

UDMO Program Director's Report March 2021



Executive Director - Jamey M. Whitney

Spring is finally upon us. Based on this past weekends snow storm, we are due for some typical spring weather for Iowa....I hope! It will just be nice to be able to get outdoors and out of the house. This is also REVIEW season for many of our programs as well the start of grant season so things are starting to get BUSY! We have a few items to go over this month; not a lot but a few so lets get to them!

STAFF/HUMAN RESOURCES

To start the report off, I do wish to extend the warmest of welcomes to all of our new staff that were brought on over the last couple of months. We truly appreciate the opportunity to have you as part of the UDMO family. I also would like to wish all of the individuals, moving on to different job opportunities, the best in their new journey. See George's report for a complete listing.

GRANTS

We have a few items to discuss under the grants section. The first one, **LIHEAP-21-16-B3** is a budget amendment which awards the remaining balance of the FY2021 award to the agency. When the state received its federal award it held back **9%** of our allocation in the amount of **\$438,398** and that is the amount of this award.

The second item is **CSBG-21-16 Amendment 2**. This budget amendment is also to let us know that the federal government released and sent the award to the state for disbursement. The amount of UDMO's CSBG for **FY2021 is \$445,695** which is **an increase of \$3,002 from last years funding**.

On March 16, 2021 we received an email that the **Iowa WIC Program received word that an additional \$805,225 is available for distribution to local WIC agencies**. This represents an **increase of 2.15%** from what was expended by the local agencies last year. The amount UDMO received was **\$25,923 for programming and \$10,000 for breast pump expenditures for a total of \$35,923**.

We discussed several months ago about our participation in the **Eviction and Foreclosure Program** that was available to Iowa households during the late fall and winter. Well, the State of Iowa and the federal government has provided the means for a **Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program 2.0**. The **Iowa Finance Authority** is administering a \$195 million rent and utility assistance through the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The program, known as the **Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program**, may provide eligible Iowans with assistance for a period of up to twelve months. The full application is anticipated to be available in late March.

The program will provide Rent Payments for past due payments for costs incurred no earlier than March 13, 2020. Also, renters may apply for up to three months of future rental assistance at a time. In addition, the program will provide Utility Payments for electricity, gas, propane or fuel oil, water, sewer and/or trash removal of costs incurred no earlier than March 13, 2020. The program can provide **UP TO 12 MONTHS OF COMBINED ASSISTANCE** and eligible renters may apply for rent assistance only, utility assistance only or both, rent and

Executive Director's
Report 1-3

Human Resources 4

Operations 4

IT 5

FaDSS 5

CACFP 5

Sail 6

Housing 6

Early Childhood 7

WIC 7

KIDS 7

Hand In Hand 8

Compliance/Reporting 8

Weatherization 9

LIHEAP 9

Outreach 10-12

utility assistance.

Renter households with incomes of no more than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) are eligible and one or more individuals in the household has qualified for unemployment benefits. Also, households that have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak or those who can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability which may include a past due utility or rent notice or eviction notice.

Renter **households with incomes above 80% of Area Median Income are ineligible**. Also, Renter **households in which no household members qualify for unemployment benefits** at time of application or the **household has not experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak are ineligible**. Finally, households which **cannot provide all required documentation, renter households with sublet or sublease arrangements** or who are **homeowner households** are not eligible.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in the service, they will be able to apply online. UDMO will be assisting with the process to insure that the applicants have all of the available documentation that is required by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). Landlords may apply on behalf of tenants meeting the eligibility requirements, so long as the tenant co-signs the application, the landlord provides documentation to the tenant, and the payments are used to satisfy the tenant's rental obligation to the owner. Stay tuned!

The final item the grant category is the **Notice of Head Start Cost-of-Living Supplemental Funding**. Last month we provided to you a **Program Instruction ACF-PI-HS-21-01 from ACF-Office of Head Start** about funding that would be coming down. The attached notice is in response to that program instruction . We will be writing a **Supplemental funding application for a 1.22% Cost-of-Living-Adjustment for Head Start staff with \$40,393 for Head Start staff and \$31,956 for Early Head Start staff totaling \$72,349**. The application is due April 15, 2021 and we will need board approval for submission.

As far as the **1303 Head Start Facilities Grant**. I spoke with Gene Nelsen, the appraiser. He said he should have the As Complete Appraisal completed by Wednesday, March 23rd or Thursday,, March 24th. **I have the narrative complete and Donna has amended the budget so everything should be submitted to regional office by Friday, March 26th**. At our regional office meeting we had on March 18th, Tina Younger, our Program Specialist, said that there shouldn't be any holdup getting the funds released. I hope to get a roofing crew up there pretty quickly, no later than the middle or end of May! My fingers and toes are crossed.

PROGRAMS, REPORTS & REVIEW

The first item under this section is the **Fiscal Policy - Electronic Signatures**. More and more of the documents we receive from our funders and that we use to internally document personnel or fiscal actions are requiring multiple signatures. **Using a electronic signature process makes it more efficient. However, if we are going to use that process, we are required to have a fiscal policy outlining that. Attached is the draft policy that we are asking the board to approve.**

The Head Start program has several items that they need to present and obtain approval from the board on this month. **The first item the Self-Assessment Summary, the second item is the Transportation Waiver Request, the third, item is the Head Start Annual Parent Survey Results. Also, included is the UDMO Head Start COVID Data - 3/20 thru 02/21 which does not need approval** and is informational. Julie Edwards will discuss this information and answer any questions you may have at the board meeting.

The next item is the **Weatherization Home Inspection Visit Report**. There were 6 items in the homes sampled. All of these items are not out of the ordinary for the program. Kyle and his evaluators will get with the contractors to make the necessary corrections. Kyle will provide these corrections in his response to the state due by May 7, 2021.

Just a heads up on a couple of items we will be working on in the very new future. First, this is the year we are due for our **On-site Review for our Community Services Block grant**. We received notice that the State will be doing a full Desk Review instead due to the pandemic. Kayla McKinney, our Director of Planning Reporting & Compliance, is overseeing the preparation for the review which is **scheduled for May 3rd & 4th**. I am certain all will go well! We may have things to bring to you for the April board meeting so stay tuned.

The final item under this section is again, a heads up. We are due to undergo our **strategic planning** efforts this summer. I will be working with Kayla to identify a consultant who will work with all of us to begin that effort. We will need to engage as many of you as possible and at a minimum, you may all be receiving surveys and such so we can get your input into the process. It is going to be one busy summer!

OTHER

As many of you may recall, in May of last year, the board approved entered into an **Option to Purchase with Deer Creek Estherville, LLC on the athletic field of the Roosevelt Building**. I have included a copy of the Option to Purchase in your packet along with a letter from Josh Kruger from Eagle Construction notifying us of their intent to exercise their option to purchase. I have been in contact with our attorney Barry Sackett who in turn has reached out to Deer Creek Construction to work on getting the abstract up--to- date along with the title opinion and other documents that will be needed. **I would ask the board to vote on approving the sale by Resolution so they we can continue to move forward with this project.**

I provided some information regarding **Ext. of Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”)**. As you may recall the original FFCRA ended December 31, 2020. The feds allowed for agencies to extend the provisions and provide tax credits until March 31, 2021. Now with the passage of **The American Rescue Plan Act**, they are extending the FFCRA until September 30, 2021. I would ask the board to have a discussion about the pros and cons regarding the extension of this emergency sick leave which is completely up to the Board. One of the issues that directly and indirectly related to this issue is the COVID fatigue that staff are experiencing and I want to ensure that we are doing what is in the best interest of our clients, our staff and the agency.

One final item regarding **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. The management team is in the process of looking at developing a comprehensive policy regarding these important issues. To be honest, this is an issue that is on the forefront of a lot of corporations and businesses throughout the country; large and small. One thing that is certain, it is multi-faceted and complex, but is one that needs everyone's full attention. It is definitely not an issue that can be pieced together and will take a lot of discussion and research before we come up with something that is effective fair and supports all of those individuals we serve and those that work for UDMO. **Julie Edwards (Head Start Director) and Alisa Schlieff (FaDSS & Family & Community Services Director)** are both currently involved in efforts and that is exposing them to tons of information and research on this issue. They and other management team members will be vital in the development and implementation of various trainings and/or policies around **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. We will be bringing you more information over the next several months.



Continuing to work with those needing COVID related leaves and continuing to get the necessary documentation to be ready for reimbursement of leave pay out. We have seen a decline recently which we hope is a trend in the right direction. Our eligible staff, particularly in the Head Start arena have gone through their first wave of vaccinations, and working on their second round of vaccination. Approximately 60% of Head Start staff have elected to vaccinate.

We completed our wellness challenge and had a great turnout. Forty-Six participated in this challenge. This was a step challenge with “good will” tasks that needed to be completed along the way. A survey will be sent out for feedback from this challenge.

We have reached out to three agents to complete RFP’s for our Workers’ Compensation and other liability insurances. We completed “Zoom” interviews with each of these agents. After receiving the RFP’s, we will make a decision as to whom our agent of record will be.

Tiffany Harris completed our mandatory 1095’s that were due. This task took a lot of time and I thank her for knocking this out in a timely manner.

We had a Safety Team meeting in which we went over new injuries and discussed ways of preventing others from happening. Slips/Trips/Falls continue to be our number one injury type. Communication to our employees on awareness of our surroundings was sent out to all staff.

We had the following new hire(s) for the month of February:

Temporary KIDS Family Support Specialist	Central
Food Service Personnel	Jefferson
(2) Assistant Teacher	Jefferson
Substitute Teacher	Milford
(2) Assistant Teacher	Storm Lake
Outreach Specialist	Dickinson Co.
Assistant Teacher	Emmet Co.



We had the following separate employment in the month of February:

Family Development Specialist	Webster Co.
Custodian	Emmet Co.
Food Service Personnel	Milford

Operations Director– T.J. Thayer

As we move into January the outreach offices start to slow down and can concentrate on catching up on work, cleaning, and entering. The Roosevelt building continues to be a work in progress. Last month they did a check of the fire system at Roosevelt. There were some things that needed to be updated and am waiting to be contacted about getting these issues dealt with. Johnson controls is the company we are working with to correct this issue.

Currently working with Larry from Maxwell's to put in a hood and kitchen items at Roosevelt. In March Al Regelsted is preparing to start the work on developing one of the rooms at Roosevelt into a permanent conference room.

Roosevelt boilers have continued to need some work. Working with Midwestern Mechanical out of Spencer to get things operating correctly.

- Midwestern Mechanical walk through at Roosevelt
- Filled position for Outreach float for Emmet and Dickinson County
- Housing trust board meeting
- Safety Committee meeting
- Bids for kitchen work at Roosevelt
- Continued conversations about conference room at Roosevelt
- Brought into the conversation about new key fobs for a number of UDMO locations.
- Worked with Jasa Tree Service out of Estherville to take down a tree and trim a couple others.
- I continue to be available for staff at outreaches on food days.





Current projects:

Head Start phone upgrades and replacements at Jefferson, Gingerbread and Roosevelt have all been completed. The security pieces are nearing completion with staff training being scheduled asap. These Head Start locations and Central office now have the ability to transfer calls back and forth via extension numbers as well as direct dialing staff at each location without incurring long distance calls.

LiHeap desktop computers are being scheduled for this month with plans for completion by the end of March.

We have had two meetings with the students working on updating the web page since January and they are making progress. We are hoping to meet with them one more time in March so they can give us a tutorial on how to continue to make changes and updates to the new site. Kayla and I plan to continue working on the site through the summer and are hoping to have it ready for viewing in the fall.

WIC computer updates: Updating software is monitored weekly and updates are completed on non-clinic Fridays.

Computer recycling is on going and we are currently waiting for a delivery date from our recycler due to Covid and his staffing availabilities.

Staff support calls and e-mail requests arrive daily and are addressed as they are received.

Please remember to share our Twitter presence with as many interested parties as you can: @UDMO_CAA

Our Board packet is now being delivered to board members via an FTP site that we are hosting. Board members will receive an email each month letting them know when the packet has been posted and supplying them with the link to access it. That link is: <https://pydio.udmo.com:8082/pydio/>

FaDSS-Alisa Schlieff - Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista and Pocahontas

February 2021

Numbers Served

Number of Families Served:

for February 2021 72 families

Year to Date Families Served:

July 1 ,2019 to February 28, 2020: 111 families

Current Changes

Current Changes in Program/Services

Current Changes in National and/or State Trends

No changes

Current Events:

Maggie, a single mom, recovering mentally and emotionally from a domestic violent relationship was struggling, was trying to put her life back in order. Once a mom who worked as an RN and enjoyed that line of work, had been out of workforce for a while due to burnout, raising her kids, and trying to get her mental health back on track. FaDSS encouraged Maggie to get her resume put together and to start putting herself out there. Maggie soon discovered after entering therapy that she was a person of worth and became employed as an RN again. FaDSS encouraged Maggie to advocate for herself every chance she got and now Maggie is self-sufficient and is working in career that she loves!

Becky Carlin- CACFP In Home Daycare Monitor

Things are going well. I currently had 52 homes participate in February. I signed a new provider this month that will start claiming children on March 1. I also have a provider returning March 1 from Maternity leave. Those numbers will be reflected next month. I am actually in the middle of my State Audit right now. Completion day scheduled for tomorrow.

CACFP In-home Providers served the following in February:

Breakfast: 5555

Lunches: 5612

Snacks: 7073



Counties: Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista and Pocahontas

February 2021

Families for February 2021	49
Families served for October 1, 2020-February 28, 2020	70
Families exited from the program for February 2021	11
Families exited from the program Oct 1, 2020-February 28, 2020	30
Families that were assisted that are not currently working with SAIL	14



Mitch and his girlfriend were involved in a domestic. They decided that they could not live together any longer. She left their home. Mitch reached out to the Outreach for some help. They referred Mitch to the SAIL program. When I first met Mitch he was working part time at HyVee as an online shopper. He was behind with his rent and was looking for a full time job. I referred Mitch to our Housing Director and she was able to keep Mitch in his home. I started to send Mitch job lists, he didn't even realize that HyVee had openings for full time employment, he applied for the full time night stocker position and got the job. We worked on his budget and looked at his past due bills. He was able to apply for LiHEAP and this helped him get caught up on his utility bills. Working full time he was able to catch up and pay his monthly bills. (This took a couple months) Mitch's car needed some repairs, we were able to apply for Embrace Iowa and get his car repaired. The job is going well and Mitch has become self-sufficient. Mitch is seeking a better paying job, after realizing that he wants more out of life. He is even considering taking some classes at Iowa Lakes Community College.

When I first met Paula, she had had heart surgery and had no income coming in. She wasn't sure when she would be able to return to work. We were able to apply for SNAP and Medicaid, she received both. Paula utilized the Outreach for food and received LiHEAP. Paula was able to return to work fulltime, after eight weeks. She is no longer receiving services and has become self-sufficient. UDMO was able to help Paula through the healing process and stand on her own.

Housing Report-Kim Motl Housing Coordinator



Housing Report February 2021

ESG:

Homeless Prevention: 1 Households and 2 Individuals

Rapid Re-Housing: 1 Household and 2 Individuals

Homeless Prevention Cares: 7 Households 23 Individuals

Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing Cares: 2 Households 2 Individuals

TBRA:

2 Households and 5 Individuals

Success Story

During the point in time count I met Anthony on the streets. A few days later he reached out to us and we started with the assessment and placed him on the pull list. He was pulled and we began working with him, he found a landlord that was willing to rent to him and also offer him some employment. We were able to use Rapid Re-housing and help with two months' rent and a deposit. He is also working with the SAIL program and with that help was signed up for housing and food stamps. It does take a Village to help house individuals. We have hired Brenda Collier to work part time housing and we will begin the training process.

Enrollment & Disabilities: Head Start continues to maintain full enroll with 176 Early Head Start and 306 Head Start children. Last month we had two more children qualify for special education services bringing our total to 44 children out of our targeted 48 children.

Grants:

Covid Carry Over Grant will be submitted.
1303 Carry Over Grant will be submitted.



What's Happening:

Recruitment for the 2021-2022 school year is in full swing.

Accepted 140 children who were enrolled in HS this year and will repeat next year.
Accepted 110 children who were enrolled in EHS this year and will be again next year.
If you know of any children please refer them to your local Head Start center!

Head Start's Annual Self-Assessment:

Virtual Services

Center Base – The number of families who have chosen to receive services virtually are:

EHS – 2 out of 56 children

HS – 9 out of 306 children

Home Base – all families are served through the use of technology as Home Base Teachers are not going into family's homes due to Covid.

Compassion Flights: Where Hope Grows Wings

Head Start child benefits from Compassion Flights to get to Iowa City for palette surgery.

Years ago, a farmer in Hampton, Iowa passed away and left his land for the purpose of helping people. Part of the land was sold in order to purchase a small airplane. Ongoing flights and expenses are supported through pancake breakfasts and other donations.

The family is very grateful for this service and really appreciate Head Start & Compassion Flights willingness to get them connected.

Tami Meendering– Interim WIC Director



Numbers served: During the month of February, our participation was 1875 active clients.

Local happenings: WIC has returned back to clinic for face-to-face appointments with all new participants and recertification requirements. We will continue our COVID screenings and if any participant feels uncomfortable with the face-to-face option, they will be offered a virtual appointment as long as the waiver is in place. The waiver goes through May 20, 2021 at this time. We will continue to reassess the conditions to determine best practice to protect both the participant and the staff.

Current changes in national and/or state trends: (This information is obtained from NWA Weekly Update)

the House passed the American Rescue Plan, comprehensive COVID-19 public health and economic relief proposed by the Biden-Harris Administration. The House bill includes \$880 million in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), including \$490 million to enhance benefits for four months and \$390 million in outreach, innovation, and program modernization funding.

Kommunity Involvement Development and Support (KIDS)- Jessie Hansen



For February, we have continued to provide services virtually due to COVID-19. I have been out of the office on Family Medical Leave due to my 8-year-old son being diagnosed with Leukemia the middle of February, so we are taking precautions including those to prevent getting COVID-19.

Robin Montgomery, previous KIDS Worker who retired, was brought back on board to help me out on a temporary basis in order to continue to provide services to families. I am very thankful and grateful to her and the outpouring of support from UDMO. With regards to families, a number of families continue to struggle with mental health and telehealth services,

KIDS Continued:

developmental needs with regards to their children, and having adequate resources. We continue to work with community partners and programs within UDMO to help families during this time.

I continue to work on the Parent Forum that is scheduled to take place on April 7th, 2021 from 1PM-4PM. We had one meeting already with Prairie Lakes AEA and have scheduled a follow up meeting in March with the parents who have volunteered to help with this event. Shakira will update the group in her report as far as the group parent education Positive Behavior Intervention and Support meetings as necessary. That's all for now. Thank you.

Hand in Hand – Shakira Meyer

Month to month tasks continue, including Community of Practice Zoom meetings with Kristen Tenney-Blackwell, Monthly Director CARE meetings, child abuse prevention council meetings, oversight of the Clay County Citizen's Awareness Council Youth Activity and Car Repair Grants, and preparations for the Family Life Awareness Council virtual training coming in April.

We began the 6-week Positive Solutions for Families/Parents as Teachers Zoom training. Efforts are underway to schedule an evening or weekend Zoom series to make the training available to additional families. A limited number of face to face visits at child care centers have been done the past month as programs are opening up. Programs across the area are facing challenges with behaviors due to many factors including: recent staff turnover, staff not trained in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, limited toys, games and activities in the classrooms as a part of COVID mitigation measures, inconsistent routines of children and staff who are out periodically due to illness, etc. Emphasis with services will focus heavily on the base of the pyramid, relationships and environments. I do hope to be able to again offer face to face PBIS training in partnership with Child Care Resource & Referral.

Kayla McKinney-Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting

FY21 Foundation Grants:

Grants Submitted: 13

Grants Awarded: 8

Grants Denied: 0

Grants Pending: 5

Submitted Northwest District Hunger Grant. This is for food pantries in Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas. Funding provided is determined by the amount of donations the Ministry received.

Submitted Emmet County Foundation Grant. Wrote for \$3000 for the Birthday Room.

Submitted a grant through Tyson. Tyson approached Alisa Schlieff and Jamey Whitney about doing a collaboration for a year. If Tyson approves our request of \$25,000, our SAIL program will work with Tyson employees.

Met with Head Start to go over ideas for a recruitment video to put on social media and the webpage. Also met with Head Start to go over self-assessment of the community assessment. It was determined what new information needs to be added to be in compliance with the Head Start Performance Standards.

Attended ROMA Subgroup meeting. The FY2022 CSBG Grant will be due in June.

Attended a webinar on Organized Knowledge is Power: Tips for Data Aggregation and Visualization.

Upcoming projects:

Agency's Strategic Plan

Bayer Grant Report

Annual Report

Prepare for CSBG Organizational Standards On-site Review

FY2021 CSBG 6-month Report

FY2022 CSBG Grant Application

NCRT Coursework

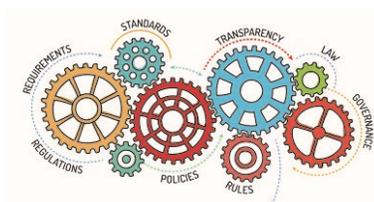
Pocahontas County Foundation Report

Sheldon United Way Grant

Food Bank of Iowa Grant

Zion Lutheran Grant

O'Brien Foundation Grant



Weatherization-Kyle Dietrich**“Weatherization Report for February 2021”****Number of Families Served in February 2021: 8****Number of Families Served in FY 2021: 17****Goal for 2021: 110 Homes****Weatherization Update:**

The Weatherization Department in February we had another great month, with 8 homes accomplished. We would still like to keep that number of 10 homes per month. We are currently in the process of still trying to bring on one or more contractors to assist with this. We have 30 plus homes that are in process. Just need more contractors so that we can keep the completion of homes to 10 homes plus a month. This should be much more attainable with 1 or 2 more insulation contractors working for our agency. I have had a couple of contractors that seemed interested and I sent them the necessary information on what our program requires from them, but nothing yet on if they want to commit. Until then we will continue to push hard and create results and effectively assist our clients with their energy needs on their homes in our 17 county area that we serve.

Up-Coming Events:**Event: (None at this Time.)****Location:****Date:****Shelly Charapata – Energy Program Director**

For February, Outreach took and processed 286 applications for Liheap and of that number 269 were eligible for a total spent of \$129,180. Year to date, Outreach has approved 4,358 applications for a total spent of \$2,072,280. Last year at this time Outreach had approved 4,961 applications, so we are behind 603 applications. Numbers are down State wide, per State.

The average Liheap payment is \$476. Last year at this time our average payment was \$468. Points this year are worth \$40. Last year at this time points were worth \$40.

Since receiving funding, Peg makes payments monthly now and applications are paid through 2/20/2021. We are still waiting on the final 10% of our appropriation.

Kristy has sent out news releases to radio stations, newspapers and Facebook to advertise about Liheap.

For February, 38 households received Crisis Cares assistance in the amount of \$18,545.50. Year to date 480 households have received crisis assistance for a total spent of \$243,807.41.

UDMO's CARES contract will be for \$228,859 for crisis funding. We have spent all of the Cares funds! We are now utilizing our Regular Liheap Crisis funds, called (ECIP) Energy Crisis Intervention Payment.

Crisis money can be spent all on all the crisis components:**Reconnect up to \$1,000****Service Continuity up to \$1,000 (not utilizing until closer of Moratorium ending April 1)****Deposits for heat and/or electric up to \$500****Out of fuel/or help pay a propane/fuel oil back bill up to \$500****Space heaters as a last resort up to \$300****Summer Cooling for fans or air conditioners up to \$350 for a/c (this ended on 9/30/20.)****Furnace Repair/Replacement for Homeowners Only. Replacement up to \$3,000 (this started on 10/1/20.)**

Thank you very much to everyone in Outreach, FaDSS, Sail, Peg, Kristy and Sue for all the time spent and hard work for the LIHEAP program. I know everyone is very busy and working very hard.



**February 2021 Outreach Report for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola,
Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster & Wright.**

By: Jamie Flugstad

Buena Vista

Happenings:

We have quite a few people calling for energy assistance and housing assistance.

We have plenty to get ready for our food pantry every week on Friday starting at 7:30 a.m. We get donations every day from Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Walmart. We also get plenty of donations from schools and businesses in the county.

We have the Kiwanis Food Pantry the 4th Wednesday of the month and we go to help register the families.

We are so thankful for our volunteers from the high school, our BV volunteers, as well as our regular volunteers

Clay

Happenings:

Continue processing LIHEAP applications.

Clay County Hunger Coalition, Client Safety Team & COVID Task Force meetings via Zoom.

Getting a large number of requests for rent and utility assistance.

Accepting applications for the Gardening Program.

Food Bank delivery.

Farmer to Families food distribution.

Success Story:

In early February, we had a family come into our office that was seeking utility assistance. Mom had recently been let go from her job due to COVID and had fallen behind due to lack of income. After speaking with them, we realized that lack of utilities was not their only issue. They not only had no heat or electricity in their home, but they had no food. Using crisis funds, we were able to get their utilities reconnected and we provided them with a food pantry. In addition, we set up a LIHEAP appointment to assist them with the bill going forward. Our assistance will help mom get back on track and give her the hand up needed to become self-sufficient again. She is currently interviewing for jobs. – Dawn Dahm, Clay County Outreach

Dickinson

Happenings:

Jolene Egertson started back in our office. It's so nice to have her here!

We have all of the shelving up and getting it stocked with all of our wonderful donations. It's a nice feeling getting the pallets out and food up on the shelves.

LIHEAP applications continue to come in, but it has slowed a bit.

We continue to pick up donations from Kwik Star every other Wednesday.

We receive donations from Walmart on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday each week.

We continue to have donations being dropped off at our office from individuals and from local businesses.

Emmet

Happenings:

Emmet and Dickinson County Outreach offices welcome Jolene Egertson back as an Outreach Specialist.

We have started organizing and rearranging the office and pantry area to help it run smoothly.

We continue to receive LIHEAP applications daily.

We have assisted with some rent applications, furnace repairs and replacements.

We continue to work on the birthday room and hope to get things really moving in the next couple of months.

Hamilton**Happenings:**

LIHEAP applications continue to come in.
 Multiple requests for rent and utility assistance.
 Calls are coming in for water heater replacements and furnace replacements & repairs.
 Received the Enhance Hamilton County Grant of \$2,000 to put towards the purchase of back to school supplies.
 St. Thomas Catholic School donated non-food items and Friends Forever donated food.

Happenings:

Work on LIHEAP applications when we have all the paperwork.
 Thank you notes written for donations received.
 Crisis: Rent, utilities, and food as they call us.
 Coats for kid's totes put away in the basement.
 Clean and organize back room – birthday bag shelves, quilts, office supplies and miscellaneous stuff.
 Food pantry was open from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. on four Thursdays this month.
 Birthday Bag Program – Letters sent out & bags put together for youth to pick up.
 Received the Humboldt Hospital Annual Food Drive at the pantry.
 Received Liguria Foods donation of salami for the food pantry.

O'Brien**Happenings:**

LIHEAP is still going.
 A lot of crisis.
 Donations are still coming into O'Brien weekly, which is great!

Osceola**Happenings:**

COVID-19 precautions.
 Processing LIHEAP. Assistance to those in need for LIHEAP and utilities.
 Food stamp applications were requested from clients to apply.
 Household items donated from Sibley Rotary.

Palo Alto**Happenings:**

Still receiving donations.
 Sending and receiving applications for LIHEAP.

Pocahontas**Happenings:**

Continue to work on LIHEAP.
 Awarded the Pocahontas County Foundation Grant to use for the baby room.

Webster**Happenings:**

Kristen Hall has started her Outreach position in Fort Dodge.
 Going over last year's LIHEAP list and calling ones who have not applied yet this year to see if they would like to

Webster Continued:

Several donations have come in of baby clothing for the baby room thanks to Malerie M, an anonymous donor, and Secrets in Moorland.

Thank you to Nedra C. for the donation of frosting for the birthday room and some towels.

Ongoing monetary donations of \$200 from New Covenant Christian Church and \$300 from Holy Trinity Parish. \$155 donation from Michael & Pam Mclary as a memorial donation.

Elanco had a coat drive again this year. They donated many coats, hats, scarves, and mittens. They went fast during our cold spell.

Target donated 8 boxes of book-bags and lunchboxes. This is awesome for our Back to School Program!

Wright**Happenings:**

LIHEAP continues.

St. John Parish donated \$50 towards general operations.

10 cases of beef sticks were donated from Audra Link the Main Course.

Sister's Homestyle Entrée's donated 100 meals.

Sending rent requests to Kim.

Preparing for the Garden Program.

Numbers Served

Number of Families Served: Buena Vista: 267, Clay: 260, Dickinson: 156, Emmet: 121, Hamilton: 81, Humboldt: 122, O'Brien: 49, Osceola: 33, Palo Alto: 77, Pocahontas: 107, Webster: 439, Wright: 45

Number of Individuals Served: Buena Vista: 801, Clay: 682, Dickinson: 257, Emmet: 284, Hamilton: 214, Humboldt: 251, O'Brien: 113, Osceola: 96, Palo Alto: 140, Pocahontas: 212, Webster: 834, Wright: 114

Year to Date Families Served: Buena Vista: 825, Clay: 735, Dickinson: 448, Emmet: 425, Hamilton: 486, Humboldt: 423, O'Brien: 401, Osceola: 215, Palo Alto: 301, Pocahontas: 339, Webster: 1,950, Wright: 409

Year to Date Individuals Served: Buena Vista: 2,493, Clay: 1,575, Dickinson: 812, Emmet: 961, Hamilton: 1,108, Humboldt: 991, O'Brien: 915, Osceola: 470, Palo Alto: 596, Pocahontas: 751, Webster: 3,916, Wright: 875

Monetary Donations

Buena Vista: \$1,490.00, **Clay:** \$9,920.00, **Dickinson:** \$12,760.00, **Emmet:** \$0.00, **Hamilton:** \$2,235.00, **Humboldt:** \$2,250.00, **O'Brien:** \$13,750.00, **Osceola:** \$60.00, **Palo Alto:** \$1,951.00, **Pocahontas:** \$4,320.00, **Webster:** \$655.00, **Wright:** \$50.00, **TOTAL:** \$49,441.00

