

JULY 2024

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MID-NEBRASKA



HELPING PEOPLE.

CHANGING LIVES.

MAKING
COMMUNITIES
A BETTER PLACE
TO LIVE.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

The mission of Head Start and Early Head Start is to strengthen children, families, and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services, and by fostering community partnerships. The primary goal of Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's Head Start and Early Head Start programs is to provide comprehensive Head Start programming to enrolled children and their families, and to provide additional funding for expansion and/or collaboration to assist the unserved and underserved populations in our service area.

According to the most recent American Community Survey estimates, 28.6% of all occupied households in Head Start's Nebraska service area are family households with one or more child(ren) under the age of 18. Of the estimated 166,383 total population in the report area, an estimated 10,195 are children under the age of 5, representing 6.13% of the population. According to the State of Nebraska DHHS website, there are 266 licensed childcare and preschool programs in the Head Start report area, which is a total capacity of 6,228, only 61% of the total 0-4 age group for the specified report area.

When asked what top issues were of most importance to Head Start parents, the lack of quality childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers was top of mind. This need was reflected in Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's most recent Community Needs Assessment, conducted in 2022. When asked what needs community members felt were not being met within their communities and what additional services they would like to see be made available in their communities, childcare was one of the top three needs identified.

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska is actively looking for more ways to enhance and expand our Head Start and Early Head Start services in order to meet the growing need for quality childcare availability for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. One way we are currently pursuing is the construction of a new Early Head Start facility in Buffalo County. The proposed facility would co-locate with current Head Start buildings to improve ease and accessibility for families, opportunities to expand the program, and more space for current programming and training opportunities for parents, families, and staff. Funding applications for this proposed project is still being reviewed.

YTD STATISTICS

(new year count began October 1, 2023)

15,084 INDIVIDUALS have been served by a Community Action program.

94,491 POUNDS OF FOOD have been distributed by our food pantry programs.

65,719 RIDES have been recorded by our RYDE Transportation Program.

2,204 SHOTS have been given through our Immunization Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WESTERN

Jerry Woodruff, public
Jennifer Bantam, private
Barbara Roebuck, consumer

REPUBLICAN VALLEY

Roger Dorn, public
Dick Trail, private
Linda Fitzsimmons, consumer

PLATTE VALLEY

Myron Kouba, public
Deb Granger, private
Joe Brayton, consumer

AT LARGE

Nathan Avery, public
Michael Stromer, public
Bernardo Revelo, private
Coy Clark, private
Joy Kyhn, consumer
Cecelia Loganbill, consumer

RYDE TRANSIT - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



The RYDE Transit operates buses in Buffalo, Adams, Dawson, Franklin, Hamilton, Kearney, and Gosper counties, as well as in the City of Ravenna. RYDE Transit provides public transportation to medical appointments, shopping areas, congregate dinners, and social activities. Services are open to the public at low-cost fares, and all 12-passenger buses are lift equipped. In addition to providing public transportation services, RYDE Transit also operates a route from Lexington, NE to North Platte, NE following the US Highway 30 Corridor two times a month. Stops are made in Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Brady, and Maxwell, with stops in North Platte as needed. RYDE Transit also serves Eustis, NE once a week on Tuesdays.

RYDE Transit recently adopted rate increases for its services, shown below:

TELEPHONE

Buffalo County - Kearney, 308-865-5677
 Adams County - Hastings, 402-463-5681
 Dawson County - Lexington, 308-324-3670
 Hamilton County - Aurora, 402-694-2177
 Franklin County - Franklin, 308-425-3724
 Kearney County - Minden, 308-832-2139
 Gosper County - Elwood, 308-785-2527
 City of Ravenna, 308-452-3142

Location	Service	*Rates per Boarding
Kearney and Hastings	In Town	\$3.00
	In County	\$8.00
Lexington, Aurora, Franklin, Minden, Elwood, and Ravenna	In Town	\$2.00
	In County	\$6.00
	Out of County	\$8.00
Intercity Bus Route	Out of Transit System	\$15.00

FEATURED SUCCESS STORY

COMMUNITY SERVICES IN FRANKLIN/HARLAN AND PHELPS COUNTIES

Before 'Andrea' moved to town, she had fled El Salvador with her seven children; one in her arms, one barely walking, and all carrying only the clothes on their backs and two dry diapers. Andrea's husband, and the father to all seven children, was an abusive drug dealer with untreated mental health issues. They had been living in a camper in El Salvador when she finally went through the U.S. State Department to get away from him and get back to the U.S. She was free of her abusive husband and back in the U.S., but she received no child support from her ex-husband and only had a high school diploma. Well-paying jobs are not in abundance for women in rural America, not to mention daycare costs would have made it impossible for her to support her family. She filed for assistance through the state. Over the course of time, Andrea utilized nearly all Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska programs - food pantries to provide food for her and her family; health services to ensure her children had the necessary vaccinations to go to school; Head Start not only to prepare her younger children for school, but Andrea eventually was hired by Head Start to work in the classroom; and the Weatherization Program to help bring down the utility costs on the home she was living in. Andrea's children have all graduated from High School, and some even from college. Andrea eventually earned her bachelor's degree and is living a stable life.

 308-865-5675

 mnca@mnca.net

 16 W 11th Street | Kearney, NE