# In The Know, UDMO: December, 2023





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12th Annual UDMO Toy Drive!

Storm Lake, Local Business collected several toys to ensure every child has a great holiday **\( \Delta\)** 

Thank you to My Fareway Family for Your Support Always to my Beautiful Work at Upper Des Moines Opportunity from BV County



Fareway did a Fundraiser for UDMO Food Pantry



Our SLPD will do Gloves of Love this year again and Central Bank gave a Beautiful Donation .. Yay !!



#### **Monthly Happenings:**

#### SWA Connect

 New program offered to clients and staff who are eligible. A federal grant provides free internet and tablet at no cost to those that qualify. UDMO will assist families in submitting application and distribute the tablet once approved by SWA Connect. Once a household receives a tablet all contact is through SWA Connect.

#### **■** Eligibility:

- Participate in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC or Lifeline;
- Participate in National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Receive a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- o In return, UDMO will receive \$5 per accepted application. This money will go back to the program who submitted the application as unobligated funds.
- The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a long term \$14 billion program created to help low-income households pay for internet service & connected device.

#### Outreach News

- Reducing Outreach hours of operation. The counties listed below will be open 4 days per week Monday-Thursday due to budgetary issues and low client numbers.
  - O'Brien
  - Humboldt
  - Pocahontas
  - Wright

#### • Clay Outreach receives grants

- The unfunded amount from the INIA grant that helped purchase the building in order to create a handicap accessible entry will be added to the following funders:
  - \$10,000 from Care Connections Grant
  - \$3,000 from UDMO volunteer
  - \$1,500 from Black Hills grant
  - \$7,500 from United Way

#### Total \$22,000

- Fort Dodge Outreach is Relocated:
  - A HUGE THANK YOU to Rick Rasmussen for his manual labor, truck and trailer. You really helped facilitate this move!
  - A round of applause and thanks to at least 20 staff members who took part in this sweaty, team building experience.
- Adopt a Family
  - Executive Director and HR Director have been assisting at various Adopt a Family events.
- Legislative Discussion on DHHS Realignment will be held on December 13 @ ILCC in Spencer will be co-hosted by UDMO and BV ECI with other agencies invited to share how UDMO is the front door to services and can be responsive to each community's needs. All interested parties are welcome to attend.
- **December Leadership Training Continues:** UDMO Leaders from each program participated in a full day of training by Sarah Ennis on December 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **Executive Director-Continued:**

• **Graettinger Holiday Stroll:** The community was greeted by the Executive Director and Head Start Director on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Special thanks to Dawn Hoffman for organizing the event!



Here is Irene Early Childhood Director, with two of the merry-makers from the Stroll!



Finance Committee: Next Meeting December 19<sup>th</sup> @3:00.

**UDMO Board of Directors:** Next Meeting January 23 @ 5pm.





- **UDMO Legislative Discussion:** Julie and Shakira in conjunction with BV and Lakes ECI hosted Senators Lynn Evans and David Rowley; Representative Megan Jones, Katherine Harrington ICAA Executive Director and twenty collaborative partners to discuss DHHS realignment.
- Diaper Distribution Demonstration & Research Pilot: UDMO has been asked by ICAA to participate in the first federally funded diaper distribution pilot. FaDSS families will receive diapers on a consistent basis. There will be a robust evaluation to collect pertinent information to assess the effect of the Pilot and impact of ongoing diaper distributions coupled with FaDSS services.



KERRY ALWAYS HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, ALWAYS SMILING, & WILLING TO DO THE EXTRA WORK NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE CLASSROOM, AND/OR AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD

KERRY IS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR ALL STAFF WITH HER POSITIVE MINDSET AND ENERGY





KERRY GOES ABOVE & BEYOND EVERYDAY IN HER
CLASSROOM

SHE MAKES KIDS FEEL LOVED & SAFE IN THE CLASSROOM

AND HELP KIDS GROW

KERRY HAS PROVIDED A SAFE, FUN, LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR MANY CHILDREN OVER THE YEARS.

# **Becky Carlin- CACFP Coordinator**



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

CACFP currently has 37 providers claiming for November.

The CACFP is making strides in Congress with three historic bills!

- Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act (Senate)
- Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act (House)
- Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act of 2023

These three bills would increase reimbursement by 10 cents for all meals and snacks, eliminates tiering, ensures a family child care provider can claim reimbursement for their own child and adds reimbursement for an additional meal or snack. The provisions in each of these bills would increase the benefit to CACFP providers and make the program easier to operate. So please contact your Government officials to let them know the importance of these bills!

Still recruiting. I continue to make monthly cold calls from CCR&R's list of people that have contacted their office inquiring about becoming registered day care providers. Currently there are zero licensed daycare providers in both O'Brien and Pocahontas counties.

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

	November 2023	November 2022				
Breakfast:	4,731	5,103				
Lunches:	4,697	5,146				
Snacks:	5,821	6,305				
Suppers:	157	125				
Total Meals S	Served: 15,406	16,679				

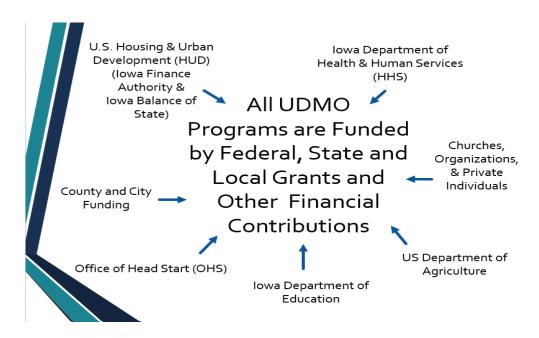
Providers Served: 37 44



- Liheap (Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program) is from November 1 April 30.
- Anyone that applies for Liheap and are eligible, cannot be disconnected from their electric or natural gas from Nov. 1 April 1. This is known as the Moratorium on winter disconnections.
- **LÎHEAP APPLICATIONS:** For November, Outreach took and processed 1,065 Liheap applications and of that number 1,004 were eligible. 54 denied and 7 on pending.
- Received 130 Online Liheap Applications.
- YTD TOTALS: From 10-01-2023 to 11-30-2023: Total applications 3,590. Total eligible 3,451.
- Last year at this time: 3,487 applications were processed and 3,402 were eligible
- **CRISIS:** For November, 97 households received ECIP-Liheap Supplement 23ES also called ECIP 23 Extended Crisis funds in the amount of \$40,560.07.



As a nonprofit 501(c)3 Community Action Agency, Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. applies for funding made available by **National, State and Local** entities. Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters of the UDMO Fiscal Year 2024, there are many local community foundations grant cycles open. Additionally, UDMO applies for programmatic grants as they open over the course of the year. Below is a glimpse into the funding sources that support the valuable work all of our programs do; advancing the mission of UDMO - dedicated to building stronger communities by addressing the effects of poverty on individuals and families.



#### **UDMO Funding Requests Update:**

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted & Status: November 2023	County	Program	Submitted/ Pending	Awarded	Denied
Sheldon United Fund	ОВ	Outreach – Client Services	Х		
United Way	BV, CL, OB	Outreach – Client Services	Х		
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Outreach – Client Services	Х		
Barkema Trust	WR	Outreach – Client Services	Х		
Hoeppner Trust	CL	Outreach – CHORE		Х	
William Morrison Trust	НА	Outreach – Client Services	Х		
Buena Vista County Community Foundation	BV	Outreach – Food Pantry		Х	
City of Storm Lake	BV	Outreach – Client Services	Х		

Program Grants Submitted and Status as of November 2023	County	Program	Submitted/ Pending	Awarded	Denied
Head Start	BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS, PA, PO	Head Start/Early Head Start	Х		





# CSA4 - NOVEMBER 2023 Monthly UDMO Board Report

1st Five Services: Partnership between Primary Care Providers and Community partners to support child development in children birth up to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

FY24 – 1<sup>st</sup> Five new incoming referrals listed below by county of referring clinic for current FY24

Referring County Provider-Clinic	1st Five											
	lowa	HHS	New Incoming 1st Five Referrals for CSA4									
	(Meredith Mickelson, 1 <sup>st</sup> Five Site Coordinator)											
FY24 (July1,2023-June 30,2024)	JULY 2023	AUG 2023	SEPT 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DE C 2023	JAN 2024	FEB 202 4	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MA Y 2024	JUN E 2024
CALHOUN	0	0	0	0	0							
HAMILTON	3	8	6	1	4							
HARDIN	0	2	0	0	0							
HUMBOLDT	4	0	0	1	0							
POCAHONTAS	1	0	0	0	0							
WEBSTER	2	11	9	4	0							
WRIGHT	1	1	5	3	2							
New monthly incoming referrals	11	22	20	9	6							
TOTAL CSA4 FY24 referrals (July 1, 2023-current)	11	33	53	62	68							
# of Different Primary Care Providers who referred cur- rent month	9 primary care providers	13 primary care provid- ers	16 primary care providers	9 primary care provid- ers	5 primary care provid- ers							

# Focus Area 1: Meeting with Primary Care Physicians/Clinics

- 1<sup>st</sup> Five has planning holiday outreach for each clinic in the 7-county service area.
- 1st Five Site Coordinator and Medical Peer Champion working towards scheduling peer consultation with Pocahontas County and possibly Wright County clinics
- Continues to share 1<sup>st</sup> Five materials, outreach promotional items, as well as building partnerships with clinic staff and continuing education training webinars. 1st Five encourages accredited developmental screening at well-child visits and if a delay or concern is identified a simple referral to UDMO 1<sup>st</sup> Five to help connect family with local resources. Updated 1<sup>st</sup> Five Brochure shared with clinics.

# **Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners**

- Meredith continues to share information about 1<sup>st</sup> Five by attending community partner meetings in person or virtually. Information gathered at these community partner meetings/events is shared with 1<sup>st</sup> Five Developmental Support Specialists and/or other community partners. 1st Five promotional items, screening, EPSDT guidance are all available and distributed at these meetings/events.
- 1st Five Site Coordinator continues to reach out to be active with county community events and partnership meetings Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families:
- Upper Des Moines Opportunity 1st Five continues to help support referred children and their families with ser-
- Documentation into Iowa Connected Iowa HHS data entry system is expected to be entered within 10 calendar days.



#### 1st/Five, KIDS Continued:

UDMO 1<sup>st</sup> Five Site Coordinators, project director and UDMO Developmental Support Specialist Family Worker attended the NAEYC Conference from November 14-19, 2023 in Nashville, TN and gained many resource connections which were then shared with 1<sup>st</sup> Five subcontracted staff and community partners.

KU also shared information and progression of their project to observe 1<sup>st</sup> Five Developmental Support Specialist Family Worker experiences.

On-going efforts/Upcoming Changes: Staff supervisions continue monthly. 1<sup>st</sup> Five DSS worksheets were distributed for immediate implementation. Ongoing Iowa HHS Iowa Connected data entry training continues. Planning for future 1<sup>st</sup> Five Medical Peer Champion, Dr Andrea McLoughlin, MD, discussion goal for Pocahontas &/or Wright County clinics.

#### **KIDS-Jessie Hansen**

In the month of November, we scheduled to start the Iowa Family Support Credential with Technical Assistance (TA), and obtain our credential in 2025. However, the State granted extensions for another year so we will not begin TA until 2025.

We have continued to hire for the KIDS Program position in Palo Alto County and have adjusted this position to be temporary at 40 hours per week. Unfortunately, despite the interest in a 24 hour position, we were not able to find a good fit. We received another referral for Palo Alto County and at this time, we are serving those families with the current staff we have. In addition, we have received another referral for Emmet County and our subcontractor is currently providing services for this grant under the KIDS Program.

De-categorization/Community Partnerships for Protecting Children will also be sending out mini grants in December that we will be applying for to support services in Clay, Dickinson, and O'Brien Counties. We will know if we are successful in January regarding our application.



'You Better Watch Out, You Better Not Cry, cause 'Santa Claus is coming to town

SANTA for SENIORS deliveries made in FD and WC!

# **Santa For Seniors**

Peoples Credit Union wanted to share the spirit and help bring smiles to our local seniors by getting involved for the third year. Thanks to UDMO and Elderbridge for coordinating this program. **Pure joy filled our hearts** as we shopped, wrapped and delivered these gifts to UDMO for distribution to the seniors.



within Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto, O'Brien, & Osceola counties during our first year of implementing the 1st Five Initiative

# November was another successful month~

- Maintained 8 open referral cases
  - Addition of 5 new referrals
  - 2 New Referring Providers
    - 1 New Referring Clinic
- Continued relationship building with coordinated clinic care and social workers, leading to valuable systemic support for everyone!

# Additionally~

- Held our 1st Peer Consultation with 11 providers, nurse staff, and clinic managers in attendance on Early Detection of Developmental Delays and how universal screening tools are beneficial.
- Attended several community partnership meetings to learn about available resources to assist families and to promote 1st Five.
- Initiated our Holiday Basket deliveries to all Referring 1st Five Providers!

Teresa K. Ball, MA 1st Five Site Coordinator, CSA-1

Office/Cell: (712) 298-6751 tball@udmo.com



# 28 Households (69 Individuals) were assisted.

## TBRA:

4 Households and 11 Individuals

#### **ERA**

Homeless Prevention: 18 Households and 48 Individuals Rapid Rehousing: 6 Households and 10 Individuals

We have spent down all of our TBRA funding for the current contract. Next TBRA contract will begin soon.

We have been attending several meetings and training revolving around the new Rural Unsheltered Funding from HUD. We are hoping to have the program launched by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year.

Other Meetings and Trainings:

Iowa Balance of State CoC Board Meeting Coordinated Entry Committee Monthly Meeting IA Bos CoC Membership Task Group Fort Dodge Housing Coalition Meeting Clay County Housing Meeting November Networking IA Bos CoC - HIV and Stigma

We are preparing for the 2024 Point-In-Time Count. Mailings will be sent out to community members in each county of the Housing Region soon. We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's count. Please call Tanya at 515-269-7105 if you would like to help.

The Upper Des Moines CE Region for Housing has been voted in to participate in a remediation plan. The remediation plan will provide more support for our Housing Region as we continue to expand.

**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 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.



#### **Enrollment:**

Head Start Program is fully enrolled with 289 students. Early Head Start Program is fully enrolled with 183 students for year-round programming. EHS converted slot are filled.

#### **Disabilities:**

- EHS students being served on IFSP's: 16
- HS students being served on IEP's: 15

#### **Continuing Education**

- Head Start CDA TEACH in progress: 5
- Early Head Start CDA TEACH in progress: 2
- Total CDA's completed- 1

#### TEACH - 2 year or 4 year degree

- Associates degree in progress: 0 completed
- Bachelor's degree in progress: 1 in progress
- Bachelor's degree completed: 1 completed

#### **COACHING-number participating**

- Teachers: 5
- Home Base Teachers: 2

#### What's Happening:

- Recruitment efforts are ongoing and will increase in January to start planning for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Classroom fun and family engagement with" Special Persons Day" for all sites.

#### **Employee Recognition:**

- Congratulations to Martene Salazar Ramos (Head Start-StormLake) for completing your CDA!!
- Congratulations to Audrey Sikora (Head Start-Spencer) for completing your Bachelor's degree!!!
- Congratulations to Kerry Bennett (Head Start-Estherville) for earning employee of the month!!!





Short summary about my school experience:

I can honestly say that I didn't think I was ever going to get my Bachelor's Degree. I got my Associate's Degree right after high school, and then decided to start working right away. After my husband and I got married, we talked about me going back to school, and he gave me the confidence I needed to go back and get my degree. I am so blessed to have had the support from my family, friends, and UDMO while I went back to school. I can't believe that it's done! Next chapter in my life is bringing baby girl #2 into the world this coming February. I'm proud to say that my journey of going back to school is complete.

Audrey Sikora Head Start Teacher Congratulations to Tanya and Jacob Vos on the new addition to their family. Dean Allen Vos was born on 9/15/2023.







Congratulations to Shelbi and Dan Kobliska on the birth of their son, Jace Joseph Kobliska. He was born 8/1/2023 and weighed 6 pounds 12 oz.



Congratulations to Brittany Lullmann (Head Start Teacher in Storm Lake) on the new addition to her family!!!

# Other News to Share....



We had four staff (Maria Villalobos, Kimberly Graham, Brenna Becker & Amber Vazquez) attend the NHSA Parent & Family Conference December 4th-7th

We are very thankful to UDMO for the opportunity to go to the NHSA conference to expand our knowledge. The trip to New Orleans was one to remember. From this opportunity provided we were able to learn new skills regarding regulating young children and adults, how to instill resiliency in our parents and how to better serve our families. We are excited to bring back new skills, new ways of educating parents, and a refreshed mind of why we do what we do.

-Brenna, Amber, Kim, Maria

#### **Continued from Head Start**



Obtaining my Child Development Association credential has been a valuable learning experience for professional development and an essential resource. My abilities to apply developmentally appropriate practices, Instructional strategies, and resources to build relationships with children

and families and positively impact each child's learning and development has improved as a result of this program. I feel more confident with my strengthened personal capabilities to prepare for a career in early childhood education. I appreciate UDMO providing this educational opportunity!

#### -Marlene Ramos Salazar



#### "Weatherization Report for November 2023"

Number of Families Served in November 2023: 10

Number of Families Served in FY 2023: 87

**Goal for 2023: 110 Homes** 

The Weatherization Department for the month of November we completed 10 homes meeting our bench mark. The weatherization staff recently had a state training in West Des Moines Iowa for 2 days. We recently went over possible changes to the State Standards based on the DOE requirements for the Weatherization Program for the upcoming FY24 yr. We will hopefully get final approval shortly from the state when we get final approve from DOE (Department of Energy.) Moving forward in the month of November everything went smoothly and because of lack of harsh weather this winter so far, the house production has not slowed down and is continuing to go quite well.

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.



Please continue to review your paystubs every pay day! We believe we are finally in a good place with Paylocity and functions are finally working as expected!

In an effort to begin recognizing our staff members for their outstanding performance, <u>EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH nominations is ongoing</u>. The nomination form can be found out on SharePoint, or requested from HR. Please have all nominations to HR by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Congratulations to our first Employee of the Month recipient, Kerry Bennett!

#### Wellness Challenge: Don't Wait, Hydrate!

Registration: January 1, 2024 – January 12, 2024 Challenge: January 8, 2024 – February 4, 2024 Log in to DAILY to record task completion Participation Incentive: Shaker Bottle

#### The following INTERNAL transfers have recently taken place:

EHS Teacher to Home Based Teacher, Gingerbread
Home Based Coach to Sub, Gingerbread
Home Based Teacher to Home Based Coach, Gingerbread

## The following positions have recently separated employment:

Housing Inspector, Central Sub, Gingerbread

# **Work Comp Incident Report Recap:**

In order to keeps 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.

September 2023: 10 Incident Reports October 2023: 5 Incident Reports November 23: 3 Incident Reports

YTD Total: 48

# Family & Community Services Director-Alisa Schlief



#### FaDSS:

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

#### November 2023

Number of Families Served: for November 2023 75 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to November 31, 2023: 90 families

#### **Success Story:**

Since starting FaDSS, I have become more stable and independent. The income sheets have helped me manage my bills and spending. I also got a new job that works well with my schedule making it easier to work more hours. I also carry life insurance, am building a retirement, and have dental insurance so I don't have to travel so far to dentist appointments for my kids and myself. I feel proud of myself and love my job. I am also taking college classes to better my family's future. I enjoy have FaDSS because it is nice having someone to talk to and offer different ideas and resources where it is needed. I am also on less state assistance since I have a better income. Thank you.

#### **Outreach:**

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

Clay-\$10,000 donation for the food pantry

**Dickinson**-Was on Jeff Thee's Okoboji Broadcast to discuss food pantry as well as other UDMO programs. Jeff is a County Supervisor, board member of the Dickinson County Hunger Coalition, and his broadcasts reach thousands of Okoboji-area residents.

Attended Arnolds Park Gift-a-Smile event to promote donations for Arnolds Park Amusement Park passes (received 200 passes to distribute)

Interview with Exit Realty promoting their 3rd Annual Toy Drive, which we use for Christmas gifts if needed and the remainder populate our birthday room

Emmet-\$1500 donation from United Methodist Church

**Obrien**-\$1000 donation from an anonymous donor

Pocahontas-around \$3000 for General Operations!!

Webster—They are in their new space!!!

Outreach has been very busy with LIHEAP and all of the holiday programming that they are doing. Right now we are accepting applications for Adopt a Family, Holiday food boxes and Bikes for Tikes.

Humboldt, O'Brien, Pocahontas and Wright Counties starting Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 will be open M-TH 8-12, 1-4.



Jason Peterson, Dickinson County receiving 200 Arnolds Park Amusement Park day passes from Jon Pausley, CEO of Historic Arnolds Park, Inc. The day passes are divided between Dickinson, Clay, Emmet, and Osceola County children.



