

In The Know, UDMO May 2023



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— Submitted photo

Scouts collect items, aid Upper Des Moines Opportunity

Cub Scout Pack 583 of Hamilton County and Boy Scout Troop 17 of Webster City recently hosted a food drive at local grocery stores throughout Hamilton County.

The Scouts collected 1,514 items for Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Webster City, 265 items for the food pantry in Jewell and 166 items for the food pantry in Stratford. With the cash donations received during the food drive, the Scouts went to Fareway and Hy-Vee in Webster City on May 4, and were taught about being thrifty and purchased more items for Upper Des Moines Opportunity.

The picture is from last Thursday, when the scouts went shopping.

For more pictures of the Food drive and the shopping experience, please like us on Facebook at "Webster City Pack 583 Cub Scouts."

If you know of a child that would like to join scouts, please Call Cub Master David Dixon at 315-373-3893, or Assistant Cub Master Zach Stanley at 515-230-4634.

Boy Scout donation for Hamilton County!



A huge thank you to the Milford area Boy Scouts for their donation of 1,302 pounds of food!



Thank you to the Church Women United of Palo Alto County for their donation to our food pantry. It is greatly appreciated!

Executive Director Report by Julie Edwards



Monthly Happenings:

In the past month, my focus has been digging deeper into program struggles with Directors.

- Fiscal Department **Tyler, Chris, Joan & Deb** have done phenomenal transitioning and meeting all the demands!
- **Weatherization** Kyle, Weatherization Director and Chris, Accountant, figured out how to submit monthly report as we had been having technical difficulty in prior months which Elisa, IT Director assisted with. Another example of intense team work in order to solve a problem!
- **Housing** Rural Set Aside grant has increased by \$100,000 for a new total of \$1,591,339 over a three-year period.
- **TBRA 7 Housing grant** in the amount of \$750,000 will be submit by Friday, May 19th. Historically, ICAA wrote and distributed to Community Action Agencies, but this year each agency was required to write their own.
- **Spencer Outreach moved** on May 11 & 12. **Open House** is being arranged for Thursday, **June 29 3:30-5:30**. Hope everyone will come see our new facility!
- **Roosevelt Renovations are staying on schedule!**

Board News:

- **WELCOME RICK RASMUSSEN** as the **NEW VICE PRESIDENT** of the **UDMO Board**. We appreciate your willingness step up and volunteer!
- **Sector 3: Humboldt, Pocahontas, Buena Vista with a background in accounting.**
Apply at **UDMO.com**.
Go to the "About Tab" click on the drop down "Board" for the application.

Next Board Meeting:

- **LIHEAP-23ES-16** UDMO requested an additional \$175,000 for our ECIP budget line. This involved moving \$3,115 from Assurance 16 and \$8115 to Program Support along with \$170,000 to ECIP.
- **LIHWAP-21-ARPA-16 BA3** reallocation of \$230 from ECIP with \$145.34 going to Program Support and the other \$84.66 to Admin. It was also noted that this amendment also corrected a calculation error on BA2 that caused \$2,00 discrepancy in Program Support total.
- **DOE-23-16** New contract for 4/24/23-3/31/24 in the amount of \$479,447.00 for UDMO's Weatherization Program.
- **DOE-BIL-22-16** Updated Amendment 1 added Production funds to the contract. At the time of the contract, UDMO did not have an Admin percentage since we did not yet have production funds, which drives that percentage. So, it was now added to Amendment #1.



Executive Director Continued:

- **ExFiscal Department Updates** including approval of new Fiscal Director.
- **Paylocity annual contract** from January 2024- December 2024 for a total of \$26,544.00.
- **Spencer Outreach Project** financial overview.
- **Roosevelt Project** financial overview.



Counties Served: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Sioux.

CACFP currently has 42 providers. 41 providers claimed for April. I indicated that I lost one provider from last month. Actually, that provider’s license expired 3/31/2023 and she has not received her renewed Registration as of yet. So technically she did not quit, she is on hold until her license renews. The provider that did not claim for April had knee surgery and was out for the month.

I have my first in person, since the pandemic, State Conference in May. So hopefully some of our questions regarding tiering and territories will be answered.

I remain cautiously optimistic.

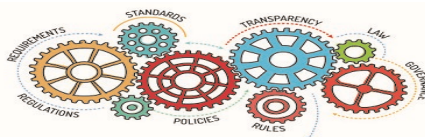
Recruitment efforts are ongoing. CACFP In-home Providers served the following meals in April:

	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>April 2022</u>
Breakfast:	4,941	6,293
Lunches:	5,125	6,364
Snacks:	6,100	8,068
Suppers:	139	251
Total Meals Served:	16,305	20,976



- **Liheap ended on April 30th. Liheap moratorium ended April 1st. This means starting April 1st, vendors can start disconnecting Liheap clients for past due bills.**
- **LIHEAP APPLICATIONS:** For April, Outreach took and processed 164 Liheap applications and of that number 153 were eligible.
 - 11 denied and 0 on pending.
 - Received 8 Online Liheap applications.
 - Total amount to be paid \$68,720.00.
- **YTD TOTALS:** Total applications 5,493. Total approved 5,250. Total amount to be paid \$71,200.00.
- Total amount issued to date \$2,664,400.00
- **Crisis funds called: ECIP-Liheap Supplement-23ES. We have available for crisis with this new contract \$205,802. This was used up in April and we asked for an Amendment of \$170,000 to be put into ECIP/Crisis. This additional fund will be gone soon. State will be deciding if we will receive more ECIP/Crisis funds or if we will receive Supplemental funds. Will know next month on this outcome. LIHWAP ARPA Crisis has also been expended. Will know next month if we will get any additional funds for LIHWAP.**
- **CRISIS:** 243 households received ECIP-Liheap Supplement 23ES Crisis funds in the amount of \$189,765.59. 135 households received LIHWAP ARPA Crisis funds in the amount of \$48,818.59.

Shakira Meyer – Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting



May is Community Action Month!

The Promise of Community Action:

Community Action **changes** people’s lives, embodies the **spirit of hope**, **improves** communities and makes America **a better place to live**.

We care about the **entire community** and we are dedicated to helping people **help themselves and each other**.

The nation’s Community Action network – including 1,000+ Community Action Agencies – are a robust, national, state, and local force, reaching children and families in 99% of America’s counties with life changing services that create pathways to opportunity and prosperity.

Community Action Agencies connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed – including high quality education programs for children, job training for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance for seniors, and so much more.

The need for Community Action has never been greater. Neither has our resolve. We’re challenged to create solutions that don’t just help people stay afloat but build lives of stability, dignity, and, whenever possible, prosperity. And we will rise to that challenge.

Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

UDMO Funding Requests Update:

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted and Status as of May 2023	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Awarded	Denied
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Outreach		X	
Wright County Community Foundation	WR	Special Projects		X	
Spencer Renaissance Grant	CL	Back to School Shoes	X		
Elderbridge	All	CHORE	X		
Sheldon United Fund	OB	Outreach	X		

Program Grants Submitted and Status as of May 2023	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Awarded	Denied
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Jessie Hansen-1st Five Project Director/KIDS Program Director



Services: Partnership between Primary Care Providers and Community partners to support child development in children prenatal up to 5 years of age.

1st Five continues to be making progress in the area. We continue to work through the Signify data system and other required progress reports in Iowa Grants.

In addition, here is what we have accomplished in regards to activities for February:

Focus Area 1: Meeting With Primary Care Physicians

- We provided presentations to Ackley Clinics and O'Brien County
- Received 17 referrals from Webster, Hamilton, Wright, Hardin and Palo Alto Counties
- Planned meetings for Webster, O'Brien, Osceola, Clay, and Palo Alto

Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners

- Meetings with Public Health including Dickinson, Palo Alto, Hamilton, Wright, Webster
- Attended local Prevention Councils including Hardin County Circle of Life
- Be Inspired Program Advisory Council Meeting.

Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families

- Facilitated referrals from providers and followed up with families.

On-going efforts:

- Completed Establish Peer Consultant Contracts with Primary Care Provider in Southern 4/12/2023
- Continuing to work on establishing Peer Consultation Contract Counties-TBD
- Finalize any subcontracts-Completed
- Maintain and establish relationships with providers and community partners
- Update resource directory on an on-going basis and provide service updates
- Provide Continuing Medical Education Credits for physicians
- Training and updates with Developmental Support Specialist Staff
- 1st Five Monthly meetings

Upcoming Changes:

- There have been changes within the 1st Five Logo and prior approval for items that are labeled 1st Five. We are continuing to clarify what needs prior approval and what does not.

KIDS: Continued on the next page.



KIDS Program:

Services: 0-5 family support services in Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien, Emmet, Palo Alto, Kossuth

The month of April seemed to go by rather fast with all of the Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. This included talking to area Board of Supervisors and sending out requests to meet with them in order to inform them of the Child Abuse Proclamation that we would like their support on signing. I am happy to report that Clay, O'Brien, Palo Alto Emmet, and Kossuth Counties all participated in signing proclamations. Articles were written in for the newspapers in Clay and Emmet County regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month. In addition, I completed the 3rd Quarter Reports that were due to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa on April 15th. They were received timely.



We continue to provide in home visits to client in the geographic area. We have continued to receive referrals on a continuous basis. We are looking at caseload capacity as we recently were made aware of the potential to have to complete two visits per month with each family. However, this is for programs that have Early Childhood Iowa funding. We also are beginning to update our Policies and Procedures within the KIDS Program to align with the Iowa Family Support Standards. So staff and I are working through these items to make sure that we are ensuring services are completed in a quality manner.

In addition, we continue to participate in any local and on-line training in order to meet our minimum number of hours of professional development of the year. We are required to have 40 hours of professional development per year. I will also be observing home visitors in the next two months on home visits.



“Weatherization Report for April 2023”

Number of Families Served in April 2023: 10

Number of Families Served in FY 2023: 20

Goal for 2023: 110 Homes

The Weatherization Department for the month of April, completed 10 homes, it was a great month. We also received our DOEBILL22 infrastructure money that we have been waiting for months. It was finally approved by Department of Energy and we received \$438,321. Also, this month we received our regular DOE Funding as well for \$479,477. This is going to be great in assisting our clients in our 17-county area.



We also have been able to bring on another insulation contractor into our program, who will hopefully be able to assist in providing great service to our clients with the extra funding that we will be utilizing in the next 4 years. The staff will be traveling to Spirit Lake June 14th and 15th for our annual IWAC Retreat. This should be a very informative retreat, and a chance to speak with current contractors. 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.



Enrollment:

Head Start continues to maintain full enrollment with 176 Early Head Start students and 306 Head Start children.

Disabilities:

- 14 EHS students on IFSP's being served
- 36 HS students on IEP's being served
- 50 total students being served, which meets the 10% target

Continuing Education

- Head Start CDA TEACH – 6 being support
- Early Head Start CDA TEACH – 4 being supported
- Total CDA's completed- 8 have completed CDA's

TEACH – 2 year or 4 year degree

- Associates degree: 1 completed
- Bachelor's degree: 3 in progress

What's Happening:

- Temporary EHS Classroom Closures:
 - Spencer – 1 closed due to shortage of employees, all students are being served through the home base program.
- Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
- Selection for the 2023-2024 has been completed for all sites and programs.
- All registrations are scheduled for all sites in the month of June.



Birdhouse project at Palo Alto with ILCC students and parents.



Housing Report- Tanya Thelen Housing Services Coordinator



TBRA:

10 Households and 26 Individuals

ERA:

Homeless Prevention: 3 Households and 6 Individuals

Rapid Rehousing: 3 Households and 5 Individuals

I have been busy training staff and keeping up with the rental assistance demand. We are still awaiting the arrival of the contract for the Rural Unsheltered Housing Grant through the Iowa balance of State Continuum of Care. We recently attended an initial meeting with a HUD TA regarding the **new project** and are waiting for more information.

We are currently working on our application for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (**TBRA**) through the Iowa finance Authority.

Housing Staff will be attending the following **upcoming meetings**:

- The Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Annual Meeting at the Ames Public Library on May 18th
- Iowa/Nebraska Homeless Symposium in Des Moines June 13th and 14th
- Housing Iowa Conference in Cedar Rapids September 6th - 8th

We held a **Housing First Training** Meeting in Webster County on May 8th. This was a very informative meeting that helps people understand what it means to follow Housing First practices. We anticipate organizing additional Housing First Training Meetings in the upcoming months.

We are planning and organizing a **Focus Group** meeting in Buena Vista sometime during the month of June. This meeting will help us connect with other service providers in Buena Vista County. This meeting will include those with lived experience who have utilized our Housing Program services. We hope to gain understanding of what works well for our clients as well as what could be improved as they navigate through getting rental assistance in our Region.

Clients in need of rental assistance should call the **Statewide Crisis Line** at 1-833-739-0065 to complete the intake process. The state of Iowa Crisis Line is now reporting same day call backs in most cases. All calls are being returned within 24 hours



Operations Director– T.J Thayer



Roosevelt Building

Kitchen Hood

We have contacted Larry from Maxwell's that the gas has been turned on. He will be in contract with Dullen who will come and get everything fired up and make sure it is all running correctly.

Sprinkler system

Prairie Fire Solutions, LLC has been installing the system. They have completed the gym, auditorium, and the third floor. They are working on the second level now. They have been working with the construction crew well and continue to be moving along well. The water line will be brought into the building next month (June) which should line up perfectly with the progress of the sprinkler guys.

Classroom Remodel

Christensen Construction, UDMO, and CMBA had a meeting recently to discuss progress. Everything is looking really good. Progress has been steady, but have also ran into some issues. The new doors are going to take some creative thinking and design for Christensen's due to type of material they are trying to attach the new door frames to. This is going to be a great place for the EHS children and staff when completed.

Clay County Outreach

Quail Construction will have the building completed on April 14, 2023 by 5pm. Outreach has started moving into the new location. This will be a great upgrade for participants and staff.

Jefferson Head Start

Currently working with Spencer School system as they agreed to pay for the supplies to get the two rooms back to a useable classroom.



Tiffany Harris– HR Director



The following positions have recently been filled:

- Outreach Specialist, Emmet

The following INTERNAL transfers have recently taken place:

- Outreach Specialist to FaDSS Specialist

The following positions have recently separated employment:

- Substitute, Emmet
- HS Teacher, Milford
- HS Teacher, Hartley
- Accountant, Remote/Central Office
- WRAP Coordinator, Spencer
- Outreach Specialist, Emmet/Dickinson
- Education Coach, Storm Lake



HR Tidbits:

- Plan accordingly for your day of work and wear safe shoes! Flip-flops are discouraged!
- When traveling for work purposes, avoid joining zoom meetings and utilize hands free for all calls!



Navigate – Wellness Program Stats:

- Wellbeing Survey: 80 Completed
- Personal Challenges: 8 Completed
- Ramp It Up Challenge: 67 Registered – 20 completed (30%)
- Work Toward Balance Challenge: 72 Registered – 58 completed (71%)

Work Comp Incident Report Recap:

In order to keep our rates from rising, our goal is to provide a safe working environment to keep these incident reports to a minimum and avoid preventable work comp claims.

- January 2023: 9 Incidents Reported
- February 2023: 9 Incidents Reported
- March 2023: 5 Incident Reported
- April 2023: 1 Incident Reported

Staff Comments:

“Thank you for acknowledging our graduates... I have been so happy with UDMO and staff interactions in my short time with your agency! You guys are doing things right by making employees feel like family!”



Family & Community Services Director-Alisa Schlieff



FaDSS:

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

April 2023

Number of Families Served: for April 2023 78 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023: 116 families

Our FaDSS team is excited to welcome **Ashley Cooklin** as our new FaDSS Specialist.

Ashley was an Outreach Specialist for us in Emmet County. She will now be covering: Emmet, Palo Alto, Clay, Dickinson and BV counties for FaDSS!

Outreach:

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

Our Outreach team is excited to welcome **Taylor Carranza** as our new Outreach Specialist for Emmet County!!

Three of our counties partner with the **Boy Scouts** each year for a food drive and this year we received about **4500lbs** from them!!

Upcoming Events:

Buena Vista County Outreach is in the planning stages of a fundraiser in partnership with Tyson for Ragbrai!

Webster County Outreach is planning DJ Bingo for May 19th

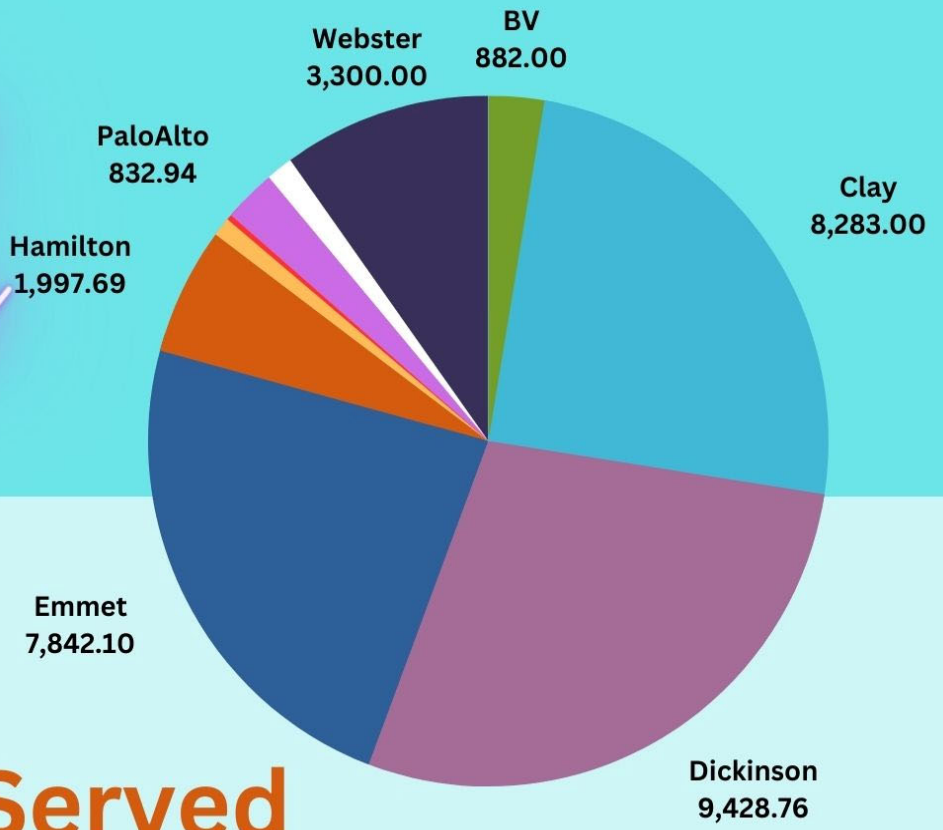
Gardening Programs are starting in Clay, Hamilton, Humboldt and Wright!

Clay County Outreach has started planning their move for May into their new building!

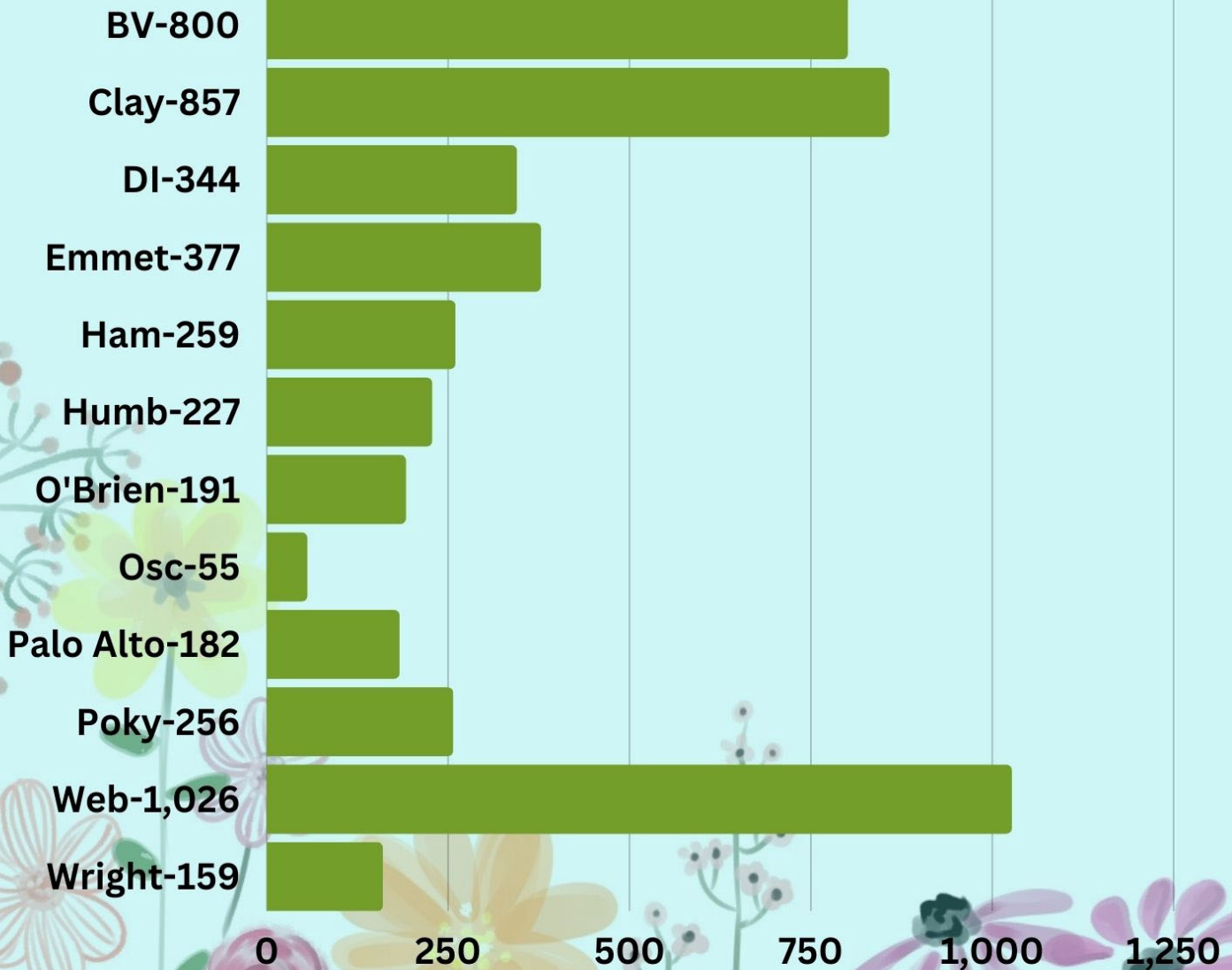
Outreach continues to work with families through Crisis and have started planning back to school events!



Monetary Donations



Individuals Served



Outreach - April 2023

Households Served

