

## Our Mission

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

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## URGENT REQUEST TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS, BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

As you may have heard, the proposed federal budget includes the **complete elimination of funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**—a move that would have devastating consequences for our communities and the organizations working every day to support individuals and families facing poverty.

We are asking our community partners, local boards and councils, and local businesses and organization who support BVCA's work in their community to **join us in signing a letter urging Congress to preserve CSBG funding**. This critical source of support enables local agencies, like BVCA, to provide essential services such as housing assistance, crisis intervention, food assistance and more. Without it, many of our neighbors would lose access to the help they rely on.

**We need as many voices as possible** to show how deeply this funding impacts our communities. By signing on to the Partner Support Letter located at <https://bit.ly/CSBGpartnersupport>, you'll be standing with hundreds of other organizations committed to fighting for equity, opportunity, and stability. We are asking that all partners sign the letter **by Friday, July 18, 2025**.

BVCA sincerely appreciates your support.

## CLARK SELECTED AS NIFA PROPERTY MANAGER OF THE YEAR



Kim Clark, BVCA Housing Director, was honored by Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) as the Property Manager of the Year. (Clark, left, pictured with Kelly Schultze of NIFA.)

Kim has served as Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Housing Director since 2009. Under her leadership, BVCA launched programs promoting home ownership including Housing Counseling and the Purchase-Rehab-Lease-Purchase Program in Fairbury. Kim began her career with BVCA's Housing Department as a Property Manager in 2001. Her department manages 177 affordable housing units throughout a nine-county service area, including multi-family dwellings and CROWN homes.

Kim notes the challenges posed by changing federal regulations and lack of resources for property maintenance are well-worth the pay off. Her favorite part of the job is seeing the face of a child who finally gets a room to call their own, and watching as families move in, work hard, become successful, and transition out of the affordable housing unit.

The number of units BVCA manages has decreased in recent years, thanks to the successful purchase of several CROWN homes by their occupants. Kim is a HUD-certified Housing Counselor, a certified tax credit compliance professional, and a verified CDBG administrator. She is also a certified Community Action Professional with a career in community action spanning two decades in total.

## GOVERNOR PILLEN RECOGNIZED MAY AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH



Governor Jim Pillen officially proclaimed May as Community Action Month in Nebraska, recognizing the vital role Community Action Agencies (CAAs) play in strengthening families and communities across the state. The proclamation was presented during a ceremony at the Nebraska State Capitol attended by representatives from Community Action of Nebraska and its nine local agencies, which collectively serve all 93 counties.

"This proclamation is a testament to the hardworking staff, volunteers and partners who are committed to helping Nebraskans achieve economic stability and thrive," said Tina Rockenbach, Executive Director of Community Action of Nebraska. "We are grateful to Governor Pillen for recognizing the power of community-based solutions and the importance of investing in opportunity for all."

Community Action Agencies in Nebraska offer a wide range of services tailored to local needs, including housing support, food access, early childhood education, job training and financial coaching. These services empower individuals and families to build assets and achieve self-sufficiency. Each year, Community Action Month is celebrated nationwide to raise awareness of the work of the Community Action Network, a movement that began with the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964. In 2023 alone, Nebraska's CAAs provided over 100,000 services to individuals across the state. "Community Action is about local people identifying local needs and creating local solutions," Rockenbach said. "This month, we honor our shared belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed."

## NEBRASKANS RALLY AT CAPITOL TO ADVOCATE FOR HEAD START

A Head Start rally was held at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln on May 6, 2025, to advocate for the program and celebrate its 60th anniversary. A team of Blue Valley Community Action staff attended the rally and were met by over 150 people ready to advocate for the difference they set out to make each day. The rally, which included parents, teachers, students, Head Start staff and community members, aimed to highlight the importance of Head Start and voice concerns about potential funding cuts following the release of an initial draft of President Donald Trump's budget request calling on Congress to cut the program. Nine Nebraska Senators attended the rally, many of which took time to speak on behalf of the importance of Head Start and its impact on not only the families enrolled in our programs but their local communities. The White House has since put Head Start back in next year's budget. However this has not slowed the efforts from Head Start and their supporters in sharing the message.



## CAN CARE-A-VAN FIGHTS FOOD INSECURITY

BVCA Partnership would like to thank the 10/11 Can Care-A-Van who has been helping to feed Nebraskans since 1988. The Can Care-A-Van was on the road June 9-13 and collected 117,825 pounds! They made three stops in BVCA's service area and food donations totaled: 4,424 pounds in Beatrice; 2,003 pounds in Crete; and 5,142 pounds in Seward.

BVCA Partnership is truly appreciative of everyone who donated and volunteered! Again, a special thanks to 10/11 for sponsoring the event! These donations were greatly needed. Like many food pantries across Nebraska, BVCA's pantries have been experiencing a rise in requests for assistance with food insecurity and are in need of donations. Donations are collected year-round at all of BVCA's food pantries located in David City, Geneva, Beatrice, Fairbury, Osceola, Crete, Seward, Hebron and York.



## HEAD START CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Since 1965, Head Start has impacted the life circumstances of more than 40 million children and families: better health, better preparation for kindergarten, greater likelihood of graduating high school, and going on to post-secondary education.

BVCA provides Head Start for children ages 3-5 in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska; and Early Head Start for children ages 0-3 in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. For more information about BVCA's Head Start Program, visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net).



## STUFF THE BUS

On May 29, BVCA held its first Stuff the Bus event to celebrate Community Action Month. Donations were collected at ten locations across BVCA's service area.

The goal of the drive was to collect in-kind donations to support the full breadth of BVCA's programming. A highlight was a large delivery by the Green family in York. It was their 40<sup>th</sup> year collecting cans and raising funds for BVCA. The Greens say they support the organization every year because BVCA helped them get on their feet when they first moved to the community. A thank you is also owed to the Lads and Lassies 4H Horse Club, who gathered donations in Wilber.

The Stuff the Bus part of the drive was literal, as a retired Head Start bus was returned to service, if only for the day. Two years ago, Gene Curtis of 104.5 Max Country purchased the bus from BVCA. Max Country helped promote the event in the lead up and also broadcast live, with the bus, from BVCA's York and Seward Family & Community Services Centers.

Jen Harre as well as staff and volunteers at BVCA's York Family and Community Services Center hosted a carnival in conjunction with Stuff the Bus. Families turned out to make donations and enjoy face-painting and games. Hot dogs were served for lunch in York as well as in Seward.

The Environmental Services staff at Crete Area Medical Center organized a donation drive in support of Stuff the Bus. They collected cleaning supplies as well as diapers and wipes, items that are in high demand at BVCA's Head Start, WIC and FCS Centers.

Lastly, Ol' Red 99.5 broadcasted from BVCA's Administrative Office in Fairbury that afternoon.

We are very thankful to all who donated. We would especially like to thank our Corporate Sponsors: City Bank & Trust Co., 104.9 Max Country, Ol' Red 99.5, Bukaty Companies, UNICO, Nedrow Farms, Inc., and Beatrice Sertoma Club.



**Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Outreach**

Case Management	130	Individuals
Childcare Services	24	Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	285	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	7,092	Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	79	Households
Financial Coaching	36	Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	480	Households
Foster Grandparent Program	36	Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	281	Individuals
Head Start	192	Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	0	Households
Housing Counseling	36	Individuals
Immunization Program	219	Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	11	Individuals
Lease-to-Own	42	Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	6	Households
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	3	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)	6	Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	100	Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	28	Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	12	Applications
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	76	Individuals
Telehealth	2	Individuals
Thrift Stores	750	Individuals
Transportation	1657	Rides
Weatherization	10	Households
WIC Peer Counseling	45	Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	971	Individuals



**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Visit us at [www.bvca.net](http://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.