

In The Know, UDMO: August 2023



Executive Director 2
CACFP 3
LIHEAP 3
Compliance/Reporting 4
1st Five/KIDS 5 & 6
Weatherization 6
Early Childhood 7
Housing 8
Operations 9
HR 10
FaDSS 11
Outreach 12 & 13



REMEMBER to log in to Navigate and complete the Wellbeing Survey and three Personal Challenges by October 31, 2023 to be entered into a drawing for 8 hours of vacation!

Reminder: All Outreach offices will be closed August 21-August 25.

2023 ICAA CONFERENCE



COME TOGETHER.
JOIN THE MOMENTUM.

Meredith Mickelson

Kristi Radke

Teresa Ball

The 1st/Five ladies having a little fun at ICAA!



Congratulations to Julie Montandon on her retirement!



New Digs for H.R.

Tiffany and Ashley have moved at Central Office. They are now located in the back corner in what was formerly known as the WIC area. They have created a welcoming space here. Looks great ladies!

Executive Director Report by Julie Edwards



Monthly Happenings:

- **DHHS Realignment** – UDMO leadership spent time participating in Town Hall meetings. There will be surveys coming out for additional participation. Now, we wait until this fall for decisions.
- **Roosevelt Renovations** – To be safe we are anticipating all work will be completed by the end of August. Expecting an open house in September.
- **ICAA Conference** – A number of UDMO staff members participated in the annual conference in Des Moines. High quality sessions were offered related to the operations of a Community Action Agency.
- **ADA Facilities Checklists** - Site Visits to each Outreach & Head Start center are being completed by DEI Committee members as part of UDMO's Risk Assessment.
- **Budgets** – Continue to work with Fiscal and Program Directors on their budgets.
- **Vacation** – Many staff have been utilizing the summer months to take much deserved time off. They are returning refreshed and rejuvenated! All staff must be down to 40 hours or less by the end of September.

Finance Committee Meeting: July 18, 2023 @ 1pm

Liheap-23-ES-16 BA8 – Amendment of an additional \$100,000 for ECIP. New grant total is now \$1,404,385.

DOE-23-16 #3 Weatherization - \$5,500 for Readiness which brings the grant total to \$484,947.

Board Meeting: August 22, 2023 @ 5 pm

Board News:

- **Still searching for a representative from Humboldt, Pocahontas or 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.

Shakira Meyer – Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting



As a Community Action Agency, UDMO engages in regular Community Needs Assessments (CNA) to determine the underlying causes and conditions of poverty within the communities we serve and identify the available resources to address the unmet needs of the community’s most vulnerable residents. Information and data are gathered from consumers, the individuals assisted by UDMO, and also from individuals representing multiple sectors including: health and human services providers, government officials, community leaders, community activists, and business professionals. The information and data are then analyzed and communicated to our UDMO governing board and community partners. The CNA then guides the future programs and services provided by UDMO to meet the needs in the communities we serve.

The Community Action Partnership has great webinars about the Community Needs Assessment Process for those wanting to know more: <https://youtu.be/qqlDfbWYBeo>

UDMO Funding Requests Update:

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted and Status as of June 2023	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Awarded	Denied
Sheldon United Fund	OB	Outreach – Client Services	X		
United Way	BV, CL, OB	Outreach – Client Services	X		
Dickinson County Endowment Fund	DI	Head Start – Appliances		X	
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Outreach – Client Services	X		

Program Grants Submitted and Status as of June 2023	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Awarded	Denied
Tennent Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	All	Housing	X		
CSBG FY23 Application – Submitted June 1 with decision from the State of Iowa Department of Human Rights in Summer 2023	All 12	Outreach + Co-funding for HS, SV, SWVPP, WRAP & KIDS	X		
IA BOS COC Rapid Rehousing – New Project	All	Housing			X

Jessie Hansen-1st Five Project Director/KIDS Program Director




CSA4 – July 2023 Monthly UDMO Board Report
Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator

Counties Served: Calhoun, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster & Wright Counties

Services: Partnership between Primary Care Providers and Community partners to support child development in children birth up to their 5th birthday.

FY24 – 1st Five is off to an amazing start for our first month of FY24. *(new incoming referrals listed below by county of medical provider/clinic) for only first month of the Fiscal Year 24 (July 1-31, 2023)*

Referring County Provider-Clinic	 New Incoming 1st Five Referrals for CSA4 (Meredith Mickelson, 1 st Five Site Coordinator)												
	FY24 (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024)	JULY 2023	AUG 2023	SEP T 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 202 4	FEB 202 4	MAR 2024	AP R 202 4	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
CALHOUN	0												
HAMILTON	3												
HARDIN	0												
HUMBOLDT	4												
POCAHONTAS	1												
WEBSTER	2												
WRIGHT	1												
<i>New monthly incoming referrals</i>	11												
TOTAL CSA4 FY24 referrals	11												
<i># of Different Primary Care Providers who re-ferred each month</i>	9 <i>primary care providers</i>												

Focus Area 1: Meeting with Primary Care Physicians/Clinics

1st Five clinic outreach baskets are being delivered to clinics containing 1st Five contact information, Upper Des Moines. (1st Five secure fax, 1st Five brochures, referral pads, pens, notebooks, sticky-notes and health care items. Baskets also contain, activity books, coloring books, crayons and sticker sheets to distribute to young children while at their primary care provider's clinic)

UDMO CSA 4- 1st Five Site Coordinator, Meredith Mickelson is sharing training webinars, resource connections, encouraging 1st Five presentation with clinic staff as well as building on awareness of 1st Five among clinics and the community.

Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners

Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator attended Back2School Bashes, community partner meetings (in-person or virtually) and training/conferences to increase education.

Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families:

“Iowa Connected” data entry system is fully operational and Meredith continues ongoing supervision and training with CSA4 Developmental Support Staff team

1st/Five-Continued:

On-going efforts/Upcoming Changes: - State continues to request approval of 1st Five letters, printed materials, presentations – ongoing efforts

KIDS Program:

In July we started our new fiscal year and end of the year reports were submitted on time. We continue to receive referrals on an on-going basis and I have begun recruitment efforts in Emmet and Kossuth counties for families. In addition, several meetings, including an Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program Contractor requirement and local prevention meetings were attended during the month of July.

As expected, we have started to see referrals in Palo Alto County. There have been two thus far this fiscal year. Early Childhood North Central Iowa will be holding a discussion regarding services for Palo Alto County at the end of August regarding opening up an RFP for services. I've been in contact with Julie and Tyler regarding possible next steps.

Bailey is on FMLA leave and I am covering her caseload at this time, until she returns for O'Brien, Clay and Dickinson Counties. Once Bailey returns she will be returning full time at 40 hours per week and will be able to take on more families.

**“Weatherization Report for July 2023”**

Number of Families Served in July 2023: 10

Number of Families Served in FY 2023: 47

Goal for 2023: 110 Homes

Weatherization Update:

The Weatherization Department for the month of July we had another great month ,we met our goal again for another month in a row. This month there wasn't much going on in terms of changes or major news with in the Weatherization program. I and a couple more from the agency went to the ICAA Conference in Des Moines Iowa the 26th and 27th of July and sat in on a WAMS 101 session. This is a 2-part session, where the previous Weatherization Director from the State of Iowa was the guest presenter and went over topics to help assist with monitoring the work that we complete on our homes, and funding that we use in the homes. We also at this time received our new priority list for our agency. So, moving forward we will be able to use that information to help find new clients, and assist as many people as we can with that information. 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.

0-5 Early Childhood Programs– Director Irene Mayland



Enrollment:

Head Start Programs in all counties are on summer break. Head Start employees return on August 16th. Early Head Start is fully enrolled with 176 students for year-round programming.

Disabilities:

- EHS students are being served on IFSP's this school year-will report out monthly
- HS students were served on IEP's during the school year-will report out monthly
- 57 total students served in previous school year, which exceeds the 10% target

Continuing Education

- Head Start CDA TEACH – Will update in September after employees are enrolled
- Early Head Start CDA TEACH – Will update in September after employees are enrolled
- Total CDA's completed- 3 have completed CDA's

TEACH – 2 year or 4 year degree

- Associates degree: 0 completed
- Bachelor's degree: 2 in progress

COACHING-number participating

- Teachers: 5
- Home Base Teachers: 2

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 Early Head Start Programs have begun. All Head Start Programs will begin in August.



Housing Report July 2023

17 Households (30 Individuals) were assisted.

TBRA:

13 Households and 26 Individuals

ERA:

Homeless Prevention: 4 Households and 4 Individuals

Status of Funding Opportunities

- Rural Unsheltered Housing Grant - Awarded/Still waiting for the contract.
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance - Application has been submitted.
- IA Bos CoC Local Competition - Application has been submitted
- Emergency Solutions Grant - Application has been submitted

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

- Housing Iowa Conference in Cedar Rapids September 6th - 8th

Statewide Crisis Line Update: 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 a slight delay in returning calls to clients but call backs are being completed within 48 hrs.

Effective January 1, 2024 the Statewide Crisis Line will no longer offer 24/7 live operator service. Normal business hours will be 7am-8pm. Clients calling outside of these hours will still be able to leave a message and will be triaged the next business day.



Operations Director– T.J Thayer



Roosevelt Building

Kitchen Hood

The kitchen Hood has been completed and passed by the fire marshal.

Sprinkler system

The sprinkler system is nearing the end of the project. I walked the building with Chris and Jody to start a punch list that will need to be completed before they are done and final payment is processed. It is looking good and the fire marshal has been contacted about coming to inspect once completed.

Boiler Room Building

The masonry company is working on getting the brick fixed on the side of the building. Once they are completed, the room can be replaced.

Classroom Remodel

We met with CMBA, Christensen's and UDMO staff and did a walkthrough to develop a punch list. It is coming together beautifully and will be a great place for Early Head Start. The fire marshal has also been contacted about coming to inspect.

Head Start

Currently trying to find a company that will complete Fair Market Rent that is required by Head Start.





The following positions have recently been filled:

- HS Teacher, Jefferson – Spencer
- HS Teacher, Milford
- HS Assistant Teacher, Milford

The following INTERNAL transfers have recently taken place:

- HS Teacher, Gingerbread to Education Coach, Gingerbread
- WRAP Coordinator, Gingerbread to HS Teacher, Gingerbread
- EHS Teacher, Jefferson to HS Teacher, Jefferson
- HS Teacher, Jefferson to HS Teacher, Hartley

The following positions have recently separated employment:

- WRAP Assistant Teacher, Jefferson – Spencer
- HS Assistant Teacher, Jefferson – Spencer
- WRAP Assistant Teacher, Gingerbread – Storm Lake
- HS Teacher, Jefferson – Spencer
- ECP Coordinator, Jefferson – Spencer (Lay-off)
- Behavior Specialist, Gingerbread – Storm Lake (Lay-off)

Navigate – Wellness Program Stats:

- Wellbeing Survey: 139 Completed
- Personal Challenges: 24 Completed
- **REMEMBER to log in to Navigate and complete the Wellbeing Survey and three Personal Challenges by October 31, 2023 to be entered into a drawing for 8 hours of vacation!**

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.

- May 2023: 2 Incident Reports
- June 2023: 2 Incident Report
- July 2023: 0 Incident Reports
- YTD Total: **28**



Family & Community Services Director-Alisa Schlieff



FaDSS:

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

July 2023

Number of Families Served: for July 2023 70 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to July 31 2023: 70 families

I am writing this story to inform those who feel like all hope is lost that you are not alone. I moved to Iowa for a change not only for myself but for my children. I ended up in Iowa, bags packed with my one and only child that I had physical care of. Once I arrived, I didn't know what to do but I knew I needed to reach out for help. I contacted DSHS (department of human services and resources), and they were able to assist me with getting an income started. I applied for FIP and within that resource I was able to relate to an advocate that would be able to assist me with any concerns, care of, resources and much more for my livelihood in being able to care for my children. This was called FADSS. Throughout this endeavor I did become pregnant almost immediately on my arrival. I was not only scared for my one child I already came with, but I knew I had to think about an additional child. Once approved for this service I started receiving one on one conversations via video, text and in person. I moved to an apartment with no furniture, nothing really to call my own. I conversed with my advocate whose name is Kim and she reached out to her support and made it possible for me to feel welcome in Iowa and comfortable in my own home. To this day I look back and I remember how I used to feel i.e., scared, embarrassed, ashamed, and doubtful. I am now enrolled in school through DeVry University, my car is a month or so from being paid off and I have reached the Dean's list within my schooling and still uphold an incredible G.P.A of 3.86 and will finish off with a strong 4.0 by fall. In closing, if it was not for FIP and this wonderful program that is offered I don't think I would have the confidence and the positive way of thinking as well as the ability to ask for help when I needed it to move forward. **Thank you UDMO and all that you do you are truly a blessing!**

Outreach:

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

Upcoming Events:

Back to School events are happening in 10 of our offices in August

Outreach offices have started to take applications for Coats for Kids

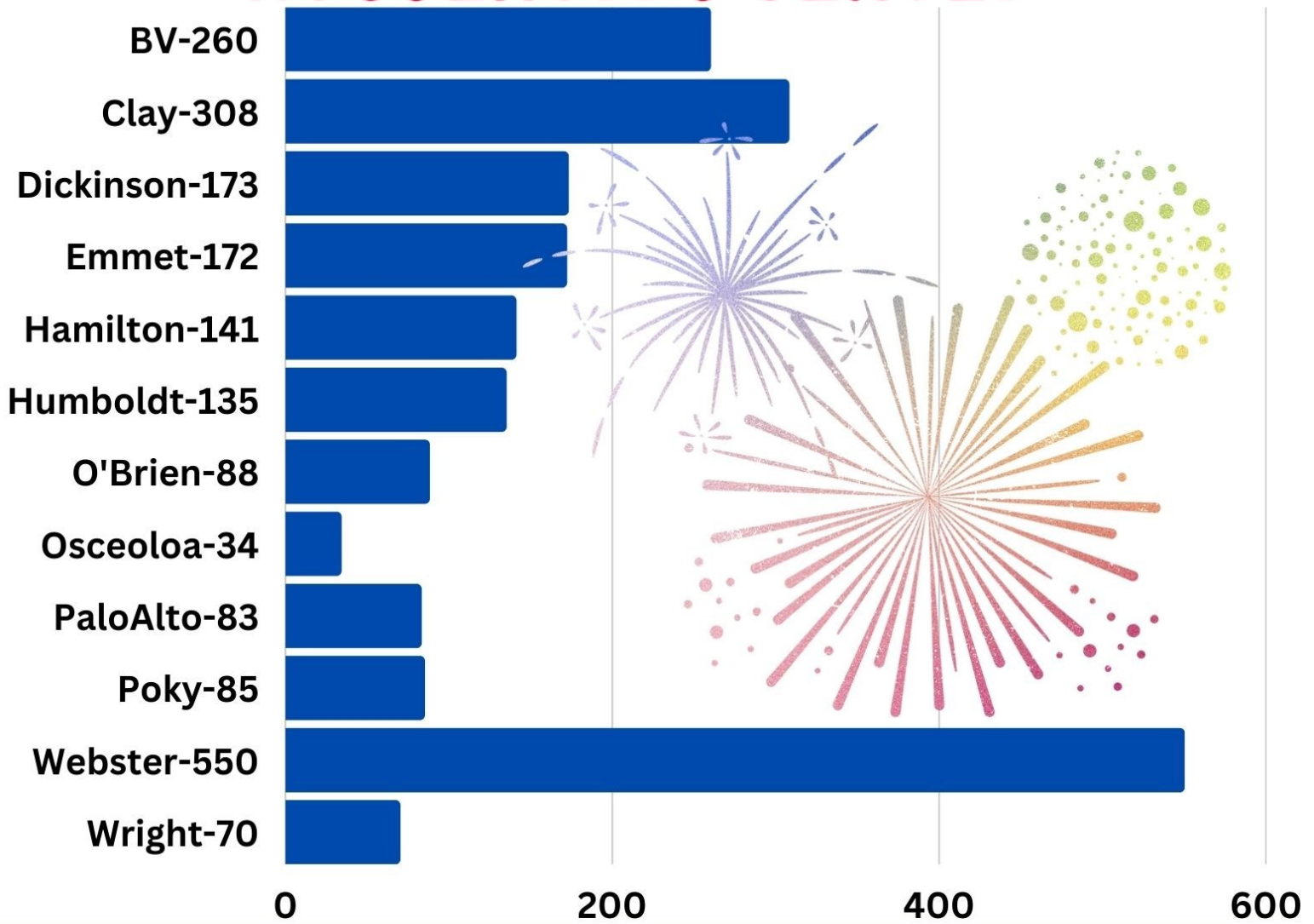
All Outreach offices will be closed August 21-August 25.



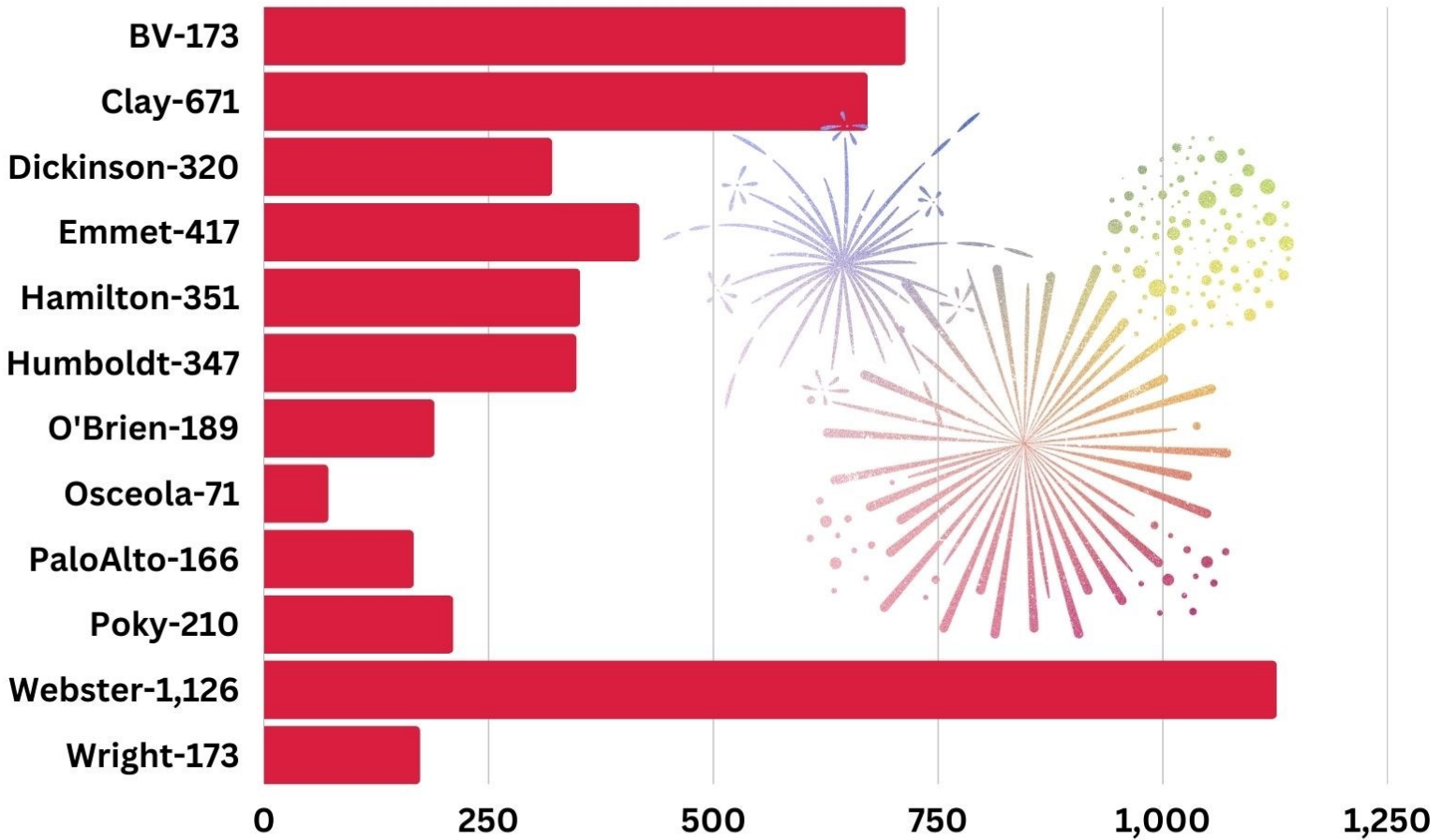
OUTREACH REPORT

JULY 2023

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



INDIVIDUALS SERVED



Monetary Donations

BV-\$1,061.00	O'Brien-\$1,353.00
Clay-\$2,700.00	Osceola-\$85.00
Dickinson-\$6,014.97	PaloAlto-\$350.00
Emmet-\$900.00	Pocahontas-\$201.33
Hamilton-\$3,761.92	Webster-\$550.00
Humboldt-\$150.00	Wright-\$50.00

