

Our Mission

We overcome poverty by meeting basic needs, helping people to grow, and collaborating in our communities.

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BVCA PARTNERSHIP'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING

New sources of funding have Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Weatherization Program poised to help more clients than ever before.



BVCA is set to receive \$1.8 million over the next five years in new funding for Weatherization, as part of the bipartisan federal infrastructure bill passed in 2021. "We refer to it simply as 'bill money,'" Weatherization Manager Brandon Bonar said. The new funding will be disbursed in intervals and push BVCA's annual program budget to approximately \$850,000 per year, he estimated.

BVCA Weatherization took steps to increase its capacity to serve clients in advance of this increase to the program's budget. Bonar said, "We saw it coming, so we scaled up." Additional crew members were hired and trained, giving BVCA two in-house crews at its disposal.

Bonar estimated BVCA can weatherize 144 more houses in the next five years thanks to the bill money, once administrative and training costs are taken into account.

Along with the infrastructure bill, weatherization programs also now have access to what Bonar called readiness funding. Crews can now spend up to \$4,000 on top of what would normally be spent on a project to address issues that might otherwise disqualify a property from being eligible for weatherization. He cited a poor roof or leaks as examples of problems that can now be addressed.

Weatherization carries no cost to clients and is available to both homeowners and renters who meet income qualifications. Depending on the work that needs to be done, landlords may be responsible for a portion of the project's cost. Along with drastically increasing the affordability of heating and cooling a home, weatherization also makes the property safer and healthier for occupants. Each project carries a life expectancy of 10 years.

Individuals interested in having their home weatherized are invited to visit www.bvca.net to apply online (select "Weatherization Assistance" from the menu of services). Applications and additional information can also be obtained from any of our local offices.

ARE YOU A CONTRACTOR LOOKING FOR YEAR-ROUND WORK?

BVCA is currently seeking local contractors to preform weatherization on homes. If you are interested in working with BVCA, or for more information regarding the requirements for local contractors to weatherize a home, please contact Brandon Bonar at (402) 729-2278.

Visit Us Online

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BVCA PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) Partnership is now accepting applications for their 2022-2023 scholarship opportunities. All scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,000 and can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. Three scholarships will be awarded. BVCA Partnership will offer the following scholarships this year:



- The "BVCA Partnership Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 4-year college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 2-year or less program at a vocational college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Southeast Community College Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending Southeast Community College.

Applicants must reside in BVCA Partnership's service area, which includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship applications, guidelines and a listing of eligibility requirements may be obtained from area high school administrative or guidance counselor offices, or by contacting the BVCA Partnership Center in your area. Applications can also be downloaded from our website: www.bvca.net. For more information, contact Heather Lytle, BVCA's Administrative Director, at (402) 729-2278 ext. 122. All applications must be received or postmarked on or before March 1, 2023.

Individuals wishing to donate to BVCA's Scholarship Fund are asked to contact Heather Lytle or Shari Weber, BVCA's CEO.

Helping People.  Changing Lives.

BVCA RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR SERVICE TO ORGANIZATION

During Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Annual All Staff Meeting & Wellness Day on October 5, 2022, the following employees were recognized for their service to the organization:

- ★ **35 Years:** Cheryl Severance and Joyce Mason
- ★ **25 Years:** Cheryl Denner and Heather Lytle
- ★ **20 Years:** Ricky Girmus, Jona L'Ecuyer and Jamie Swartz
- ★ **15 Years:** Mercedes Fonseca-Maciel and Patricia Scarborough
- ★ **10 Years:** Coleen Cherney and Ruth Streeter
- ★ **5 Years:** Debra Aegerter, Crystal Dewey, Jamie Edson, Loren Eichelberger, Faythe Gerner, Tanya Good, Elizabeth Habana, Cynthia Husa, Danielle Meade, Ana Rosa Mendez, Martha Mendoza, Roxanne Miller-Jackson, Paul Montague, Shelly Nissly, Benjamin Schwartz and Wendy Voss
- ★ **1 Year:** Emily Bever, Brandon Bonar, Keith Brown, Martha Burgess, Celena Chavez, Alisha Conford, Angel Cookus, Laura Coulter, Shania Daugherty, Madison Elznic, Caleb Epp, Wanda Flenker, Adrianna Garman, Jeremiah Gray, Amanda Handy, Lisa Hendrickson, Kari Janssen, Amanda Kline, Madison Long, Veronica Mayoeth, Chelsea McCardle, Alida Orozco, Lindsey Philpot, Heather Potts, Barbara Reetz, Amy Schroeder, Stacy Shipps, Karen Sokolik and Linda Zitek

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you ever considered becoming a volunteer? There are many reasons why people volunteer their time and talents. Many do so because they want to make a difference in the lives of others, they are looking for a purpose in life, or they feel the desire to give back to their community. Does this sound like you or someone you know? If so, consider volunteering for BVCA! BVCA is currently seeking volunteers in all nine of our Family & Community Service (FCS) Centers, our Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and our Foster Grandparent Program.



Those interested in volunteering in our local BVCA FCS Centers can help with tasks such as: sorting donations; assisting in the thrift store with pricing, stocking, organizing, running the cash register, creating window displays; helping in furniture rooms; assisting customers; answering phones and taking messages; and assisting in the food pantry. Those interested in volunteering with our CSFP Program can assist at local clinics by packing food boxes and helping customers to their vehicles. CSFP also needs volunteers to help unload food trucks.

Anyone interested in volunteering at a FCS Center or CSFP Clinic may contact BVCA at (402) 729-2278 or volunteer@bvca.net. Individuals are also welcome to contact their local BVCA Office directly. More information and the volunteer application can be found on our website at www.bvca.net/volunteer.

Our Foster Grandparent Program is also looking for volunteers interested in mentoring and tutoring children. Volunteers are placed in classrooms and work one-on-one with children who have special needs. Individuals must be 55 years of age or older, in relatively good health, and must love kids. Volunteers receive stipends and can volunteer up to 40 hours per week (there is an income guideline to receive the tax-free hourly government stipend and mileage reimbursement). Being a Foster Grandparent volunteer gives individuals an opportunity to stay active in their communities, meet new people, make friends and make a difference in their community.



Interested individuals may contact Sonja Workman at (402) 223-6036 or pioneer-fgp@bvca.net.

JOIN OUR TEAM | BEGIN YOUR CAREER OF HELPING PEOPLE & CHANGING LIVES

BVCA has several positions available! Current opportunities include: Weatherization Crew Specialist in Fairbury; Maintenance Specialist in Fairbury; On-call Transit Driver in Geneva; Preschool Teacher in Crete; Infant/Toddler Teacher in Crete; Teacher in Seward & York; Teacher Aides in Crete, Seward & Geneva; and Family Advocate in Crete. Visit www.bvca.net and select "Careers" to find out more about our career opportunities and benefits. Visit <https://bvca.hireclick.com/jobboard> to apply.



Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 3rd Quarter Outreach

Case Management	210 Individuals
Childcare Services	13 Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	432 Individuals
Compassionate Projects	6 Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	18 Vaccinations
Digital Navigation	3 Individuals
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	32 Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	72 Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	7523 Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	78 Households
Family & Youth Involvement Center (CASTLE)	21 Individuals
Financial Coaching	40 Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	432 Households
Foster Grandparent Program	43 Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	269 Individuals
Head Start	206 Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	0 Households
Housing Counseling	40 Individuals
Immunization Program	425 Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	13 Individuals
Lease-to-Own	54 Households
Mortgage Assistance	16 Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	4 Households
Opportunity Passport	61 Individuals
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	0 Households
Project FIRST TH/RRH (Families In Residence with Support in Transition/Rapid Re-Housing)	7 Households
Project FYRES (Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability)	10 Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	93 Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	29 Households
Rural Southeast Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (RSNCYI)	77 Individuals
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	19 Applications
Southeast Nebraska Collaborative Community Response	50 Households
SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)	8 Individuals
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	103 Individuals
Thrift Stores	800 Individuals
Transportation	1137 Rides
Weatherization	11 Households
WIC Peer Counseling	10 Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	875 Individuals



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Visit us at www.bvca.net for more information about the programs we offer and how to apply.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.