

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

October 2023 to September 2024



"Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark" ~ Katrina Mayer



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMY MUNDERLOH



Dear Friends

Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (NENCAP) is committed and focused on providing quality services to those in need across northeast Nebraska. As you read through this Annual Report, you will see the wide range of services we provide and that we served over 8,500 people in FY 23/24.

I want to thank the many agencies, businesses, and organizations that support our work and help us accomplish our goals. We rely on staff, volunteers, donors, funders, and supporters every day and are extremely grateful for them. We have built many new partnerships and expanded many existing ones. A few of the new partnerships include Farm Credit Grant program which provided funding to enhance our food programs, the Nebraska Diaper Bank provided 225 families with 45 diapers a month, 185,000 diapers have been distributed. In addition, UNL's Extension Office's Cultivating Healthy Intentional Mindful Educators (CHIME) program works with our early childhood educators to enhance their overall mental well-being.

Our needs assessment identified a decrease in affordable housing; we know the heavy inflation rates have made it hard for working families to meet their basic needs. The growing need for affordable food led us to increase our food pantry programming, and we also increased funding for homeless services to address the growing homeless population in our area. But unfortunately, the demand is growing faster than we can provide assistance. NENCAP continues to survey the needs of our area and find more ways that we can address these issues.

I hope you will enjoy reading this annual report and discovering the valiant efforts being made to reduce poverty and suffering in northeast Nebraska. I am grateful for the dedication of NENCAP's Board of Directors and staff who continue to work diligently to make these great things happen and cannot wait to see what the future brings.

Join us as we carry out our anti-poverty mission!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

LOCATIONS

Central Office

- 603 Earl Street
PO Box 667
Pender, NE 68047
Phone: (402)385-6300 or
(800)445-2505
Fax: (402)385-6310
Website: www.nencap.org

Satellite Offices

- South Sioux City Office
2120 Dakota Avenue, Suite A
South Sioux City, NE 68776
Family Services: (402)494-8312
WIC/Imms: (402)494-1429
- Creighton Office
808 Chase Ave
Creighton, NE 68729
Family Services: (402)358-5297
- Norfolk Office
1405 Riverside Blvd
Norfolk, NE 68701
Family Services: (402)371-0377
WIC/Imms: (402)844-4422
- Fremont Office
212 E 8th St, Suite B
Fremont, NE 68025
Family Services: (402)721-0619
WIC: (402)727-0608



E a r l y C h i l d h o o d

Head Start & Early Head Start

- Norfolk Head Start
301 E Omaha Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402)371-8030
- Norfolk Early Head Start
600 N 12th St
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402)992-8423
- South Sioux City Head Start
2120 Dakota Ave
South Sioux City, NE 68776
Phone: (402)494-6755
- Wayne Head Start
1210 E 7th Street
Wayne, NE 68787
Phone: (402)375-2913
- Siouxland Family Center
Head Start & Early Head Start
1401 Pine Street
Dakota City, NE 68731
Phone: (402)494-1282

Partnerships

- Niobrara School
247 N Hwy 12
Niobrara, NE 68760
Phone: (402)857-3322
- Little Blujays
100 S Little St
Walthill, NE 68067
Phone: (402)846-5452
- Little Panthers
2500 West Norfolk Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402)644-2501
- Pender Public Schools
609 Whitney Street
Pender, NE 68047
Phone: (402)385-3244
- Bancroft-Rosalie
409 Main St
Bancroft, NE 68004
Phone: (402)648-3421
- Wisner-Pilger School
801 18th St
Wisner, NE 68791
Phone: (402)529-6465

MISSION STATEMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STRATEGIC PLAN



MISSION STATEMENT

"People helping people; empowering individuals, strengthening families and enriching communities in Northeast Nebraska."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GOVERNMENT

Ted Connealy - Burt County
Lisa Lunz - Dixon County
Eli Jacob - Antelope County
Lon Strand - Dodge County
Dennis Kment - Stanton County

LOW INCOME

Norbert Holtz - Cuming County
Diane Elwood - Pierce County
Tammy Bodlak - Thurston County
Elaine Bloomquist - Cedar County
Maria Jimenez - Policy Council

PRIVATE SECTOR

Kristy Hanefeldt - Knox County
Tim Decker - Dakota County
Deb Hammer - Wayne County
Nan Smutko - Washington County
Gregg Hanson - Madison County

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- ENGAGE workforce talent to enhance programming.
 - BUILD Governing bodies that are strong advocates for NENCAP's mission.
 - SECURE unrestricted funds and other funding streams (grants, foundations, etc.)
 - PROVIDE comprehensive services in a centralized location.
-

AGENCY HISTORY

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were launched as key elements of President Lyndon Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act of 1964: Johnson's "War on Poverty." Developers of early legislation recognized that poverty had no single cause. Therefore, Community Action Agencies were given the flexibility to develop programs that addressed issues of housing, health, education, nutrition, employment, emergency assistance, and other areas known to be related to poverty.

Today there are approximately 1,000 CAAs in the United States, Nebraska is served by nine CAAs and cover all 93 counties. Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NENCAP), established in 1966 as a private, non-profit organization, serves 14 counties in Northeast Nebraska. This agency, like other CAAs, receives its core funding through the federal and state Community Services Block Grant. Other federal and state grant funds, local government and private support provide additional program revenues. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CAAs are well known proponents of self-sufficiency: "A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out" is our goal. We strive to achieve our purpose through community organization and empowerment. CAAs serve low-income individuals in need regardless of age, sex, handicap, religion or ethnic background.

NENCAP has a proud history of service to the community. Working with local groups and citizens of all income levels, NENCAP continues to partner with many of these agencies in an effort to meet client needs.

The agency's Board of Directors is composed of volunteers representing local governments, low-income communities, and the private sector. It is a cross section of people from different age groups and backgrounds cemented together by a common desire to offer a hand up to their fellow neighbors in need.

NENCAP believes that poverty and hunger are not acceptable conditions in our communities. We believe that ending poverty is an attainable goal through joint community efforts. Each of us has something to contribute; each of us can play a part.



FUNDING

How you can help

If you would like to contribute funding NENCAP's mission, please visit our website at www.nencap.org or contact Amy Munderloh, Executive Director at 402-385-6300 ext. 203. Donations from supporters of Community Action help us to serve the many clients who are in need of assistance in our 14 county area.



Funding Sources

Administration of Children and Families (ACF)
American Legion Riders
Buckle Up for Life
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
Daniel Smith - Attorney at Law
Department of Energy (DOE)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
Farm Credit Services of America
Food Bank for the Heartland
Fremont Area Veterans Coalition
Greenberg Foundation
Local Banks
Local Churches
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Munderloh-Smith Funeral Homes
Nebraska Community Foundation
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)
Office of Head Start
Pender Community Hospital
Pender-Thurston Big Give
Siouxland Community Foundation
Sixpence
State of Nebraska - HS CHIME
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
United States Veterans Administration
The Vetter Foundation
Wayne Community Chest

"Be the light that helps others see"

TOTAL BUDGET

\$10,227,415.00

Total Operating Budget from October 1, 2023
to September 30, 2024.



\$634,559.00

Support Services

- \$574,992 - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- \$26,793 - Client Assistance Fund/ARRA Food Pantry
- \$32,774 - Administration

\$1,601,806.00

Food & Nutrition

- \$1,403,771 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- \$198,035 - Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

\$1,376,914.00

Housing

- \$778,433 - Weatherization
- \$37,994 - Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)*
- \$543,326 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)*
- \$46,520 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)/FEMA

\$1,004,886.00

Health

- \$186,258 - Immunizations
- \$132,590 - Early Development Network (EDN)
- \$686,038 - Healthy Families Home Visitation

\$5,609,250.00

Education

- \$5,609,250 - Head Start

NENCAP EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, JENNIFER KELLER

Each year since 2004, staff at Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. are given the opportunity to nominate a coworker to be recognized as the Employee of the Year. Nominations are reviewed by a committee of NENCAP Program Directors, and an employee is chosen.

This year's NENCAP Employee of the Year is Jen Keller. Jen began her employment with NENCAP in May of 2013 and is the Healthy Families Coordinator and Infant Family Reflective Supervisor.

A few of the comments on Jen's nomination form included:

- *"She wears many hats, is a great listener and is always there for her advocates and other NENCAP employees."*
- *"Her knowledge of Community Action has been helpful in providing and ensuring services to clients are appropriate and needs are being met."*
- *"She has been with the agency for over 10 years."*
- *"She recently earned her mental health endorsement and is a certified child passenger safety seat instructor."*

Jen has lived in Wisner for almost 25 years. She is married to Bryon Keller and has two children. *"I am surprised and flattered to be nominated and chosen for this award,"* Keller said. *"NENCAP has many people doing great work every day. I appreciate the honor."*



"You have to find what sparks a light in you, so that you in your own way can illuminate the world" ~ Oprah Winfrey

HUMAN RESOURCES

"As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way" ~ Mary Anne Radmacher



Employees

- 124 employees
- 24% of employees have been with the Agency 5+ years



Benefits

- \$12,002,16 in value is added annually by the Employee benefit package (\$5.17/hr). The Agency pays 100% of health, life, dental and vision coverage for eligible employees.
- 66.7% of employees participate in the Agency 401K plan which provides agency matching. The industry participation rate is 55.1%



Recruitment

- 301 applications for employment were received in fiscal year 2023-2024. Platforms used included paid/unpaid job boards, paid/unpaid Facebook ads, newspaper and agency website.
- 50% of individuals accepting employment with the Agency were currently unemployed at the time of the Agency's job offer.



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

8,616

Clients were served in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Income

- 77% of clients made less than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for their household size.
- 40% of clients make less than 50% of FPL.
- 15% of clients make between 101-125% of FPL.

Housing

- 60% of client households rent their homes.
- 40% own their homes.

Age

- Over 50% of clients served are children under the age of 18 and senior citizens over the age of 65.

Health

- 14% of clients have a disabling condition.
- 86% of clients have health insurance.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

485

Clients served

Students

- 217 children enrolled in Head Start.
- 38 children enrolled in Early Head Start.

Classrooms

- 26 classrooms
- 5 independent sites
- 6 partnerships

Nutrition

- 49,525 meals and snacks were provided to Head Start and Early Head Start children during the 2023-2024 school year (43,289 Head Start and 6,236 Early Head Start)



Value of food donated to and/or distributed by NENCAP programs



\$141,981.18

Value of food and goods donated to NENCAP food pantries.



\$243,000.00

Value of CSFP food boxes distributed.

Food Pantry

NENCAP was able to provide 754 food pantry services.

- 42% of food pantry clients were children under age 18.
- 32% of food pantry clients were children ages 0-12.

Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Commodities were provided to 629 seniors ages 60 and over.

- 32% of seniors served had a household income below \$10,000 annually.
- 80% of CSFP clients served had one or more disabling conditions.



HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Services programs at NENCAP include Immunizations, Healthy Families and the Early Development Network (EDN). The services provided by these programs are centered around making care and case management accessible, high quality and client-centered.

3,738

Vaccines were given by NENCAP Immunization program.

- 259 Covid-19 vaccines given.
- 828 Flu shots given.
- 709 children received 2,803 vaccines.
- 521 adults received 935 vaccines.

1,728

Resources and referrals were provided to families served by the Early Development Network (EDN) in the Norfolk School District.

- 92 children and their families were served by the EDN program.

1,232

Home visits completed by NENCAP Healthy Families program.

- 79 families were served by Healthy Families.
- 44 families completed the Family Resilience and Opportunities for Growth (FROG) parent assessment.

Age

- Over 60% of Health Services clients served are children under the age of 18 and senior citizens over the age of 65.

Housing

- 45% of Healthy Families client households rent their homes.
- 2% of Healthy Families client households own their homes.

Health

- 18% of Health Services clients have a disabling condition.
- 98% of Immunization clients have health insurance.
- 72% of Healthy Families clients have health insurance.



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)



\$239,140.90

Services including rent, utilities, deposits, transportation, daycare, etc. were provided to Veterans and their families.



94%

Of Veteran households receiving housing assistance were able to independently exit the program with stable housing following receipt of SSVF services.



100%

NENCAP was able to provide 100% of initially targeted services to Veterans.



123

Household members in 62 Veteran Households received services from NENCAP's SSVF Program.

SUPPORT SERVICES

2,383

Clients were served by NENCAP Family Services.

Support Service programs at NENCAP provide assistance to clients for both rent and utilities as well as rental and utility deposits to help establish stable housing. Additionally, Family Services staff are able to provide tax preparation assistance, case management and other services as available to NENCAP clients.



\$260,533

In eligible refunds were received by the 207 households served through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA).



345

Hours of volunteer service were donated to NENCAP programs during Fiscal Year 2023-24.



436

Clients received rent and/or utility assistance from NENCAP.

- 246 clients received rental assistance.
- 136 clients received utility assistance.
- 54 clients received rent and/or utility deposit assistance.



WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

\$3,285,984.94

In WIC benefits were redeemed in WIC approved grocery stores, putting those funds back into community economies in the service area.

41

Grocery stores and pharmacies in the service area are approved to accept WIC benefits.

4,178

Clients were served by the WIC Program

- 889 infants under 1 year of age were enrolled.
- 2,294 children ages 1-5 received services.
- 996 pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women participated.



Infants

- 136 infants enrolled were exclusively breastfed.
- 335 infants enrolled were breastfed at some point.
- 199 infants enrolled were partially breastfed.
- 554 infants enrolled were formula fed

Fruit & Vegetable Benefits

- \$26 monthly for children
 - \$47 monthly for pregnant, postpartum and some breastfeeding mothers.
 - \$52 monthly for women who are fully or mostly breastfeeding their infants.
 - \$78 for women who are fully breastfeeding multiples.
-

WEATHERIZATION

\$661,976.27

Invested back into local economies through weatherization efforts including contract labor, supplies, etc.

\$108,454.40

In Weatherization funds were spent on Health and Safety measures including but not limited to: carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, ventilation to prevent mold and replacing faulty furnaces.

\$80,858.28

In Weatherization funds were spent on furnace/air conditioner replacements.



32

Homes were weatherized.

- 82 clients served.
- 29% of clients were ages 60 and over.
- 18% of clients were children under 18.
- 23% of clients were disabled.

\$300+

For every \$1.00 invested in Weatherization \$1.72 is generated in energy benefits and \$2.78 in non energy benefits according to national evaluations of the program.

- \$300+ annual cost savings
- 18% annual heat savings
- 7% annual electric savings



