Statewide Central Navigation Call
April 23rd, 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
* Specific thoughts/questions regarding existing policy changes or the need for policy change in your area

Agenda:

* DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver
	+ Child support enforcement office has released updated FAQ on impact stimulus checks will have on child support
	+ Medicaid members will not have Medicaid cases closed while emergency status situation is in place
	+ Current unemployment clients not to be affected by stimulus check
	+ DHHS economic assistance impacts to be assessed and will be released
	+ Communication with individuals who were ineligible for SNAP benefits or who aged out of Bridge to Independence March – April 2020
		- Will be reaching out to families with children under 5 that were denied SNAP for resources as well as youth that have recently aged out of Bridge to Independence. Will be offering a warm transfer to local collaboratives.
	+ WIC policies: Families do not have to apply in person. Families can go to a website to find a local WIC office and can call to sign up. The Department of Labor will be sharing WIC information with individuals applying for unemployment.
		- Jenny will give Emily list of local collaboratives for reference
		- There will be a safety net of funding to ensure that assistance will be able to be provided

* Early Childhood Referral Network – Nikki Roseberry
	+ Nebraska Referral System went live Monday. Website matches parents and childcare providers in each community. Also shows the number of slots available for each age group. Data was collected in partnership with ELC coordinators. ⅓ of providers that had not originally submitted information have been starting to reach out to add their information. Visit FAQ section on website for more information on how to get added. On initial inventory, providers were asked what their higher needs are that was then set into a statewide report but, cannot due to consent, share what providers individually need to stay open. A new survey is going out to those providers to request consent to share their needs with local support opportunities and will be shared with coordinators in each community. Mary will send out the initial report listing out needs.

* Supporting Food Banks –Zach Nelson
	+ Food Security Task Force has been developed and meets weekly. Supply chain being developed in order to assist local food pantries, pop up food pantries, volunteers, with some support from National Guard. Connecting local producers to distribute food to those who need it. There has been some lifting of restrictions in order to get products directly to distributors. There has been an increase in need for funds for food pantries as well as food. The task force is looking to find potential funding resources.
	+ Mary will email out resources to communities to share out the needs from food pantries that can be used such as flyers, social media content,  etc.

* Policy Changes and Opportunities  - Rachel Meier and Jenny Skala
	+ COVID-19 Fund: Some of the dollars will be used to provide computers to families.
	+ Communications Survey- 19 different community responses. Results being compiled now in order to utilize the survey to develop more support and resources.
		- Resources and Strategies – First Lady Shore
			* Looking to provide good information to non-English speaking Nebraskans. Will be providing videos available in different languages. Reached out to meat packing plants to identify the most prominent languages. Will be using a variety of strategies to release messaging.
			* Rachel: Email went out from Nebraska Children in regards to different changes in public programs and topics such as what to do with spam calls. Looking at relation between unemployment and stimulus checks.  $ 1.25miliion is coming to Nebraska that will directly go to Douglas County.
	+ Reaching immigrant/non- English-speaking populations:
		- Ingrid Rodriguez will be speaking tonight on the Governor's town hall to share more about Bring Up Nebraska and how to access resources in Spanish.
		- NCFF is asking collaboratives to identify if they have someone in their community that speaks Spanish. There will be a hotline established for Spanish speaking individuals to reach out for resources and connections to local collaboratives. This will aid those collaboratives that do not have someone available that speaks Spanish.

* Community Conversation:
	+ Please have one person from your area respond (others can share in the chat box with one another):
		- Follow up from call on 4/16 – what is your approach to financial coaching and utilization of support services funds considering COVID stimulus checks? What training or information have you provided – what needs are you seeing in addition to what the stimulus can cover?
			* York: Financial Coaching not officially coordinated. The Consumer Financial Bureau has lesson plans for kids that talks about money and planning. Videos about negotiating debt payments and bills during this time. Financial Peace university online offering a free 2 week trial. Smart Money is available to employers to offer employees, there is a cost. Have looked into education and support for families with large overdraft fees, using donations to help cover some of their fees and working with banks to lower those fees during this time. Also talked with Omaha Area 4-H using my  Financial Future curricula for High School students as they look to pilot this program, hoping gYork will be chosen. COVID 19 Response fund established.
			* Valentine: Working on making connections. Some stimulus checks are still pending with people needing them.
			* Sandhills: Nothing formally in place. Young people are being served through CYI/PALS and having conversations and resources from YMYG. There is a specific chapter in the curriculum on bills and debts. Lots of people reporting not yet receiving checks.
			* Otoe/Nebraska City: Starting on CR. Coach has a background in training families around budgeting and financial planning. Not seeing a rise in cases. All industries are still running.
			* Panhandle: working on housing for people experiencing homelessness, going well. Appreciate resources, enhancing what is currently in place. Note: Lessons learned is respect and dignity is crucial. Try not to judge families on how they use their stimulus check money. Support them as best as you can.
			* Norfolk: No exact structure in place as of yet. Having conversations with individuals requesting flex funds to assure using stimulus checks wisely, setting up collaboration with banks or accountants for financial education. Looking at providing general education on their website and providing individual resource connections if needed.
			* Lancaster: Housing and Utilities are the biggest needs. Families have yet to receive checks as they don’t have bank accounts established, waiting for paper checks to be mailed. Use YMYG for individuals. The Community Action Financial Well Being program is also a resource being used.
			* Lift Up Sarpy: Requests have been quiet but have seen an increase in utility and rental assistance.
			* Hall County: If individuals have received stimulus checks they help them build that into their budget. All those requesting assistance complete a budget. They can then take a closer look to see if the funds will be able to meet their needs. Follow up with individuals requesting support to see how stimulus funds were used.
			* Dakota County: Biggest need is food. Food pantry is overwhelmed. Coaching and stimulus checks: Not too many people have requested funds at this time. Had one client that had hoped to use stimulus check for back rent, but do to immigration situation she was not eligible to receive those funds. Tyson has seen a significant increase in COVID cases and many are expecting that they will have to close. Preparing people to plan on last paychecks and the gap between receiving unemployment.
			* Fremont: Any time that an individual reaches out for financial support they are asked to complete a budget. Ask them to build Stimulus check funds into the budget. If individuals keep returning for funds support they are asked how they adhered to the budget.
			* Families First Partnership/North Platte: Delays in receiving stimulus checks due to not filing taxes, no checking accounts, issues with activating emerald cards. Families are asked to build budgets when they request funds with their Coaches. Do have some spanish resources online.
			* Douglas: Some partnering agencies provide financial classes to families. Project Everlast is providing fantastic opportunities for financial education. Collaborative training offered once a week, young people join  to offer input on topics relevant to them such as COVID, budgitng, Opportunity Passport, etc. Also seeing young people not able to get their stimulus checks yet due to no bank accounts, not filing taxes. Seeing increased need in housing, seeing young people needing to utilize homeless shelters.
			* Gothenburg: Financial impact a concern. Navigating financial stress during a pandemic being offered to families. Covers a variety of topics in relation to situations relevant to families right now. Budgeting, what bills to pay, which ones to hold off on, Webinar also offers an opportunity for a $50 grocery gift card to participants.
			* Buffalo County: Beginning CR team. Financial component is not yet developed but have gained lots of knowledge from this call.

Next Call: Thursday, April 30, 2020  10am