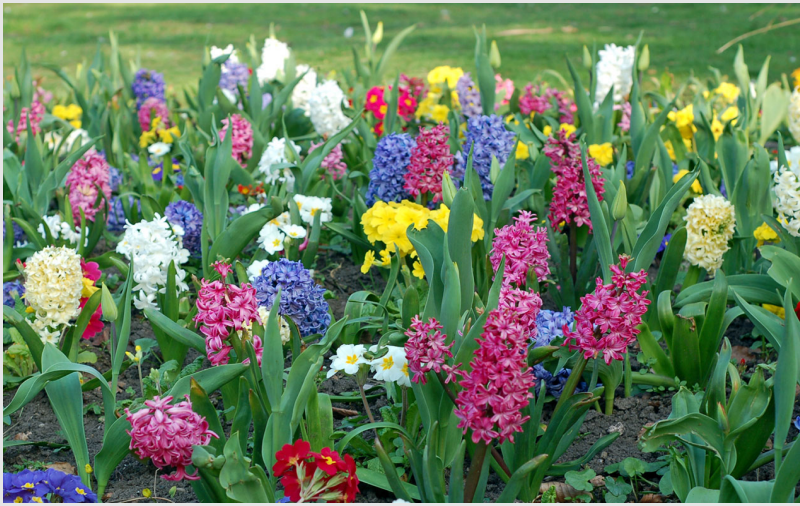


In The Know, UDMO: April 2024



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Emmetsburg Family Night on 4/4/24.

Teresa Ball
1st/Five



Tracy Fischer

&

Kimberly Graham
Head Start



We received this awesome letter with a check from Ms. High and her 4th grade students at Eagle Grove Elementary School. Their kindness and thoughtfulness are much appreciated!

Way to go Ms. High's 4th Graders!!

Upper Des Moines Opportunity,

Hi, I am Ms. High, and I am a 4th grade teacher at Eagle Grove Elementary in Eagle Grove, IA. For the past 4 years my class and I have participated in a kindness week! We spend the week doing kind acts to make the world a better place! I allowed my 23 students to pick a place that they wanted to help the most. This year the students all knew they wanted to help the Iowa Upper Des Moines. We were researching places around us and that we could support. While looking at your website we found out that you support students who can't afford to participate in sports for our county. One student shared his story about being supported and how he was able to try soccer because of things like this. All the students agreed that they wanted to help give kids that same opportunity. They all worked to bake treats to sell at a bake sale for the other elementary students and staff members. My students were thrilled to raise over \$500 dollars to help kids and families whose lives seemed way harder than our own. We are sending the kids, families, and staff members the biggest support from Eagle Grove Elementary School!

Ms. High's Class



Executive Director Report by Julie Edwards



Monthly Happenings:

- **Data Systems**
 - **UDMO – EmpowOR**, new data system chosen. Majority of other community action agencies in Iowa also opted for EmpowOR after much research and deliberation.
 - **State Liheap Data System** – Two sessions were conducted allowing UDMO staff to preview and provide feedback on software. State continues to develop Liheap and is now beginning work on Weatherization and CSBG.
- **Advocacy at the State** - ECI, FaDSS, Board and Commissions has continued.
- **DHHS Realignment** - ECI and impending changes is a focus for UDMO. Held discussion regarding collaborative efforts and advocacy opportunities with ECI staff in our UDMO area has occurred.
- **KIDS** – will submit application for **expansion** into BV, Calhoun, Crawford and Sac Counties. Grant application is estimate to be \$350,000.
- **Outreach** – focus is on fundraising efforts to support increased number of clients accessing services.
- **Head Start**
 - In response to concerns over administrative staff workloads and burnout the administrative team conducted intense conversations on how to positively impact **work/life balance** through the distribution of job duties resulting in the development of **new job descriptions**. At April meetings, Policy Council and the Board will review. If approved, changes will go into effect 8/1/2024.
 - **IQ4K** representative provided update to Head Start staff regarding participation and application requirements for advancement to the next level. Annually, Head Start may move to the next level with the completion of additional criteria for additional funding will be received.
 - **Transition activities** are occurring with the Sarina, the new ECP Director, including meetings, trainings and site visits.
- **Leadership Trainings**
 - **Data Practices & Systems Fundamentals Training** completed the third and final series in March. UDMO has accessed individual support through this series made available through ICAA.
 - **Administrative Leadership Training** reconvened this month regarding leading through change.
 - **Webinar** training this past month consisted of: Inclusion, Equity, New Head Start Grant Requirements and Head Start Audit Requirements.

Save the Dates:

- **Finance Committee on April 16 @ 1pm.**
 - **Monthly Finance Packet**
 - **Head Start Year End Close Out**
 - **CSBG Purchase of EmpowOR client data system**
- **UDMO Board of Directors on April 23 @ 5pm.**
 - **WELCOME, JENNIFER HANSEN, new UDMO Board Member from Humboldt.** She will represent Humboldt, Pocahontas and Buena Vista counties on our Board of Directors. This position has been open since 2019 so thank you Jennifer for volunteering to support UDMO! **Special thanks to Alisa, Outreach Director and Alissa O'Connor, Humboldt Economic Development Director for recruiting Jennifer!**
 - **CSBG FY 2023 Desk Review Results** – Completed and accepted.
 - **ESG Desk Review Results** - Complete
 - **HS** - Financials, ERSEA, PW-PBIS, Annual Review of Job Descriptions
- **UDMO Annual Dinner @ Shores in Emmetsburg on May 28 @ 5 pm.**

Congratulations Employee of the Month

Kristi is a team player and goes **ABOVE & BEYOND!!**

Kristi is knowledgeable in resources or she investigates to help her families.

Kristi is a ray of sunshine and support!

Kristi always speaks & shows professionalism

Kristi Radtke
1 year of Service

**1st Five Developmental
Support Specialist**

Kristi consistently represents 1st Five & UDMO in such a positive light. Her positivity is contagious! She openly shares her idea and willingness to make improvements.

Congratulations Employee of the Month

Dee is a role model not only professionally but also personally as she works to connect with all staff at the Clay HS.

Dee's positive outlook and ability to connect with both staff and families make her a valuable leader at our site.



Dee has gone above and beyond working WRAP most mornings and afternoons; along with many other tasks she has that don't go unnoticed.

Dee is very understanding and caring. She is often there to listen when staff need to problem solve or vent.

Dee Graettinger
ECP COORDINATOR @
JEFFERSON

23 years of Service

Dee has accepted the challenge to lead the Clay HS and stabilized our employee turnover and improved the overall climate in our building. Dee leads our site with the willingness to assist in any position for the success of our school day.

Becky Carlin– CACFP Coordinator



CACFP (Child & Adult Care Food Program) In Home

Monthly Board Report:

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

CACFP had 39 providers submit claims for March.

We have maintained 39 Providers for this month. Recruitment efforts are ongoing. I have completed the Review portion of my State Review, which consisted of 6 Provider reviews. The Admin portion is scheduled for May 20-22. So far each of my Providers that applied for grants from HHS have each received approximately \$14,000.00 for retention. This round of moneys at least had some strings attached. They must continue to do daycare for 1 year or they have to repay any unused funds as well as return any items purchased with the funds thus far. In my opinion adding a few strings to these grants funds is a much better use of dollars than the last couple of years.

Currently there are zero licensed daycare providers in both O'Brien and Pocahontas counties.

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

	March 2024	March 2023
Breakfast:	4,801	5,720
Lunches:	4,935	5,948
Snacks:	5,710	7,177
Suppers:	142	171
Total Meals Served:	15,558	19,016

Providers Served: 39 43



- 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.
- Starting April 1st, vendors can start disconnecting Liheap clients for past due bills.
- **LIHEAP APPLICATIONS:** For March, Outreach took and processed 148 Liheap applications and of that number 135 were approved. 4 denied and 9 on pending.
- Received 7 Online Liheap Applications.
- **YTD TOTALS:** From 10-01-2023 to 03-31-2024: Total applications 4,974. Total approved 4,750. Last year at this time: Total applications 5,332. Total approved 5,085.
- **CRISIS:** For March, 28 households received ECIP-Crisis funds in the amount of \$32,890.80.18.

We are working on multiple contracts for this month. Starting next month, we will be working on our Regular contract called Liheap-24 Crisis contract.



Kyle Dietrich-Weatherization Director



“Weatherization Report for March 2024”

Number of Families Served in March 2024: **10**

Number of Families Served in FY 2024: **30**

Goal for 2023: **110 Homes**

Update:

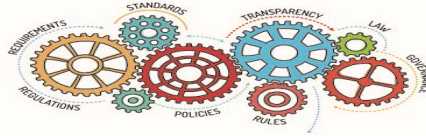
The Weatherization Department for the month of March we served another 10 Homes completing our goal once again for our program. So far all has been great with the Program this year with contractors and the State of Iowa and their assistance. We are still waiting for 2 contracts to be released to us and those are the Department of Energy and Black Hills Energy. Once we receive these 2 contracts then I can have an accurate number of what are funding looks like for FY24 year and will put that information in the monthly report as soon as we have received it.

Other than that, we will be having an IWAC meeting on April 24th and then our Annual IWAC Retreat on June 12-13th this will be our big meeting for the year where everyone in the Weatherization network gets together to discuss our program and where we are heading and how things are going. We are all setup as an agency for this meeting and look forward to this time to get to make changes and discuss concerns with fellow colleagues and with the State. Other than that everything is running quite smoothly and can't wait to see how the year evolves.

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.



Shakira Meyer – Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting



May is Community Action Month!

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.




UDMO Funding Requests Update:

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted & Status: April 2024	County	Program	Submitted/ Pending	Awarded	Denied
Sheldon United Fund	OB	Outreach – Client Services		X	
City of Storm Lake	BV	Outreach – Client Services	X		
City of Spencer	CL	Outreach – Client Services	X		
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Outreach – Client Services	X		
Fort Dodge Community Foundation	WE	Outreach – Food Pantry	X		
Wright County Community Foundation	WR	Outreach – Client Services		X	
Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation	EM	Outreach – Special Projects	X		
Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation	EM	HS – Handwashing Station	X		
BV County Community Foundation	BV	HS – Flooring Updates	X		
TJ Maxx	CL	Interest Inquiry Submitted	X		
Elderbridge	OS & WE	Outreach – CHORE	X		

Program Grants Submitted and Status as of March 11, 2024	County	Program	Submitted/ Pending	Awarded	Denied
Head Start	BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS, PA, PO	Head Start/Early Head Start		X	
ICAPP Funding Renewal	DI, EM, KO, OB, PA	KIDS – Annual Renewals	X		

**UDMO is dedicated to helping build stronger communities
by addressing the effects of poverty on individuals and families.**

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



CSA4 – March 2024 Monthly UDMO Board Report

Respectfully submitted by: Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator

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

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

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

Referring County Provider/Clinic	 New Incoming 1st Five Referrals for CSA4 <i>(Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator)</i>												
	FY24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)	JULY 2023	AUG 2023	SEPT 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
CALHOUN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0				
HAMILTON	3	8	6	1	4	1	2	2	4				
HARDIN	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	1				
HUMBOLDT	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1 faxed - duplicate				
POCAHONTAS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1				
WEBSTER	2	11	9	4	0	6	1	6	2				
WRIGHT	1	1	5	3	2	1	3	2	1				
<i>New monthly incoming referrals</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>				
TOTAL CSA4 FY24 referrals (July 1, 2023-current)	11	33	53	62	68	81	87	101	110				
<i># of Different Primary Care Providers who referred current month</i>	<i>9 primary care providers</i>	<i>13 primary care providers</i>	<i>16 primary care providers</i>	<i>9 primary care providers</i>	<i>5 primary care providers</i>	<i>12 primary care providers</i>	<i>6 primary care providers</i>	<i>13 primary care providers</i>	<i>7 primary care providers</i>				

Focus Area 1: Meeting with Primary Care Physicians/Clinics

- 1st Five has continued to be promoted with clinics, providers, and staff in all 7 counties.
- 1st Five has maintained an accurate staff contact list for each clinic in 7 county service area
- 1st Five continues to share appropriate and beneficial training opportunities for all 7 service county clinic staff which follow Iowa HHS 1st Five integrity.
- 1st Five encourages accredited developmental screenings at well-child visits and if a delay or concern is identified a simple referral to UDMO 1st Five to help connect family with local resources.

Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners

- Meredith continues to share information about 1st Five by attending community partner meetings in person or virtually. Information gathered at these community partner meetings/events is shared with 1st 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
- Attended and helped with 2 Hardin County Tall Cop Says Stop, presentations on 3/4/24 - it was successful community



Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families:

- Upper Des Moines Opportunity 1st Five continues to help support referred children and their families with services.
- Documentation into Iowa Connected Iowa HHS data entry system encouraged same day, but completion within 10 calendar days.

On-Going Efforts/Upcoming Changes:

- Karhyn Alcantara, 1st Five Developmental Support Specialist Family Worker has completed the required Iowa HHS 1st Five trainings and continues to learn about Iowa Connected Data Entry System and starting to observe and complete family contacts.
- Individual staff supervision written summaries, required Iowa HHS training and verification before subcontract payments are processed through UDMO. Both subcontracted agencies (Hamilton & Webster County Health Departments) are complying.
- UDMO internal 1st Five staff will attend the upcoming professional development, Drug Endangered Children Conference on April 8, 2024 in Ankeny.

KIDS Program



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

Referrals/Recruitment/Marketing: Referrals have increased this last month, including one for Palo Alto County, one for Kossuth, one for Dickinson and one for Clay. In March, we solidified Child Abuse Prevention Activities. **All of the Counties** are scheduled for presentations and we were able to have Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation's on the agenda. Shakira Meyer with UDMO, Kari Batman with Emmet Public Health, Sarah Strohman with Palo Alto Public Health, and myself will be presenting to the local area Board of Supervisors. Prevention Child Abuse sent contract renewals were completed with Shakira Meyer and sent in. Family Fun night is/was scheduled for April 4th to recruit participants for Palo Alto County as well as make them aware of resources in the community. See pictures in the newsletter for our event!

Staffing: We received and accepted the resignation of Hailey Ferguson. Allana Finch has also submitted her resignation for May and therefore we have been actively recruiting and interviewing for a **full-time position** to cover Emmet, Palo Alto, and Kossuth.

Grants: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa renewals were completed and submitted by the due date. Early Childhood North Central Iowa Grant is due on April 30th, 2024. The Early Childhood Buena Vista, Crawford and Sac County Grant is due on May 1st at noon, although a paper copy will be sent out prior so that it gets to the director on time.

Success Story:

This family is newly enrolled into the KIDS Program as of March and our program has already been of great assistance to them. On the first visit, mom talked with me about her youngest daughter's recent medical diagnosis. With her daughter's diagnosis, she is scared for her safety in the yard with having no fence and being close to a busy road because her daughter likes to run and is not cautious of moving cars. As their family support worker, I collaborated with my coworkers and supervisors to see if they had any idea of a program in Iowa that helps with funding for a fence. One of my coworkers suggested the Children at Home Program. I sent the application to mom to look over & by the next time I had a visit with her, she had the entire application ready to send off. She had her income, a letter from her daughter's therapist, and a copy of the SSI letter all organized to be sent off as well. I praised mom at how prepared and organized she was to get the application processed. Mom found out she got accepted and has since been contacting fencing companies to get quotes. The KIDS Program was there to support her during this process, but mom had the self-confidence to get things done by herself as well!



1st Five– CSA-1

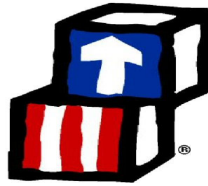
- ◇ 7 new referrals to 1st Five
 - * Referral Concerns:
 - 43% Family stressors/other health concerns
 - 28% Developmental concerns
 - 14% Resource needs
 - 14% Hearing/Speech concerns
- ◇ 1 new Primary Care Provider now referring
 - * 18 Total Referring Providers in CSA-1
- ◇ 2 New Clinic Introductions to 1st Five
 - * ALL CSA-1 Clinics now introduced to the 1st Five initiative
- ◇ 2 ASQ-3 clinic trainings, including 8 staff and 3 providers
- ◇ Attendance at various Community Partnership & resource meetings focusing on behavioral health coalitions, child abuse prevention councils, and local resource connections.



Teresa K. Ball, MA
1st Five Site Coordinator, CSA-1
Office/Cell: (712) 298-6751
tball@udmo.com

Serving Clinics & Providers in Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, and Palo Alto Counties
<http://bit.ly/1Wjaoxw-1stFive>

0-5 Early Childhood Programs– Director Sarina Smith



Enrollment:

Fully enrolled in Early Head Start with 183 children and Head Start with 289 children.

Disabilities:

Early Head Start students served on IFSP's: 19

Head Start students served on IFSP's: 25

Total served: 44 Target: 47

TEACH – CDA, 2 year or 4-year Degree:

CDA certification completion: **10**

Associates degree in progress: 1

Bachelor degree in progress: 1

Coaching:

Teachers – 5 and Home Base Teachers – 2

What's Happening:

- **Sarina Smith started as the Early Childhood Programs Director on March 5th and has now had a visit with all of our sites. In April she will spend time with our home-base coaches and experience home visits and socializations.**
- Head Start leadership staff have been diligently working on balancing workloads through job responsibilities. Drafts of new job descriptions will come to Policy Council and the UDMO Board in March for approval.
- Recruitment efforts continue for the 2024-2025 school year. Acceptance is planned for April.
- Planning for Head Start's annual Self-Assessment will be carried out over the next few months. Policy Council and Board volunteers will be contacted to arrange dates/times that accommodate their schedules in April.
- Planning for staff professional development events this summer and next school is occurring by Head Start leadership





57 Households (144 Individuals) were assisted.

<p>ESG: 16 Households and 54 Individuals</p>	<p>ERA: Homeless Prevention: 25 Households and 62 Individuals Rapid Rehousing: 15 Households and 27 Individuals</p>
<p>Rural: 1 Household and 1 Individual</p>	

Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) for Homeless Prevention has been spent down.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) additional funds were requested.

TBRA Funding is now available.

Meetings and Trainings:

- Iowa Balance of State CoC Board Meeting
- Coordinated Entry Committee Monthly Meeting
- IA Bos CoC Membership Task Group
- CoC Networking Forum
- Human Services Providers Meeting United Way Fort Dodge Foundation
- BRIC Meeting in Calhoun County
- Spark Point Leadership Training with Sara Ennis
- Monthly SNOFO TA for IA-501
- NSPIRE-V Inspection Training

Upcoming Meetings and Trainings:

- DEI Training with IA BoS CoC Presented by IMAN Consulting, Dr. LaDrina Wilson

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. Normal business hours are 7am – 8pm. Clients calling outside of these hours will need to leave a message and wait for a call back. Call backs are being made within 24-48 hours.





HR MONTHLY NEWS

Please continue to review your paystubs every pay day. If you have questions or notice something may be off, PLEASE reach out to Human Resources ASAP (Tiffany or Ashley).

Congratulations to our March Employees of the Month, **Head Start: Denise Graettinger (Program Coordinator - Jefferson Head Start) & Non-Head Start: Kristi Radtke (Remote – 1ST FIVE DSS)**. All nomination forms are due to HR by the 15th of each month.

Wellness Challenge: Time to Move!

- Challenge: April 1, 2024 – May 12, 2024
- 87 employees enrolled
 - If you do not have a wearable device synced, remember to log in and record activity minutes.
- Keep checking the Leaderboard to see who's in the race for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes!

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 2024: 3 incident reports
- February 2024: 1 incident report
- March 2024: 5 incident reports
- YTD Total: 9

Quick Facts YTD:

- 🌀 15 New Staff Hired
- 🌀 12 Staff Terminated
- 🌀 Turnover Rate: 6.7%
- 🌀 **Agency-wide there are only 5 open positions --- and 3 of them are in the interviewing process!**



Family & Community Services Director-Alisa Schlieff



FaDSS:

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

March 2024

Number of Families Served: for March 2024 76 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024: 101 families

Success Story:

Hello, my name is Edilia Batista, a Cuban immigrant and here I am with my children. I am currently working at Smithfield because I already have my work permit. This way I can get ahead, I feel totally different...nothing would have been possible without the support of so many people but mainly from our dear Ashley, at first it was little difficult to be able to communicate without the use of the cell phone. Ashley since she entered our house has been very supportive, always thinking about the well being of our family. I will forever grateful for the opportunity to meet people like her and the program she works for. Thank you so much!

Outreach:

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

All Outreach offices continue to take LIHEAP applications and also have started to help families with Crisis funds.

Outreach offices are gearing up for our Back to School programming for the summer. Applications for the Back to School programs will be available in our offices on May 1st.

We would like to welcome our newest staff: Sarah Peters-Humboldt County Outreach Specialist

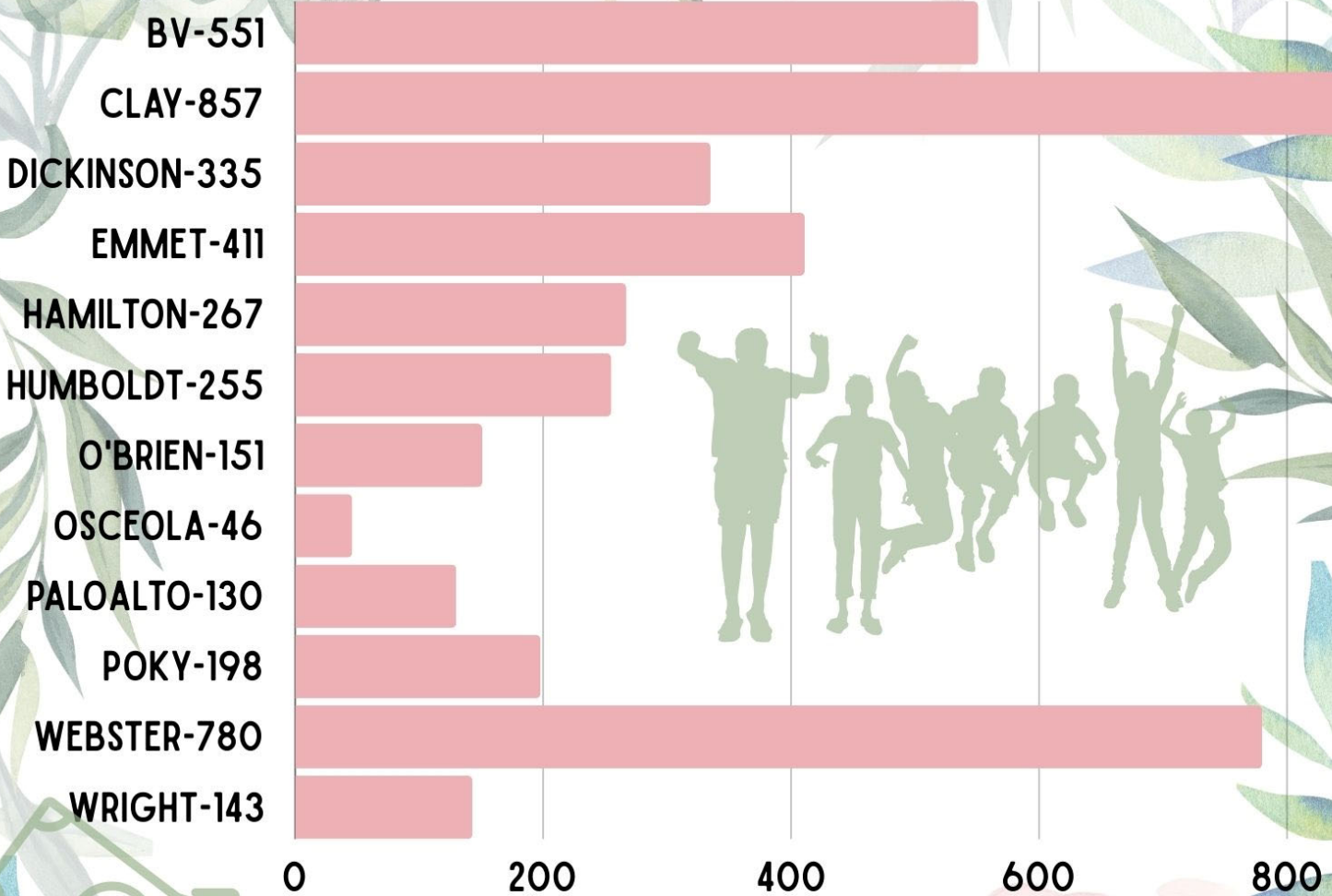
Outreach currently has 1 open positions: O'Brien County

All Outreach offices will be closed May 20-May 27

Fundraisers: Palo Alto County is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$500 summer grilling meat bundle. If you are interested in a ticket please let Lisa know!!



Individuals Served



Monetary Donations

BV- \$7,647.30	O'Brien- \$700.00
Clay- \$8,525.00	Osceola- \$262.00
Dickinson- \$925.00	PaloAlto- \$3,200.00
Emmet- \$3,120.00	Poky- \$420.00
Hamilton- \$200.00	Webster- \$550.00
Humboldt- \$100.00	Wright- \$0

UDMO Outreach - March 2024

Households Served

