



Annual Report 2021

Mission Statement

Partnering with individuals and families to encourage economic stability to gain independence through community based solutions.

Commitment to Service

As a Community Action Agency's mission to provide opportunities for change, it can be a continuous roller coaster ride of ups and downs with funding, staffing, and the many other challenges that come our way. And, just when you think "you got this" a pandemic hits, or should I say, continues.

COVID began in 2020, lingered through 2021, and now has forced its way into 2022 with different variants causing havoc in our lives. Families are hesitant to get together, conferences are held online, people are still working remotely, we're doing more things via zoom and some restrictions remain in place. Everywhere we see struggles and much to our dismay, life as we know it has changed, with people making statements of this being the "new normal". Well, personally, I am holding on to hope that won't be the case.

In navigating through the pandemic and the effects it has on our communities, our agency looks back at history and what was done in the wake of such uncertainty and we focus our eyes on any possibility of change.

Everyone tries to plot a course through each day, each month, and each year, consumed with questions of when it will end, how we will get there or what will it look like when it's no longer a threat.

A quote by Martin Luther King, Jr:

"Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

His quote symbolizes victory borne from disappointment and it is out of the urgency to find the stone of hope that it becomes vital for all of us to work together to get through this. The pandemic has intensified situations for many families that have been struggling with the persistence of poverty, but we hold on to the prospect of better days ahead.

We acknowledge that these are dismal times, but Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership has not wavered in our path and has continued providing continuity of services, being fortunate to receive additional funding to address the needs that exist in our communities. Although some adjustments had to be made

to some of the services at times, we've remained committed to our mission to serve those that continue to desperately need our help.

In alignment with our core values, *we focus on: **Loyalty** is that we believe the services we provide are valuable and positively impact lives. We will remain supportive of the agency mission, vision, policies and procedures as set by the Board of Directors.*

By implementing safety precautions for staff and clients, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership was able to continue our role in providing services during the pandemic.

- ⊕ CNCAP offices remained open for clients
- ⊕ CNCAP staff worked on site
- ⊕ WIC clinics were conducted either in person or over the phone
- ⊕ Commodity Supplemental Food Program clinics were drive thru clinics
- ⊕ Weatherization crews continued working on homes
- ⊕ Head Start classes were in-session

During times such as these, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership's commitment is to be the bridge that helps someone overcome their fear, their first step in their staircase to change, or the window that overlooks the prospect of hope.

Quote from Martin Luther King, Jr:

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.”

We all have a dream! And, we believe the future holds hope and renewal of great things.

Cheryl Holcomb, CCAP

CNCAP Executive Director

Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, INC.

Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, incorporated as Central Nebraska Community Action Program in 1965, began with a five member board. Throughout the years, it increased to 16, 18, 24, until its current membership of 27; representing the six core counties of Valley, Sherman, Howard, Custer, Merrick and Greeley. The other representatives reside in counties encompassed within the districts of North Central, East Central and South Central. The tripartite board represents 1/3 public appointed by a body of public officials, 1/3 private interest and 1/3 low-income (elected by CNCAP clients within their county or district.)

Roger Goldfish-Board Chair	Valley County
Bob Thomas-Vice Chair	North Central District
Arizona Brooks-Secretary	Merrick County
Luella Spilinek	Valley County
Kristine Marshall	Valley County
Dwain Bryner	Custer County
Ann Kawata	Custer County
Susan Koepke	Custer County
Jean Kowalski	Sherman County
Larry Griffith	Sherman County
Mitzi Tvrdik	Sherman County
Barb Stefanowicz	Howard County
Gary Rasmussen	Howard County
Brenda Klanecky	Howard County
Clifford Yrkoski	Merrick County
Nelva McNeff	Merrick County
Michael Goldfish	Greeley County
Joyce Costello	Greeley County
Janice Steenson	Greeley County
Doug Frahm	North Central District
Michelle Brase	North Central District
Keith Smith	South Central District
Gary Quandt	South Central District
Hope Anderson	South Central District
Debra Zarek	East Central District
Kim Kwapnioski	East Central District
Connie Peters	East Central District
Kyle Kowalski	Policy Council

CNCAP Board of Directors 2020-2021



Agency Summary

Total CNCAP Budget for 2021

\$13,911,107

In-kind Donations

\$1,419,593

Funding Sources

Local 1%
Private 10%
State 9%
Federal 80%

Disabling Condition

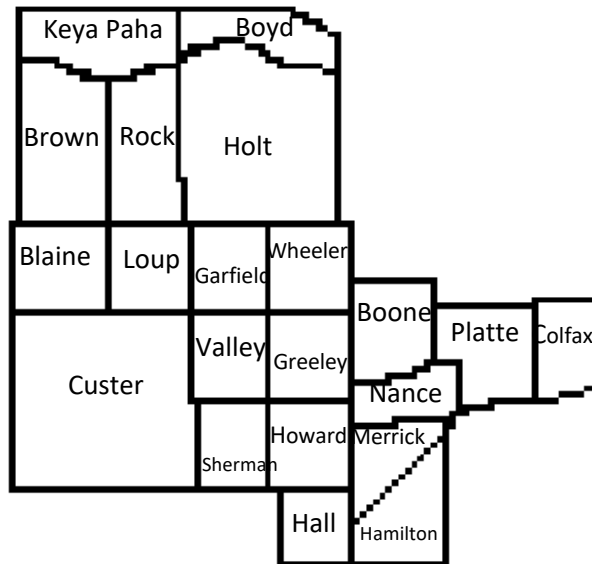
19% yes
81%no

Ethnicity:

22% Hispanic
77% Non-Hispanic
1% not reported

Race:

1% Asian
1% Native Hawaiian
3% Multi race
2% American Indian
2%Black
89% White
1%Other
1% unknown



Program Funding

Family Outreach 27%
ECP 65%
Housing 5%
Administration 3%

197 Employees

\$7,456,325 Salary & Benefits

181 Full Time 16 Part-Time

21 counties covering 17,000 sq. miles

- 13,958 lives touched in 2021
- 56% with less than 100% FPL

46% male/53% female/1% identified as other

Housing Status:

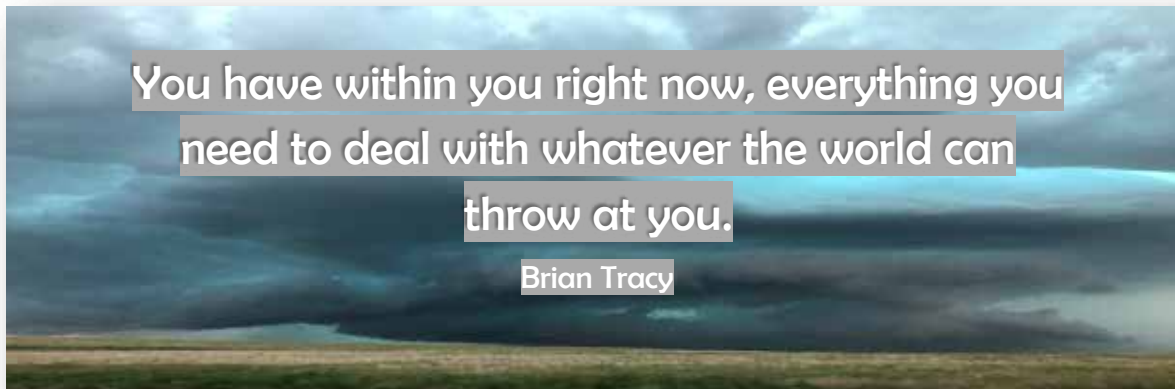
34% owned
49% rented
3% other permanent housing
9% homeless
2% unknown/not reported
2% other

Military Status:

13% Veteran
1% active
26% unknown
60% not served

Family Outreach

At the age of 21 Scott entered into the Air Force with thoughts of serving his country in a meaningful way. Scott began his military journey in California training to be a linguist. After successfully completing this training he went wherever the Air Force deemed he was needed. While a career in the military was Scott's plan, his plan was cut short when he was sexually assaulted. This assault was the beginning of a downward spiral into drugs and alcohol for Scott. Scott ended up leaving the Air Force with 2 years of service. Scott's life had become and continues to be a life of drugs and alcohol for several years to come. Scott would get sober only to drop back into the life over and over again. Scott would have housing for short periods of time and end up leaving and or losing the places due to his ever worsening condition. Scott "lived" in various states including California, Nevada, Nebraska, and Colorado to name a few. At one point while in Colorado Scott was completely destitute living under an overpass. Another time Scott was in Nebraska living from place to place sometimes living in shelter. It was during one of these times that Scott met Cassie Burks, SSVF Case Manager Supervisor in the Lincoln office. Cassie worked with Scott getting him off the streets by putting him in a hotel. He had outlived his welcome at the shelters in the area due to his drinking and the behaviors that went with it. Cassie would end up working with Scott 5 different times over the course of 2 years. Scott would do well for short periods of time and then go back to the life of self-medicating to a point of destruction. About a year ago Scott showed back up to Cassie's



office requesting assistance. Cassie found out that Scott had been back to Colorado and while there he was stabbed and beaten. Cassie told Scott that she wanted to help him but he needed to help himself before we could do anything more but she was willing to help him get there. From the previous times Cassie saw him she could tell that Scott was spiraling and something needed to be done. Before Cassie could do anything Scott attempted suicide and ended up in the hospital for 60 days. Once he was released he did contact Cassie. Cassie visited with Scott and they agreed treatment would be the best possible solution. While Scott had been down that road before, Cassie saw something different this time. Cassie advocated on behalf of Scott and was able to secure him a spot in residential treatment through Center Pointe in Lincoln. Even though he had burned some bridges there they gave him another chance. He remained in treatment there for 4 months. During this time Cassie found out about a treatment facility in Fort Lyons, Colorado that would only take Colorado residence and Veterans took priority. Since Scott had spent so much time in Colorado he was still considered a resident of the state and being a Veteran he qualified. Cassie wrote to the referral liaison with the treatment facility and advocated for Scott. They did accept him. When Scott exited Center Pointe his family was there to greet him and immediately took him

to the facility in Colorado. Scott spent the next 3 months in the treatment center there. Scott successfully graduated that program as well. Scott has been sober for 9 months, the longest that he has been sober in several years. Scott was accepted back onto the SSVF program and continues to work with Cassie on a regular basis. He was recently pre-approved for housing and he recently got a job that he will be starting very soon. In talking with Scott he stated that he feels good about life again and when asked why this time is different he said because he reached a point where he knows if he goes back to that life he will not survive and he will not come back from it. Scott goes on to say he has a tremendous support system around him in his family and his girlfriend. Scott also states he is forever grateful for the continued support from Cassie and believes she has made a huge impact in his life.

PROGRAM	HOUSEHOLD	BENEFICIARIES
HOPE	9	9
THRIVES	93	117
HART	29	25
VETS RR	13	9
SOAR	45	60
KIND	52	20
KIDS	38	29
SSVF	271	121
TOTAL	679	565



PROGRAM	DEBT SAVED	HOUSEHOLDS	BENEFICIARIES
HOPE	\$131.00	1	3
THRIVES	\$63,729.00	20	68
VETS RR	\$47,325	1	5
HART	\$1,775.00	3	9
KIND	\$16,997	2	4
KIDS	\$10,362	0	0
SSVF	\$61,479	4	18
SOAR	\$0	0	0
TOTAL	\$216,748	30	104



PROGRAM	SAVINGS ACCUMULATED	HOUSEHOLD	BENES
HOPE	\$2,187	1	2
THRIVES	\$111,548	52	152
VETS RR	\$28,651	10	21
HART	\$6,631	10	23
KIND	\$2,150	3	5
KIDS	\$8,864	14	31
SSVF	\$63,551	42	70
SOAR	\$0	0	0
TOTAL	\$283,593	177	432



Early Childhood Programs

Partnerships

It is the intent of Nebraska Department of Education to help school districts move away from service delivery models that segregate children based on income. School districts must make every attempt to serve otherwise unserved children and to partner with community programs such as Head Start, to provide the best experiences for each individual child and family.



The Head Start Program has formal partnerships with 9 Public Schools (Ainsworth, Burwell, Central City, Centura, Columbus, Loup City, Ord, Schuyler and St. Paul)



The Early Head Start Program also has a formal partnership with five Public Schools and the Department of Education that funds the Sixpence Program which serves ages 0-3. (Aurora, Central City, Loup City, Ord, and St. Paul)

EHS/HS School Readiness

Our agency utilizes Teaching Strategies GOLD as our ongoing child assessment. Early Head Start enters ongoing child assessment data all program year with four checkpoints that we collect data from. At the end of each checkpoint we analyze the data and create Implementation Plans. Our goal is that 85% of our children are meeting/exceeding the color bands (age expectations) in Social-Emotional, Physical, Fine and Gross Motor, Language and Cognitive, Literacy, and Math

Program Goals:

- *Early Childhood Programs will support each child's health and development.
- * Early Childhood Programs will support families as the primary educator of their child.
- * Early Childhood Programs will build competent, nurturing and engaged staff.
- * Early Childhood Programs will build relationships within our communities.

A child's life is like
a piece of paper
on which every person
leaves a mark.

Head Start enters ongoing child assessment data in the fall, winter and spring check points. At the end of each checkpoint Head Start classrooms analyze the data using the School Readiness Outcomes Implementation Plan. Head Start's goal is to have 85% of our children meeting or exceeding their age expectations in the Social Emotional, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math areas. In the areas of Science, Social Studies and The Arts our goal is to have 65% of the children meeting or exceeding their age expectations.

Area Manager/Education Coordinators also completed the CLASS assessment on all classrooms in the Fall and in Spring. Training was provided utilizing NCQTL training suites and staff set a professional development goal based on areas they wanted to improve upon.





The Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The PFCE team analyzes and reviews Child Plus data monthly. Program staff analyze their data quarterly. This data showcases family engagement opportunities within each program option; 7,819 referrals were made and 10,311 home visits were completed with families.

The PFCE expertise team implemented Ready Rosie parenting curriculum for all program options. Ready Rosie is a web based program that communicates meaningful activities with families. Each activity/game is modeled in a 2 minute video so the family can complete with their child/children. Each family has an opportunity to give feedback on each activity. The yearend data showed there were 419 users connected to classrooms.

2020-21 Enrollment Levels:

Head Start

- 305 funded enrollment
- 301 actual children served
- 278 actual families served

Early Head Start

- 205 funded enrollment
- 304 actual children/prenatal women served
- 216 actual families served

Program Information Report 2020-2021

Head Start

- 95% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care (at the end of enrollment)
- 95% of children completed dental exams
- 25% needed dental treatment
- 77% of those needing dental treatment received dental treatment
- 95% of children up-to-date with immunizations (at the end of enrollment)
- 99% of children with a medical home (at the end of enrollment)
- 98% of children with a dental home (at the end of enrollment)

Early Head Start

- 84% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care
- 99% of children with a medical home (at the end of enrollment)
- 79% of children with a dental home (at the end of enrollment)
- 91% of children up-to-date with immunizations (at the end of enrollment)
- 89% of pregnant women received education on fetal development, proper nutrition, breastfeeding and safe sleep.

CNCAP MARY DUSEK HEAD START GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Vicki Ference on being chosen to receive the \$250 Mary Dusek Head Start Scholarship. Vicki is a senior who attends Ord High School and will graduate in May of 2021. Vicki's parents are Dave and Christie Ference. After graduating, Vicki plans to attend the University of Lincoln or the University of Kearney next fall majoring in the Early Childhood Program.

Congratulations to Bryant Kelley on being chosen to receive the \$250 Mary Dusek Head Start Scholarship. Bryant is a senior who attends Burwell High School and will graduate in May of 2021. Bryant's parents are Ben and Anne Kelley. After graduating, Bryant plans to attend Northeast Community College and major in their diesel tech program.

Nebraska Head Start Higher Education Scholarship

Nekita Powell of St. Paul is the recipient of the Nebraska Head Start Higher Education Award. Nekita's scholarship application was submitted to the Region VII Head Start Association for further consideration. Nekita has been employed with Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) for 3 years as a Head Start Home Visitor. Nekita's lifelong dream is to obtain her degree and then work toward a Master's Degree in Social Work. Nekita strives to pursue the most current educational classes to stay abreast of information to help families become self-sufficient.

Nebraska Head Start Family Leader of the Year

Meagan Dubas of St. Paul is the recipient of the Nebraska Head Start Family Leader of the Year. Meagan's application was submitted to the Regional VII Head Start Association for further consideration. Meagan has been actively involved in the St. Paul Head Start and Early Head Start programs since 2014. Meagan has been a policy council representative for St. Paul Head Start and Early Head Start for 3 years and has served on the Health Services Advisory as well as the Nebraska Head Start Association Parent Representative. Meagan has been involved in the CNCAP Early Childhood Program for all of her 5 children. The oldest being 10 and the youngest 1 month. Meagan has a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and is employed at the Howard County Medical Center. Pictured is Meagan Dubas and family.



Nebraska Head Start Excellence in Community Service Award

Pat Pickering of Aurora Nebraska, is the recipient of the Nebraska Head Start Excellence in Community Service Award. This award celebrates an individual's significant achievement through innovative community service to Head Start and Early Head Start. Pat has excelled in addressing issues of poverty and community health. Pat is very enthusiastic about this program and strives to ensure that any family that has a need is included in this program.

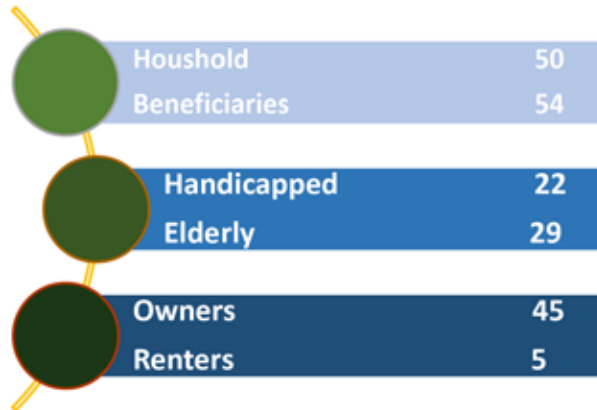
Agency Audit – Results of our agency audit showed no areas of non-compliance.

Federal Review – Focus Area One Monitoring Review was December 13-17, 2021. We met all requirements assessed.

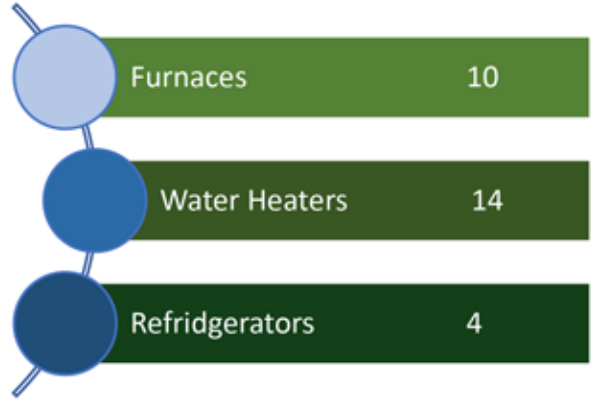
Non-Federal Share – Through the help of parents, community members and volunteers Head Start and Early Head Start was able to raise \$1,368,847.75 in Non-Federal Share contributions for 2020-2021.

Housing Department

Weatherization needs met



New Installations



Section 8

Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority (CNJHA), managed under Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, administers Section 8 vouchers to assist with housing within specific jurisdictions of CNCAP's service area. In 2021, the CNJHA was contacted regarding an opportunity for additional vouchers that were available through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. With a broad territory of 21 counties, CNJHA was able to absorb an additional 8 vouchers in Nance County, bringing the total of Section 8 housing vouchers to 132 for 2021. The CNJHA is anticipating additional opportunities to increase availability with the Housing Choice Voucher program in the near future.



Thank you for all you have done for us. We are already enjoying not having extra drafts in the house at night! The kids are looking forward to opening their windows for fresh air this summer. Thanks again



Community Health Programs

CNCAP Health Services used 2021 as a year for reevaluation and reinvention. As the pandemic challenged many tried and true procedures, new strategies emerged. This year the program combined the new with the old to accommodate clients.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- In-person clinics resumed, but were adjusted based on weather and staff health. The program caught up on height, weight, and hemoglobin measurements and had necessary face-time with clients. Phone appointments continued to accommodate clients who were unable to attend in-person clinics; the USDA has issued a waiver to extend phone appointments until April 2022.
- WIC moved from Enfamil to Similac products this year. Staff educated and communicated with clients and vendors to make this a smooth transition.
- Client retention has been of great focus this year. Donated quilts and birthday gifts were given to infants and children. The COVID relief fund allowed for baby lotion, bath wash, and diapers to be donated to clients at clinics. Another key for retention were increased amounts of fresh fruits in vegetables included in benefits, beginning in Summer 2021 and continuing until April 2022.



“I’ve been using WIC since I was pregnant with my daughter who is now 7 and I have seen nothing but great improvements with the different changes that have taken place in the past years!” - WIC Client



From October 2020-2021, WIC conducted 10,494 visits. Next year, WIC plans to improve outreach in the northern counties it serves by resuming participation in health fairs and coordinating with local organizations.

Peer Counseling

The peer counselors served 693 pregnant/breastfeeding clients from October 2020 to September 2021. This year, the peer counselors, along with WIC staff, plan to attend training to promote breastfeeding among clients. WIC will continue to provide referrals to peer counselors.

“Super appreciate everyone. Especially Tana, my peer counselor for breastfeeding this time around! We had a rough go with my first one and I was nervous about #2. Tana really cheered me on and offered to help any time I needed during my hospital stay while the baby and I were getting into a rhythm (the hospital I delivered at does not have any breastfeeding support). I felt way more confident and prepared and when things didn't feel perfect right away, she helped us settle in better. WIC ABSOLUTELY made a difference in how I feed my babies. (#1 was exclusive pumping, which was possible because I was able to use a Lactina pump borrowed from WIC). Thank you!” – Peer Counseling Client

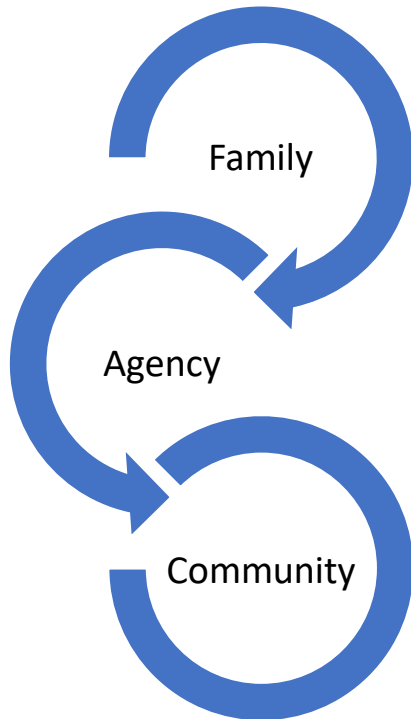


Immunizations

Participation in the immunizations program has decreased this year. Clinics continue to be held and parents are reminded to immunize their children.

- The VFC program served 172 children. Of these, 115 children were on Medicaid, 49 were uninsured, and 12 were underinsured. The program administered a total of 29 immunizations to adults and 458 immunizations to children.
- The immunization program administered 69 flu shots to CNCAP employees.

Vision Statement



Our Vision is that all families are strong and resilient to ensure an enriching life of independence.

Our vision is for the agency to be a well-known, valued resource and advocate within our communities to eliminate barriers for families.

Our vision is that communities invest in human connections through teamwork to address challenges of diversity for all individuals and families.

Our Mission
Partnering with individuals and families to encourage economic stability to gain independence through community based solutions.
Learn more and get involved.

Visit CNCAP's WEB PAGE WWW.CENTRALNEBRASKACAP.COM

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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.”

HELPING PEOPLE.....CHANGING LIVES

Like us on Facebook @CentralNECommunityActionPartnership

CNCAP serves 21 counties in north central Nebraska: Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Colfax, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley and Wheeler

plus 62 counties for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).

