



# Annual Report 2022

## **Mission Statement**

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

## **Rising Above In the Future**

There was an island called Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai in the South Pacific that was created by a volcanic eruption in 2015 ... and then destroyed by another eruption in 2022. Hence, the saying goes...Here today....Gone tomorrow.

As we've all seen throughout the years, businesses and agencies have come and gone, and services have vanished, especially in the rural areas. However, unlike the disappearing act of an entire island, Community Action remains unwavered and is still going strong since the Economic Opportunity Act in 1965. Across our nation, it is Community Action's mission to address the needs of those in our communities by providing services that help them overcome the challenges they face.

Although Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership acknowledges there have been struggles throughout the years, we have all come to reality that change is inevitable and that we must push through obstacles and look at challenges as opportunities. Not to view the glass as half empty or full, but shifting our mindset to the glass being refillable.

A quote from Roy T. Bennett:

“When things do not go your way, remember that every challenge — every adversity — contains within it the seeds of opportunity and growth.”

So, as part of the Community Action network, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership charges forward in our commitment to seek resources (islands) to help address the needs in our communities.

On behalf of the CNCAP Board of Directors and staff, we look forward to serving our communities for many years to come!

Warm Regards,

Cheryl Holcomb

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.)

Dwain Bryner	Custer County
Suellen Koepke	Custer County
Ann Kawata	Custer County
Michael Goldfish	Greeley County
Vacant	Greeley County
Janice Steenson	Greeley County
Gary Rasmussen	Howard County
Brenda Klanecky	Howard County
Barbara Stefanowicz	Howard County
Clifford Yrkoski	Merrick County
Nelva McNeff	Merrick County
Arizona Brooks	Merrick County
Larry Griffith	Sherman County
Mitzi Tvrdik	Sherman County
Jean Kowalski	Sherman County
Roger Goldfish	Valley County
Luella Spilinek	Valley County
Kristine Marshall	Valley County
Doug Frahm	North Central
Bob Thomas	North Central
Misty Rowley	North Central
Gary Quandt	South Central
Keith Smith	South Central
Ashley LaForge	South Central
Kim Kwapnioski	East Central
Connie Peters	East Central
Debra Zarek	East Central

CNCAP Board of Directors 2021-2022



I want to thank you and Danni for all the help with the new battery. You are my lifesavers. I felt like I was losing the battle. It gets very scary when everything goes wrong in one day and don't know where to turn. You lifted a lot off my shoulders!

Thank you for everything you did to get SSI for my daughter. It was such a process and you walked us through it with as little stress for us as possible and made it easy for us to understand.

When I needed help, Community Action cared!

The ability to help in the capacity it does. They never made me feel guilty for asking for help

They helped me when I was in between employment. I gained employment while in the program. I am still employed and have moved up in the company

I went from staying in a camper to having a house for myself and my daughter. You also helped me get a better paying job to help me provide for us. Extremely Helpful!

They listen to your needs and help you when you are struggling. Most of all you are never forgotten. I feel so lucky to have this service, and know we are taking care of at a time of struggles. I am thankful and grateful that God led me to wonderful people like you.

The people there really care about us Veterans-Thank y'all very, very much

We greatly appreciate everything you have done for us. Without you we would be homeless

I was not judged about my situation and received help to find a safe place to live. It has made a huge difference in me, being strong enough to leave my situation and start over

The staff is organized, calm and professional. The teachers are supportive and interact with students exceptionally well with warmth and expert teaching level skills and are always excited to learn new things

I can't even express to you enough how thankful my kids and I are of you girls for the help you got us!

## **Sentiments of Gratitude**

# Agency Summary

Total CNCAP Budget for 2022

\$15,157,529

In-Kind Donations

\$1,569,823

## Funding Sources

1% Local  
9% Private  
7% State  
83% Federal

Employees: 192

Salary & Benefits:  
\$6,922,610.00

178 Full Time  
14 Part Time

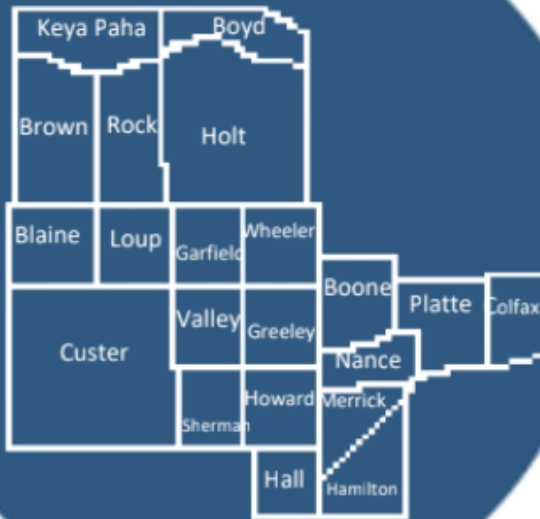
28% were disabled

## Housing Status:

39% owned  
49% rented  
3% other  
9% homeless  
6% unknown

## Program Funding

Family Outreach 35%  
ECP 53%  
Housing 9%  
Administration 3%



## Race:

1% Asian  
2% Multi-race  
2% American Indian  
2% Black  
93% White  
0% Other  
0% Unknown

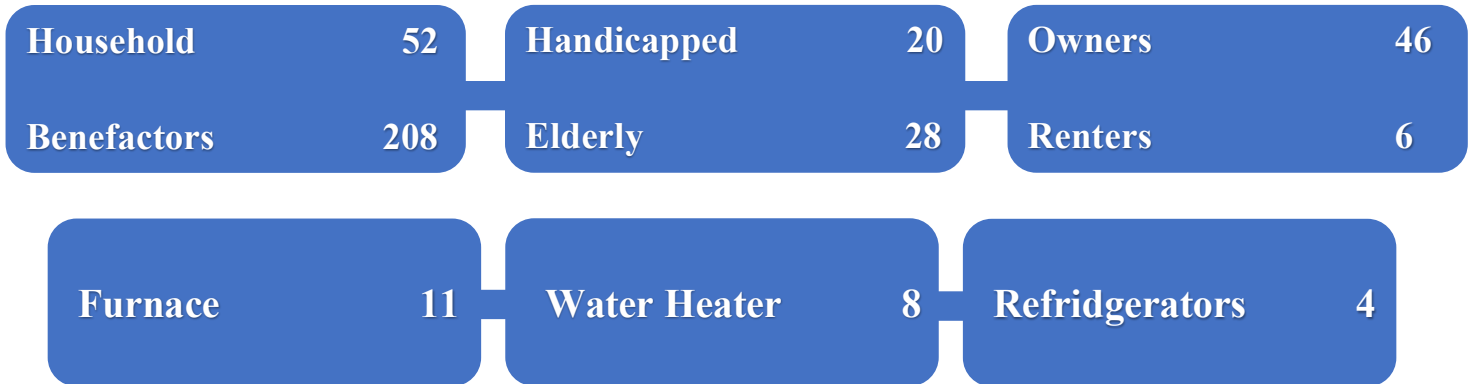
## Ethnicity:

12% Hispanic  
88% Non-Hispanic

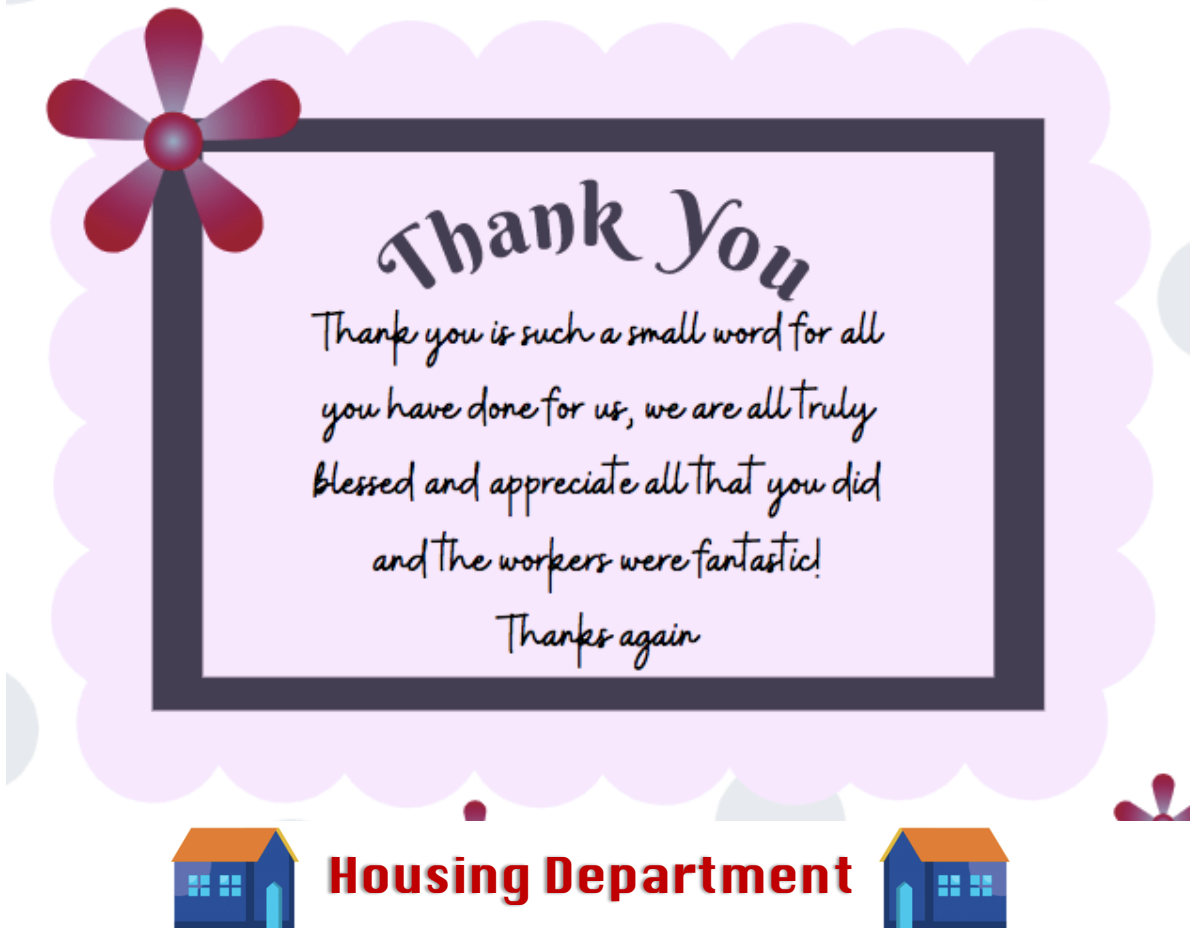
## Military Status:

12% Veteran  
1% active

## Weatherization needs met



Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority (CNJHA) managed under Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, administers Section 8 vouchers to assist with housing within our specific jurisdiction of CNCAP's service area. In 2022 CNJHA serviced between 120-135 Housing Choice Voucher clients within CNCAP's 21 counties. CNJHA is anticipating in 2023 additional opportunities to expand its voucher count and continue to support our clients and do our part so they can get back up on their feet.





## CNCAP Awarded SSG Fox SPGP Grant



Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership was awarded a SSG Fox SPGP grant through the Department of Veteran Affairs in the amount of \$667,380 to support local Veterans.

The SSG Fox SPGP is a pilot, community-based grant program that will provide peer support activities to address the mental health of eligible Veterans and their families throughout the 62 county area already served by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. CNCAP helps Veterans in our communities every day, and the SSG Fox SPGP grant will work with the other Veteran programs already provided through Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership to meet the needs of the Veterans.

SSG Fox SPGP honors Veteran Parker Gordon Fox, who joined the Army in 2014 and was a sniper instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Known for a life of generosity and kindness to others in need, Fox died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25.



## CNCAP Partners on Homeless Article with the New York Times



In 2022, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership was contacted by a journalist with the New York Times for an article they were doing on homelessness. The article wanted to show the full breadth of homeless experiences throughout the country and in part, to challenge the stereotypes people have about it.

When asked why he chose CNCAP, the journalist responded that he looked at data about rural areas that had higher homeless populations and saw that Nebraska was among them. Then he looked at homeless information with public media and saw that CNCAP provides a lot of homeless services.

After the initial contact, CNCAP reached out to some of the homeless clients that were utilizing our services to determine if they would be interested in sharing their story. Clients were interviewed by the journalist and were asked questions pertaining to their personal story of homelessness. One specific story was published for the New York Times article.

Dear Support Services For Veterans and Families (SSVF),

SSVF is similar to a family network to help veterans like myself meet their basic needs, even to survive. It is a lifeline whenever things get really tough. For example, veterans tend to be more mobile more than the average population. This can have some tough challenges. For instance, if someone goes to a whole new area to live they have often build up contacts with their community to give them a better chance of success. This is not always easy but SSVF fills in the gap for us veterans who may run into unforeseeable problems. SSVF is one of the finest use of government funding I have ever seen. Someone may ask why? Let me please explain. It is often a reality in big business or government operations that it's really hard for all of the funds to receive their full intended targeted group, those in need. But SSVF does this as well as any fund and I would match them with any nonprofit governmental fund anywhere. SSVF is that efficient and essential. There is no debate about it in my perspective. I am so grateful for all of you at SSVF for helping me, the veterans, and their families when there did not seem to be help out there. They are having a huge impact on families themselves. So this means they are also helping our future next generation of leaders, that's the children. Many times all that families need is a chance and they can thrive even in hard times. SSBF does all of this. I can't say enough good things about it. Thank you for helping us, helping me, we are beyond thankful for it.

With great appreciation David Brown



## Family Outreach



Programs	Households	Benefactors
THRIVES	99	237
NHAP	43	191
ESG CV.	81	100
Vets RRH	16	29
SOAR	49	51
KIND	35	57
KIDS	26	56
SSVF	250	394

Programs	Debt Paid	Household	Benes
ESG CV	\$11,854	13	29
KIDS	\$1,720	4	10
KIND	\$5,870	5	8
NHAP	\$3,099	6	14
SSVF	\$44,353	41	67
THRIVES	\$58,665	31.	74

Programs	Savings	Household	Benes
ESG CV	\$14,184	18	44
NHAP	\$3,933	8	19
SSVF	\$74,424	52	74
THRIVES	\$33,800	41	100



## 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 four Public Schools and the Department of Education that funds the Sixpence Program which serves ages 0-3: (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 School Readiness 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**

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/exceeding their age expectations in the Social Emotional, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math areas. Science, Social Studies and The Arts, the 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. For those classrooms who scored below the threshold, set by the agency, another CLASS assessment was completed in the spring. Staff set a professional development goal based on areas they wanted to improve upon.



## Early Childhood Programs



## EHS Data

Percentage of children meeting or exceeding color bands

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL: 94%

PHYSICAL: 92%

LANGUAGE: 90%

COGNITIVE: 95%

LITERACY: 91%

MATHEMATICS: 88%

## Head Start/Pre-K Data

Percentage of children meeting or exceeding color bands

Social-Emotional: 93%

Physical: 92%

Language: 87%

Science: 74%

Cognitive: 96%

Literacy: 92%

Mathematics: 88%

Social Studies: 69%

The Arts: 73%

## 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; 1,104 referrals were made and 3,504 home visits were completed with families. 5,559 goals were set for the 2022-23 program year.

The PFCE expertise team continues to implement Ready Rosie parenting curriculum for all the 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 compete with their child/children. Each family has an opportunity to give feedback on each activity. The year end data showed there were 649 Head Start and 298 EHS users connected to classrooms.

### Program Information Report 2021-2022 Head Start

- 97% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care (at the end of enrollment)
- 91% of children completed dental exams
- 24% needed dental treatment
- 70% of those needing dental treatment received dental treatment
- 94% of children up-to-date with immunizations (at the end of enrollment)
- 99% of children with a medical home (at the end of enrollment)
- 99% of children with a dental home (at the end of enrollment)

### 2021-22 Enrollment Levels: Head Start

- 305 funded enrollment
- 319 actual children served
- 297 actual families served

### Early Head Start

- 205 funded enrollment
- 290 actual children/prenatal women served
- 209 actual families served

### 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 80% of children with a dental home (at the end of enrollment)
- 91 87% of children up-to-date with immunizations (at the end of enrollment)
- 89 88% of pregnant women received education on fetal development, proper nutrition, breastfeeding and safe sleep





### **CNCAP MARY DUSEK HEAD START GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**



Rachel Hunter was awarded the \$250 Mary Dusek Head Start Scholarship. Rachel is a senior at Aurora High School. She thanks the Aurora Head Start program for giving her the opportunity to grow necessary skills before enrolling in elementary school. Rachel is forever grateful for the mentors that pushed her. Her focus of studies are science and mathematics and she also thrives in many extracurricular activities. She is involved in volleyball, cheerleading, show choir, band, speech, FCCLA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society. Rachel's teachers stated that Rachel shows a high degree of responsibility and social maturity. She is a well-rounded student as she balances in multiple Christian and extra-curricular activities. After graduating, Rachel plans to attend Creighton University and major in Pre-medicine.



### **NEBRASKA HEAD START GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**



Baylie Bower was awarded the Nebraska Head Start Association Head Start Alumni High School Senior Scholarship. Baylie is now a senior at Burwell High School and was enrolled at the Calamus Kids Head Start for two years. Baylie has volunteered in her community and school, which gave her the opportunity to learn many life skills. Throughout high school, Baylie volunteered at the Calamus Kids Head Start. She also assisted in the first-grade classroom this year. Baylie feels that she has made a positive impact when the kids are excited to see her. Baylie's educational goals include obtaining an Associate Degree in social work and human services. She will also explore the opportunity to obtain drug, alcohol and family counseling certificates. Baylie would like to make a difference in her community by helping people make positive changes for themselves.



### **CNCAP Head Start Support Staff of the Year**



Samantha Kusek of Loup City was awarded the CNCAP Head Start Support Staff of the Year. Samantha's application was submitted to the Nebraska Head Start Association for further consideration. Samantha has been employed at CNCAP for 22 years. She assists with on-going strategic and programmatic planning with medical issues in our CNCAP program. She has been instrumental in directing our agency during the COVID pandemic by developing the COVID protocol to meet the needs of our children, families and staff. Samantha works closely with our Health Service Advisory Committee and our four Public Health Departments. She has been the lifeline to our management and field staff during this time. She is always willing to step up and take on special projects. Samantha ensures that our children and families receive health screenings, treatment and care to prepare them for school. She is a very dedicated and loyal employee.



### **CNCAP Head Start Family Advocate of the Year**



Shannon has a Master of Science in Education with a major in Counseling Education/Agency and a Bachelor of Science with a major in Human Services Counseling and Psychology with a minor in Sociology. Shannon has received her Home Visitor Credential along with many other certificates and trainings. Shannon has been an Early Head Start Family Consultant for 8 years and worked as a Head Start Home Visitor for two years prior to transitioning. She has assisted families with any referrals, provided them with resources to help support their families, helped families to be advocates for themselves and their children, encouraged families to engage with their children and provided them education on child development. Shannon has also been a listening ear to many families as they share their struggles, frustrations, and successes.



## Thankful for WIC

With the increasing prices of gas, food and other goods, it is difficult for families to make ends meet. However, we don't always stop to think that other people may be experiencing hardships that we can't even imagine.

One such story is about a family that came into a WIC clinic needing immunizations for their son. They were from Ukraine and had lost their home and occupations, and their only option was to be reunited with family in Chambers. They talked about how their small community no longer existed and how they would have to restart in a foreign country. But their positivity was amazing and they shared how they had plans to rebuild their future. They were so grateful for our program and the assistance. It is times such as this to be in a profession such as ours, that a thank you is the best reward.



### CNCAP Received Medica Grant

Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership received a grant for \$25,000 from Medica to recruit additional participants for the Women, Infants and Children program.

The intent of the grant was to address challenges of recruitment and retention of participants in the WIC and immunization programs targeting the northern service area. The grant provided support in the areas of nursing and outreach efforts to rejuvenate participation and increase awareness throughout the community.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, programs throughout the state and the nation have seen a gradual decrease in participation. The Medica grant provided an opportunity to increase efforts and make a positive difference in the nutritional benefits of families being served.



**Community Health Programs**





# 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.

The banner features a dark background with colorful paint splatters in shades of blue, purple, and yellow. In the top left corner is the logo for Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, which depicts a stylized white figure holding hands. To the right of the logo is the text 'Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership'. In the top right corner, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'Search'. The word 'TOGETHER' is written in large, bold, grey capital letters across the center of the banner. A small Facebook 'f' icon is located at the bottom right of the word 'TOGETHER'. Below the banner, there is a blue horizontal line.

## 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](http://WWW.CENTRALNEBRASKACAP.COM)

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*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).

