

Annual Report

2008-2009

Lorve McLeod, Executive Director



Northwest Community Action Partnership

Northwest Community Action Partnership 2008-2009

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 75 employees, full, part-time, and temporary, and combined annual budget of approximately 4 million dollars and expecting to have similar budget for upcoming year. Services are provided to a five county area which include: Box Butte, Dawes, Cherry, Sheridan and Sioux.

Services provided by Northwest Community Action Partnership include: Head Start/Early Head Start, Community Services, Closer to Home—Soup Kitchen, Right to Flight – life skills/employment training program, Sheridan County Transportation, Senior Volunteer Programs—Foster Grandparent, Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Chadron and Crawford, and Weatherization.

Northwest Community Action Partnership is governed by thirteen 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 Re-authorization which requires board members to include: an attorney, fiscal expert, and early childhood education expert.

Our annual fiscal audit for 2008-2009 had no findings.

Board of Directors

President

Bill Cebula

Vice President

Seth Leyoldt

Secretary/Treasurer

Marvin Toedtli

Private Sector

Seth Leyoldt

Donald Sjostrom

Pastor Rod Heilbrun

Jami Simmons, Attorney Rep

Low Income Representatives

Charlene Baker

Gary Goodell

Bill Cebula

Kerri Stokely, Early Childhood Rep

Elected Officials/Commissioners

James Krotz, Sheridan County

Keith Zimmerman, Sioux County

Don Blausey, Dawes County, Fiscal Rep

Marvin Toedtli, Box Butte County

Cliff Peterson, City Council, Valentine



Head Start Early Head Start

Amy Richardon, Director
DeAnn Koerber, Assistant Director

Provides services and support to eligible unborn, infants toddlers, children and their families by promoting early childhood and family development through comprehensive services and community resources.

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Head Start/Early Head Start

The total budget including match requirement for Head Start/Early Head Start
\$2,351,056

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 and one childcare collaboration. Yearly, 267 children between the ages of 0-5 and their families receive services through Head Start/Early Head Start. Due to receiving American Recovery Reinvestment Act dollars Early Head Start home-base services have been expanded to Sheridan County, and four full time positions of employment were created.

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, and 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.

All parents are encouraged to participate in their local parent groups and/or Policy Council.

Head Start Program Information Report

Actual Enrollment (247)

2 year olds	14
3 year olds	106
4 year olds	119
5 year olds	8

Income Status

100% Poverty	166
Public Assistance	24

Over Income	18
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Foster	2
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Homeless	9
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Enrolled 2 yrs	65
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Enrolled 3 yrs	10
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Race

Native American	44
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African American	0
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Asian	4
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Pacific Island	2
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White	130
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Bi-racial	50
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Other	17
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Ethnicity

Hispanic	42
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Non-Hispanic	205
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Health Insurance

Children w/insurance	93%
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Medicaid	84%
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Private	30%
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Indian Health Services	3%
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No Insurance	7%
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Health Services

Primary Care	85%
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Received Treatment	100%
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Medical Home 79%

Dental Services

Exams	72%
Preventative Care	64%
Need Treatment	14%
Received Treatment	88%

Disabilities

Diagnosed	29
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Family Services

Number of families	224
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# of 2 parent families	147
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# of 1 parent families	77
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Two Parent Status

2 parent employed	42%
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1 parent employed	51%
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Both unemployed	7%
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2 parent school/train	1%
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1 parent school/train	5%
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None	94%
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One Parent Status

Employed	68%
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Unemployed	32%
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Training/School	6%
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Education Level

Less than HS diploma	11%
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HS Graduate/GED	38%
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2 yr. degree/college	41%
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4 yr. degree/college	10%
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Services to Homeless

Number of Homeless	11
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# Acquiring housing	6
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Health Services

Need Treatment	2%
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Immunizations	89%
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Dental Home 72%

Early Head Start Program Information Report

Actual Enrollment (72)

Under 1 years	21
1 years olds	23
2 year olds	20
Pregnant	8

Income Status

100% Poverty	56%
Public Assistance	26%
Over Income	40%
Foster	0%
Homeless	7%
Enrolled 2 yrs	10
Enrolled 3 yrs	10

Race

Native American	5
African American	2
Asian	1
Pacific Island	6
White	45
Bi-racial	11
Other	2

Ethnicity

Hispanic	4
Non-Hispanic	68

Health Insurance

Children w/insurance	88%
Medicaid	77%
Private	18%
Indian Health Services	5%
No Insurance	12%

Health Services

Primary Care	52%
Received Treatment	2%

Medical Home 50%

Dental Services

Dental Exams	N/A
Preventive Care	48%
Need Treatment	N/A
Received Treatment	N/A

Disabilities

Diagnosed	4
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Family Services

Number of families	59
# of 2 parent families	36
# of 1 parent families	23

Two Parent Status

2 parent employed	31%
1 parent employed	56%
Both unemployed	14%
2 parent school/train	3%
1 parent school/train	6%
None	92%

One Parent Status

Employed	43%
Unemployed	57%
Training/School	13%

Education Level

Less than HS diploma	5%
HS Graduate/GED	44%
2 yr. degree/college	39%
4 yr. degree/college	12%

Services to Homeless

Number of Homeless	5
# Acquiring housing	2

Health Services

Need Treatment	2%
Immunizations	73%

Dental Home 19%

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SUCCESS STORY

I have had the privilege to work with a lot of wonderful families this year. One family, in particular, really stands out for me. This family is always praising Head Start/Early Head Start. They also highly promote our programs to all of their family and friends. This family stated that during the last two years they have learned some valuable information from our Head Start/Early Head Start program, which included budgeting, good meals at a low cost, safe affordable child care, new ideas in parenting, help with potty training and energy effective ideas and materials. Mom became active in Policy Council, Health Advisory and with the parent group. Dad and mom actively participate in home visits with both Head Start and Early Head Start. This family is very goal oriented and they read ALL of the informational handouts that were given to them. Mom has stated several times that she really enjoys the monthly handouts, especially the kid food recipes and the Math and Science Connection. Last year, dad found a better paying full time job with benefits. This year mom became employed while attending college. She is scheduled to graduate this May. It wouldn't really surprise me that someday mom were employed with our agency.

Quotes from Parents

The socializations for the kids and the learning is exceptional. The kids are having fun and making friends. (Valentine Parent)

The kids help us (parents) remember our manners. (Valentine Parent)

Parents become more involved with their child's learning activities. (Hay Springs parent)

Staff make you feel welcome. (Alliance parent)

Some of the Parent Activities

Male involvement and Health Relationship speakers at each site
Parenting Classes as each site
Tax Clinics available for parents at each site

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**Weatherization
Ross Heinen
Director**

**Weatherizing homes in
five counties: Dawes,
Box Butte, Sheridan,
Sioux and Cherry
County**

Weatherization receives grants from the Department of Energy (DOE), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Department of Energy for a total of \$518,853

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 overall 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.

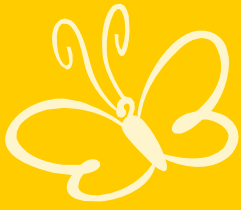
Due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars, Weatherization will see an increase in the amount of homes being weatherized over the next couple of years. The department was able to hire two full time employees and one temporary employee with ARRA.

Outcomes

41 Homes were Weatherized in LIEAP

25 Homes were Weatherized in DOE

During 2009, ARRA funds were used to execute ramp up activities.



Senior Volunteer Services

Wayne Anderson
Director

Senior Volunteer Services
include the Foster Grandparent
Program and Retired Senior
Volunteer Program in Chadron
and Crawford





Senior Volunteer Services received grant funding from Corporation for National & Community Service

Foster Grandparent Program budget \$133,148
Retired Senior Volunteer Program Chadron and Crawford \$78,353

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors and friends, serving at one of many local organizations including faith-based groups, Head Start/ Early Head Start Centers, schools, and other youth facilities. Foster Grandparents help special needs children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring, and guide children at a critical time in their lives.

Foster Grandparents give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path towards a successful future.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program is America's largest volunteer network for people ages 55 and over. There are nearly 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities. Retired Senior Volunteer Program offers a full range of volunteer opportunities.

Outcomes

Foster Grandparent Program had 26 Foster Grandparents who gave 21,367 hours
Retired Senior Volunteer Program had 185 Active Volunteers who gave 15,362 hours of volunteer services to Chadron and Crawford

Community Services

Melissa Mitchell, Director

Community Services provides community services through four Outreach offices to income eligible families and individuals. Services include: Emergency Services, Food Pantry and Commodity Food Distribution, Earned Income Tax Credit – through tax preparation, Sheridan County Transportation, Closer to Home Soup Kitchen, Supportive Housing Project, Right to Flight Program, and Family Development through case management.

Community Services

Funding includes: Community Service Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Federal Emergency Food Assistance, Migrant, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, the Peter Kiewit Foundation and HUD-Supportive Housing Program for a total of \$778,636.00

Community Services provides services to qualifying families through Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds as well as other funding sources such as Peter Kiewit Foundation. The Emergency Food Assistance Program, through FEMA, provides our clients with assistance in food pantries, rent and utilities.

The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) 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.

HUD, Supportive Housing Program, (SHP) allows for three homeless individuals to be placed in housing for three years with case management and supportive services as needed.

Migrant funds assist the migrant families in Box Butte County. Some of the assistance helps with food, rent, utilities and transportation costs.

The Sheridan County Public Transportation System provides transportation to residents in Sheridan County. This is a community-based service offered on a dial-a-ride basis.

Closer to Home is a soup kitchen and a place that has a home like feel that provides case management and supportive services to the homeless and hungry of our community. This is a collaboration with Neighbors In Need and Chadron Community Hospital, who provide some of the lunches for Closer to Home.

Due to receiving American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars Community Services was able to develop and implement a life skill/employment program called Right to Flight which provides participants with the training needed to obtain their Certified Nursing Assistant and Medication Aid Certificate within an 8 week period. This is in collaboration with Western Nebraska Community College.

One full time position was created using ARRA funds.

These services are just the first steps in building a stronger foundation for future services to our five county area.

Community Services Outcomes

Basic Needs	81
Food Pantries	427
Food Vouchers	91
Government Surplus Food Distribution	8960
Fresh Food	8
Congregate Meals/Nutrition Sites	1
Emergency Shelter	18
Homeless Motel Vouchers	22
Mortgage Payment	13
Rent Payment Assistance	199
Rental Deposit Assistance	52
Transitional Housing/Shelter	1
Utility Assistance	214
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance	74
Cleaning Products	4
Mattresses	1
Personal Goods/Services	97
Diapers	62
Winter Clothes	1
Personal/Grooming Needs and Supplies	21
Automotive Repair/Transportation Expense Assistance/Gas Money	43
Tax Preparation	29
Financial Management Workshops/Personal Finances/Budget Counseling	6
Educational Support Services	2
Health Care/Health Care Supportive Services/Prescription Medication Services	3
Case/Care Management	23
Hotels/Motels	1
Information and Referrals	152
At Risk for Homelessness	1

Closer to Home Soup Kitchen
Transportation

4725 Meals
3447 Boardings

Success Story

In early December a woman who had just been released from the hospital came into the office. She first came through the door in tears not knowing where she was going to receive the help that she needed. She didn't have a job because of her stay in the hospital, had a teenage son and needed help with food. Our office referred her to Health and Human Services for food stamps and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. We helped her with food from our food pantry and gave her a food voucher from Abate. We also signed her up for a food basket for Christmas provided by local churches. When she left the office she had a slight smile on her face. In March, she caught me just before I went home. She had a "big" smile on her face and said that she had been able to go to work and the help that she received from our agency saved her life. She received a food basket for Christmas, was able to receive \$1,000 for energy assistance for the winter months and received food stamps to get her through until she was able to go back to work.