



# Annual Report 2023

## Mission Statement

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







**Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP)** is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1965 under the Economic Opportunity Act as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty.

**CNCAP** is governed by a tripartite board representing the public, private and low-income sectors of the service area. CNCAP addresses identified needs through programs serving individuals from infancy to the elderly.

**CNCAP** is able to meet our mission with the help of the 1,702 partnerships that exist, along with a total of 170,755 volunteer hours that were donated.

**Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership** serves an original territory of 21 counties in north central Nebraska. Services are also provided outside those boundaries with the following programs:

- ❖ **Early Development Network** serves the counties of Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Madison, Pierce, Rock, Stanton and Wheeler
- ❖ **Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)** serves a total of 62 counties within the state
- ❖ **Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Program (SSG Fox SPGP)** serves a total of 72 counties within the state

## Leadership of Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership



Cheryl Holcomb – Executive Director



Donna Obermiller – Deputy/Fiscal Director



Sara Parliament – Family Outreach Director



Michael Peirce – Human Resources Director



Justine Bochart – Early Childhood Director



Amber Beck – Housing Department 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 the 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	Valley County
Kristine Marshall	Valley County
Luella Spilinek	Valley County
Barry Fox	Custer County
Suellen Koepke	Custer County
Ann Kawata	Custer County
Dennis Wadsworth	Greeley County
Dennis Goodrich	Greeley County
Janice Steenson	Greeley County
Gary Rasmussen	Howard County
Brenda Klanecky	Howard County
Barbara Stefanowicz	Howard County
Dennis Jarecke	Merrick County
Nelva McNeff	Merrick County
Arizona Brooks	Merrick County
Larry Griffith	Sherman County
Mitzi Tvrdik	Sherman County
Jean Kowalski	Sherman County
Doug Frahm	North Central District
Bob Thomas	North Central District
Misty Rowley	North Central District
Gary Quandt	South Central District
Keren Gutierrez	South Central District
Cami Sazama	South Central District
Kim Kwapnioski	East Central District
Connie Peters	East Central District
Debra Zarek	East Central District

CNCAP Board of Directors 2022-2023

# Agency Summary

Total CNCAP Budget for 2023

\$17,525,187

In-Kind Donations

\$1,434,832

## Funding Sources

Federal 82%  
State 8%  
Private 9%  
Local 1%

Program Funding  
Family Outreach 34%  
ECP 52%  
Housing 10%  
Local 1%

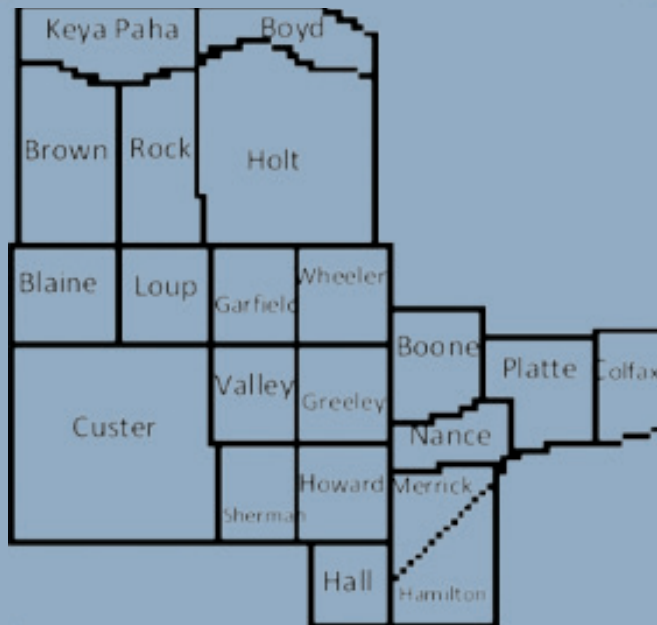
Ethnicity  
Hispanic 25%  
Non-Hispanic 75%

## Military Status

13%  
Veterans  
1%  
Active  
Military

## Disabled

23%



## Race

American Indian 2%  
Asian .5%  
African American 2%  
White 85%  
Other .5%  
Multi-race 10%

Housing Status  
Own 38%  
Rent 45%  
Other Housing 2%

## Salaries & Benefits

\$9,090,158  
Full-time 190  
Part-time 8

# Family Outreach

**A letter from a client of the Family Outreach Department:** To whom it may concern, we are writing this letter as two past clients of Central NE Community Action Partnership. Our names are Robert "Bob" Stovall, and Pamela "Pam" Kennicott. For the purpose of this letter, this is coming from me (Pam's) experience. We would like to tell our journey about the last year or so when we moved to Grand Island and experienced one of our biggest roadblocks in life that we've ever had to go through. We had stable housing for almost ten whole years back in Kansas, until it became very clear that mold was making my health deteriorate. I have severe and persistent health issues that this mold made incredibly worse and chronic. We decided with the best options and resources that we had to move to Nebraska to be closer to my daughter and my grandchildren. We were invited to what I thought was a seminar, and later found out it was an event called Project Connect. This was an event that held resources for the homeless and near homeless. This event took place in October of 2022. And where we met Bre, my angel, as well all of the amazing staff who accompanied her. At our current situation of living we were jeopardizing my daughter and grandchildren's housing due to landlord guidelines. The stay was short, and we found ourselves facing homelessness. While at Project Connect, Bre set up an appointment with us the following day to complete basic paperwork. At this time, I felt a sense of hope and relief because I finally felt seen and heard. During our conversation at the office on that Friday morning I asked several questions, but one that changed the trajectory of my life was inquiring about a local non-denominational church. Bre mentioned that she had a few resources and options in regards to this kind of church. And it was after our first experience there that I believe my relationship with Jesus really began. The combination between CNCAP and Third City is why we are where we are today.

We left my daughter's home because of the landlord restrictions on November 5th, 2022. It was getting very cold and with the partnership that CNCAP had with Third City Christian Church, they ended up assisting us with a hotel stay for a few weeks. From there, and again with the support of everyone listed above we found a small house that gave us a roof over our head while we could process our health issues and finally breathe. We got on the THRIVES Program on December 6th, 2022. Within the time of five months in this house, "Bob" and I's health continued to deteriorate. I was hospitalized for MS and Bob experienced leg difficulties. The THRIVES program assisted us with fuel to get back and forth to appointments and surgeries. They also had medical supportive services to assist me in my purchase of a walker. Not only did we feel supported financially, we felt supported emotionally. With time passing by, and the medical needs increasing it became very clear we needed somewhere that was wheel chair accessible.

On May 12th, 2023 Bob and I were connected to a good landlord with a unit that would benefit and accommodate our disabilities. Since this time, we have become settled in our new duplex that meets all of our needs. Throughout the time of working with CNCAP, we met several goals that we didn't know we would ever be able to do. A few of these are; ordering "Bob" his birth certificate from the Panama Canal. I connected with Anchor Insurance that I was referred to in which helped me receive Medicaid. Receiving Medicaid gave me more opportunities to get quality care and not have the burden of worrying about the financial piece of things. All the while, we continued to stay at Third City Christian Church and getting involved in a variety of ways. We got baptized on March 26th, 2023. I would like to point that my partner, "Bob", appeared to have a hard shell around his heart and experienced a lot of hurt throughout his lifetime. When we went to church for the first time, he made it very clear that he was just the driver. In just a short period of two weeks, I glanced over, his hat was off, his hands were raised and I saw him worshipping a God that saved his soul. So once we got baptized and became members of this church, we began to give back like CNCAP served us. We have found hope and meaning throughout our entire struggle. We have a story about a God rescuing two people who were running out of options, living in fear, and experiencing desperation. Our grandchildren find comfort and joy in our new home. We don't know how to express our gratitude, but this is a start. Thank you CNCAP.

## Family Outreach Stats-2023

Program	Amount paid in debt	Households	Beneficiaries
KIND	7,126	7	17
HART	2,957	3	4
SSVF	53,476	32	73
THRIVES	50,602	21	45
Vets RRH	2,050	3	4
ESG CV	3,416	7	15



Program	Amount saved	Households	beneficiaries
HOPE	1,133	1	1
THRIVES	26,972	26	72
Vets RRH	2,017	7	13
HART	10,411	16	34
KIND	9,880	8	19
SSG Fox	1,720	5	5
SSVF	59,996	32	54



Program	Child Support payments incurred	Households	Beneficiaries
ESG CV	24,899	11	41
HOPE	2,441	1	5
KIND	684	1	3
HART	5,520	5	21
SSVF	9,803	6	22
THRIVES	56,338	18	61
Vets RRH	8,054	1	4



Program	Taxes paid	Households	Beneficiaries
THRIVES	61,930	77	212
Vets RRH	18,120	11	20
HART	9,261	14	36
KIND	30,686	22	40
ESG CV	11,464	30	83
SSVF	78,027	66	137



## Clients served from 10/2022-9/2023

Program	Households served	Beneficiaries served
THRIVES	106	384
Vets RRH	20	35
KIND-YHDP (Transitional)	12	21
KIND-YHDP (Rapid Rehousing)	35	66
Supportive Services for Veterans Families	350	644
HART	41	87
ESG-CV	48	125
SOAR	35	35
Miscellaneous emergency payments	51	143
SSG Fox SPGP	24	38



Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership’s Family Outreach Department prides itself on working with families to provide stability and build skills leading to a more independent lifestyle. Families participate in intensive case management with a case manager that assists them in setting goals in 12 life areas of: transportation, family relations, parenting, alcohol/drug, children’s education, adult education, income and budgeting, employment, health, nutrition, housing and legal.

- 671 households received financial education through the Family Outreach Programs
- Of the households served, 70% of them were employable

*thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you*

"We are very grateful for what the program has done for us. The program has assisted us in things that we have needed in tough times such as groceries, gun locks, and safe storage to keep medications. Also the support we have had from Brandon has really been something we have never experienced before. Having someone you can talk to that is supportive and positive no matter the situation is a blessing. The groups have helped us get out of the house and out of isolation. It also gives us the opportunity to meet other veterans and connect with people we would not have encountered if it wasn't for the program. Our favorite group is the movie group and we would just like to thank Brandon and the SSG Fox Program for everything they have done."

—Rick and Laura





# Housing Department

## Needs Met:

### CNCAP Rentals

31 Households  
74 Beneficiaries

### Section 8 Vouchers

120 Households  
186 Beneficiaries

### Weatherization

51 Households  
147 Beneficiaries

Assistance with furnaces, water heaters or refrigerators – 31 households

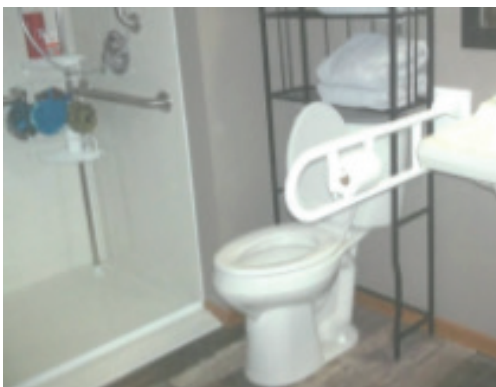
CNCAP had a tenant that had difficulty getting around in his house because of his disability. CNCAP contacted Assistive Technology Project to see if there was anything they could do to make his home handicap accessible.

When Assistive Technology Project (ATP) conducted their assessment, they determined that the tenant faced several daily challenges to maintain his independence. Due to difficulty with mobility, balance and challenges with his arms, it made it difficult to grasp or hold on to anything.

The first challenge was maneuvering his wheelchair through the bathroom door. The limited space in the bathroom made accessing the shower impossible without the assistance of his parents or a caregiver.

Modifications were completed in the bathroom that included widening the doorway and installing a barrier-free shower with grab bars. These modifications provided easy and safe access and will prevent falls. A wall mounted sink also provides access for personal hygiene and a higher toilet accompanied with an adjacent grab bar makes transfers possible.

Because of the partnership between Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership and Assistive Technology Partnership, the tenant was able to stay in the rental and have a more independent life.



**Success for this consumer was increased independence, which eliminated the need to hire additional caregivers to assist with personal care.**



# Community Health Programs

## WIC Participants Enrolled

Women: 180

Infants: 158

Children: 569

Pregnant: 58

Breastfeeding: 72

Non-breastfeeding: 50

Peer Counseling:

45

Immunizations:

543

“WIC has been a great help to my family and me because of the nutritious foods they provide to feed my son that we might otherwise struggle to afford. The WIC staff are some of the kindest and most understanding people that I have ever met and I always leave my appointment feeling like my presence is valued. I have gained knowledge with the classes that they provide and benefited from their referrals to other programs. I am thankful that WIC is here for me, my family and all of the other families out there.”

“I’ve had 3 foster children and WIC has been a huge help. My 1st foster daughter was very young and i was able to more easily provide her the fruits and vegetables she needed. My 2nd foster daughter is able to afford to feed her baby due to WIC. He is on formula and without WIC she would have a very difficult time affording to feed him. My 3rd foster daughter loves milk and cereal and with everything so expensive, WIC helps with that.”

WIC provides health food, nutrition education and community support to eligible families. With prices increasing at the grocery stores, WIC is able to help!

Children from newborns to age 5, pregnant women, women who had a baby or were pregnant in the past 6 months and mothers that are breastfeeding a baby under 1 year of age are all eligible. There are other requirements of the program as well. Although food packages range in size and items provided, examples of the cost of just fruits and vegetables in a package are:

- Toddler and child - \$26.00
- Breastfeeding mother - \$52.00
- Pregnant or partially breastfeeding mother - \$47.00
- Not breastfeeding - \$47.00

In addition to the fruits and vegetables, families may also receive dairy items, bread, pasta or rice, cereal, eggs, juice, peanut butter or beans.

**How WIC helps families:** A family welcomes an adorable little girl and mom isn’t able to breastfeed, so the baby needs formula- approximately 9 cans of formula per month. She is on Similac Advance and mom purchases a 12.4 oz can at Target for \$18.49, for a total of \$166.41 per month. As the baby grows, she consumes more, which increases the amount that the family will need and thus, increase their financial burden.

In this case scenario, if the family qualifies, WIC would provide the 9 cans of formula which would help them financially on a monthly basis, and the amount of formula they would receive would increase as the baby continues to grow, along with baby food to help the baby grow and be healthy. WIC may also help with specialized formula if it is doctor prescribed as well.

# Early Childhood Programs

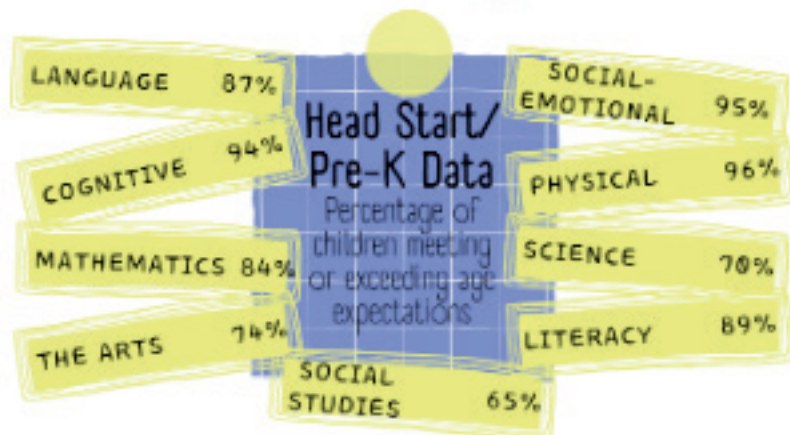
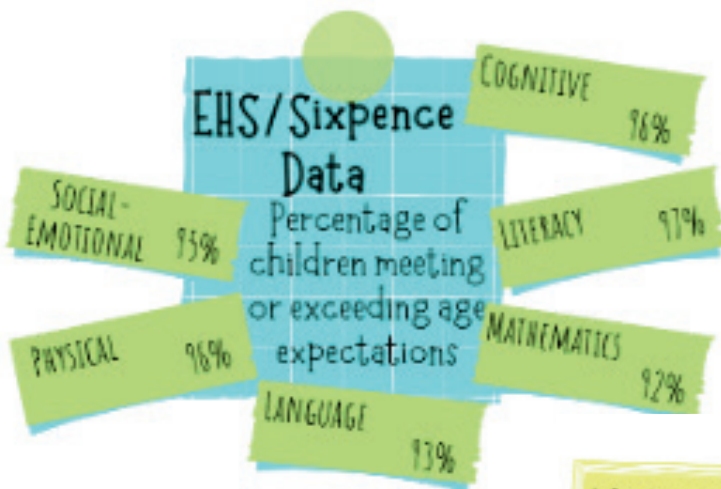
## Partnerships

- 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 data is collected 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.

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.





## The Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The PFCE team analyzes and reviews Child Plus data monthly and program staff analyze their data quarterly. Data showcases family engagement opportunities within each program option; 4,402 referrals were made and 5,971 home visits were completed with families. 785 goals were set for 2021-22 program year with 74% accomplished, 16% partially met and 10% not met. 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 653 Head Start and 299 EHS users connected to classrooms.



### 2022-2023 Enrollment Levels

#### Head Start

266 funded enrollment  
281 actual children served  
261 actual families served

#### Early Head Start

205 funded enrollment  
288 actual children/prenatal women served  
209 actual families served



### 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)

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






## **CNCAP Mary Dusek Head Start Graduate Scholarship**

- Mallory Tuma was chosen to receive the \$250 Mary Dusek Head Start Scholarship. She plans to attend Kansas State College to obtain a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Industry. After graduation, Mallory would like to be an animal nutritionist.
- Zachary Hirschman was chosen to receive the \$250 Mary Dusek Head Start Scholarship. Zachary plans on attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln and major in Agricultural Education.




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



Christy Hruza of the Loup City office is the recipient of the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) Head Start Support Staff of the Year. Christy's application was submitted to the Nebraska Head Start Association for further consideration. Christy has been with the agency working with the Head Start program since August of 1999.




## **CNCAP Nebraska Head Staff-Higher Education Scholarship**



Kaci Kuszak of the Loup City office is the recipient of the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) Head Start Staff- Higher Education Scholarship. Kaci's application was submitted to the Nebraska Head Start Association for further consideration.




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



Shannon Adams-Webber 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 been an Early Head Start Family Consultant for 8 years and worked as a Head Start Home Visitor for two years prior to transitioning into the Family Consultant role.



## **CNCAP Head Start Teacher of the Year**



Amy Ramos, the Infant/Toddler teacher/ Center Specialist of the Schuyler Early Head Start Center Based B of Schuyler is the recipient of the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) Head Start Teacher of the Year. Amy's application was submitted to the Nebraska Head Start Association for further consideration. Amy also won the Region 7 Teacher of the Year Award!



## **CNCAP Nebraska Head Start Parent-Post Secondary Education Scholarship**

Kyla Brown, a parent with the Loup City Early Head Start Home Based Program was the recipient of the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) Head Start Parent-Post Secondary Education Scholarship. Kyla's application was submitted to the Nebraska Head Start Association for further consideration. She also won the Region 7 Parent-Post Secondary Education Scholarship!

## Vision Statement

### Family

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

### Agency

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

### Community

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

## 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.





*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, Wheeler.**

- **Plus 62 counties for SSVF and 72 counties for SSG Fox SPGP**

