

CENTRAL NEBRASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Annual Report 2016

choices



Mission Statement

Partnering with individuals and families
to encourage independence through
community-based solutions.

dreams



opportunities



Mission Statement

Partnering with individuals and families to encourage independence through community-based solutions.

Adapting to Change

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES QUOTED:

THE GREAT THING IN THIS WORLD IS NOT SO MUCH WHERE WE STAND, AS IN WHAT DIRECTION YOU ARE MOVING.

As I reflect back on 2016, I remembered a new staff person that once made a statement using the word, “Novaturient” which means-desiring or seeking powerful **change** in one’s life, behavior or situation. What a fascinating word! But, in addition, what a refined word to describe the many **changes** happening right now.

All of us are in the same mode-trying to meet the different requirements without a whole lot of disruption to staff and their job duties. We all know how difficult it is at times to keep an open mind on the **change** that needs to happen when there is potential of negative impact on financial outcomes or added workload on ourselves and others. The old adage that we work our best and are more creative when we are up against adversity...I am hoping this is true. The bottom line is, we live in the nonprofit world, which means **change** is inevitable, and we must adapt to it, because if we remain stagnant, someone or something else will take its place.

In our 2015 annual report, we announced that we **changed** our name to Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership to follow the re-branding efforts. As our communities continue to familiarize themselves on our name **change**, we embrace the promise of “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.”

As we moved through the process of the name **change**, we uncovered historical information that showed when our agency originated in 1965 our name was actually Central Nebraska Community Action Program (CNCAP). How ironic that 50 years later we have come back to our original acronym-CNCAP! This linkage accentuates a very symbolic meaning of what our agency and what Community Action represents and we are so excited to be part of it...*Helping People... Changing Lives.*

As you read this article, you have probably seen the word of the “day” is **CHANGE**. We must look at **change** as an abundance of possibilities that we may not have believed existed. So, as we continue on our journey of **change(s)**, the CNCAP Board of Directors, Department Directors, all the agency staff, and I, are committed to creating promise and sparking hope into those living in despair. We know that mandates will come, and more accountability measures will be implemented, but we look forward to new opportunities and will remain unwavering in our mission to serve.

Thank you for your continued support and collaborations throughout the years and for the many years to come!

Respectfully,

Cheryl Holcomb

CNCAP Executive Director

Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc.

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CNCAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership is governed by a 27 member Board of Directors representing the service region of 21 counties. The area includes 6 core counties that formulated the organization in the early 1960's along with 3 districts added to bring in a broad range of experience and representation. The tripartite board includes representatives from the private sector, public sector and the low income sector. This has proven a successful formula for long term agency governance.

Roger Goldfish	President	
Barb Wroblewski	Vice President	
Doug Wrede	Secretary/Treasurer	
Joan Barnes	Mike Feeken	Evelyn Armstrong
Kristine Marshall	Jim Helgoth	Bob Thomas
Barry Fox	Nelva McNeff	Scott Arnold
Dee Dee Christen	Arizona Brooks	Hope Anderson
Carol Krikac	Larry Griffith	Michelle Schultz
Joyce Costello	Jean Kowalski	Christy Wemhoff
Jay Meyer	Scott Friesen	Pat Heimes
Kathy Hirschman	Ralph Metschke	Ruth Boettcher

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Cheryl Holcomb	Executive Director
Donna Obermiller	Deputy Director/Fiscal Director
Sue Obermiller	Early Childhood Programs Director
Judy Hughes	Housing Director
Keli Forney	Family Outreach Director
Michael Peirce	Human Resource Director

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.



Mission Statement

To foster the healthy lifestyles of central Nebraskans through health promotion, prevention, and education.

Community Health Programs

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

The Women, Infants, and Children program, better known as the WIC program, is administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care.

The WIC program was established in 1972 and has changed noticeably since its inception. When WIC was first established it supplemented only the basics of milk, juice, cheese, beans, cereal and eggs, as well as infant formula. However, since that time it has expanded its benefits to offer a much larger variety of foods to help eligible families. A family may now receive cold and hot cereals, bread, tortillas or brown rice, juice, beans and peanut butter, eggs, milk and cheese, Tuna and salmon, fresh fruits and vegetables. Infants can receive infant formula, and when they reach the age of solids, are eligible for baby food.

For a family struggling to pay rent or pay utilities, it can be detrimental if a baby has nutritional needs that require a high cost formula. This assistance is significant for families that are stretching their paycheck as far as they can to pay expenses, so WIC can help fill that gap to help maintain the household. However, WIC not only helps the families, it provides a benefit to the economy through support to the grocery stores and the farmers growing the foods.

To encourage success of the program, all agencies are participating in a re-branding effort for WIC. We are excited for the changes to be implemented, so watch for a new and colorful array of educational materials coming your way in 2017!

PEER COUNSELING

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Peer Counseling program adds a critical dimension in WIC's efforts to help new moms and moms-to-be with a variety of breastfeeding issues. Peer Counselors are mothers who have personal experience with breastfeeding and are trained to provide basic breastfeeding information and support to other mothers. They are familiar with the resources available to WIC clients, have familiarity with the questions a new breastfeeding mother may ask, and recognize when to refer mothers to other resources during critical periods when mothers may experience difficulty.

CNCAP's WIC program constantly strives to provide the highest quality service and support to the participants and is proud to say that we have the highest usage rate of breastfeeding mothers in the state. In 2016, 280 women received one-on-one support through the WIC peer counseling program.

IMMUNIZATIONS

In 2016, the State began changes to their Medicaid program, transitioning to what is now called Heritage Health. The plan offers participants a choice of coverage through three different companies under Heritage Health: Total Care, Wellcare, and United Healthcare. Participants were encouraged to choose a plan with the change scheduled to take affect January 1, 2017, but all preliminary work had to be completed prior to that date.

In preparation of these changes, the immunization staff participated in webinars, attended meetings, and completed paperwork so CNCAP remained eligible to receive reimbursement of vaccinations through the immunization program that is offered in various sites throughout the 21 counties.

As part of the continued commitment to serve, in 2016, CNCAP applied for funding through the State to administer their Immunization program, requesting additional counties of coverage. Notification came in October awarding us the opportunity for the grant to support efforts for Holt, Howard, Valley and Custer counties. CNCAP is excited about the new developments to be implemented with this grant.

As programs continue to meet the challenges that exist for families, we are seeing the need for an array of assistance beyond what that specific program can assist with. In alignment with these efforts, staff are taking a wraparound approach to connect families with other resources such as SNAP, health insurance, emergency assistance, or flu vaccinations at a Early Head Start socialization. Working to give the most support to each family is the best way to accelerate healthy success!

Community Health Programs

MEGAN'S STORY

Over the years, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program has been an important aspect of my family. Nearly eleven years ago my first baby, Bethany, and I were enrolled in WIC at Family Service in Lincoln while I attended college at UNL as a Dietetics student. This was a time in my life where as a new mom I was eager to learn as much as I could about providing the best possible



nutrition for my child. This was also a challenging season of life for both my husband and I financially, as he was providing our sole income while I focused on academic commitments. With our first visit to the WIC clinic, we immediately felt blessed with the support surrounding us from the WIC staff. Not only were we provided with vouchers to purchase baby foods, for my daughter and a variety of foods to support me nutritionally while breastfeeding, but I also found WIC to be dependable with advice on health and nutrition topics.

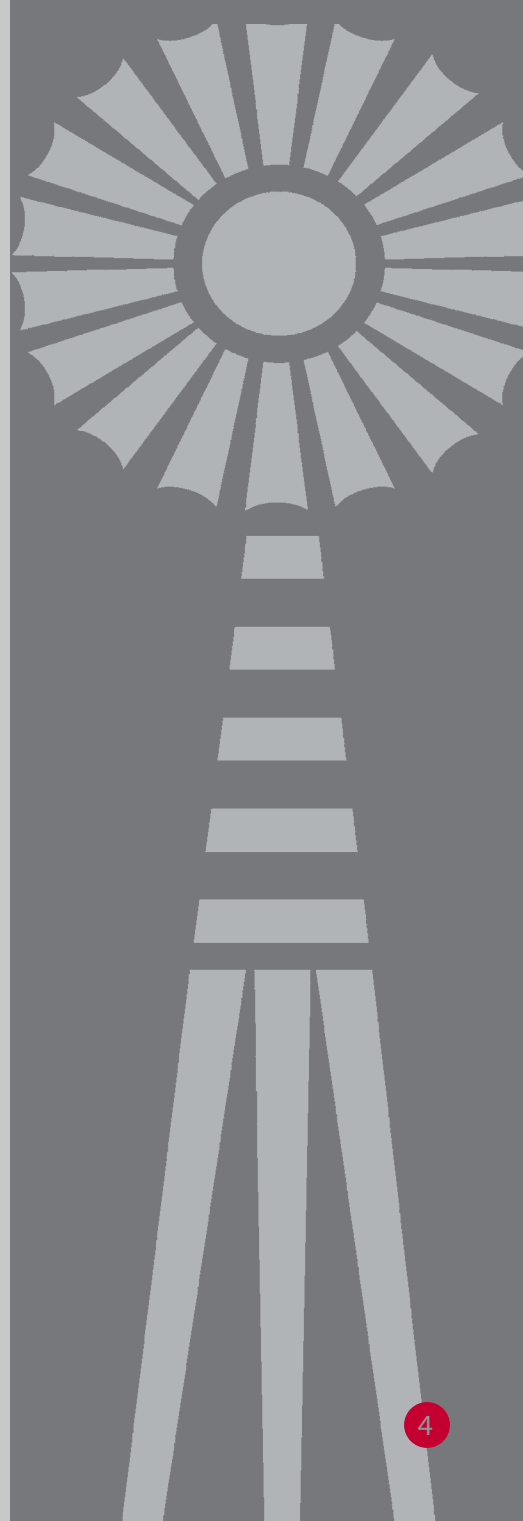
At this time, Family Service was recruiting WIC mothers with personal breastfeeding experience to serve as counselors in a newly piloted breastfeeding peer counseling program. I saw this as a wonderful opportunity to share information with families about breastfeeding and its nutritional importance. I applied for the position and was hired! I was trained along with six other women by WIC staff with a USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) curriculum. We were highly motivated by the training WIC provided to us, and eager to receive our referrals and talk to pregnant and nursing women.

During my 3 ½ years spent as a peer counselor, I realized the importance of community nutrition. I decided that because of the care I had received personally at WIC as a participant as well as the opportunities I had as a breastfeeding peer counselor, a "job" in a community setting was where my heart was. I now continue employment in the CNCAP (Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership) WIC program as a nutritionist.

We now have two more little girls, Gracen (4) and Nora (1) who have participated in WIC at CNCAP. Once again, I have greatly valued WIC during these seasons of our life and recognize that my children will have wholesome food in the house while I move forward with my educational goals. Overall, the health counselling and nutritious foods through WIC has given me a firm foundation in growing a healthy and strong family. The breastfeeding support provided to me has literally flourished into opportunities for me as a peer counselor then an IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Counselor) now, and WIC continues to shape my professional experiences as I mentor clients currently in the CNCAP WIC program.

Mission Statement

To foster the healthy lifestyles of central Nebraskans through health promotion, prevention, and education.



Mission Statement

Promoting partnerships with people and communities to overcome challenges, identifying needs and overcoming obstacles.

Family Outreach Department

HOMELESS AND NEAR HOMELESS PERSONS ARE OFFERED SERVICES THROUGH:

STABILITY ASSISTANCE is provided to individuals/families to assist them with utility disconnects/deposits, past due rent, rent deposits or 1st month rent. Available: All 21 counties.

NHAP (Nebraska Homeless Assistance Project) assists individuals and families in homeless or near homeless crisis situations. Clients served can receive assistance for past due rent or utilities, deposits, and motel funds. Clients will also receive short-term case management to ensure permanent housing is maintained and to gain skills to help in reaching and maintaining self-sufficiency.

THRIVES (Traditional Housing for Rural Independence Viability and Economic Stability): Assists homeless individuals and families to obtain safe and stable housing. Clients participate in case management to enhance their skills and maintain their housing. Participants are linked to other resources to overcome challenges and help achieve stability. Available: All 21 counties

HOPE (Hope Offers People Empowerment) Case management provides opportunities for near-homeless/homeless families/individuals to neutralize the affects of their situation. Services help alleviate barriers in order for clients to reach their potential by stabilizing their household, building problem solving and life skills, and accessing resources. Available: All 21 counties.

Vets RRH (Veterans Rapid Re-Housing) assists homeless Veterans with a disability, with securing housing. Clients, individuals or Veterans may participate in case management to enhance their skills and maintain their housing. Participants are linked to other resources to help overcome challenges and help achieve stability. Services available: All 21 counties.

SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) provides housing stability through temporary financial assistance and case management services to Veteran households who would otherwise become homeless as well as assistance to rapidly re-house those who are homeless. Available: In original 21 counties and 41 other counties across the state.

FOOD PANTRIES Donated food, household and personal items are provided to low income families on an emergency basis. Available in Central City, Loup City and O'Neill.

THE COMMUNITY HELP CENTER (CHC) is designed to be the initial point to access services in the Hall County area. The CHC Coordinator will assess an individual's situation and link them to appropriate resources.

PARTICIPATION IN SERVICE POINT A statewide database system for tracking households and the services provided to them.

THE SOAR PROGRAM (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) will provide assistance to individuals wanting to apply for disability. The SOAR Program is designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

SNAP OUTREACH (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) assists individuals and families applying for SNAP benefits or renewing an application. Can assist getting required documentation and expediting the application. Serves all 21 counties.

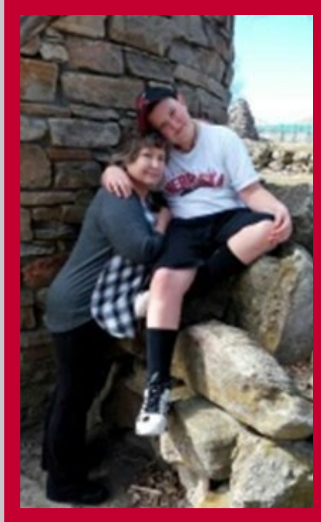
NEBRASKA RESPITE NETWORK is a program which provides a statewide system for the coordination of respite resources that serves all ages (across the lifespan) and all disabilities.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP) is a USDA program which provides income eligible persons 60 years of age and greater with nutritious food packages. During 2016 CNCAP provided 30,031 packages.

Family Outreach Department

DONITA'S STORY

Donita was going through a rough time to say the least. She had custody of her grandson and they were living with her fiancé. Her fiancé passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack. Not long after, the small one bedroom house that they were living in had an electrical fire. The landlord was not willing to make any repairs to the home and it was just a matter of time before the City would move forward to condemn the property. Donita didn't have the financial means to get into a new place. She applied and was accepted into the THRIVES (Traditional Housing for Rural Independence, Viability and Economic Stability) program. Since her acceptance into the program she has found and maintained her new housing. She was also able to secure an awesome new job with great pay and some benefits. She has worked really hard to pay off some old debt. She is always upbeat and continues to plan future goals for what she wants to do and steps of how she is going to accomplish it. She is cheerful and ready to take on whatever comes her way.



Donita's own words, "My life was turned upside down when I lost my fiancé of 7.5 years and the man my grandson always referred to as grandpa. I was trying to work at a local restaurant trying to make enough to keep afloat. I was looking at having to turn my phone off, cancel my vehicle insurance and possibly sell my vehicle and whatever else I could. I was told about CNCAP so I had to eat my pride and called to see if they could help. They were a blessing! They helped me and my grandson get back up on our feet. They helped me set goals in order to move forward, helped with bills, school supplies, and even clothes for my new job. I now have a better paying job and we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. If it wasn't for the CNCAP program THRIVES, and the understanding and dedication from our case worker who helped us along the way, I don't know if we would be where we are today. So I want to say thank you!!!"

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Family Outreach Department

ED LOVE STORY

The following letter was written in thanks to the SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) program of CNCAP:

I want to thank the SSVF Program for all their wonderful support and care shown and given me from day one last June. I found myself homeless and living in my car, without hope for the future. I lost my wife in November of 2015, and add that grief to other issues I was dealing with, I was overwhelmed.

SSVF put me in a motel and helped me get into an apartment and then worked with others to get the things I needed to bring me to a place where I now have my insurance license and am able to work in Nebraska. The dignity of knowing I can now succeed is amazing.

The follow through of my case worker, Julie, was beyond what I ever expected. I wasn't just a name or a number, I was listened to and then with empathy and understanding I was positively reinforced. I can once again now say I am looking forward to continued life and sustained success.

Sincere Thanks,

Ed Love



Early Childhood Programs

HEAD START

Head Start programs support the mental, social and emotional development of children from ages 3-5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with information and resources pertaining to health, nutrition, social and other services. Every effort is made to meet the needs of all enrolled children. Ten percent of our enrollments are children with special needs or disabilities. Head Start services are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage. More specifically, the program consists of: Dental/health exams; Vision/hearing/language tests; Lead Screenings; Immunizations; Nutritious meals; Comprehensive curriculum; Educational Activities; School Readiness Activities; Transition Activities; Screenings and assessments are completed on your child on an on-going basis and referrals may be made for future evaluations by you or by staff with your permission.

Head Start encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being and connections to peers and community.

EARLY HEAD START

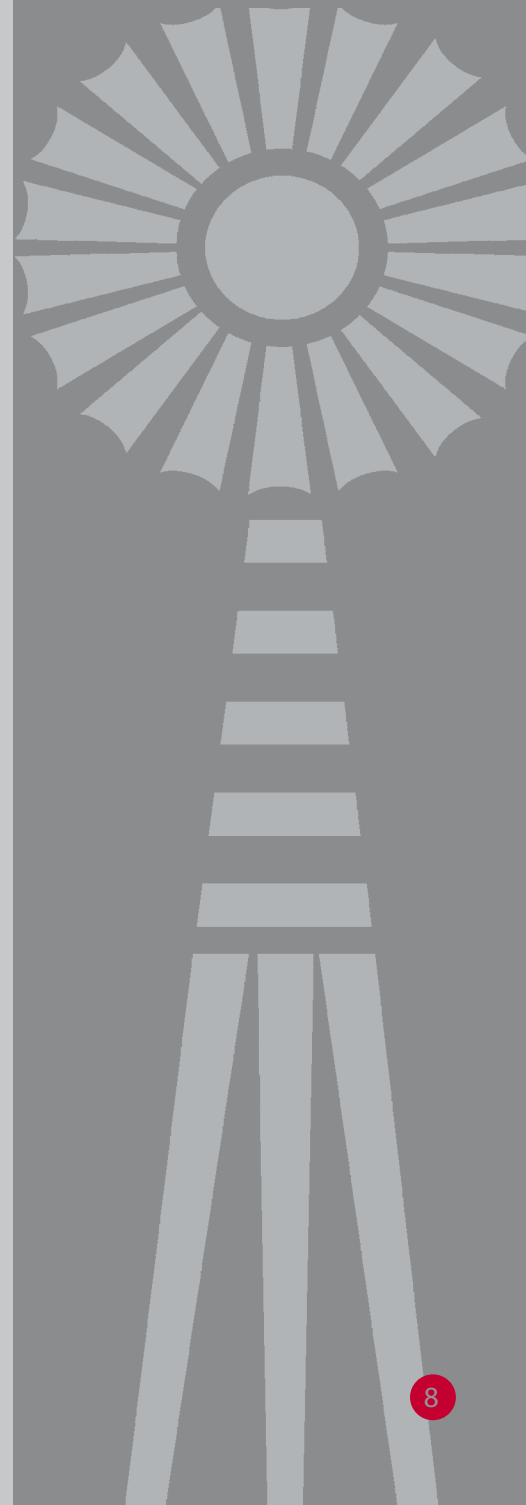
Early Head Start provides early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, and pregnant women and their families. Every effort is made to meet the needs of all enrolled children. Ten percent of our enrollments are children with special needs or disabilities. The Early Head Start Program also provides center-based and home-based services. Health and mental health services are also provided.

The Goals of Early Head Start consist of:

- Providing a safe and developmentally enriching care giving environment which promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of infants and toddlers, and prepares them for future growth and development.
- Supports parents, both mothers and fathers, in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children, and families in meeting personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains.
- Mobilizing communities to provide the resources and environment necessary to ensure a comprehensive, integrated array of services and support for families.
- Ensuring the provision of high quality responsive services to family through the development of trained, caring staff.

Mission Statement

Promote family strengths by recognizing individual values, encouraging teamwork, and creating links in the community.



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Early Childhood Programs

PARTNERSHIPS

It is the intent of the 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 un-served 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 10 Public Schools (Ainsworth, Burwell, Central City, Centura, Columbus, Loup City, O'Neill, Ord, Schuyler and St. Paul).
- The Early Head Start Program also has a formal partnership with the Department of Education that funds the Sixpence Program which serves ages 0-3. (Aurora, Central City, Loup City, Ord, Schuyler, and St. Paul)
- Formal partnerships with DHHS for the EHS Infant/Toddler Grant.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent and family engagement in Head Start/Early Head Start is about building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

When we actively engage families all benefit: Children will be healthier and more ready for Kindergarten; Families will be more engaged in the program and in the public school; Programs will achieve higher levels of quality; Communities will provide stronger supports to the next generation

All parents have the opportunity to participate in the following activities: Parent Meetings; Socializations; Policy Council; Parent trainings; Male Engagement Activities; Annual Self-Assessment; Volunteer in the classroom; Bus monitors; Parent/Teacher Conferences.

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

Federal Review- over 1,700 Performance Standards were reviewed October 7-11, 2013. The final report showed no areas of non-compliance and we will be transitioning into the five year grant cycle.

Non-Federal Share- Through the help of parents, community members, and volunteers Head Start and Early Head Start was able to raise \$1,179,381 in non-federal share contributions for 2015-2016.

2015-2016 ACTUAL ENROLLMENT LEVELS: 2015-2016 FUNDED ENROLLMENT LEVELS:

Head Start: 403 actual children served
370 actual families served

Head Start: 373
Early Head Start: 179

Early Head Start: 301 actual prenatal women/children served
225 actual families served

ACCORDING TO THE 2015-2016 PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORT HEAD START

95% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care
100% of children completed dental exams
24% needed dental treatment
94% received dental treatment
99% of children with a medical home (at the end of enrollment)

EARLY HEAD START

90% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care
96% of children with a medical home (at the end of enrollment)
100% of children with a dental home (at the end of enrollment)

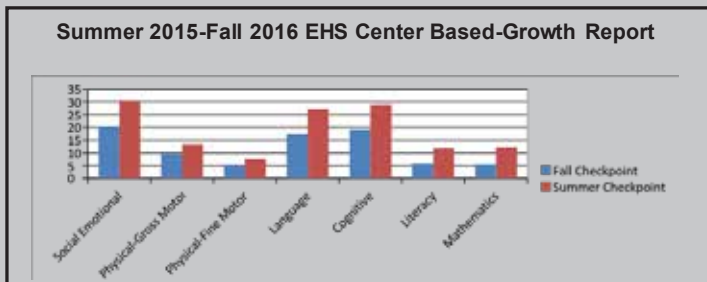
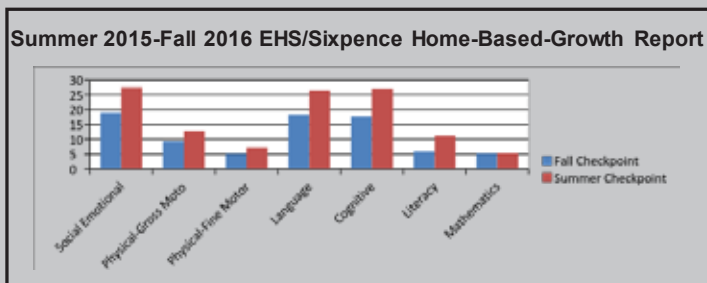
Early Childhood Programs

Mission Statement

Promote family strengths by recognizing individual values, encouraging teamwork, and creating links in the community.

SCHOOL READINESS

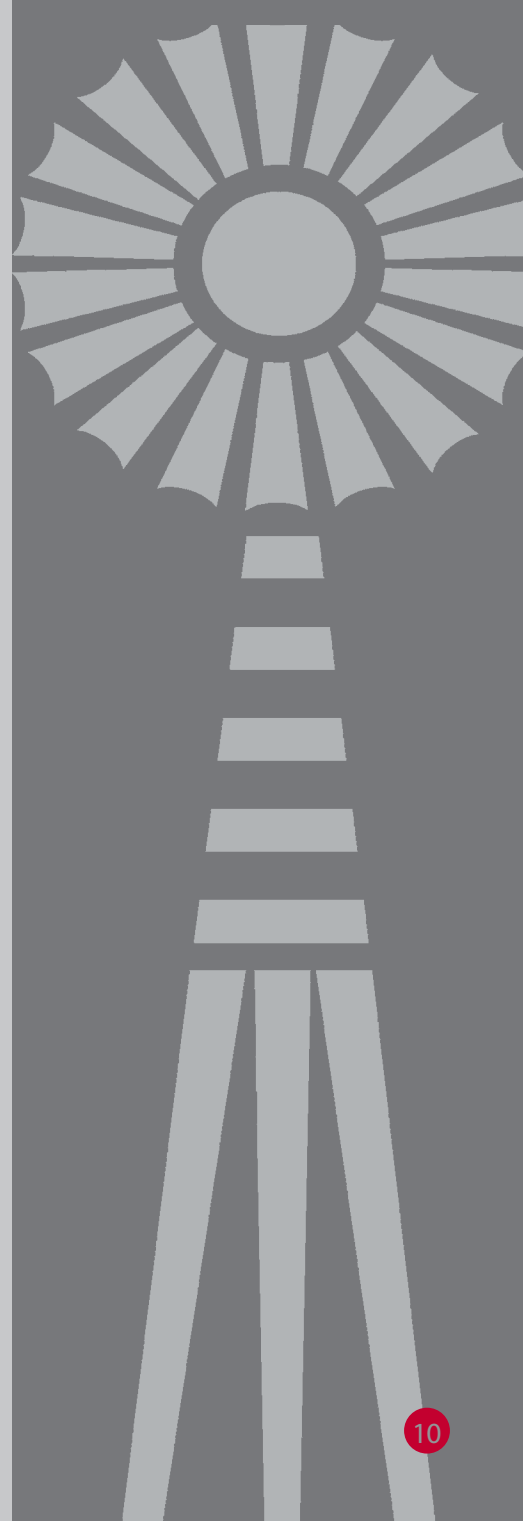
The Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Head Start and Early Head Start has a strong, clear, and comprehensive focus on all aspects of healthy development, including approaches to learning, physical, cognitive, social-emotional, and language and literacy and development, all of which are essential to children getting ready for school. Early Childhood Programs has revised our school readiness goals which are defined as "the expectations of children's status and progress across domains of language and



literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical health and well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve readiness for kindergarten goals" and that "appropriately reflect the ages of children, birth to five, participating in the program." Head Start views school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.

For parents and families, school readiness means they are engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child. Our programs and schools work together to promote school readiness and to engage families as their children make the transition to kindergarten, schools will be ready for children. Our School Readiness Goals align with our curriculum (High-Scope and Parents as Teachers), Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines, Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment, and the Head Start and Early Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Frameworks. Early Head Start/Sixpence Home Based and Center Based programs serve over 200 children which we observe, assess, analyze and then plan to meet our School Readiness Goals. The 2015-2016 program year goals were to meet age expectations and to be able to demonstrate growth in all our objectives and dimensions on GOLD. We were able to show growth in all six domains as shown on the chart.

Head Start and our Pre K partnerships serve over 500 children throughout our service area. Our teaching staff observes these children and enters their observations into our online GOLD program. Three times per year teaching staff as well as Area Manager/Education Coordinators analyze reports to assess how our children are performing. We make changes in the classroom and agency based on this data. We also make individual plans for children to help them grow and reach our School Readiness goals. In the 2015-2016 school year we saw growth in all areas of development. Our greatest areas of growth were Science, Social Studies and The Arts again this year. This year we were able to purchase items to help teaching staff with transitions. The resource that was purchased gives staff activities that can be used during transition times to keep children busy but to also help them learn and meet outcomes.



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Early Childhood Programs

CLASS ASSESSMENT

Classroom assessment scoring system (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess effective teacher-child interactions. The CLASS dimensions are based on developmental theory and research suggesting that interactions between young children and caregivers are a primary mechanism of child development and learning (Hamre & Pianta, 2007; Morrison & Connor, 2002; Rieber, 1998; Rutter & Maughan, 2002; Sroufe, 1996; Thompson, 2006). CLASS focuses on the quality of classroom interactional processes. This focus differs from other measurement tools that address the content of the physical environment, available materials, or a specific curriculum. For CLASS, the physical environment (including materials) and curriculum matter in the context of how all teachers in the classroom put them to use in their interactions with children. This reflects the children's interactions with all teachers in the classroom.

CLASS is organized to assess three broad domains of interactions among teachers and children: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support. Each domain includes several dimensions. Collectively the dimensions assess the extent to which teachers are effectively supporting children's development, both social and academic. Scoring is completed at the dimension level using a 7-point scale.

Research has shown that effective teacher-child interactions are an active and crucial ingredient for children's social and academic development. More effective Emotional Support and Classroom Organization equal stronger social and emotional development and stronger self regulation. Classrooms that have scores of at least 5 on the CLASS assessment provide the level of support necessary to see gains in the children's development. More effective Instructional Support equals stronger early academic development in math, language, and literacy. Classrooms that have scores of at least 3 on the CLASS assessment foster academic and language skills for children.

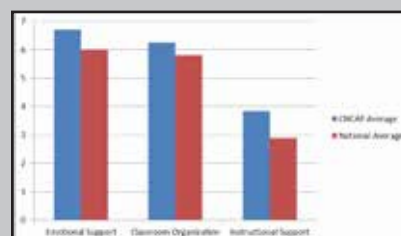
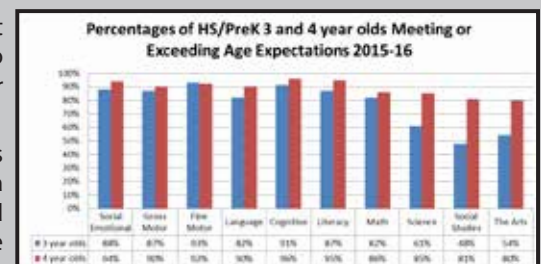
In the program year 2015-2016, the CLASS assessment was completed on all CNCAP Head Start/Pre-K classrooms. Below is a chart that shows what the national and CNCAP averages were for that year.

In 2015-2016, CNCAP Early Head Start Center Based classrooms were also assessed for the first time on Toddler CLASS.

Toddler CLASS is based on interactions between teachers and children in a group setting and classrooms assessed had children at the 15 to 36-month age level.

Toddler CLASS is organized to assess two broad domains of interactions among teachers and children: Emotional and Behavioral Support and Engaged Support for Learning. Each domain includes several dimensions. Scoring is completed at the dimension level using a 7-point scale. The Toddler Class assessment includes nearly all of the same dimensions of child-teacher interactions as the Pre-K assessment but also provides developmentally sensitive descriptions of what these dimensions of interactions look like in toddler classrooms.

Research has shown that effective teacher-child interactions are an active and crucial ingredient for children's social and academic development. More effective Emotional Support and Classroom Organization equal stronger social and emotional development and stronger self regulation.



At this time there are no national averages to compare to for Toddler CLASS. Left is a chart that shows CNCAP averages from Fall 2015 to Spring 2016.

Early Childhood Programs

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AURORA HEAD START SUCCESS STORY 2016

Brenden Zucco is a 4 year old boy who entered Aurora Head Start on 8-19-16. Brenden had been residing with his mother and step-father; however, due to issues involving domestic violence in the home, he is now residing with his great grandparents, Robert and Ellen Misek and his half-sister, Kila Misek. Robert and Ellen are not Brenden's grandparents by blood, but they stated "after getting to know Brenden, they fell in love with him". Robert and Ellen are not legal guardians of the children.



Robert and Ellen are very dedicated to the children, providing both financial and emotional support. Ellen has expressed her gratitude for the Head Start Program and is hoping to get Kila enrolled in Sixpence. Kila had been in Sixpence previously, but her mother terminated the program when the children were still residing with her.

Robert and Ellen are creating a warm and loving home for Brenden and Kila. Ellen is quick to communicate concerns she has with both Brenden's academic and emotional development. Ellen works with Brenden at home on learning his ABC's and counting and he continues to learn how to deal with some anger issues.

Ellen and Robert support the children with visiting their parents each weekend. When mom is unable to take the children to medical appointments, Ellen steps up to arrange for the appointments and take the children to the doctor or dentist.

Ellen is retired and Robert works part-time but they are both committed to providing Brenden and Kila with a loving and secure home.



JENNIFER'S STORY

Jennifer moved to Ord with her two young children, Jenny and Frances, from Kentucky to live with her Mother to escape an abusive marriage. She soon heard of the Early Head Start (EHS)/Sixpence program and enrolled her girls.

Currently, Jennifer is employed full-time at Dollar General. The family was referred to Healing Hearts and Families to help with a protection order and safety plan as well as bedding and clothing needs. During this difficult time, Jennifer followed through with referrals made from Central Nebraska Community Action Partnerships (CNCAP) Sixpence Family Consultant that helped get them through this rough time such as:

DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) Aid to Dependent Children/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (ADC/TANF), CNCAP Outreach, Mobile Food Pantry, Energy Assistance, Clothing Closet and the local food bank.

Jennifer and the girls are very active participants in the Sixpence/EHS program attending both Socializations monthly. Most home visits include both Jennifer and Grandma Shirley. Frances is benefiting from age appropriate activities from the Parents As Teachers (PAT) Curriculum that are designed to promote Early Head Start School readiness objectives. Little Jenny is enrolled in Head Start and is also doing well.

This program is so proud of the hard work and dedication that this family has exhibited resulting in establishing a safe and stable environment to live in; which will ensure the continued success of reaching their educational and financial goals that will benefit their entire family.

Mission Statement

To provide choices for individuals and families in the selection of safe, affordable, and energy efficient housing.

Housing Department

OWNER-OCCUPIED REHABILITATION

The Housing Department administers funds for owner-occupied rehabilitation in numerous counties, cities, and villages. To be eligible for these funds the applicants have to income qualify and own the home they are residing in. When the rehabilitation work is completed the home must be brought up to the standards set by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

WEATHERIZATION

Income eligible applicants receive repairs and efficiency measures that result in saving energy. This program helps reduce the ever increasing costs to heat and cool the homes of Nebraska's low-income residents. This program is a grant to income eligible owners and renters and is available throughout the 21-county service area.

SECTION 8 RENT SUBSIDY

This program provides rent subsidy assistance through the issuance of vouchers to individuals and families. Income guidelines must be met and the landlord must be willing to participate in the program. Currently there are 48 entities that form the Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority (CNJHA).

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM (FSS)

This case management program supplies support services to Section 8 clients. FSS assists clients with long-term goals to overcome barriers and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

CNCAP AFFORDABLE RENTALS

The Housing Department manages rental units in Loup City, Central City, Ainsworth, Greeley, O'Neill, Cairo, Alda and Bassett. Income guidelines are attached to the rental units, plus the applicant must provide landlord and utility references and show ability to pay rent.

Housing Department

Tomasita Ramon qualified for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) in March of 2012. (These funds come directly from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) to the Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority, commonly known as the CNJHA. The CNJHA contracts with Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership's Housing Staff to administer these funds). As a result of becoming a Section 8 program participant, Tomasita was eligible to participate in the CNJHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) and enrolled in the FSS Program on April 1, 2012. The FSS program allows participants to escrow money as their income increases. The participant pays the difference for their rent and the Housing Authority matches this amount and holds it in an escrow account until the family completes all of their goals.

THE FOLLOWING IS TOMASITA'S STORY:

"This has been a very long journey. There are some days I think – how did I survive it all. I remember when I felt the most lost and unsure of me and who I was. I didn't even know what I stood for. When I met Judy Hughes the CNJHA Executive Director, and filled out an application for the Section 8 Program, my whole life changed. She gave me hope that I could get through it. I think at that time it was the hardest to feel good about myself because I had just announced to the world about my addiction. Judy made me feel that I could overcome all that and she was able to provide me with the tools that I needed to keep on going, not to mention the patience that she had with me. For all that and more, thank you Judy, you will always be in my heart.



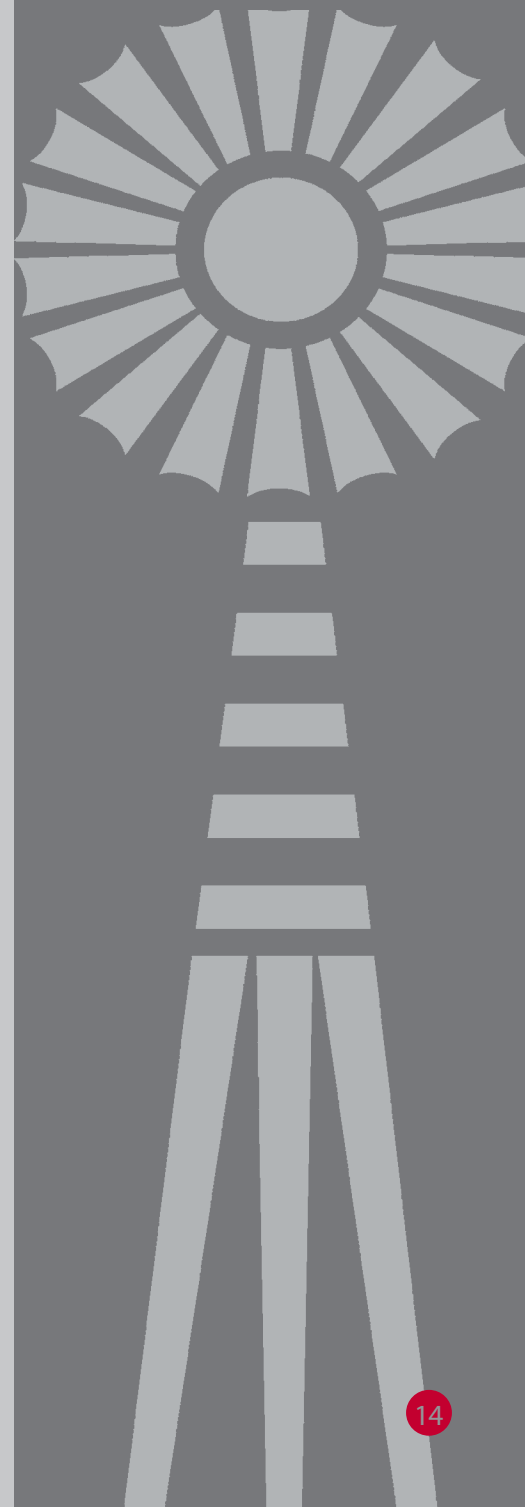
The Section 8 program is a program that helps you get through the tough times, when you need to further your education, searching for employment, or you have a life changing event that keeps you from being able to perform your financial duties as a parent or struggling student.

With the help from this program, I have been able to take some college courses, was also able to finance a business of my very own, and last but not least, put down my habits once and for all. I had tried to stop using for many years but could never accomplish it. Having a burden of paying rent can really stress a single mother out. With the help of this program paying some or part of your rent, you can use the extra money to pay for gas to look for a job, take that college course for a better job, and build your self-esteem. I would have never worked up my self-esteem to where it is today if it weren't for being able to earn my GED and take those college classes that this program allowed me to be a part of, without that extra stress."

Judy states "that she is extremely proud of Tomasita, what she has overcome, and what she has accomplished. She met all of her FSS goals in June of 2016, and with the money that Tomasita escrowed she was able to put a down payment on a truck and food trailer, her new business. Her latest endeavor is to save enough money to purchase a camera and equipment and become a photographer on the side. WAY TO GO TOMASITA!"

Mission Statement

To provide choices for individuals and families in the selection of safe, affordable, and energy efficient housing.



**CENTRAL NEBRASKA
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.**

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BROKEN BOW

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CENTRAL CITY

715 16th St. • (308) 946-3794

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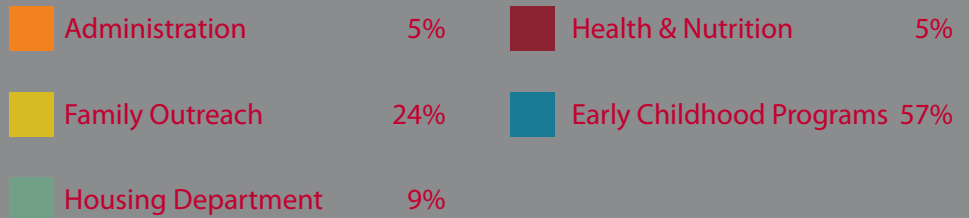
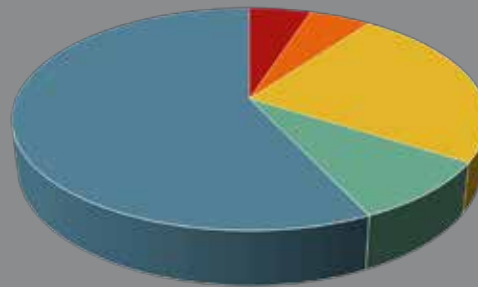
GRAND ISLAND

2525 W Lincoln Hwy • (308) 385-5500

O'NEILL

202 S 10th • (402) 336-4298

CORE PROGRAMS AND FUNDING AMOUNTS



TOTAL AGENCY FUNDING FOR 2016 \$12,861,339.00

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.



THE LIFESPAN RESPITE SERVICES PROGRAM COVERS 45 COUNTIES STATEWIDE AND THE SSVF (SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES) SERVES 62 COUNTIES.

CORE COUNTIES SERVED BY CNCAP

COUNTIES SERVED BY SSVF

COUNTIES SERVED BY LIFESPAN RESPITE

COUNTIES SERVED BY SSVF AND RESPITE

Agency Summary

220 Employees
 182 Full Time Employees
 38 Part Time Employees
 \$6,387,289 Paid Wages
 188,729 Volunteer Hours

56% Single People
 14% Single Parents
 22% Two-Parent
 6% Adult Couples
16,088 Served

26 Programs
 76 Services
 2,547 Partnerships
17,000 sq. miles

18% - No Health Ins.
 29% Disabled
 36% Had Children
 51% Received Social Security
 54% Lived on <75% Federal Poverty

21 Core Counties
 Lifespan Respite covers 44 Counties
 Supportive Services for Veterans Families covers 62 counties

64 People Provided Emergency Shelter
 2080 Households Received Emergency Food

40% Home Owners
 51% Rented
 5% Homeless
 4% Lived w/ Family

952 Households Received Rent Assistance
 450 Households Received Utility Assistance

Savings

\$107,855 saved by 119 Households

\$906.34 ave. per family

Debt Paid

221 households paid \$236,665 in debt.
 \$1,070.88 ave. per family

Employment

141 people who had been unemployed, obtained a job.

1608

VETERANS Homeless & Near Homeless

168 Veterans were served, which benefited 300 family members with housing, supportive services and other resources



Provided affordable housing option to 38 families



66 (ave.) vouchers administered through the Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority



292 Homes were weatherized with an average of \$7,105 for Dept. of Energy & \$7,800 for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; per house.

\$ 2,175,984

Energy Efficiency Measures Applied to Homes to Save on Heating & Cooling Costs



2,194 Children Received Adequate Nutrition

School

584 Children developed
readiness skills
for success in school

Parenting

1,251 Parents improved
their skills in engaging
their children.

Family Function

1,022 Adults increased
the functioning skills
in their family



392 Women

462 Infants

720 Children



\$638,309.37

Approved food, formula & baby food



2658 Vaccines
Provided



280 Breastfeeding
Consultations



375 Care Recipients
received Lifespan Respite

1809 Children

Received immunizations,
medical & dental care



2530

Seniors
Provided
Food Through
CSFP



Lowest Income
Guidelines by Program,
Which Increases Ineligibility



Fastest Growing
Vulnerable Population
Age 70+ Expected to
Increase 4x by 2050

(UNO 2013)

By the end of enrollment

95% HS
90% EHS
up-to-date on
primary healthcare

94%
HS kids
received
dental
treatment

100%
either had
dental exams
or a dental
home

99% HS
96% EHS
had medical home