Statewide Central Navigation Call  
July 9th, 2020

Zoom Connection Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/929504480>

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

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Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

Agenda:

* Pandemic EBT and Outreach – Melissa Weyer, DHHS
  + There are 10 more days for applications, the deadline is set for July 19th. 34, 729 children have applied with an estimate of 105 children as ineligible. Asking for assistance in spreading the word and connecting families to this opportunity. There are multiple resources such as videos (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOe63XKYLLM>), QR codes to help inform families. Please contact [Melissa.weyer@nebraska.gov](mailto:Melissa.weyer@nebraska.gov) for more information.
* Connected Youth Initiative and Bridge to Independence – Sara Riffel, NCFF
  + Program and supports in place developed through a partnership for young people that are in Bridges to Independence (B2I). For any young people that have exited B2I will be able to continue to receive additional $775/month as part of the GOALS program. This will allow them to receive services for an extended amount of time, up to 6 months after transitioning out of B2I.
  + Register through NE Works and participate in career and work opportunities through the 6 months and will be connected with a Central Plains- CYI Coach as well. Will also be able to co-enroll in Opportunity Passport. Will also be connected to Central Navigation to assist with needs and resources, especially for youth that are also parenting. This will serve youth that have transitioned out of B2I since March through June and going forward July through December.
  + Will not need to fill out a new form once connected to CN. They will actually receive the same form as part of the referral from the youth coach.
* Barrier Busting/Solution Task Force Workgroups
  + Undocumented Workforce and Housing – Leonor Fuhrer and Rachel Meier, NCFF
    - Friday, July 10th at 11:00am
  + Support for Youth and Families – Gay McTate
    - Thursday, July 16th at 9:00am
    - Zoom meeting will be going out tomorrow. For more information contact Gay Mc Tate. This will be exploring opportunities around mental health for families that aren’t often able to receive services.
  + Housing Task Force and Funding Opportunities – Jason Feldhaus, NCFF
    - Special thank you to communities that worked hard on applying for CARES Funds. There were multiple communities that were also focusing their applications around housing needs. These next few months will be critical as families struggle with housing and keeping their housing. DHHS and NCFF have been working to develop a steady and smooth process, connection around housing. There are grant funds for HUD that will be due next week around sheltering and homeless prevention with an opportunity to match those funds. Mortgage assistance is not included in ESG funds unfortunately so there will be another opportunity to explore solutions. Also looking at avoiding duplication of services for individuals while providing the best services possible.
      * Other funds on the table: First CDBG-CV have not been identified to going to housing at this time, but the second round holds a probability of incorporating housing assistance. If you need help looking at assistance in mapping these resources to address needs in your community, please reach out to NCFF.
      * For information on the Housing Task Force Meetings, email Nate Smith at [nsmith@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:nsmith@nebraskachildren.org)
      * Continuing to support hotel/motel vouchers. Because of a news story there were multiple hotels that were able to reach out and offer partnership opportunities.
      * Economic Development Boards are looking at process to initiate contacts and processes with landlords to work better in collaborating with landlords. In efforts to sustain low and affordable, fair housing. Looking at how to provide supports to landlords to encourage their participation. Also, on how to connect landlords and tenants with CN for supports and services. Hoping this will also help landlords become trauma informed, patient, and to have a positive relationship with their tenants that will hopefully lead to sustainable housing.
      * Questions on hotels/motel vouchers.
        + Length of time in hotels: usually around a couple of weeks. COC has prioritized those in hotels in getting into permanent housing.
        + Long-term discussions will be occurring on Housing Task Force in efforts to explore the capacity and interest for collaboratives to support the Hotel/Motel Vouchers moving forward especially after the end of the year deadline for CARES Funds.
      * Any additional questions of needs please feel free to email Jason at jfeldhaus@nebraskachildren.org
* CARES Act Funding Updates – Jennifer Skala and Rachel Meier, NCFF
  + Community Sharing: What CARES applications are being submitted to serve your collaborative area?  Where are the commonalities so community partners can connect on priorities and strategies?
  + To access the funding matrix, go to this link on the Nebraska Children website and scroll to "Nebraska COVID-19 Funding Matrix":https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html
  + Matt Thomsen: Updates
    - ESG Funds deadline is Monday.
    - CDBG Funds: Community Action Agencies have been connected with needs assessments in the communities they serve and have submitted applications. The funds will be used towards those needs that were highlighted as priorities such as connectivity.
    - IExcited to inform that on 7/15/20, DHHS will be issuing supplemental LIHEAP payments to utility providers for LIHEAP households that have received heating or cooling bill pay assistance. LIHEAP households that received heating assistance will have a payment of $235 paid to their heating utility provider, and LIHEAP households that receive cooling assistance will have a payment of $235 paid to their utility provider. Thus, LIHEAP households that received both heating and cooling assistance will be eligible to receive a payment for each. Households do not need to request/apply for this. It will be automatically approved, and notices will be sent to the households.
  + Sara Papa/Platte Colfax: Behavioral and Mental Health was prioritized as well as technology. Local school district hoping to provide one to one technology opportunities. CR request for support services to assist with housing, food insecurity, and support funds. Local school mental health opportunities.
  + Norfolk: Housing and connectivity were top priorities. Mental health services are incorporated in schools and can serve as a resource to other communities such as Platte Colfax.
  + Deborah Dancer/Omaha: Housing and older youth were prioritized especially with support services to offer housing opportunities for young people.
  + Julie Nash: Access for services to diverse populations.
  + Elci: Transportation a priority on application. Gas cards and car repairs. Moving expenses also included, as section 8 Housing voucher assistance is going away.
  + Rachel Surmick/Lancaster County: Have had over 24,000 unemployment filings since March, so we know the need for emergency financial assistance is there.
  + Dodge/Washington/Ne City: Lifehouse took lead as applicant and included multiple focus areas mental health school based, housing/mortgage assistance.
  + Cathy Minnick/The Sandhills Community Collaborative submitted an application in connection with Central Plains Center for Services. Applications prioritized housing, utilities and food insecurity for our families. Also included Bilingual Outreach. Central Plains portion of the application focused on their work with older youth across the entire state.
  + Susanne Shore: <https://www.bringupnebraska.org/covid-19-fact-sheets/videos>. There are more and more documents available in different languages. We have had the EBT guide and FAQ and the common resources during COVID documents translated into several languages.
  + Dakota County prioritized connectivity to support individuals in our communities who do not have technology to get information from. Also prioritized housing, food and mental health. Collaborative partner Heartland Counseling put in the application for the mental health piece.
  + Questions on how to get the word out on how to share the availability of providing resources especially as awards come through.
    - Utilizing school social workers/therapists, family-based community services, law enforcement, disaster recovery, etc.
    - Continued discussions to occur as we move forward.

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

Next Call: Thursday, July 23, 2020  10am