programs provide assistance to households that meet the Federal Government income guidelines (200% of poverty for Home Energy Assistance and State income guidelines 175% of poverty for Universal Service Fund) and are unable to pay their heating bill due to hardship or circumstances beyond their control. Assistance is provided through a one-time payment in a given heating season for Home Energy. Universal Service Funds are monthly credits based on eligibility income, other benefits received and utility usage for 12 consecutive months. Amount of Universal Service Fund is determined by the utility company.

### ***First Time Home Buyers Program***

First time home buyer program  
Mission: Determine client's readiness to purchase a home and help by offering 10 thousand dollars in closing cost, in accordance to regulations.

