**Statewide Central Navigation Call**September 17th, 2020

Zoom Connection Information:

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

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,929504480# US (San Jose)

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**Chat** **Box:**

* Introduce yourself
  + Question for Community Partners:  What are the top unresolved barriers that families and young people are experiencing in your local areas?
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

* **DHHS Updates – Emily Kluver, DHHS**
  + Economic Impact Payment – Federal Stimulus Check for Non-Filers
    - October 15th is the last day that individuals can file for stimulus check for this tax year. This is for individuals that are not required to file a tax return, due to income levels not meeting the minimum amounts requiring a return and did not automatically receive their stimulus check automatically as well. These are considered as “non-filers” and are therefore required to file for the stimulus check. For more information visit https://www.eitcoutreach.org/tax-filing/coronavirus/how-to-fill-out-the-irs-non-filer-form
  + Pandemic EBT
    - 2nd round has been announced but there are differences between the first and second round. The schools will be providing lists of students that are eligible. Not all Free and Reduced lunch students that are virtual learners and cannot access food at school. The funding has to be spent by September 30th. There is a collection of data being gathered from the schools to get lists by the end of the day tomorrow. If your community has a need for food access for remote learners, please communicate with DHHS representatives to connect to the process.
    - P-EBT Questions should go to Melissa.Weyer@Nebraska.gov
  + SNAP
    - Hearing that there are several families reporting rental assistance that is impacting their SNAP benefits. Critical to understand and inform families what receiving rental assistance can do to their SNAP case. Families are only required to disclose rental assistance at the beginning of filing for SNAP or during review. Ex. If family needs help with October rent, if you issue payment to landlord during the last 10 days of September, it won’t impact SNAP case. If you issue it before the 10 days, it would as it is seen in advance. The state is required to allow 10 days’ notice of any adverse action which is the reason why it would not impact benefits if rent assistance is paid in the last 10 days - even if we are aware of the payment, we do not have 10 days to notify the client of the adverse action. Families are not required to report the assistance but if it is brought up or somehow disclosed it would have to be reported and revisited.
      * Do not have to make this a harder process for families, but most definitely something for CN and Coordinators to keep in mind when they are sending out payments.
    - Please contact community support specialists for information:
      * Shelly – Western/Central – 402-984-9905 – shelly.witt@nebraska.gov
      * Stacy – Northern/Central – 402-375-7055 – stacy.schenk@nebraska.gov
      * Darla – Sarpy County/Southeast – 402-595-3314 – darla.berger@nebraska.gov
      * Darniece – Douglas County – 402-595-3369 – [darniece.amos@nebraska.gov](mailto:darniece.amos@nebraska.gov)
  + Translation and Interpretation Survey
    - Survey is available right now please share in order to collect responses.
* **CARES R&R Questions and Follow-Ups – Diane Lowe, DHHS**
  + Those individuals that receive public housing assistance are not eligible for CARES funds, such as Section 8 housing. Those section 8 housing organizations received additional funds to assist those individuals.
    - Anyone receiving S8 or in Public Housing should report any loss of income and impact from COVID and have an interim completed which would reduce their rent. That being said, that doesn't always happen in a timely manner and Housing Authorities are by no means perfect and they are overwhelmed, so that may not happen right away.
  + List will be available with all the projects listed that receive R&R funds by end of September. Do not want to publish publicly with contact information as the contact person listed on applications may not be the person that is providing assistance to the public.
* **Child Care Block Grant- Jennifer Skala, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation**
  + Child Care Block Grant: $4 million dollars of funds will be available for those organizations providing care for afterschool programs. Similar application process to the one that was put out for childcare providers.
* **CDC Eviction Moratorium – Scott Mertz, Legal Aid of Nebraska**
  + Temporary halt in evictions to diminish further spread COVID-19. Did have a prior moratorium from March to July 26th with a 120 cushion, the former moratorium affected properties that had had received federal funds. A genuine concern that there would be a tsunami of evictions after this moratorium ended. This CDC moratorium is a legislative action. This offers authority to prevent evictions as of September 4th. The law says any covered person, anyone renting in the county, is unable to be evicted. Person has to take affirmative steps, obtain and sign declaration form and give to landlord.
  + The declaration form attests that individuals:
    - have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing
    - either expect to earn no more than $99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than $198,000 if filing a joint tax return), were not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
    - are unable to pay full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
    - are using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual’s circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses.
  + This does not waive payments. Fees and interest that can accrue will continue to be accrued. December 31, 2020 the landlord is due to receive all amounts due or will face eviction. This will work in court to prevent evictions. This is also hoping to encourage renters to look into housing assistance and to also incentivize landlords in accepting government funds.
    - Questions:
      * There can be landlords that will refuse and can’t be found to serve the declaration form.
      * This is for anyone that is currently housed not really for those who have already left the home.
      * Direct individuals to the webpage for the declaration or for more information. [www.legalaidofnebraska.org](http://www.legalaidofnebraska.org)
      * This is only for evictions based on non-payment of rent. Not for lease violations.
      * This asserts that renters are making assertive steps to pay their rent, not sitting until December 31 to make any type of payment.
      * This protection can also be used by undocumented individuals.
      * The document should only have to be presented once to landlord and will cover until December 31st.
      * Scott works closely with CR especially in Sarpy and has a great idea of what the work of the collaboratives are, please share the resources of Legal Aid so that individuals are aware of the services and supports they can access. Encouraging collaboratives to connect with courts to share the resources and supports offered by the collaboratives.
      * Nebraska Children has a list of orgs/collaborations that have housing assistance dollars from the Cares R and R funds. DHHS is working on a full list of all of the Cares R and R Funds.
      * CR public funds will not cover interest and fees but can utilize private dollars to cover such costs. Need to make clear what the separate amounts are on requests. This includes matching housing funds some communities are receiving. CARES Act R & R funds allows for justifying the payment of fees and interest.
    - Contact information for more information, services, and presentations.
      * Scott Mertz: smertz@legalaidofnebraska.org
* **Barrier Busting/Solution Task Force Workgroup Updates**
  + Connectivity/Communication: Next meeting September 24th @ 3:30pm, working on more training and certification opportunities for translators. Also, making more funding to make translators and interpreters available.
  + Food Insecurity: meeting next Friday, September 25th @ 2pm. Working on quantifying the level of food security in Nebraska. Sending out survey going to access the lack of food security in the last 3 months, hoping to provide a snapshot of what the needs are across the state and also discussing the use of more tools to access further need. Data by government both state and national such as WIC, free and reduced lunch, employment rates and compiled into a dashboard that will demonstrate other factors that contribute to food insecurity. PLEASE if you have additional information that have benefited by max SNAP allotment and its relation to COVID, please email those stories to Jennifer Skala as they advocate with legislators to continue to provide this benefit.
    - Zach Nelson Consultant, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
      * Phone: (402) 513-9115
      * [zach@republicinsights.com](mailto:zach@republicinsights.com)
    - Jennifer Skala, Nebraska Childrens
      * [jskala@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jskala@nebraskachildren.org)

Here is the Zoom information for the Food Insecurity Solutions Task Force:

Zachary Nelson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
  
Topic: Nebraska Food Insecurity Solutions Task Force  
Time: Sep 25, 2020 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82824087211?pwd=cVVTeDN3amhTb093VG43L3AzbXYvQT09>  
  
Meeting ID: 828 2408 7211  
Passcode: 092453  
One tap mobile  
+16699009128,,82824087211#,,,,,,0#,,092453# US (San Jose)  
+12532158782,,82824087211#,,,,,,0#,,092453# US (Tacoma)  
  
Dial by your location  
        +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
        +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
        +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
        +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
        +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
        +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 828 2408 7211  
Passcode: 092453  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kUm3SHAKF>

* + Undocumented Workforce and Housing: met yesterday and were able to discuss the barriers immigrant families are facing throughout pandemic and the low amount of information that is available to them. Shared resources and supports by various organizations across the state that families can be connected to. Next meeting is October 28th from 10:30 to 11:30am.
    - Contact Leonor Fuhrer: [leonorfuhrer@gmail.com](mailto:leonorfuhrer@gmail.com)
  + Support for Youth and Families: next meeting is Sept 28th
    - Contact Gay Mctate: gmctate@cox.net
  + Housing Task Force and Funding Opportunities: reach out to Jason Feldhaus if needing support when dealing with housing issues in communities. Kearney looking at legal services in relation to community response and providing local and timely access to legal services. If communities are dealing with specific needs, barriers, and gaps in housing please reach out. [jfeldhaus@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jfeldhaus@nebraskachildren.org)

**Community Share:**

* Have other communities developed guidance on the max amount’s families are being assisted with? Some communities reevaluated their guidance’s at the start of the pandemic and other communities are encouraged to reevaluate those guidance’s as well as a reflection on the pandemic and community needs. Will be an agenda item on the next call.
* There is a visual being created to be able to show the different providers and resources work together when utilizing different data systems (i.e. HMIS, Service Point, etc) If there are any individuals that have experienced anything that have prevented them from getting services and not reflective of the “no wrong” door approach please email Jennifer Skala.
* Barriers PEO is seeing: Transportation is a barrier due to unreliable public transportation, inability to validly drive due to licensing, the cost of insurance, repairs etc. The distribution of CARES dollars to support young people with rental assistance and other bills which I know was talked about on this call we are excited to hear these are being distributed!
  + Transportation continues to be an issue for Sarpy. We are also seeing more families in hotels.
  + Availability of affordable housing and transportation continue to be issues in Dakota County.
* Follow ups to come as well on utilizing Clarity, Quickbase, etc.

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

Next Call: Thursday, October 1, 2020   10am