

Annual Report

2007-2008

Lorye McLeod, Executive Director



Northwest Community Action Partnership

Northwest Community Action Partnership 2007-2008

Northwest Community Action Partnership is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was formed in 1965 to carry out the goals of Title II in the Federal Economics Opportunity Act of 1964.

The Mission of Northwest Community Action Partnership: Helping low-income individuals improve the quality of their lives and attain self-sufficiency.

Northwest Community Action Partnership is one of nine Community Action organizations in the state of Nebraska, our administrative office is located in Chadron Nebraska.

With a workforce of approximately 70 employees, and a combined annual budget just over three million dollars we are able to provide services to a five county area which includes; Box Butte, Dawes, Cherry, Sheridan, and Sioux.

Services provided are; Head Start/Early Head Start, Community Services, Closer to Home Soup Kitchen, Sheridan County Transportation, Senior Volunteer Programs, and Weatherization.

Northwest Community Action Partnership is governed by twelve Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise. The Board is a tripartite Board which has representation from the private sector, elected officials, and low income representatives as required by the Community Service Block Grant. The Board also complies with Head Start/Early Head Start Reauthorization which requires board members to include: parents, an attorney, someone with fiscal knowledge and knowledge in early childhood education to serve as a board member.

Board of Directors

President

Don Blausey, Dawes
County Elected Official

Vice President

Bill Cebula, Low Income
Representative

Secretary/Treasurer

Marvin Toedtli, Box Butte
County Elected Official

Private Sector

Seth Leypoldt

Donald Sjostrom

Pastor Rod Heilbrun

Low Income Representatives

Charlene Baker

Gary Goodell

**Elected Officials/
Commissioners**

James Krotz, Sheridan
County

Keith Zimmerman, Sioux
County

Community Services

Sarah Baumgarten, Director

Community Services provides services to qualifying families through Community Service Block Grant Funds as well as other grant programs. The Emergency Food Assistance Program through FEMA provides our clients with assistance in food pantries, rent and utilities.

The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program also assists qualified families with assistance in rent and utility costs, case management for our clients and overnight lodging. Commodities are available to qualified families on a monthly basis.

Migrant funds assist the migrant families in Box Butte County. The Sheridan County Public Transportation System provides transportation to residents in Sheridan County.

Northwest Community Action Partnership partners with many other community organizations such as; Salvation Army, Family Rescue Services, the American Red Cross, Native American Centers in Dawes and Box Butte Counties and local food pantries to expand client services in our rural service areas. One example of

this is our new collaboration with Neighbors in Need and Chadron Community Hospital to provide lunches to homeless and hungry clients in Chadron through the Closer to Home Program. These services are just the first steps in building a stronger foundation for future homeless services.

2007-2008 Outcomes # of individuals

At Risk Homeless/Homeless Motel Vouchers	56
Basic Needs	16
Bedding/Linen	6
Bus Fare	89
Mattresses	1
Medical Bill/Expense Assistance	4
Clothing/Clothing Vouchers	6
Congregate Meals/Nutrition Sites	12
Mortgage Payment Assistance	11
Diapers	21
Eviction Assistance	1
General Medical/Health Care	3
Heating Fuel Bill Assistance	58
Personal Goods/Services	101

Food Banks/Food Supplies	28
Rent Deposit/Payment	428
Utility Assistance	417
Transportation Expense	114
Personal Finances/Budgeting	2
Prescription Expense	4
Relocation Assistance	2
Tax Preparation	93
Shoes	6
Thanksgiving Baskets	17
Tools Equipment	1
Vehicle Parts	1
Information and Referral	377

Closer to Home Soup Kitchen
Served 2,376 Meals

Weatherization

Ross Heinen, Director

The Weatherization Program is designed to serve income eligible clients that have homes in need of weatherization measures to help them decrease the ever-growing energy costs of heating and air-conditioning. By weatherizing homes this allows for more earned dollars to go into the families over all budget.

The program follows a priority system to identify the order in which qualifying persons are served, elderly disabled persons being the number one priority.

Examples of some of the weatherization measures include but not limited to; weather stripping, caulking and several types of insulation applications. In most cases, all weatherization measures are afforded to qualifying households at little or no costs.

Recently, these energy saving applications have been made available to the general public for a fee.

2007-2008 Outcomes

Sixteen homes were weatherized using Low Energy Assistance Program funds, of those homes 50% received new furnaces and over 60% received additional insulation either in walls or attic spaces. All homes were given a combination of energy saving materials including but not limited to; CFL-Compact Florescent Lighting, night lights, low flow shower heads, weather-stripping, rim joint insulation and caulking. Windows and doors were installed on selected mobile homes.

Thirty homes were weatherized using Department of Energy Grant Funds, DOE. All of these homes received energy saving materials and 70% had additional insulation.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Amy Richardson, Director

Head Start/Early Head Start is one of the most successful Federally funded Programs for children ever created. Over the past three decades it has touched the lives of over 13 million low income preschool children and their families across the nation.

Northwest Community Action Partnership has offered these services since 1965 in Dawes County and has expanded to Box Butte, Cherry and Sheridan Counties. Currently, there are eleven centers four of which are collaborations with public schools, four home-based programs, one full day/full year program, one childcare collaboration. Yearly, 240 children between the ages of 0-5 and their families receive services through Head Start/Early Head Start.

Head Start attends to the development of each child with attention to the individual strengths and needs. Children with disabilities are included in the regular program, with individual education and special services as needed. Children leave Head Start prepared for kindergarten, excited about learning, confident in their own abilities and ready to succeed in life.

The Head Start philosophy is that parent/parents are the primary educators of their children and must be directly involved with the program. There are many classes and workshops that are offered to parents such as parenting, nutrition, developmentally appropriate activities that parents can do with their children at home.

Because of the unique trust between staff and families, and its link with community agencies, Head Start is an important catalyst for change in local communities.

2007-2008 Outcomes Early Head Start

58 Families Served

Race: 9 Native American, 2 Asian, 2 Pacific Islander, 32 White, 13 Bi-racial

Language: English 57, and 1 Marshallies

Staff: 15 Head Start Staff and 5 former/current Head Start parents

Dental Services: 18 completed dental exams/well baby check, 11 dental exams

Disabilities: 3 children diagnosed

Number of families served: 29 two parent families, 23 one parent families

Employment Status: 40 employed, 12 unemployed

Job training/school: 16 parents were in training/school, 36 parents are not in training/school

Education total families: 4 less than high school graduate, 21 high school graduate or GED, 22 AA or some college, 5 BA or advanced degree

2007-2008 Outcomes—Head Start

Total number of volunteers 402 of which 297 were

Head Start Parents

236 Families Served

Race: 48 Native American, 1 Asian, 2 Pacific Islander, 148 White, 23 Bi-racial, 14 other

Language: English 223, Spanish 12, and 1 Marshallies

Staff: 51 Head Start Staff and 17 former/current Head Start parents

Dental Services: 214 completed dental exams, 59 received preventative dental care, 67 diagnosed as needing dental treatment, 56 received or are receiving treatment

Disabilities: 22 children diagnosed

Number of families served: 153 two-parent families, 78 one-parent families

Employment Status: 185 employed, 28 unemployed

Job training/school: 32 parents were in training/school, 63 parents are not in training/school

Education total families: 24 less than high school graduate, 81 High School Graduate or GED, 86 AA or some college, 22 BA or advanced degree

Total number of children with health insurance: at enrollment 203 end of enrollment 218, Medicaid at enrollment 177, end of enrollment 191, Private Insurance at enrollment 25 end of enrollment 26, Indian Health Services at enrollment 1 end of enrollment 1, No insurance at enrollment 33 end of enrollment 18

Senior Programs-Foster Grandparent & Retired Senior Volunteer Program Charlene White, Director

Senior Programs include the Foster Grandparent Program and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

For the past year we have averaged just over 500 Retired Senior Volunteers helping our community. These volunteers help other individuals, community organizations with a wealth of man hours and expertise.

The Foster Grandparent Program helps qualified seniors by supplementing their incomes with a stipend for volunteering in schools and Head Start Centers working one on one with children with special needs such as literacy assistance.

2007-2008 Outcomes

We had 526 Volunteers through our Retired Senior Volunteer Program who volunteered a total of 79,133.25 hours. We had 27 Foster Grandparents who worked with children in the Head Start Centers, Public Schools and other settings throughout the year, they reported 20,073.25 hours in working with children with special needs.
