**Statewide Central Navigation Call**November 12th, 2020

Zoom Connection Information:

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

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,929504480# US (San Jose)

+16465588656,,929504480# US (New York)

**Chat** **Box:**

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

**Updates Related to Data Collection and Evaluation – Catherine Brown**

* Data entered into Quick Base should reflect completed Support Service Fund Applications, recognizing that an application may ultimately be funded through a variety of sources (e.g. funds from other service organizations in the community, funds from faith based organizations, CARES Act Funds, funding from Nebraska Children). Accounting systems need to reflect the funding sources, however, Quick Base (or Clarity) does not. Ultimately, we are trying to understand how many people requested Support Service Funds, and for what—and an indicator of a request is a completed Support Service Fund Application, which includes but is not limited to an application that is ultimately funded with Nebraska Children-specific funds. It may help keep in mind that Quick Base and Clarity are, first and foremost, electronic data systems for evaluation, not accounting.
* Key dates: We are approaching the halfway point in the evaluation year. Here are some key dates.
  + Jan 4 – 6-month evaluation templates emailed to coordinators and central navigators
  + Jan 5, 1-2 pm & Jan 7, 9-10 am – Optional webinar on 6-mo evaluation template (same content for both, just offering two time/date options). Outlook invites coming soon to coordinators, central navigators, consultants, and evaluators.
  + Jan 15 – Deadline for entering data through end of Dec
  + Jan 31 – Templates due

**Food Insecurity – Emily Kluver and Zach Nelson**

* DHHS will issuing emergency SNAP allotments for November. Families that were on SNAP in November, on December 8th they will receive an additional benefit on their EBT card if they are not already receiving the maximum amount. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Supplemental-SNAP-Funds-to-be-Issued-December-8.aspx>
* There have been changes to USDA food boxes program.If there are partnerships in your community, please share that with Zach in order to share those out with other and help make further connections.

**“Do Right, Right Now” Campaign – Brenda Weyers**

* Commissioner Bloomstead approached NCFF to develop campaign to encourage people across Nebraska on how to socially distance, wear masks, and to stay safe.
* Nebraska Children will serve as fiscal agent to push campaign. Will be available on a website, radio, broadcasts, etc. Will continue for several months. Will include factual information such as UNMC updates, etc. Will include a social media toolkit. Are currently working on translations. Trying to assure there is consistent and continual messaging across the state.

**LIHEAP Referrals – Matt Thomsen**

* Received federal funding for fiscal year 2021 last week. Heating season began October 1 and runs through March. Were able to release payments towards households last night, just under 24,500 households, equaling about 12.4 million dollars. Those payments take about 3 business days to get to providers or intended recipients. For the larger providers it may take them a little while to work through crediting payments.
* Working with DHHS on providing referrals for families and households that do not qualify for LIHEAP. Back in Spring of 2020 there were two outreach projects highlighted by DHHS to assistance with assistance and with youth aging out of the system. The idea is to connect people that ask for crisis energy assistance that don’t qualify for LIHEAP as well to communities that received CARES funds for utility assistance. If your community still has CARES funds available, please let DHHS know so they can connect families to your organization and also let them know how many families you think you could assist with remaining funds. Communities that still have CARES Funds available and need to reallocate budget line items, connect with DHHS (Diane Lowe) to shift those funds.

**CARES Housing PSA – Susanne Shore**

* Will be making these ads statewide, have flyers, psa and interpreted voiceovers. Utilize the links to access the tools. This is intended to inform people on the availability of CARES funds and are referred to 211 that in turn connect people to local community partners that have CARES Act funds and can meet those needs. Will also be connected to Central Navigation. There is no cost to collaboratives for these calls, 211 will be covering these costs.
  + <http://www.bringupnebraska.org/covid-19-fact-sheets/videos>

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dipdzsdmk9vl7ku/AADKpHw8UuMAhUJSGG3VX0Hva?dl=0>

* Matt with LIHEAP will also share this information with utility providers they partner with already.
* Applications for LIHEAP assistance can be requested online at http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov, by calling ACCESSNebraska at 1-800-383-4278, or through a local DHHS office.

**Housing Task Force and Utility Payment Strategies – Julie Nash**

* Trying to figure out if there is an availability to do lump sum payments to utility companies in order to make it easier on Central Navigation. Wanting to assure that the documentation will be adequate and sufficient to meet requirements. For example sending a spreadsheet of the customers that need the payment on their account but only one check rather than multiple written to the utility company. Wanting to look closer at citizenship requirements and the COVID impact required by CARES Funds. Utility providers do compile data and can show trends to show impacts potentially as well as the number of households that are currently awaiting shutoffs. Jeff Chambers/ Lincoln does provide one check and a spreadsheet to utility providers and can connect communities to find out more about this. Collena in SE Nebraska also has a similar agreement with their local utility provider. Communities are interested in seeing what those spreadsheets look like. Black Hills Energy does not currently track the impact of COVID on customer accounts and don’t necessarily have the capacity to provide referrals but would like more information on how to connect customers to local resources.
  + **Lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/pdf/housing-utility-assist.pdf**
  + **https://www.nppd.com/in-your-neighborhood/community/pennies-power**

**CARES Spending Updates, Questions, Concerns – statewide conversation**

* Want to see 211 continue to refer families to local collaboratives even if only calling about specific things such as Pennies for Power in order to assure the use of CARES Funds.
* Can **CARES Funds** pay for cell phones and car payments? Yes, those are considered emergency assistance as cellphones and cars are needed for daily living. Also, if the change in budget line items are huge just go ahead and drop a note to Diane Lowe but if they are large amounts just connect with Diane beforehand. December 30th is the deadline. There are no updates yet on any extensions but hoping for one. IF and when that happens it will be communicated asap.

**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: Thursday, November 12, 2020   10am**