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Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

Agenda:

* Connectivity Update – Tom Rolfes and Dean Folkers, NDE
  + Have been working with Ann as a liaison for connections into the community. Digital learning guidance has been developed, NDE Digital Learning Guidance document. Attempting to develop efforts around the digital learning hierarchy of needs. First layer is around connectivity-technology and broadband, stock ware-software and content of high-quality educational materials offered digitally, professional development- not just for students but also for teachers, parents, caregivers, and other adults. Tom Rolfes works on access to technology and fiber internet. Hoping to address homework gap in Nebraska- especially for students without access to technology at home. Homework gap is defined to adequate internet, modern device to connect to internet, and technical understanding to utilize the technology. Concerns especially for students that may have their schools forced to pivot to e-learning. Focusing on activities to circumvent these needs. Will be sending out surveys to providers to request information on discounts from providers that are people may not be aware of but could access. Pilot going out across the state to determine the best way to offer internet access into homes. Data acquisition team will be working to pinpoint student address to ask what access to connectivity services are in the home. This will help map needs specific to areas. Working with other states as a national effort to promote September as Digitally Equity Month. There is a campaign to collect information on the quality and quantity of access into homes. There will be a webinar for school districts available soon to offer more information on this process, will be able to include community members/coordinators to attend. Looking at the best way to collect information. Schools across Nebraska were asked to complete a digital plan. They received information that 30,000 as lacking access, last fall there were over 132,000 without access. Fortunate to have this need being met but obviously still a gap. Were able to use Relief funds to meet the gaps with support from the Governor. Working with ESU’s in getting devices to the school that identified themselves in the gap. Hoping by end of September to have all of these pieces in place. There has been a backlog of devices due to the significant demand, with reports showing the backlog to extend to December potentially. For the most part the gap is showing to mostly affect the lower grades. Initial plans were aimed towards getting devices to older students therefore the gap now reflects the need to be mostly by younger grades. There is belief that this gap will be filled. Coordinators and Central Navigators to share concerns, questions, and more importantly the needs that are being shared by families. There is a belief that collecting information locally is more efficient. At the state level it has been a challenge to hear from students and families.
    - For the webinar: The Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force is meeting Friday, Sept. 11; 9:30am, and will be broadcast as a webinar. The 11:00am CT segment will have 4 panelists speaking about the Homework Gap: <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/>
    - For NDE Digital Learning Guidance Document: https://www.launchne.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DigitalLearningGuidanceFinal2020.pdf
    - Contact information:
      * tom.rolfes@nebraska.gov; 402-471-7969
      * dean.folkers@nebraska.gov; 402-471-4740
* Housing Updates – Jason Feldhaus (NCFF) and John Turner (NIFAH)
  + Announcement last Wednesday: Eviction moratoriums. CDC has issued a health proclamation to stop the flood of evictions that is happening. The order will assist any individual earning $99,000 or less or $189,000 or less for couples, have sought government assistance for housing, affirmed they will likely be homeless if evicted, and that the reason they were unable to pay for housing were COVID-19 related. Housing assistance program working with DHHS to develop document on possible funds that can be accessed to assist families in a housing crisis.
  + NIFAH: Upcoming property managers webinar and training for landlords. Opportunity to train landlords with sensitivity trainings, as well as resources in the community, how to identify behaviors for tenants that are struggling, how to identify human trafficking and domestic violence. Will offer speakers on the webinar. Looking to engage landlords but community members welcome to attend. Visiting NIFAH website will show webinars available, [www.nifa.org/com-dev](http://www.nifa.org/com-dev) scroll to Outreach in Action. Also, information on landlord assistance program for landlords that are struggling due to not being able to receive rent. September 30th will be about tenant behavior, mental health behaviors. October 28th will be focusing on human trafficking.
  + Asking Collaboratives to assist in getting the word out about these available resources. Those landlords that partner with NIFAH for tax credits are required to do the trainings, and now partnering with realtor association to share this resource. Help landlords look at the benefits they will be receiving by attending these webinars and the partnership they will have with the collaboratives that will ensure they will get rent paid. Welcome suggestions for future webinars.
  + ESG (Emergency Services Grant) were available for Community Action Partnerships, shelters, and housing entities. Documents are coming out for organizations to utilize.
* Community CARES Funding Documentation – Julie Nash
  + Document created to assist in decreasing duplication efforts while meeting the requirements. Julie met with DHHS to develop this document. Hoping to lessen the burden in collecting documentation. Replaces organization from having to keep documents such as social security cards, drivers’ licenses, or birth certificates stored. This allows the opportunity to review a state issued id and residency and document. Utilizing the CR Support Services Fund document will be able to meet the documentation highlighting the impact of COVID-19. Employee signing and reviewing document that they were able to verify ID information. Also clarifies that everyone is aware where the funding is coming from. Julie also developed a paper trail verifying that this document was approved for use by DHHS as well as a list of what you should all keep.
  + Coordinated Entry Funds have specific documentation that will need to be utilized. Forms will go out to communities utilizing CE Funds.
  + Hoping to develop database of documents that can be searched and accessed.
  + Working on system to coordinate and collaborate with other organizations that offer assistance to prevent any “double dipping” and to validate the needs and amount of funds requested. Can also include a signature on forms that would reference the understanding of not “double dipping”. An example from Sandy Nation: “On our application, we ask if financial assistance has been requested from any other agency in the past 6 months. If so, provide the agency name, amount, and purpose of the assistance. At the bottom of the application it states, *"I certify that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge." I was told that this statement would protect me if people are double dipping.”*
    - To prevent Duplication of Benefits, there is encouragement for everyone to utilize Clarity, the HMIS system if possible, for your area. For more information on Clarity contact Angel Shafer with HMIS. Fremont has created a matrix in coordinating funds, resources, and organizations offering supports in the community.
* Community Stakeholder Q&A
  + Questions on how ESG Funds are similar and different to USDA housing and CARES Funds. Questions can be sent to [andrea.curtis@nebraska.gov](mailto:andrea.curtis@nebraska.gov)
  + Can visit Nebraska DHHS website for more information on CARES Funds such as awards, resources, etc.

All notes, audio, and chat box recordings are posted at <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html>

Next Call: September 17th, 10am