"Walls turned sideways are bridges"
~ Angela Y. Davis
From the Executive Director

On behalf of Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (NENCAP), I would like to present the 2019 Annual Report. This report covers fiscal year 2018-2019 (October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019) providing statistical and program overviews.

The quote on the front of the report reads, “Walls turned sideways are bridges”. The photos throughout this report include actual bridges within our service area. They remind us that at times, we all need help getting to where we would like to be. This past year the Agency served nearly 10,000 unduplicated clients through the programs we administer. We pride ourselves on our efforts to fulfill our mission statement - "People helping people; empowering individuals, strengthening families and enriching communities in Northeast Nebraska".

This year brought devastating flooding to our service area and 12 of our 14 counties were officially declared disasters. Communities came together to help one another embodying the spirit of Community Action. Through additional funding and donations NENCAP was able to further assist families who were displaced with services including: rent and/or utility assistance; cleaning supplies; heating and cooling repair and replacement assistance for clients who may not otherwise have qualified for Weatherization services; and working alongside local health departments to provide necessary vaccines.

We look forward to serving the communities of Northeast Nebraska as we continue to work towards eliminating the ever-changing causes and conditions of poverty for years to come. We value you as a community partner and thank you for your continued support.

[Signature]

[Image of a bridge]
Locations

Central Office
- 603 Earl Street
- PO Box 667
- Pender, NE 68047
- Phone: [402]385-6300 or [800]445-2505
- Fax: [402]385-6310
- Website: www.nencap.org

Satellite Offices
- South Sioux City Office
  2120 Dakota Avenue, Suite A
  South Sioux City, NE 68776
- Creighton Office
  808 Chase Ave
  Creighton, NE 68729
- Norfolk Office
  1405 Riverside Blvd
  Norfolk, NE 68701
- Fremont Office
  212 E 8th St, Suite B
  Fremont, NE 68025

Early Childhood

Head Start & Early Head Start
- Norfolk Head Start
  301 E Omaha Ave
  Norfolk, NE 68702
  Phone: [402]371-8030
- Wayne Head Start
  1210 E 7th Street
  Wayne, NE 68787
  Phone: [402]375-2913
- South Sioux City Head Start
  2120 Dakota Ave
  South Sioux City, NE 68776
  Phone: [402]494-6755
- Siouxland Family Center
  Head Start & Early Head Start
  1401 Pine Street
  Dakota City, NE 68731
  Phone: [402]494-1282

Partnerships
- Niobrara School
  247 N Hwy 12
  Niobrara, NE 68760
  Phone: [402]857-3375
- Oakland-Craig School
  400 Brewster
  Oakland, NE 68045
  Phone: [402]685-6734
- Little Blujays
  602 Main St
  Waithill, NE 68067
  Phone: [402]846-6452
- Blair Community Schools
  1100 Deerfield Blvd
  Blair, NE 68008
  Phone: [402]529-6465
- Little Panthers
  Norfolk Elementary Schools
  Norfolk, NE
  Phone: [402]371-8030
- Wisner-Pilger School
  801 18th St
  Wisner, NE 68791
  Phone: [402]529-6465
- Stanton Head Start
  507 7th Street
  Stanton, NE 68779
  Phone: [402]439-2255
Strategic Plan Goals

- Enhance awareness and strengthen Agency culture.
- Develop skills leading to economic security.
- Improve awareness of mental health services and providers.

Board of Directors

Government
Ted Connealy - Burt County
Jerry Schroeder - Dixon County
Leroy Kerkman - Antelope County
Lon Strand - Dodge County
Jerry Weatherholt - Stanton County

Low Income
Clarence Tichota - Cuming County
Ranea Rystrom - Pierce County
Tammy Bodlak - Thurston County
Sally Snowe - Cedar County
Nan Smutko - Policy Council

Private Sector
Bev Hieb - Knox County
Tim Decker - Dakota County
Deb Hammer - Wayne County
Duane Wilcox - Washington County
Angie Bryner - Madison County

Mission Statement

People helping people; empowering individuals, strengthening families and enriching communities in Northeast Nebraska.
Agency History

Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (NENCAP), Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and headquartered in Pender, Nebraska. The Agency was chartered in 1966 as the Thurston County Community Action Council under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The Agency's first home was in Macy, Nebraska serving the residents of Thurston County. In 1967, the office moved from Macy to Walthill. The Agency's first programs were Head Start, Commodities Supplemental Food Assistance and Weatherization. As the service area grew, the central offices were relocated to Wisner. Due to the Agency's growth into four buildings in Wisner, the Agency's goal was to secure a building big enough for all staff to be in one building. In March of 2012 the Agency was able to achieve its goal after the Pender Hospital moved into a new facility in January. The Agency then moved into the Pender Hospital building so all staff could be under one roof.

In March of 2012, the Agency also changed its name from Goldenrod Hills Community Action, Inc. to Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. The change in the name is part of an ongoing national initiative to highlight anti-poverty efforts underway at Community Action Agencies across the country. The initiative, spearheaded by the national office of the Community Action Partnership, is designed to increase awareness of Community Action - America's poverty fighting network.

NENCAP serves an income-eligible population in a 14-county area of Northeast Nebraska, including the counties of Antelope, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Washington and Wayne.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
If you would like to contribute to funding NENCAP’s mission please visit our website at www.nencap.org.

Funding Sources

Blackbird Bend Casino  
Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services  
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)  
Comprehensive Health Management  
Department of Energy (DOE)  
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
Fremont Area Community Foundation  
Head Start Private Donations  
Local Churches  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP]  
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program [NHAP]  
Norfolk Morning Kiwanis  
Michael Foods Inc.  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Nebraska Public Power District [NPPD]  
Private Individual Donations  
Siouxland Community Foundation  
United States Veterans Administrations  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
US Bank  
Walmart  
Wayne Area United Way  
West Point Eagles Club
Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Services</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Food &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$26,315 - Client Assistance Fund</td>
<td>$632,734 - Weatherization</td>
<td>$911,378 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)</td>
<td>$143,328 - Immunizations</td>
<td>$5,405,481 - Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$531,437 - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)</td>
<td>$96,303 - Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)</td>
<td>$196,187 - Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</td>
<td>$119,995 - Early Development Network (EDN)</td>
<td>$2,562 - Nebraska Workers Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,600 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</td>
<td>$220,752 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)</td>
<td>$86,662 - Emergency Food &amp; Shelter Program (EFSP)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$18,275 - Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$42,437 - SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019
NENCAP had a total budget of

$8,591,861
Employee of the Year

Each year since 2004, staff at Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. are given the opportunity to nominate a coworker to be recognized as the Employee of the Year. Nominations are reviewed by Executive Director, Robin Snyder, along with a committee from the NENCAP Board of Directors, and an employee is chosen. The winner is announced at the annual All-Staff Training held each fall.

This year’s NENCAP Employee of the Year is Olivia Perez, RN. Olivia began her employment with NENCAP in December 2014 as an aide to the WIC Program. Since then, Olivia has earned her RN and Certified Lactation Consultant and was promoted to WIC/Immunization Nurse and again most recently, to WIC Assistant Director in 2018.

A few of the comments on the form nominating Olivia included, “Olivia is what Community Action is about, she understands the mission and vision of the Agency and carries it forward in everything she does. She wears many hats at NENCAP, and they all fit her perfectly! We are lucky to have her on our team.”

Olivia lives in Pender with her husband, daughter and 2 sons.

“I feel honored for being chosen as this year’s employee of the year, especially when there are so many other great employees that also deserve it. I love the work I do and that is made possible by the amazing team that I work with.”

Olivia Perez
From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 Agency staff completed **4,915** hours of training to enhance their abilities to provide services to clients. In addition, **52** certifications or professional credentials were either obtained or maintained by staff.
Client Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Race &amp; Ethnicity</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 64% of client households make less than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)</td>
<td>• 90% of clients are Non-Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>• 54% of client households rent their homes</td>
<td>• 24% of clients have a disabling condition</td>
<td>• 82% of clients age 25+ have a high school diploma or GED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 29% make less than 50% of FPL</td>
<td>• 82% of clients are white</td>
<td>• 33% own their homes</td>
<td>• 83% of clients have health insurance</td>
<td>• 14% of clients age 25+ are college graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 18% make between 101-125% of FPL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Clients Served by NENCAP from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

9,668
The Spring 2019 School Readiness Reports showed progress in all areas of development for all ages. The largest areas of growth for Early Head Start were Social Emotional 70% and Language 27%. The largest areas of growth for Head Start were Mathematics 37%, Literacy 34% and Cognitive 33%.

82,069

71%
Of Head Start and Early Head Start families (not including partnerships) have a household income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level ($25,750 for a family of 4).

438
Children Served

374
Children enrolled in Head Start

64
Children enrolled in Early Head Start

38
Early Childhood Classrooms

19
Early Childhood Sites

7
School partnerships to provide Early Childhood Education
Research shows that household food insecurity is a strong predictor of higher health care utilization and increased health care costs. Researchers estimate that those experiencing food insecurity have an extra $1,863 in health care expenditures each year, compared to their food-secure counterparts. This translates to $775 billion in excess annual health care expenditures among those with food insecurity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Pantry Clients Served</th>
<th>CSFP Clients Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41% Children under 18</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37% Children ages 0-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16% Disabled</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of seniors served had a household income below 100% of Federal Poverty Level or $14,380 annually for a single person.

Of CSFP clients served had one or more disabbling conditions.

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### Food & Nutrition

#### Value of Commodities

**$302,000.00**

Value of Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) food boxes distributed to clients age 60 and over.

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#### Value of Food and Goods

**$33,909.24**

Value of Food and Goods donated to NENCAP food pantries.

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$622 $659
The Healthy Families program provided 57 packages of diapers to enrolled families in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The average baby uses 2,500 diapers at a cost of approximately $1,200 in the first year. "Safety Net" programs like WIC, Food Stamps and Medicaid do not pay for or provide diapers. Research shows that 1 in 5 families cut back on food, utilities and other essentials to buy diapers.

Resources and referrals were provided to 73 children served by the Early Development Network (EDN) in the Norfolk School District.

Lead screenings were completed for Head Start children by Health Services Staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccines Given</th>
<th>Home Visits Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,097 Children under 18 received immunizations.</td>
<td>57 Families were served by Healthy Families Home Visitation Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>485 Adults received vaccinations.</td>
<td>100% Of infants (among mothers who enrolled in Healthy Families prior to the 37th week of pregnancy) were breastfed in some capacity at 6 months of age.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

75% Of children 12 months of age are on-time for age appropriate vaccinations.
Clients received rent and/or utility assistance.

- 231 Clients received rental assistance.
- 161 Clients received utility assistance.
- 197 Clients received rent and/or utility deposit assistance.

Clients served by Family Services.

- 476 Clients received assistance with tax preparation and/or Homestead Exemption Applications.
- 70 Clients received SOAR services.
- 77 SNAP applications were completed.

Support Services

In June 2018 and March 2019, record flooding affected much of the NENCAP service area. Through an additional $10,000 in NHAP Emergency Funds, 7 families who were displaced by the flooding were assisted with rent and/or utility deposits as well as rent and utility payments for replacement housing.

In addition, $10,000 in NHAP Emergency Funds assisted 7 families who were displaced by the flooding. Seventy-seven SNAP applications were completed.

In eligible refunds were received by clients through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Support Services

- $62,821.40 In additional value from 67 volunteers who donated 6,823 hours of service to Family Services programs.
- $431,510.00 In eligible refunds were received by clients through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.
SSVF staff were able to assist several veterans and their families who lost their homes during record flooding. With just over $8,000 in funding, 6 veteran families received resources and referrals including services coordination, hotel/motel vouchers, rent/utility deposit and/or payment assistance, temporary storage unit rental and more. Of the literally homeless veterans assisted 33% were living in their vehicles at the time SSVF staff first met with them.

169%  
Of initially targeted services NENCAP was able to provide to Veterans.

42%  
Of Veterans served by the Agency had a disability.

58  
Veteran Households Served

83  
Children living in Veteran households avoided homelessness due to SSVF assistance.

36  
Veterans served were homeless at the time of service and in need of rapid rehousing.

13,190  
Veterans living in the NENCAP service area

10%  
Of citizens residing with the NENCAP service area are Veterans.

100%  
Of Veteran households receiving housing assistance from NENCAP were able to independently sustain stable housing after SSVF assistance had expired.
Beginning in 2019 Weatherization was able to offer Heating & Cooling Repair/Replacement Assistance to clients who may not otherwise have qualified for Weatherization services. The majority of clients served through this program were victims of flooding who required replacement of their heating and/or cooling systems. Through this program 28 clients in 13 homes were served. All of these additional funds spent were used for health and safety measures within the home.

$378,718.98
Invested back into local economies through Weatherization efforts.

$114,207.93
In Weatherization funds were spent on Health & Safety Measures including but not limited to: carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, ventilation to prevent mold and replacing faulty furnaces.

Clients Served

- 23% Age 60 and over
- 15% Children ages 0-6
- 16% Disabled

Homes Weatherized

269%
Return on Investment for both energy related and non-energy related benefits per $1 spent on Weatherization Nationally.

35%
Estimated average percent of income saved on utilities after weatherization.
During October 2018, all WIC Approved Vendors in the NENCAP service area were trained on the new eWIC system to accept the WIC electronic benefit card. In November of 2018 all NENCAP WIC Staff were trained to issue cards to all active WIC families receiving services through NENCAP. This change has allowed clients to pick up WIC foods as they need them throughout the month as opposed to picking everything up in one visit.

**To summarize:**

- **Clients Served**
  - 1,743 Infants under 1 year old
  - 1,884 Children ages 1-5
  - 1,394 Pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding women

- **Breastfed Infants**
  - 39% Of infants receiving WIC were breastfed.
  - 35% Of breastfed infants were exclusively breastfed.

- **$2,013,269.04**
  - In WIC benefits were redeemed in local grocery stores and put back into community economies in the service area.

- **36**
  - WIC approved vendors in the WIC service area.
This report created by:
Mandy Johnson, Data & Outcomes Coordinator