



Our Mission

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

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BVCA PARTNERSHIP

CELEBRATES COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH THIS MAY

The Community Action Network is a robust state and local force that helps empower hardworking families to achieve economic independence rather than keeping them reliant on government assistance. There are nearly 1,000 agencies across the country working every day to create economic opportunity, strengthen local communities, and help families find pathways to prosperity. This year, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, a proud member of the Community Action Network, commemorates 59 years helping families throughout Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Seward, Saline, Thayer and York Counties in Southeast Nebraska.

Each May, during Community Action Month, we reflect on the impact BVCA Partnership and our network has had on families. Last year alone, we served 8,060 throughout our service area, and over 15 million across the country with services that help families build skills to achieve long-term financial freedom. We invite you to review our 2024 Impact Report, which is included on the next two pages.

Community Action Agencies ensure that hard-working American families have access to the opportunities they need to thrive, while also promoting local economic growth and reducing government dependency. All agencies are locally controlled with boards of directors composed of local elected officials, private and public sector representatives, and engaged community residents. We are proud of our communities' participation in the development and oversight of our programs. Their engagement helps us to be more effective in our approach by determining what communities in southeast Nebraska needs.

To celebrate the continued success of Community Action and raise awareness throughout southeastern Nebraska, BVCA will be hosting various events throughout the service area and highlighting on our Facebook page. Follow us at www.facebook.com/BVCAPartnership.





**Blue Valley
Community
Action**

2024 IMPACT REPORT

October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

BVCA Partnership assisted **8,060** individuals by offering life-changing services that provide solutions to help build lives of stability, dignity and prosperity.
3,441 children | **3,962** adults | **657** elderly

Of the **6,084** individuals enrolled in goal-setting programs, **5,938** achieved one or more outcomes.



housing

350 individuals obtained safe, affordable housing.

71 individuals obtained safe, temporary shelter, which was 91% of those enrolled.

1,503 individuals maintained independent living.

86 individuals received services resulting in their home being weatherized, preserved, and/or otherwise improved.

188 individuals avoided eviction.

135 individuals were provided Housing Counseling, which includes homebuyer, rental and mortgage education as well as case management. Of these,

- **25** completed the homebuyer education workshop,
- **17** households improved their financial capacity,
- **21** individuals increased their credit scores,
- **28** households gained access to resources to help improve their housing situation, and
- **6** purchased a home.

education & cognitive development

233 children became school ready.

222 children improved social and emotional skills.

243 improved positive approaches toward learning.

828 families improved their family functioning skills.

1,144 adults and children received educational case management.

financial stability

68 people increased their financial knowledge and skills, through credit management, credit repair and credit counseling.

40 unemployed individuals obtained a job to improve employment skills or increase income, which is 87% of those enrolled.

81 people increased their savings.

11 used their savings to purchase an asset.

34 people improved their credit score.

health & well being

4,029 people received nutritious food.

1,866 individuals improved their physical health.

379 improved their mental and behavioral health.

184 received dental screenings and exams.

336 received immunizations.

1,647 received physicals.

223 received vision screenings.

1,251 received developmental screenings.

1,144 received substance abuse screenings.

750 received mental health assessments.

human resources

184 individuals were employed by BVCA.

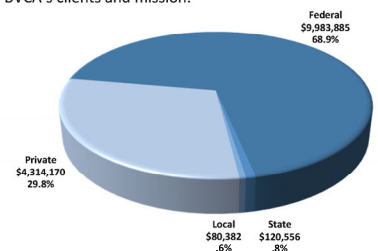
Employees are based throughout our service area:

- 1 employee in Butler County
- 4 employees in Douglas County
- 17 employees in Fillmore County
- 24 employees in Gage County
- 50 employees in Jefferson County
- 0 employees in Polk County
- 43 employees in Saline County
- 12 employees in Seward County
- 5 employees in Thayer County
- 28 employees in York County

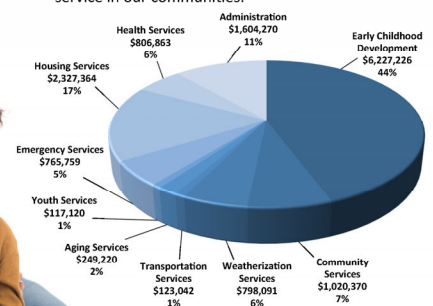
Benefit value per hour is **\$5.63** includes health, vision, dental, retirement, life and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

funding & resources

\$14,498,993 in funding was secured. For each of those dollars, **\$.89** was used to meet the needs of BVCA's clients and mission.



\$14,039,325 was expended to provide quality service in our communities.



community building

554 volunteers engaged in activities to support BVCA, themselves, and the community.

518 community volunteers | **36** foster grandparents

Volunteers donated **26,082** hours that were valued at **\$383,676.36**.

9 child care centers and their employees improved their quality of care by participating in professional development training and support provided by BVCA.



agency-wide client demographics

Race

- 91.2% of clients are Caucasian
- 5.7% of clients are Multi-Racial
- 2.1% of clients are African American
- .4% of clients are American Indian/Alaska Native
- .3% of clients are Asian
- .1% of clients are Native Hawaiian

Ethnicity

- 69% of clients are non-Hispanic
- 31% of clients are Hispanic/Latino

Gender

- 54% of clients are female
- 46% of clients are male

Age

- 43% of clients are between the ages of 0-17
- 49% of clients are between the ages of 18-64
- 8% of clients are 65 or older

Military Status

- 288 clients reported that they are veterans
- 5 clients reported that they are active military

Education Level

- 12% of clients are college/tech graduates
- 13% of clients are High School graduates with some college
- 43% of clients are High School graduates or received their GED
- 32% of clients have not yet or did not complete high school

Housing

- 63% of clients rent their homes
- 24% of client households own their homes
- 8% of clients are homeless
- 3% of clients have other permanent housing
- 2% of clients have provisional arrangements

Family Structure

The average BVCA service area family size is 2.5 people per household compared to the average BVCA client family size of 2.98.

Family Size:

40%	One Person
10%	Two Persons
18%	Three Persons
14%	Four Persons
9%	Five Persons
9%	Six or More Persons

Household Types:

37%	Single Persons
31%	Two Parents
19%	Single Parent
10%	Couple, No Children
2%	Multigenerational
1%	Other

Employment Status

- 37% of adults were employed, either part-time or full-time
- 16% of adults were unemployed
- 34% of adults were not in the labor force
- 13% of adults were retired

Income

Percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and percent of clients at those levels:

50% or less	29%	101%-125%	17%
51%-75%	11%	126%-200%	20%
76%-100%	<u>19%</u>	201% or higher	<u>4%</u>
	59%		41%

What does it mean in real dollars for a family of four?

- 50% of poverty is \$15,600 gross
- 100% of poverty is \$31,200 gross
- 125% of poverty is \$39,000 gross
- 200% of poverty is \$62,400 gross

Current Nebraska minimum wage is \$13.50 per hour or \$28,080 full-time gross, significantly below the poverty rate for a family of four.



our programs

Our service area includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. Limited services are also provided in other counties. BVCA provides the following programs:

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program: Provides opportunities for low-income persons, 55 years and older, to give supportive person-to-person service to help alleviate the physical, mental, or emotional problems of children having exceptional or special needs. Available: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties

Blue River Early Learning Academy: High quality, early childhood education and care program for children six weeks through twelve years of age. Provides developmentally age appropriate educational activities in all care settings and nutritionally approved meals to all children in a licensed facility. Available: Saline County

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Government purchased food commodities are distributed to income eligible individuals age 60 and older to foster good health and nutrition. Available: All BVCA Counties

Compassionate Projects: Volunteers, community groups and local businesses donate time, materials, food, toys, skills and love which are used in a variety of seasonal holiday projects, especially at Christmas, benefiting low-income individuals and families. Available: All BVCA Counties

Early Head Start: A home-based program that provides pregnant women and children, birth to three, with family centered services and activities. Available: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer and York Counties

Early Head Start—Child Care Partnership: BVCA partners with child care providers who agree to meet the Head Start Program Standards which includes comprehensive and continuous services to low-income infants, toddlers and their families. The partnerships increase quality care and education to a center-based option while parents are working or going to school. Available: Jefferson and Saline Counties

Emergency Assistance: Individuals and families are assisted with small emergency requests such as transportation, car repairs, prescriptions, and various other small emergencies on a very minimal scale, depending on resources available at local level. Available: All BVCA Counties

Emergency Solutions Program: Assists individuals and families who are literally homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness by providing housing relocation and stabilization services to help quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis. Available: All BVCA Counties

Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability (FYRES): Works with youth who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Works together with youth to identify and obtain housing, work on retaining that housing, connect to supports and resources, & to address the issues which led them to the homeless situation. Available: All BVCA Counties

Food Security Program: Individuals and families who are facing a shortage of food are assisted through the generosity of donations by individuals, communities, organizations and businesses. There are various options for securing food. Available: All BVCA Counties

Head Start: A nationally renowned child development program for preschool children ages 3 to 5, which stresses parent involvement, education, social services, and health. Available: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties

Housing Development: Construction of affordable rental housing units &/or lease-to-own units. Available: All BVCA Counties

Housing Counseling: Provides workshops, homebuyer education and one-on-one counseling to help customers correct issues that prevent affordable mortgage financing, stable rental housing and foreclosure. BVCA's counselor will also provide assistance in debt-load management with the preparation of a monthly and manageable budget plan. Individuals enrolled in the program will agree to make a 6-24 month commitment to get them "mortgage ready". Available: All BVCA Counties

Housing Rentals: Affordable rental housing and lease-to-own properties are available to income eligible families. Available: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Thayer and York

Infant/Toddler Quality Early Childhood Initiative Program: Provides professional development and support to home-based, center-based, and child care staff to improve quality care. Available: Gage, Jefferson and Saline Counties

Information and Referral Services: Local staff provide needed information regarding services, make appropriate referrals to community organizations, agencies and other resources, and complete follow-up services. Available: All BVCA Counties

Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation: Low income and moderate income homeowners are offered low-interest loans &/or forgivable loans to rehabilitate homes to meet health and safety needs, limited by type or extent of work needed. Available: All BVCA Counties

One-Time Needs Revolving Loan Program: Offers a low-interest, revolving loan for households that need financial assistance for unexpected large expenses such as emergency home repair, vehicle repairs, and/or employment-related expenses. Typical financial assistance is under \$2,000. Applicants receiving revolving loan assistance will be required to participate in financial literacy courses in addition to repayment of the loan within an agreed designated timeframe.

Project FIRST (Families in Residence with Support in Transition): Homeless families with children engage in family development process to achieve economic and housing stability through placement in scattered site housing in the community of their choice. Available: All BVCA Counties

Rural Transportation: County-wide transportation services within and out of the county are available for a small fee for general public. Available: Fillmore County

Scholarship Opportunities: As part of a competitive application process, scholarships are available to income-eligible individuals planning to attend college. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. Available: All BVCA Counties

SNAP Outreach: BVCA staff can assist applicants with the online Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application. Available: All BVCA Counties

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): The goal of the SSVF is to promote housing stability among very low-income Veteran families who reside in or are transitioning to permanent housing. Through provision of outreach and case management, assistance is given to obtain VA benefits and other public benefits. Available: All BVCA Counties as well as Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson, Douglas, Sarpy in NE; and Pottawattamie, IA

Telehealth: Individuals can utilize BVCA Partnership's equipment and internet services to access their virtual medical and mental health appointments. If needed, BVCA's friendly staff can help set them up and get them connected, while still providing privacy for their appointments. Available: All BVCA Counties

Thrift Stores: Community donations of clothing and household items are recycled and made available for a small handling fee. Used furniture is available in York. Available: Butler, Fillmore, Polk, Seward, Thayer and York Counties

Vaccines for Children & Private Vaccines (VFC): Vaccines are provided free by the Nebraska DHHS through BVCA's Immunization Program to uninsured infants 2 months or older, and children. Insured or private pay vaccine is also available. Available: Fillmore, Jefferson, Saline and Seward Counties

Weatherization: Provides no cost weatherization of homes to income eligible families. This may include: weather-stripping; patching damaged areas of homes; heating and cooling systems tuned and cleaned or replacement; insulation of attics, walls and foundations; and windows and doors repaired or replaced. Available: All BVCA Counties

Women, Infants & Children (WIC): A health and nutrition program for at-risk breastfeeding, pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children to age 5. After medical and nutritional screening, eWIC cards are given to certified individuals for food from local stores. Available: Butler, Fillmore, Polk, Saline, Seward and York Counties

WIC Peer Counseling Program: Provides education and support for pregnant and post-partum women to ensure a successful breast-feeding experience. Available: Butler, Fillmore, Polk, Saline, Seward, and York Counties

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.

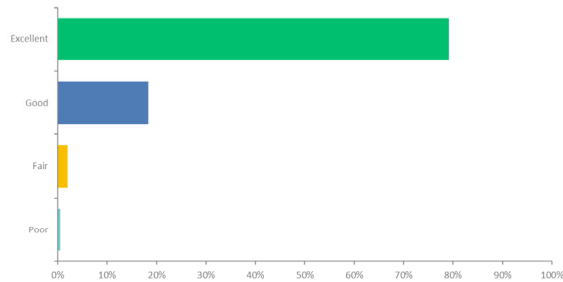
Visit us at: www.bvca.net



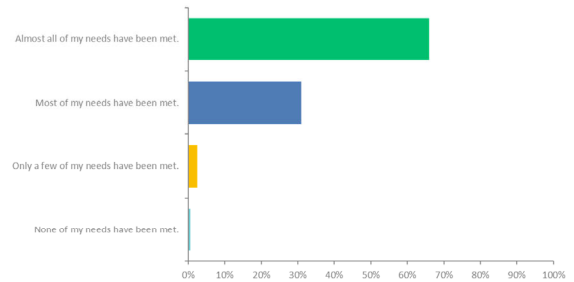
CONSUMER FEEDBACK REPORT—FY 2024

October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024 | Total Responses: 644

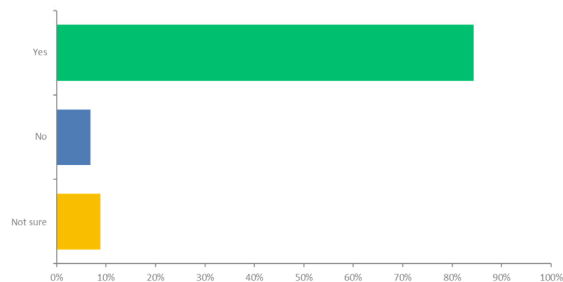
Overall, how would you rate the quality of services received as part of this program?



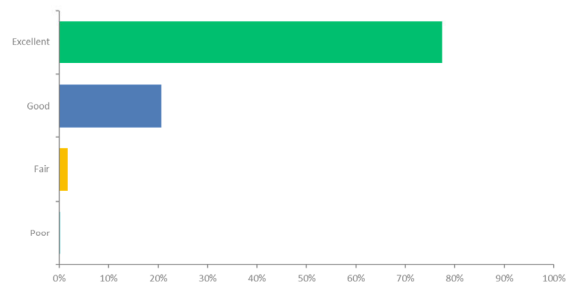
To what extent have the services provided through this program met your needs?



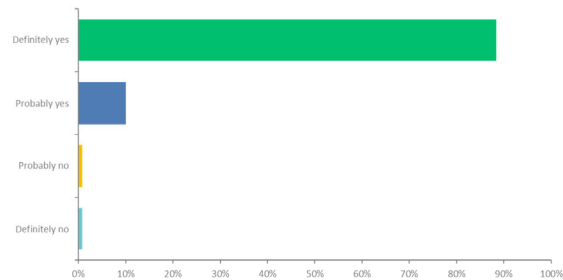
Did staff members offer you additional information about other programs that might help you and your family?



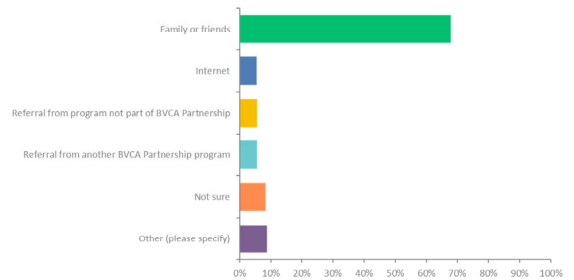
How would you rate staff members' knowledge of BVCA Partnership's programs and services?



Would you recommend this program or service to others?

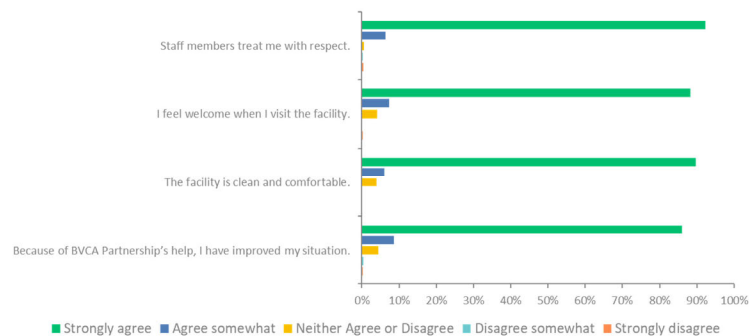


How did you hear about this program or service?



"Other" responses included: Facebook, individuals posting on social media, respondent was a former client, financial institution, mailing from BVCA, shelter staff in York, VA, Hope Crisis Center, school, a neighbor, newspaper ad, flyer at Rowdy's, word of mouth, a former client, a friend, HR office, City of Seward, yard sign, York General Hospital, doctor, rental sign, CSFP, Willow Center, telephone call from Head Start staff, probation, therapist, noticed office/center from street.

Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

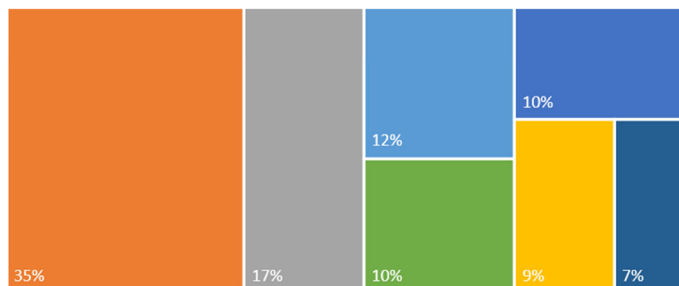


WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST?



DEMOGRAPHICS OF THOSE COMPLETING SURVEY

AGE 18-23 24-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+



GENDER Male Female



PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME

English Spanish Other

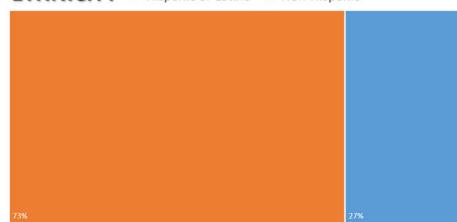


RACE African-American Asian/Pacific Islander White Native American Bi-Racial Multi-Racial Other

Note: Consumers are allowed to select multiple races.



ETHNICITY Hispanic or Latino Non-Hispanic



THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Week of the Young Child (WOTYC) is an annual celebration in April that recognizes children (birth through age 8) and their families. WOTYC is a fun-filled week that engages the children in hands-on activities to encourage movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art. Each day of the week has a special theme, nutritious snacks, and fun activities.

The week was kicked off with Music Monday. Music helps children learn early literacy skills while encouraging movement. Each child at Wymore Head Start got to pick their favorite song to make a music video to. They had such a fun time dancing and singing to the songs to create a very special music video.

For Tasty Tuesday Saline County Head Start made fruit salad, or as the kids call it, salad fruit! This activity allowed the children to try different types of fruits. For many, this was their first time trying black berries! Cooking encourages skills such as literacy, math, science and more! Wymore Head Start had the children make cookies. The cookies were then delivered to local businesses as a thank you for their support.

Work Together Wednesday was all about partnerships! Fillmore County Head Start enjoyed the company of local photographer Kendra Stevens to create quite the memorable picture day. The children had the best time posing and making funny faces for the camera. Beatrice Head Start joined the local Sixpence and Preschool for "Putting for a Purpose." The community got to golf some creative putt putt holes and learn about what the community has to offer.

The children at Seward Head Start had a blast for Artsy Thursday by having an outdoor sidewalk chalk party and painting rocks. The children were able to think, problem solve and use their imagination to create beautiful pictures to decorate the sidewalks. Jefferson and Thayer Head Start had a fantastic time finger painting with their families. Children develop social and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices to determine how to make these pictures so beautiful.

Our BVCA families and children are the heart of our program. We wrapped up the week doing what we love most...spending time with loved ones for Family Friday. York Dollar Fresh donated boxes to York County Head Start (PLAY) so that the children could design, build, and decorate box cars with their families to show off during their Family Day Parade. What a great week to celebrate our favorite friends!



WYMORE HEAD START GROUNDBREAKING

BVCA Partnership broke ground on April 15 on a brand new building for Wymore Head Start. The center will be 4,500 square feet with two classrooms and fenced-in playground, among other amenities. BVCA Head Start is committed to serving families in the community.



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

BVCA has several positions available! 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.



BVCA PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BVCA Partnership is pleased to announce the recipients of the "Blue Valley Community Action Partnership Scholarship", the "BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship" and the BVCA Partnership SCC Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

These scholarships are awarded to individuals with diverse backgrounds. The selection committee, which is composed of members of the BVCA Partnership Board of Directors, takes into consideration such items as financial need, volunteerism, the applicant's aspirations and goals for furthering their education. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books, and fees associated with enrollment. All scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000.

The recipient of the "BVCA Scholarship" is Walter Gibson of Beatrice NE; the recipient of the "BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship" is McKinley Warnick of Polk NE; and the recipient of the "BVCA Partnership SCC Scholarship" is Trinity Boss of Bellwood, NE. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

COMMUNITY ACTION OF NEBRASKA ADVOCACY DAY

In February representatives from BVCA and Community Action agencies from across the state visited the State Capitol to advocate for our clients and communities. We met one on one with our senators and also had a listening session with Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly. Thank you so much to all the Senators who made time for individual visits, and to the Senators and aides who stopped by during the luncheon that the agencies hosted near the capitol.



Helping People  Changing Lives.

ACT NOW | SIGN TO SAVE HEAD START



Head Start is in danger of being eliminated. Our network is gathering signatures from current and former Head Start parents, caregivers, and supporters for a powerful letter to President Trump urging him to protect and invest in Head Start. The letter shares real stories of how Head Start has changed lives—and calls on him to stand with our families. Please take a moment to sign onto this letter to the President. We encourage you to contact members of Congress as well.

Take 2 minutes for 2 actions:



Sign a special letter directly
to President Trump:



go.nhsa.org/action



Send a message to your members
of Congress telling them to protect
Head Start:



nhsa.org/take-action



Budgeting Insurance Costs Increases in Cost of Living Debt **CHILD CARE** Prescription Costs

SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

PAYING BILLS

Heat & Air-Conditioning Groceries Diapers Affording Healthy Food

Income Baby Formula Home Repairs Economy Homeownership

STARTING OVER

FUEL COSTS Medical Expenses

Making Ends Meet

Heat & Air-Conditioning

Affordable & Safe Housing

Clothing **FOOD** Rent Auto Repairs Cleaning Supplies

UTILITIES Stress TRANSPORTATION

FINANCES

What does your family struggle with the most?

This is a question that Blue Valley Community Action Partnership asks those we serve. While their answers may not be all that different than the answers of a family with a larger and stable income, many with a lower income struggle just to meet their basic needs, such as having enough food, ensuring safe and stable housing, and essential health care.

For many of our family members, friends, and neighbors, any one of a hundred misfortunes can spell disaster. This includes unemployment, disability, car breakdowns, child care cost increases, sudden illnesses, and so many other everyday adversities that can be enough to push struggling families over the brink. Blue Valley Community Action Partnership offers solutions that don't just help people stay afloat, but build lives of stability, dignity and whenever possible, prosperity.

Not only does Blue Valley Community Action Partnership provide emergency assistance for food insecurity, utilities, rent, and unexpected expenses; we also help preschool children build the skills they need to succeed in school while ensuring they receive healthy food to assist with healthy development, we provide supplemental nutritional food to the elderly, we help make people's homes more energy efficient and lower their utility bills, we help people build assets and financial skills, we offer safe and affordable housing options, we help preserve homes, and build opportunities in our communities.

As BVCA improves the lives of people in our community, we also need our community to help us as so many of our services rely on grants and local community contributions. We request that you make a special Community Action Month gift. Your generosity will allow us to continue to change people's lives in your community. We have set a goal to raise \$10,000 during the month of May. With your contribution, this goal is within our reach. Please consider giving a donation to Blue Valley Community Action Partnership.

Your tax-deductible donation will be utilized to maintain our emergency assistance programs and services. As a part of our annual campaign, we will strive to double the impact of your donation through our match sponsors.

Your gift, of any amount, will make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We greatly appreciate your support! Together, we can **help people, change lives and strengthen our communities.**

Sincerely,
Shari Weber
Shari Weber
Chief Executive Officer

Donate Online 

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership | 620 5th Street, P.O. Box 273, Fairbury NE 68352 | (402) 729-2278 | www.bvca.net
BVCA is a 501(c)3, tax exempt organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.

YES! I want to support the work of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership.

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Go to www.bvca.net to give online.

Name: _____

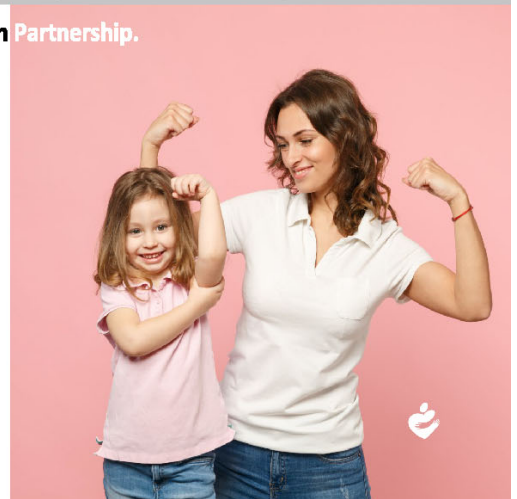
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Select this box if you'd like to be added to our email list and we'll keep you close to what's happening at BVCA.



Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Outreach

Case Management	128 Individuals
Childcare Services	24 Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	273 Individuals
Compassionate Projects	0 Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	0 Vaccinations
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	20 Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	60 Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	9,792 Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	108 Households
Financial Coaching	41 Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	374 Households
Foster Grandparent Program	36 Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	303 Individuals
Head Start	192 Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	1 Households
Housing Counseling	41 Individuals
Immunization Program	98 Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	11 Individuals
Lease-to-Own	40 Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	4 Households
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	0 Households
Project FIRST TH/RRH (Families In Residence with Support in Transition/Rapid Re-Housing)	5 Households
Project FYRES (Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability)	7 Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	99 Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	29 Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	12 Applications
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	83 Individuals
Telehealth	0 Individuals
Thrift Stores	750 Individuals
Transportation	2041 Rides
Weatherization	14 Households
WIC Peer Counseling	34 Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	996 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.