



# Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.

*Strengthening the fabric of our community*

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**Services**

Birth to Five School  
Readiness Program

Center of Excellence  
(New Day Program)

Community Food for Jobs  
Program & Bistro

Energy Services Bureau

Ernie Davis Community  
Center

Family Support Services

Libertad-Elmira Veteran and  
Family Program

Literacy Volunteers of  
Chemung & Schuyler  
Counties

## **ACCEL Clinic named recipient of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield 2023 Health Equity Innovation Award** *\$30,000 in funding awarded to EOP, Inc. to support the ACCEL Clinic*

[Elmira, N.Y.] – The ACCEL Clinic at the Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. (EOP Inc.) has been recognized by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for its commitment to addressing health disparities and improving health equity and named a [2023 Health Equity Innovation Awards](#) recipient. The awards program aims to provide financial support to community programs that address racial and ethnic health disparities across Excellus BCBS’s upstate New York service area. EOP Inc. was awarded \$30,000 in funding to support the **ACCEL Clinic**.

The acronym **ACCEL** stands for a collaborative partnership between Arnot Health, Chemung County Health Department, the Economic Opportunity Program, and LECOM. The ACCEL Clinic is located at 650 Baldwin St. in Elmira, NY. The ACCEL Clinic’s purpose is to provide cost-free and easy access to medical services for children and their families. The ACCEL Clinic offers weekly free lead screenings in response to Chemung County’s historically high lead levels; free blood pressure tests for children and adults; and nutritional education services provided by a collaboration with SNAP-Ed’s Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program. The funding allows the ACCEL Clinic to reach more of the 11,700 people living in poverty in Chemung County, improve the health outcome of Chemung County, and reduce health disparities for those that need it most.

“The ACCEL Clinic funding underwritten by Excellus BCBS supports a vital community health partnership between agencies which all have a common goal—to address the social determinants of health that Chemung County is facing,” said Andrea Ogunwumi, CEO, Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.

EOP Inc. is one of 20 nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations from across Excellus BCBS’s upstate New York service area – including the Rochester, Central New York, Utica/North Country, and Southern Tier regions – recognized as part of this year’s Health Equity Innovation Awards.



Organizations were invited to apply for the 2023 Health Equity Innovation Awards to receive grants of up to \$30,000 each to help fund initiatives, programs, and research that specifically target the root causes of health inequities, with a focus on addressing structural racism. Applicants were assessed based on clear, defined goals and measurable results for reducing health disparities and improving health equity, and 20 grant recipients were selected following a comprehensive review process that included input from individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

“At Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, our mission is to help people lead healthier, more secure lives through access to high-quality, affordable health care. We’re committed to community partnerships and using our resources to support initiatives that directly target health disparities, promote access to care, and address the underlying social determinants of health, to help ensure everyone can reach their full potential,” said Simone E. Edwards, DrPH, MPH, Excellus BCBS’s vice president health equity and community investments.

EOP Inc. is dedicated to address issues that impact community access to quality health care. With the support of Excellus BCBS and the funding received through the 2023 Health Equity Innovation Awards, the ACCEL Clinic can continue to provide preventative health screenings and education to address health disparities in the City of Elmira and all of Chemung County.

For more information about the Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. and its ACCEL Clinic, please visit [www.cseop.org](http://www.cseop.org).

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### **About Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.**

The largest non-profit, community-based human services agency in Chemung and Schuyler counties, EOP Inc. uses a highly integrated, person-centered and strength-based approach. The agency serves as a multi-service provider of child and youth care, family development, and energy services to more than 5,000 individuals and families annually. Current programs at EOP Inc. include: Birth to Five School Readiness Head Start and Early Head Start education; afterschool services for youth (Center of Excellence and the Ernie Davis Community Center); support and advocacy services for children with developmental disabilities and their families and literacy training for all family members. Additionally, EOP Inc. provides safety net case management through the Anti-Displacement program and for low-income homeowners, especially the elderly, through its Energy Services Bureau. Further, EOP Inc. operates the Libertad-Elmira Veteran and Family Program which provides permanent supportive housing for displaced Veterans and their families at the Libertad-Elmira housing community.

### **About Excellus BlueCross BlueShield**

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, is a nonprofit health plan with 1.5 million upstate New York members. The company's mission is to help people live healthier and more secure lives through access to high-quality, affordable health care. Its products and services include cost-saving prescription drug discounts, wellness tracking tools and access to telemedicine. With more than 4,000 employees, the company is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce to foster innovation and better serve its members. It also encourages employees to engage in their communities by providing paid volunteer time off as one of many benefits. To learn more, visit [ExcellusBCBS.com](http://ExcellusBCBS.com).