**Statewide Central Navigation Call**March 18, 2021

Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91496192036?pwd=R3NrdWVrT1UxQkVKd0dXQnhNY3hjdz09>

Meeting ID: 914 9619 2036

Passcode: 331676

One tap mobile

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**Chat** **Box:**

Introduce yourself

Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

* Community Spotlight
	+ Caroline Sabin, Families 1st Partnership (Lincoln, Keith, Perkins, and Arthur Counties)
	+ Streamlined application process due to the need demonstrated by COVID. Full application is available online on the website. Every application completed is then entered into a spreadsheet for easy tracking and connection to coaches.
	+ September through February they have had 500 applications come through.
	+ IT person is working on making applications that did receive services auto populate into Quickbase.
	+ Looking at education and trainings being easily available to families and agencies. Videos vary on topics such as housekeeping, time management, etc.
	+ Also looking at getting new coaches and offering ongoing training for them to best prepare them. Offer Leadership Lunch and Learn trainings for coaches to give them the tools to fully engage families.
	+ Tori, Central Navigator with Families First. Tori has been working on building relationships with agencies that have not previously been involved in the collaborative. Have recently built relationships with Department of Labor and Community Action among a few others.
	+ Department of Labor has been a great program to partner on coaching with as they offer services that many of the individuals and families are needing.
	+ Partner organizations are vital in the ability to serve families and individuals. Encourage to work together and support one another during these times of increased need for communities. Also encouraging coordinators and central navigators to explore other potential partners.
	+ Families 1st Partnership - families1stpartnership.org - info@families1stpartnership.org
	+ Communities are welcome to share at each statewide central navigation call. If a community would like to pick a meeting date to share, please contact Mary Pinker.
* Department of Labor, WIOA, Workforce Regional Managers
	+ Josh Hanson, DOL- Regional Manager in North Platte
	+ Mission is to seamlessly incorporate services for the customers served by multiple program partners.
	+ Vision includes addressing poverty and the benefits cliff by providing training, education, and job placement resources to move individuals to self-sufficiency. It’s imperative to identify barriers in place for individuals in an effort to develop a long and sustainable plan. It’s also a priority to create and maintain intake and assessment processes between organizations. Working together to properly access needs and provide quality referrals is critical to best serving clients. Participate in joint outreach activities, examples include Project Homeless Connect. A one stop, one day event with a multitude of resources to offer all the services that clients need to access. The development of seamless referral process that can be easily tracked and followed is a networking tool for partners in order to assure clients goals and connections in order to move towards self-sufficiency. This also allows organizations to see program needs and what more could be done to best serve clients. Following up with services between agencies allows the tracking of programs, partner, and clients barriers, successes, and needs.
	+ Partnership Composition consists of several members from multiple programs that all have a similar goal of empowerment and economic self-sufficiency. An advantage with DOL Re-employment Program offers a multitude of work based and job retention services for individuals. The program isn’t just for unemployed people but is also aimed for re-employment and employment retention trainings.
	+ Anyone that needs help with updating resumes, writing cover letters, looking for job opportunities can access the Wagner-Pfizer program.
	+ Job training and supportive services (childcare, tools, books, school supplies etc.) funds are available for adults. For youth there are also apprenticeship, on the job training, and supportive services.
	+ Trade Act Program helps workers that lose their jobs or lose hours due to foreign trade.
	+ Jobs for Veterans grant- specifically for veterans with barriers to employment. All those that work with this program are veterans. Works with employers to educate them on the benefits on employing veterans.
	+ Those filing for unemployment insurance, designed to develop employment plans and working to find sustainable work for those that are receiving unemployment benefits.
	+ Farm worker program offers trainings to enhance skills, education, and other benefits that are available to work for them.
	+ Specialists are working to share about the programs offered by the DOL for both individuals and employers.
	+ Regular meetings involving DOL assists in developing plans for individuals in the cycle of poverty, referral and service coordination efforts, developing best practices for assisting clients, assuring adequate access to services, and effective evaluation. Communication is critical in maintaining up to date information and consistent information.
	+ 2021 Action Plan prioritizes streamlines clear access for clients.
	+ Offices across the state vary in the programs they offer. Many do attend and partner with area collaboratives.
	+ There is an effort to develop a list of statewide and regional programs and organization contact list for partners.
	+ Welcome ideas on how to make the intake and referral process for young people smoother and easier. If central navigators have had experience or have heard of any challenges young people have shared around the referral and intake process with DOL programs, please contact Josh with DOL or Sara Riffel at NCFF.
	+ Expanded unemployment benefits have led to employer competition as employers are looking for employees and not having as many applicants. There is a correlation between the expanded unemployment benefits and individuals not actively searching for employment as they are depending on the temporary benefits. The thing to remember is that these benefits are temporary. The other thing to keep in mind is that future employers may observe that gap in employment and correlate it to the applicant’s character. It’s important to share and educate individuals on the downsides of continuing to depend on these benefits.
	+ These programs assist job seekers to get the trainings they need to meet the qualifications and build the skills employers are looking for in applicants.
	+ The employer competition in finding quality employees will lead to the need to evolve an employers own employee benefits.
	+ Contact information: Josh.hanson@nebraska.gov
* Policy and Advocacy
	+ Tax breaks and Stimulus Supports – Renee Frye, Open Sky Policy Institute
		- American Rescue Plan
			* $975 million to Nebraska, $128 million for state capital projects, $667 million to localities PLUS funding for education and housing
			* Allowable uses include responding to COVID or negative economic effects, provide services up to amount of revenue loss due to pandemic, provide premium pay to essential workers (up to $13 hour in additional pay max of $25k per worker), water, sewer, broadband investments.
			* Can’t use to offset net tax cuts, pension funds
			* Must be spent by Dee. 31, 2024; deadlines may vary per funding stream
			* State needs to send certification letter to Treasury, disbursement much be within 60 days.
			* Tax cuts- can’t be used either indirectly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue of Nebraska
			* Last year’s tax revenue is actually a lot better than it was expected to be. There are a lot of questions on what funds can be used to cut taxes.
			* Encouraging legislators on waiting to hear more on this Plan from Treasury before allowing further tax cuts.
			* Federal Funding for K-12 Education: Nebraska will receive $54,909,000 for K-12 education.
			* $230 million allocated to Early Childhood and Childcare
			* Process on how the funds will be distributed is still being developed. Encouraged to talk to senators and appropriations committee about the needs you are seeing in your community. There is a significant amount of funds that are designated to local government, connect to your local officials to find out on how those funds could be used in your community. You can actually utilize further see exactly how much your local government will be receiving, spreadsheet will be developed and shared with communities for reference.
	+ Jo Giles, CSN
		- Non-profit voice is critical in policy engagement and there are ways to do it legally with out the worrying of lobbying.
			* Education: Informing others about informing others about an issue/problem-usually fair and balanced
			* Advocacy: informing others about your opinion on an issue that affects your clients or community
			* Lobbying: informing elected officials or the public on your opinion on legislature
			* WHAT NOT TO DO:
				+ Avoid the person: important to avoid criticizing or supporting a candidate, rather focus on the POLICY.
			* What can you do?
			* Compile narrative, share data and narrative with senators, call or email your senator, call or email the senator that represents your nonprofit district, use legislative comment portal
	+ Erin Feichtinger, Together Omaha
		- LB320
			* We have all seen the intense need and desperation for individuals and families to keep their housing. There is a lack of understanding from legislators on the issues with evictions and housing. There is a huge need for legislators to hear the stories and issues communities are seeing and the needs for protections.
			* Contact: efeichtinger@togetheromaha.org
* Housing Task Force
	+ John Turner, NIFA Check NIFA's website and YouTube Channel to watch yesterday's webinar. www.nifa.org and www.youtube.com/NIFAHousing
	+ Randy McCoy, MAACH
	+ Jeff Chambers, CCFL
* Immigrant Families Task Force
	+ Leonor Fuhrer
	+ Immigrant Families taskforce meeting will be Thursday March 25th from 10:30am-11:30am. leonorfuhrer@gmail.com
	+ Topics will include:
		- ERA Funds: available to be accessed by DACA youth and legal residents
		- Public Charge Rule was dismissed allowing access to services and supports that previously discouraged for families in the process of achieving citizenship

**All notes, audio, and chat box recordings are posted at**[**https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html**](https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html)

**Next Call:  April 1, 2021, 10am CST**