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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Mortgage and Utilities Assistance Available in non-Metro areas of Nebraska**

[Lincoln, Nebraska] For many Nebraskans, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant a decrease in income, leading to falling behind on mortgage payments and an increase in the stress associated with possible foreclosure. All Doors Lead Home, a program to prevent Nebraska homeowners from losing their homes is now available to take applicants. People who wish to see if they are eligible for up to six months of payments should visit the application website at [**go.unl.edu/BOSHousingAssistance**](https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3sZ9sinKdJOrBLU)**.**

These housing assistance funds are available to more rural areas of the state. Citizens in the Omaha and Lincoln metros, plus those living in the city limits of Grand Island, are eligible for different assistance. Other eligibility requirements include:

* You, or an adult member of your household, has had a loss of income due to COVID-19
* You have not received other federal, state, or local assistance for the same debt
* You have unpaid mortgage that began on or after March 1, 2020
* Households must be located outside the city limits of Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, or Douglas and Sarpy Counties.
* The household’s current income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income, based on household size, for its county of residence. A Housing Assistance Specialist will determine whether you qualify based on these and the remaining criteria

The online application is also available in Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese.

If applicants prefer to speak to a trained counselor to confirm eligibility and to begin the application process, they may contact one of the following Housing Assistance Specialists:

* **Heartland Counseling Services**
Housing Assistance Specialist: Suzanne Allen
712-301-8863
suzanne@heartlandcounselingservices.com
* **Blue Valley Community Action**
Housing Assistance Specialist: Martha Burgess
402-587-0168
mburgess@bvca.net
* **Care Corps' LifeHouse**Housing Assistance Specialist: Tanya Cluck
402-720-8754
tanya.cluck@lifehousene.org
* **Lutheran Family Services**
Housing Assistance Specialist: Maria Everett
402-672-6090
meverett@lfsneb.org
* **Lutheran Family Services**
Housing Assistance Specialist: Elizabeth Weidner
402-578-7260
[elweidner@lfsneb.org](file:///%5C%5CNCFFLNKDC01%5CUsers%5Cbweyers%5CMy%20Documents%5CCDBG%20Housing%20program%5Celweidner%40lfsneb.org)

“We know that the pandemic has overloaded many Nebraska families with stress and the fear that they may lose their homes as they struggle with loss of income due to COVID-related job loss or reduction in hours, said Jeff Chambers, Senior Project Director for UNL’s Center on Children, Families and the Law (CCFL). This housing assistance program can help many Nebraskans get back on a solid financial footing and reduce the anxiety of potential foreclosure. Communities win too, when families have stable housing and aren’t forced to leave. For people who feel reluctant to accept this assistance, I would remind them that these are their own tax dollars coming back to the state.”

**About All Doors Lead Home:**

UNL’s Center on Children, Families and the Law, is coordinating the mortgage assistance with other partners of the Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care including LifeHouse, Lutheran Family Services, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, Heartland Counseling Services, Inc. and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. The new program was funded by the CARES Act and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) through the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus program.

A Continuum of Care System is a community and regional-based process that provides a comprehensive and coordinated housing and service delivery system. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiated the Continuum of Care process in 1994. The process promotes a coordinated, strategic planning approach for programs that assist families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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