

# UDMO Program Director's Report June, 2022

*Executive Director - Julie Edwards*

## **Upcoming Board Approval Requests:**

**Non-Profit Innovation Fund Grant:** The American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) is releasing an RFP on June 27, 2022 with applications being accepted on a rolling basis through December 31, 2022 or until all funds are awarded. Minimum request is \$500,000 with the maximum award possible \$3 million. A 10% match is required. Applicants may only receive 1 award. Eligible expenses include: construction costs, acquisition, site development, engineering services and architectural services. UDMO is considering application for Outreach improvements including: relocation of offices including renovations to facilitated increased accessibility to services with co-location with other UDMO programs to further enhance access. Through these efforts more families will be aware and have access to program services. If awarded this grant funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended for costs incurred by June 30, 2026

**LIHEAP 22-16 Amendment 1** moved \$1,459,082.84 from Regular Assistance & Assurance 16 into ECIP. This request was made since LIHEAP is over and they will only be using ECIP funds now.

**HEAP Weatherization Assistance Contract Amendment (HEAP 22-16 Amendment 4)** received approval for a Special Project Knob & Tube (K&T) for the amount of \$2,860 which increases the new contract total to \$1,473,687.00.

**FADSS-PEAF 22-16** Amendment increases the budget by \$4,232.

**FADSS 22-16 Amendment 4** increases the overall program to \$293,041 by increasing the travel budget by \$2,000. This is being allocated for the additional travel expenses incurred by the program as staff have been transferring families from Lutheran Services in Iowa to UDMO.

**FADSS 22-16 Amendment 5** updated travel to accommodate increased costs. Original amount was \$8,410. \$4,554 was taken from the line item budget of "Other" and moved to "Travel". The new total for travel is \$12,964. FADSS grant total is still \$293,041.

## **Other Agency News:**

**Water Donation:** Humboldt Hy-Vee and Fareway quickly responded to Dakota City's recent water boil alert. Once the crisis passed Dakota City generously donated the remaining bottled water to Outreach for distribution to clients. Bruce Reimers was instrumental in getting the donated water to Outreach. Thank you, to all who made this happen!

**Head Start Federal Review:** OHS report was positive with no deficiencies or findings. Next month Irene Mayland, Early Childhood Program Director, will give more detail.

**WIC:** Mid-Sioux was the successful recipient of the WIC grant. UDMO is participating in transitional activities including discussions with Mid-Sioux regarding the potential of the future for WIC employees.

**Weatherization Program Notice 22-02:** Weatherization Readiness Funds will be held by DCAA in a distribution pool to sub-grantees on a case-by-case basis. Sub-grantees will submit an application requesting WRF. Cost is limited to \$15,000 per home and sub-grantees are encouraged to use any other available funds to supplement WRF. Landlords will be required to contribute a 50% of the costs before readiness funds will be used for rental properties. If the landlord is unwilling the house will be deferred. WRF funds must result in a weatherization completion and cannot be used in conjunction with infrastructure funds.

**Weatherization Program Notice 22-03:** This notice changes the allowable amount charged for support on an incomplete home from \$200 to \$500 effective July 1, 2022.



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## Executive Director-Continue

**Office of Head Start Liquidation Extension:** Regional Office approved an extension of \$487,092 for obligations incurred. The outstanding obligations are for renovation projects at Roosevelt in Estherville which have been delayed, including a kitchen hood installation and a new roof.

**WIC Grant Notice:** Unfortunately, UDMO did not receive the WIC grant for our service area. Mid-Sioux was the recipient and we look forward to partnering with them to provide WIC services.

**Roosevelt Playgrounds:** Both playgrounds have been completed so please stop by and see the beautiful new addition to our site.

**Strategic Planning:** Community Action Agencies are required to develop a three to five-year strategic plan with adaptive strategies to better position the agency to reduce poverty. The plan is the result of a comprehensive process, inclusive of stakeholder engagement and participation including clients, governing board, funders, collaborative partners, and staff.

The process is being facilitated by Tiffany Keimig, Director of Training and Technical Assistance from the Iowa Community Action Agency. At this point, the committee has reviewed the most recent Strategic Plan, walked through the planning process, gathered data the agency currently collects, identified additional data needed and discussed UDMO strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats. Currently, a comprehensive survey is being conducted regarding these same topics plus what practices UDMO should start, stop and continue.

The next Committee meeting will be Monday, July 27 9am-1pm in the Graettinger Conference Room. Board members are encouraged to join in-person or virtual. [Please contact Dawn at dhoffman@udmo.com](mailto:dhoffman@udmo.com) if you are planning to join.

**Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee:** UDMO is an equal opportunity employer and programs have regulations regarding diversity, equity and inclusion, so this committee of volunteer staff and Governing Board Members have come together to focus on 10 areas: recruitment, selection, orientation/onboarding, engagement, internal mobility, performance succession position, salary, retention & exit, plan and prioritize accountability.

The committee has been meeting for a short time and have focused on the recruitment of employees by examining advertising.

**Action taken:**

- Enhanced Indeed advertising resulting in additional, high quality applicants being hired.
- In the process of adding Instagram & Tweeter advertising for open positions.
- Ads are now including descriptions of skills sought and major duties of the position.
- UDMO Employee application updated to reflect practices and information needed.

The committee will continue to be attentive to recruitment, but has started work on two survey's that will provide UDMO feedback on what is going well and what needs to be improved on. The Exit Survey is utilized when an employee leaves UDMO and the committee is creating a new Stay Survey. UDMO leaders want to know why employees are opting to stay so as to continue those practices and also what areas are concerning to employees so UDMO can see if changes can be made too.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 17 at 9:30-11:00am in the Graettinger Conference Room. If employees would like to join please contact your supervisor. Board members are encouraged to contact Dawn at [dhoffman@udmo.com](mailto:dhoffman@udmo.com) if you are planning to join.

**Payroll Changes:** UDMO listened and responded to employee requests. We are excited to report two major changes.

**Bi-monthly Pay:** Historically, UDMO has paid employees one time per month. Starting in June 2022 UDMO has now implemented a bi-monthly payroll.

**Paylocity:** In January 2023, UDMO will fully implement a mobile fiscal and HR system that will allow each department increased efficiency. Employees will benefit with access to these systems through their mobile phone! There will be a few months of work completed behind the scenes as Fiscal and HR work with the Paylocity Implementation Team to transfer information to the new system. Supervisors and staff will receive training prior to entry in December.

**Annual Report 2021:** Each year, UDMO compiles a listing of its accomplishments for the previous calendar year, detailing the programs administered, services provided, clients served, and additional quantitative and qualitative data on the agency's operations. UDMO's Annual Report for 2021 will be released in June at UDMO.com. Governing Board members will receive their copies in the board drop box and at the agency's Annual Dinner.

**Annual Dinner & Recognition:** On Tuesday, June 28, UDMO will host an Annual Dinner & Recognition at the Shores in Emmetsburg for Board members and program directors. The event will consist of: Board business, dinner, a Year in Review and Recognition of Board members.



**Update:**

In the month of May, I have been working with staff on home visit observations, evaluations, and professional development hours. The Prevent Child Abuse Iowa conference was held virtually in May and there was a lot of great information provided.

I completed Allana’s evaluation this month, and if you see her congratulate her for being with the KIDS Program for a year! In addition, we hired a new staff, Bailey Vant Hul who will be replacing Hope Paez and providing services in Clay, Dickinson and O’Brien Counties. Hope is scheduled to retire at the end of June. Bailey will start at the beginning of June training. One barrier that we may face is interpretation services. I have ordered three translation devices that we will be utilizes for clients that have primary languages other than English.

We continue to receive referrals on an on-going basis and are looking at caseloads for both new staff and current staff. On average, full time staff have a caseload of 18 families. This will be an on-going evaluation process.

Donna Tonderum, other fiscal staff and I have begun to plan for end of the year expenditures as well as looking at budgets. We will continue to discuss options for utilizing the rest of the funding to the best of our ability.

There were some challenges with the 1<sup>st</sup> Five grant. Initially, we applied for the grant and were not awarded due to missing the point cut off by a very, very slim margin. It was put out again for competition for those areas with no awards. We were prepared to submit the 1<sup>st</sup> Five grant again, however the entire grant was rescinded. It has not been reissued as of the end of May, early June. But we are hopefully that when it is eligible to for applications, we will resubmit.

Becky Carlin– CACFP In Home Daycare Sponsor

All 53 providers submitted claims for reimbursement in May, including the provider that had not been eligible to claim meals because her registration (license) had expired 2/28/2022. She did send me a copy of her renewed license indicating no lapse in coverage, so I was able to submit late claims for March and April and reimburse her for both months as well as collect the additional admin dollars.

Of these 53 providers I know I am losing 2 in May, 1 in July, 1 in August and 1 in September. That puts me at 48 providers. These are just the ones that I currently know about.

June 30<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching which means that all previous tier 2 providers that have been receiving tier 1 rates for the last year will be returning to tier 2 rates on July 1 and not happy about it. This change will affect approximately 15 of my remaining 48 providers. A few will maybe be able to qualify for Tier 1 via Income. The rest not so much. This truly is a state-wide issue, but USDA is not budging.

Tier rates are as follows:

Meals	Tier 1	Tier 2
Breakfast	\$1.40	\$0.50
Lunch/Supper	\$2.63	\$1.58
AM/PM Snacks	\$0.78	\$0.21

Providers are reimbursed 2 meals and 1 snack or 2 snacks and 1 meal per child per day. Tier determination is based on School, Census or Income. Schools qualify for Tier 1 if the district is above 50% free or reduced meals. Census is determined by using a frac map. Income is determined by the provider qualifying. If a provider does not qualify, I can send out income verification forms to each of the parents to see if any of them would qualify by income. The provider would then be paid tier 1 rates for all qualifying families and tier 2 rates for anyone not qualifying.

CACFP In-home Providers served the following meals in May:

Breakfast: 6,601  
Lunches: 6,664  
Snacks: 8,085  
Suppers: 205  
Total Meals Served: 21,555



Holmes Murphy did an internal compliance audit review. We were not out of compliance on anything, but there were a few items that needed to be tended to. Most of the updates have been completed at this point. We are just waiting for CHI to sign, so UDMO can sign and return. Overall, it went very well!

Summer insurance letters with premiums due went out to all Head Start staff before they went on summer break.

HR worked with payroll to change settings, formulas, premiums, etc. in our HR and Payroll systems in preparation of moving to semi-monthly payroll June 1, 2022.

HR continues to actively participate on the Wellness & Safety committee as well as the DEI committee. Lots of great things in the works to look forward to!

We wrapped up the Elevate Wellness challenge on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We had 71 employees enroll in the challenge and 52 successfully completed the challenge. All those that successfully completed the challenge (logging 720 activity minutes) will receive a wellness t-shirt. We are looking forward to growing that enrollment number even more in the future!

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

ECP Coordinator	Storm Lake
Home Based Teacher	Storm Lake
Interpreter	Estherville
Food Service Personnel	Milford

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

Assistant Teacher	Estherville
EHS Teacher x2	Spencer
Behavior Specialist	Storm Lake



**Housing Report April 2022– Tanya Thelen Housing Services Coordinator**

May was another busy month! 15 households (34 individuals) were assisted.

**ESG:**

**Homeless Prevention: 5 Households and 8 Individuals**  
**Rapid Re-Housing: 2 Households and 5 Individuals**

**TBRA:**

**8 Households and 21 Individuals**

The ERA 2 project is underway.

We are actively participating in housing meetings in 2 of our counties - Webster and Clay. This collaboration has brought valuable connections to other individuals, agencies and resources. It is hoped that through these efforts even more resources will continue to become available to help with the fight against homelessness.

Iowa Finance Authority will be onsite at Central for a housing monitoring visit on June 22, 2022.

Individuals continue to be added to the rental assistance waiting list weekly. As of June 16, 2022 there are 52 households on the prioritization list. Individuals on the Coordinated Entry List (from call center) not eligible for UDMO housing services are referred to other programs available through outreach. Anyone in need of rental assistance should be directed to contact the call center at: **1-833-739-0065**.



**T.J Thayer -Operations Director-**

The Roosevelt playground has been completed and looks great. Grell Roofing has started on the roof and it is moving along nicely. The hood installation should be starting in June, most of the equipment has been delivered. Still waiting on supplies for the boiler roof and boiler room to complete that project.

- Safety meeting
- Meeting with Julie
- Onsite work with playground install
- Strategic planning
- Directors meeting
- Housing Trust Board meeting
- Meeting with architect
- Roosevelt classrooms planning



**Weatherization Report for May 2022 -Kyle Dietrich**

**Number of Families Served in May 2022: 7**

**Number of Families Served in FY 2022: 29**

**Goal for 2022: 110 Homes**

**Weatherization Update:**

The Weatherization Department for the month of May we completed 7 homes. We are still in the process of recruiting more insulation contractors so we can meet our demands and future demands with the new infrastructure bill coming in the future. The infrastructure bill looks like it has been pushed further down the road than originally anticipated, it maybe in December when we see this money, but looking that October 1st will be when we can see the State Plan and what is expected of us in October. Then at that time we will know better moving forward what is expected and new work standards that we will be implementing. So, at this time it will be a recruiting game and a waiting game, but we will continue to keep moving forward to stay ahead of the curve.

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:**

**Time:**

**Attendees:**





**Happening/Meetings:**

Strategic Planning Meetings  
Safety & Wellness Meetings  
Continued with High Impact Leadership Training  
FaDSS Spark Committee  
Outreach/FaDSS/SAIL Meeting  
Attended FaDSS DEI Meeting  
Head Start Board Meeting  
Equity Training  
FaDSS Coordinator Meeting  
FaDSS Council Meeting  
Housing Meetings in Clay County



**May 2022**

Number of Families Served: for May 2022 62 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1 ,2021 to May 31, 2022: 120 families

**Success Story:** Nessa came into FaDSS as a single mom raising one of her two sons on her own. She was struggling to make ends meet but had a strong ambition to get herself into a place of being able to provide for her family. Nessa's older child had gone to see his father for a visit and due to them not having a custody agreement in place, he moved the child out of state and Nessa has been trying to find a way to get him back in her life. She started working a full-time job which took her off FIP and FaDSS continued to work with her through transition to ensure we could link her with any and all services through our agency such as Christmas gifts, school supplies, funds to help purchase some needed new appliances and more. She worked hard to make her new wages push her forward to cover all bills and when things got tough to balance, FaDSS was able to step in to help with a month's rent and budgeting so that she could stay on track herself. Nessa is now off FIP, off housing assistance and receiving minimal food stamps due to her income. She is working to figure out a way to get herself a more reliable vehicle and at exit, FaDSS had tried connecting Nessa with a few resources in the state where her son is living now to see if they could help her set up visitation to be shared with his father.

**SAIL-Alisa Schlieff**

**Counties: Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien, Osceola, Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista and Pocahontas**

**May 2022**

Number of Families Served: for May 2022 22 families

Year to Date Families Served: October 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022: 66 families

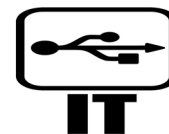


**Success Story:** Samantha has been having troubles getting a job. She speaks and writes Spanish, she speaks English but cannot write it or read it. She has had several interviews but when they find out that she is not able to read instructions or communicate with English they do not hire her. Samantha really needs a job to pay her bills and support her family. UDMO was able to get her signed up for Medicaid, SNAP and housing. I told Samantha about the programs at ILCC that could help her with her HiSET and English as a second language. We called and set up a meeting with the instructor. Samantha went to the meeting and they were working on a plan to get her HiSET and then her English classes. At the end of the meeting the instructor asked if she was interested in a custodial position at the college. She filled out the application and went through the interview process and got the job. She will get her HiSET and English class after working full time. She is excited about her future. Samantha has become self-sufficient.

Sally and David were referred to me from Housing. They had been homeless for about four months. Housing was able to get them into an apartment and pay their rent for five months. They didn't have any furniture or kitchen items. I referred them to Many Hands Market and Thee Garage Sale plus gave them some things that were donated to UDMO. We applied for SNAP,

Medicaid and Housing. They both needed Social Security Cards, ID's and birth certificates. UDMO paid for the birth certificates. NW Cares gave them \$100 for laundry, being homeless they had a car full of dirty laundry. David has started a new job with a local construction business. Sally continues to look for employment.

Information Technology Board Update-Elisa Umscheid



Current projects:

Microsoft 365: The Infrastructure Grant we were hoping for does not include any funding for technology so this project has been dropped.

SharePoint: While we are not actively pursuing moving to Microsoft 365, cleaning up files, folders and making SharePoint more user friendly is still a goal. This work will continue until complete.

Web Page: I will be starting to sync information from the old site to the new site and I will be working on making sure the new site has the necessary functionality we are looking for. There will be an offline version of the site ready for viewing at the end of the summer.

Antivirus software: Last fall we updated the antivirus software package to a newer version that will allow remote updates to be pushed out. All computers in storage have been updated to the new interface and all computers currently in use are being updated when they connect to the internet and the Antivirus management software. This project will continue until complete.

Delivery times for electronics: Sadly, the supply chain issues look like they are going to continue into the fall of 2022. Computers are typically taking an additional 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Printers are becoming impossible to find with most stock sold out and no re-stocking date indicated. At this time, we are not ordering printers unless they are listed as in stock and we are planning for 8-week delivery on any computers ordered. Additionally, we are trying to adjust our expectations and only order items that are in stock.

Head Start: for the time being Head Start projects have been finished up and there are not any major changes on the horizon. There are a few WRAP computers that are on order and we expect those to be delivered by the end of the month.

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 pickup date from our recycler.

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/>



A final Liheap payment was made in May. Total amount spent for FY22 - \$3,501,576. Total of households approved for FY22 is 5,235 and total of households denied is 294. Last year for FY21, total amount spent was \$2,468,380 and total of households approved was 5,281 and 212 households were denied.

**The last day to apply for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) was April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, if someone did not apply for Liheap and is in a crisis situation, person can apply for crisis assistance. We call this Crisis Only Applications.

For May, 280 households received Liheap-21 ARPA Crisis funds in the amount of \$179,451.41. Year to date, 1,091 households received crisis for a total spent of \$769,043.16. 195 households received LIHWAP Crisis funds in the amount of \$18,344.63. Year to date, 1,655 households received LIHWAP crisis for a total spent of \$191,979.74.

We are working on a new Crisis component, called LIHWAP (Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program). There are 2 different funding levels for this. LIHWAP-21 CAA and LIHWAP-21 ARPA. We will be using the LIHWAP-21 CAA first. Once this has been expended then we will be issued LIHWAP-21 ARPA funding. This Crisis program will help to pay a person's arrearage or disconnected bill for water and/or waste water. This is a pilot program and currently only authorized through September 2023. This started in October, 2021. Our contracted budget amount is \$362,995.

We are using LIHEAP-21 ARPA funds for Crisis payments. Crisis payments is called (ECIP) Energy Crisis Intervention Payment.

We are using LIHWAP-CAA-A funds for water/waste water Crisis payments.

**Crisis money can be spent all on all the crisis components:**

**New changes effective Feb. 28, 2022 for Out of Fuel. See below.**

**NEW: Income limits are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. (previously 175%)**

**NEW: Crisis limits have changed. See below.** Households may receive crisis assistance multiple times throughout the year, up to the expenditure limits noted.

**NEW: Subsidized households and heat is included in the rent are eligible for the crisis program. Must have an electric bill to help with a crisis. If Subsidized and both, heat & electric is included in the rent, then NOT eligible for a crisis, because the household has no energy burden. (households were previously ineligible).**

Crisis money can be spent all on all the crisis components.

**Furnace Repair/Replacement up to \$4,000 (previously \$3,000) Homeowners Only!**

**Reconnect up to \$3,000 (previously \$1,000)**

**Service Continuity up to \$3,000 (previously \$1,000).** To pay a propane/fuel oil back bill so vendor will deliver new fuel, can use Service Continuity.

**Deposits for heat and/or electric up to \$500 – need something from vendor stating the amount of the client's heat and/or electric deposit scanned into THO. (Stayed the same)**

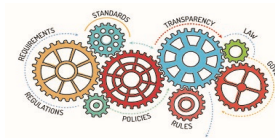
**Out of fuel up to \$1600 (previously \$800). Help paying a propane/fuel oil back bill, before vendor will deliver, use Service Continuity.** Fuel tank must be at or below 30% (previously 20%), or less.

**LIHWAP-21 CAA up to \$2,500 for water/waste water. Must have a breakdown of the bill and Must be up for disconnect or disconnected and MUST have statement showing this.**

**Emergency Summer Cooling for fans/window air conditioning unit up to \$500 (previously \$400)** Verbal declaration from the customer stating medical need for an air conditioning unit is acceptable in lieu of a written statement from a health care provider. The customer will not be required to state the medical situation nor is the agency is to determine whether the medical situation is a justifiable one. If a renter, will need the landlord permission form. (If client received a window air cond. last year, cannot receive one this year.)

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





**Funding Requests:**

<b>Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted and Status as of April 2022</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Submitted/Pending</b>	<b>Awarded</b>	<b>Denied</b>
Emmet County Community Foundation	EM	Coats for Kids		X	
Renaissance Grant	CL	Youth Development – Pool Pass Program			X
Lakes DCAT CPPC	DI, OB, OS	CACFP	X		
Wright County Community Foundation	WR	Back to School		X	
O’Brien County Community Foundation	OB	Youth Development			X
DNR Food Storage	DI	Refrigerator & 2 Freezers		X	
POET	PA	Back to School			X
POET	OS	Food Pantry			X
CCNIA Impact Grant	PA	Accessibility – Parking Lot		X	
Teresa Sterns	HA	Emergency Services	X		

<b>Program Grants Submitted February through May 2022</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Submitted/Pending</b>	<b>Awarded</b>	<b>Denied</b>
FaDSS Grant	All 12	FaDSS		X	
1 <sup>st</sup> Five – The State of Iowa cancelled both statewide RFPs – status of new RFP TBD	CL, DI, OB, OS, EM, PA	KIDS			X
WIC – Grant Notice to Award to be posted May 20, 2022 – postponed Award Announcement to June 9 – See Director or WIC Report for more information	CL, DI, OB, OS, EM, PA, Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee	WIC			X
CSBG FY23 Application – Submitted June 1 with decision from the State of Iowa Department of Human Rights in Summer 2022	All 12	Outreach + Co-funding for HS, SV, SWVPP, WRAP & KIDS	X		

**Capacity Building/Professional Development:**

- ROMA Subgroup Zooms - Ongoing
- ICAA Development/Fundraising Zoom Groups - Monthly
- Emerging Leaders Institute and Training for Excellence (ELITE) – February thru October

**Upcoming or Ongoing projects:**

- UDMO Strategic Planning - Full planning team meetings began in May 2022, all staff survey issued May 25 to gather input, SP goal to have the plan completed by October 1, 2022
- UDMO FY21 Annual Report –Completed – Release June 28, 2022
- Apply for and/or report back on foundation grants as they come due
- Applying for in June –
  - State of Iowa Nonprofit Innovation Infrastructure Grant
  - Dickinson County Endowment Fund Grant
  - United Way
- UDMO CSBG Self-Assessment due September 2022 partnership/MOU updates – ongoing



**Numbers served:** During the month of April, our participation was 1818 active clients.

**Local happenings:** UDMO WIC was not the awardee of the Iowa WIC grant.

WIC staff continue to navigate the formula recall situation from February. Not much has changed at this time regarding the formula recall and formula stock has still been extremely difficult to stay on top of at retailers and we do not know when stock will return to normal at retailers. Participants are encouraged to contact WIC staff regarding formula concerns as well as asking store managers when their next truck is coming or ask if some formula can be set aside.

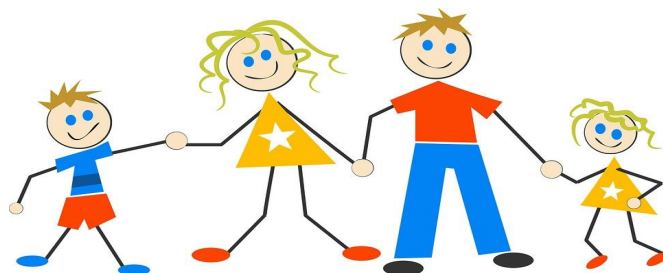
Farmer's Market checks will be available as of June. \$27 per current participant (9 months and older along with being current with the program as of May 2022). We will mail checks to participants unable to pick up at the clinic setting. Checks can be used at the local food vendors this summer.

WIC Cash Vouchers for fresh fruits & vegetables are temporarily being increased to \$24 per month for children, \$43 per month for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$47 for breastfeeding participants monthly from April-September 2022. These are special funds added to the participant's e-WIC card to be used at the local grocery stores.

WIC has returned to normal service delivery in every county. The waiver has expired so all appointments are face-to-face unless the participant has a medical condition that warrants an alternative method with medical documentation.

**Current changes in national and/or state trends:**

“The Senate passed the Access to Baby Formula Act by unanimous consent, following last night’s 414-9 vote in the House of Representatives. The bill now advances to President Biden for his signature.” “This swift, bipartisan action from members in both chambers recognizes the critical role that WIC plays in supporting the nutrition needs of babies. No parent in the United States should have to worry about how they’re going to feed their infant, and WIC - which serves nearly half of all infants born in the country - is a lifeline that provides targeted nutrition support at this most crucial stage of growth and development. This bill, along with the Biden administration’s steps to shore up supply, ensures that the government has even more tools at its disposal to redress the infant formula supply shortages and provide peace of mind for parents across this country.”





**Enrollment:** Head Start continues to maintain full enroll with 176 Early Head Start and 306 Head Start children.

**Disabilities:** A the end of May a total of 47 children have qualify for special education services. 13 EHS and 60 HS which exceeds our 10% mandate of 48 children

**Office of Head Start Grants:**

**COLA grant** submitted for \$76,410 HS and \$60,450 EHS for a total of \$136,860. COLA is a cost-of-living-allowance awarded to staff.

**Quality Improvement grant** submitted for \$15,925 HS and \$13,994 EHS for a total of \$29,919. This funding will practically support the addition of one Education Coach housed in Buena Vista County.

Both COLA and Quality Improvement grants will be added to base funding.

**What's Happening:**

**Temporary EHS Classroom Closures:**

- Storm Lake - Re-opened 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom on 6/8/22**
- Spencer – 1 still closed due to shortage of employees**
- Re-opened 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom on 6/3/22**

**Head Start Classrooms: closed for summer will reopen in August.**

**Acceptance well underway for the 2022-2023 school year.**

- HS acceptance has been completed
- EHS acceptance has been completed
- Registration dates all scheduled and some are completed

**Recruitment still occurring!**

**Calendars for the 2021-2022 School Year are being finalized**

**Unemployment requirements bring changes to Head Start.**

- Head Start employees who receive unemployment must comply with job search requirements or be called back into work once every 4 weeks.
- A new cap on the maximum number of weeks an individual may receive unemployment is 16 weeks per year.
- Changes require mandatory trainings for staff on June 13 & July 11.

**May 2022, Outreach Report for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster & Wright.**

**By: Jamie Flugstad**

**Buena Vista**

**Happenings:**

Thank you to Hy-Vee, Walmart and Fareway for your donations to Upper Des Moines in BV County.  
 Thank you to my volunteers that go to the stores to pick up donations and to my volunteers that come and help me organize all the food so we can do our food pantry every Friday.  
 We had a beautiful donation of turkeys from VT Industries.  
 We are giving vouchers to Fareway for people who are 60 years old or older and that receive social security or disability.  
 We had Kiwanis Food Pantry and served 250 families.

**Clay**

**Happenings:**

Attended Clay County Hunger Coalition Meeting.  
 Hosted Clay County Housing Team Meeting.  
 Attended the Clay CAC Meeting.  
 Assisting many clients with emergency housing and utility assistance.  
 Attended the Clay County Client Safety Team Meeting.  
 Assisted 40 families with Aquatic Center Passes.  
 Working on the Back to School Program.  
 Received large donations from the Kiwanis PB&J Drive & Stamp out Hunger.  
 Distributed Elderbridge Vouchers to seniors.

**Dickinson**

**Happenings:**

Wednesday is Food Pantry day. The number of households attending each week is between 70-80.  
 Non-food pantries were given out this month.  
 Many families/individuals coming in for services.  
 Crisis help with gas, electric, & water bills.  
 Had 4 homeless individuals and a few clients needing rent help that were referred to the Call Center.  
 Increase in the number of parents who used the Birthday Room to pick out a gift for their child.  
 Updating Dickinson County Angel Fund file/binder.  
 Donations from Walmart on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Awesome support on these days from our local volunteers.  
 Referred a number of individuals to the Family Support Coordinator, Penny.  
 Staff attended in person Outreach Meeting at the end of May.  
 Working on the Back to School Program.  
 Outreach manual for Dickinson County is in the process of being updated.  
 Working on starting a 4<sup>th</sup> of July food box to give out on food pantry day at the end of June.

**Emmet**

**Happenings:**

Food Pantry is held every Friday from 10:00-12:00 & 1:00 -3:30. (Memorial Day-Labor Day Thursday 1:00-3:30 and Friday 9:00 – 11:00.  
 We continue to receive food, non-food, and monetary donations.  
 We continue to mail out cards for parents to come and get a gift for their child the month of their birthday. Along with a gift or two they will receive a blanket, cake mix, frosting, candles, plates and napkins, if we have them.  
 Mobile Food Pantry will continue to be held the first Thursday of the month from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
 Continuing to work on LIHEAP and Crisis as they come in.



**Emmet Continued:**

Continuing to get ready for back to school.

**Hamilton****Happenings:**

Providing Crisis/LIWAP assistance for gas, electric, and water disconnects.  
 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and the Boy Scouts Food Drive.  
 Received a \$500.00 donation from First Congregational Church for pool passes.  
 Started taking applications for Back to School, Pool Passes, and Youth Activities.  
 Handing out Elderbridge Fareway food vouchers to seniors.  
 Outreach/SAIL/FaDSS Meeting in Emmetsburg on 5/26/22.  
 UDMO drive thru food pantry was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 – 6:00.

**Success Story:**

Partnering with Fuller Hall to help pay a portion of youth activities for the summer. Using Jorden Leeper Memorial Funds, UDMO can pay 1/3 of a family or youth pool pass, Fuller Hall pays 1/3 and the client pays 1/3. We are also offering discounts for youth softball, baseball, track, tennis, and swim team, which will help keep kids active during the summer months. Families are also able to sign up for back to school supplies as they come in. – Jamie Flugstad, Hamilton County Outreach

**Humboldt****Happenings:**

Food pantry is given out Monday – Friday with help of volunteers.  
 Birthday Bag Program – Letters sent out & bags put together for youth to pick up.  
 Thank you notes written for donations received.  
 LIHEAP appointments and crisis appointments were open.  
 Continue to use the Fiscal System to complete purchase orders, client service vouchers, and cash disbursements.  
 Have a table with garden produce and Hy-Vee bakery items for people to take.  
 Food donations from Hy-Vee are now also being dispersed at the Humboldt Homes for low income families with lesser access to transportation to have access to pastries and bread donations.  
 We received so many great donations from local individuals and businesses for our food pantry.  
 Received and processed monetary donations to both UDMO and the Humboldt County Food Pantry.  
 Crisis appointments continued.  
 Pool pass applications are still available.  
 Back to School Bash planning continues. Processing applications as they come in.  
 Elderbridge food vouchers for seniors are being dispersed.

**O'Brien****Happenings:**

Food Pantry is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
 We continue to receive food, non-food, and monetary donations.  
 We continue to work on the Birthday Room and mail out cards for parents to come and get a gift for their child. Along with a book, stuffed animal, and blanket, they also receive cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, and napkins.  
 Mobile Food Pantry from Paulina, Hartley and Sanborn.  
 Continuing to work on LIHEAP and Crisis as they come in and appointments.  
 Been making appointments for coats, snow pants, snow boots, hats, and gloves for families.  
 Organizing the baby room.  
 Recipe book for food pantry items.  
 Back to School Program applications.  
 Getting ready for the Back to School Bash.  
 New deep freezers for the food pantry and shelves to help organize all the donations and supplies.  
 Continue to outreach all my area businesses to gain relationships to help build UDMO and the Community and members to join the Back to School Bash.



**Osceola****Happenings:**

COVID-19 precautions.

Client's redeeming vouchers during a time of need. Appreciation I hold dear for their generous compliments of how putting them first and taking my time to voice a helping hand to relieve day to day expenses so many now have.

UDMO makes me smile that I represent Osceola and be the talk of the town at the coffee shop.

**Palo Alto****Happenings:**

Still receiving some food donations.

Handling crisis payments for clients.

Handing out back to school applications.

Getting back to school supplies.

**Pocahontas****Happenings**

Working on crisis and disconnects as they come in.

Food pantry is open daily!

Picking up donations from Clay County UDMO and bringing some to Palo Alto UDMO and Pocahontas UDMO.

Accepting back to school apps.

The Elderbridge Fareway/Wood's vouchers have received a lot of positive feedback!

We served 95 families at our May 2022 drive thru pantry.

A total of 1,009.2 lbs. of food was donated in the month of May.

**Webster****Happenings:**

Utility disconnects (MidAmerican and Fort Dodge water) are still being called in. An occasional birth certificate needed and gas vouchers for doctor appointments.

Monetary donations continue to come in monthly. Total of \$1,802.65 this month for the Birthday Room, Back to School, and Client Services.

Planning for the Back to School Bash this year. We will be doing our Bash with the Community Health Center this year. Will be sending out letters for donations of school supplies. Pork Producers back on for pork burgers and Mojo for the DJ. We are really excited to be partnering with the Health Center this year. Lots of exciting things going on.

Farmers Market coups are being done by Elderbridge.

Target donated 22 packages of paper towels and 10 packages of toilet paper. Kristin Hall donated 10 bags of food.

Pat Cahill donated \$50 worth of baby items for the Baby Room. Nicole White donated 30 bags for the Birthday Room and hangers for the Baby Room. Rhonda Smalley donated \$125 worth of food items for our pantry. Lord's Cupboard donated 2 boxes of diapers for the Baby Room.

Becky Harding/I Support the Girls from Ames donated menstrual supplies, bras, underwear, swim wear, and make-up.

Unity Point/Patty Grossnickel donated \$102.65 for the Birthday Room.

1,000 lbs. of pork loins were donated from Prestage, bacon from Webster City Custom Meats and ham slices from Mary Ann's Specialty Foods.

Training for those who needed a refresher or for those who haven't had training from the Food Bank of Iowa.

Drive thru pantry was May 19<sup>th</sup>. Still helping over 200 at least at the pantry for the month and sometimes 100 more at the office. This months total was 293 households.

**Wright****Happenings:**

Fareway donations every day.



**Wright Continued:**

Brown's Shoe Fit (Jerry) donated variety size shoes.

Eagle Grove Post Office donated food and household supplies. Eagle Grove residents set out the stuff by their mail-boxes and they picked up and donated to UDMO and the Eagle Grove Food Pantry.

Thank you cards sent out.

Garden Program went pretty well.

Getting ready for the Back to School Bash.

Pool Passes are ready to go.

Handling disconnect notices and processing crisis as they come in.

Busy with appointments for the food pantry.

**Numbers Served**

**Number of Families Served:** Buena Vista: 134, Clay: 296, Dickinson: 158, Emmet: 159, Hamilton: 125, Humboldt: 102, O'Brien: 77, Osceola: 40, Palo Alto: 74, Pocahontas: 99, Webster: 491, Wright: 84

**Number of Individuals Served:** Buena Vista: 346, Clay: 741, Dickinson: 275, Emmet: 360, Hamilton: 329, Humboldt: 250, O'Brien: 167, Osceola: 73, Palo Alto: 125, Pocahontas: 232, Webster: 998, Wright: 169

**Year to Date Families Served:** Buena Vista: 812, Clay: 802, Dickinson: 523, Emmet: 502, Hamilton: 535, Humboldt: 408, O'Brien: 379, Osceola: 216, Palo Alto: 383, Pocahontas: 363, Webster: 2,217, Wright: 453

**Year to Date Individuals Served:** Buena Vista: 2,332, Clay: 1,712, Dickinson: 931, Emmet: 1,127, Hamilton: 1,225, Humboldt: 908, O'Brien: 841, Osceola: 461, Palo Alto: 752, Pocahontas: 804, Webster: 4,547, Wright: 957

**Monetary Donations**

**Buena Vista:** \$495.00, **Clay:** \$5,000.00, **Dickinson:** \$2,175.00, **Emmet:** \$1,203.00, **Hamilton:** \$625.00, **Humboldt:** \$393.00, **O'Brien:** \$275.00, **Osceola:** \$10.00, **Palo Alto:** \$200.00, **Pocahontas:** \$0.00, **Webster:** \$1,802.65, **Wright:** \$2,625.00, **TOTAL:** \$14,803.65

