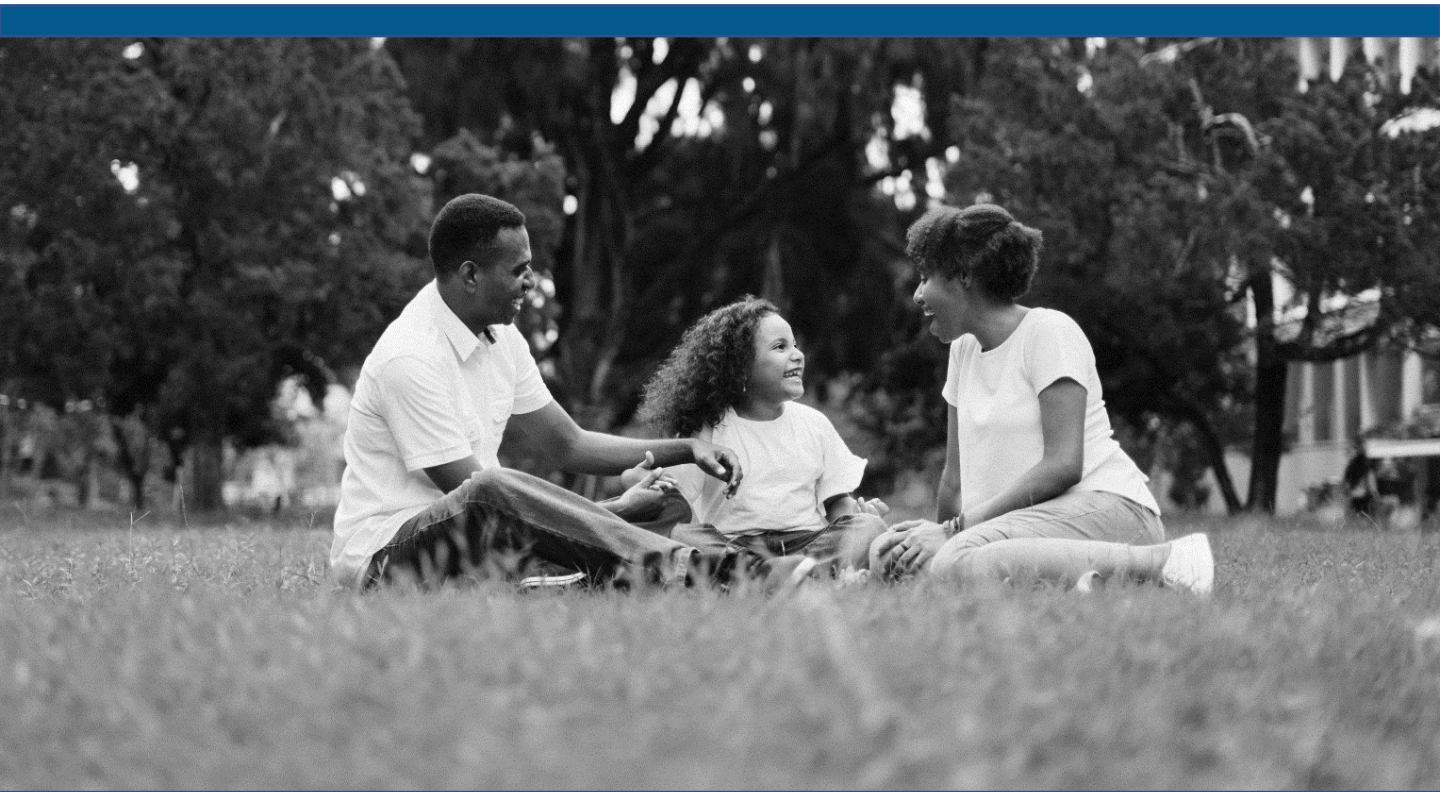


Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

Community Assessment

June 30, 2020

Updated September 3, 2020



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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR
THE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS



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Executive Summary

Program Overview

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties (hereafter Community Action) serves citizens of Lancaster and Saunders Counties in Nebraska. Community Action has physical presences in Lincoln, the Lancaster County seat and state capital, and Wahoo, the Saunders County seat. Community Action offers 18 programs that address the causes and conditions of poverty in the areas of early childhood education, homelessness prevention, financial and family well-being, and hunger relief and healthy food access.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Community Action with a community assessment to fulfill the requirements specified by Community Action funders, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Head Start, to determine the current needs, strengths, and assets of the Community Action service area. In addition to meeting the timelines and criteria established by the funding sources, the results of this study will guide Community Action's strategic planning process.

Project Background

Support and Training for the Evaluation of Programs (STEPs) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha is a leader in conducting evaluations of and needs assessments for social service programs and policies. Community Action contracted with STEP's to complete a community needs assessment which included the following components:

Community Profiles: Provide an overview of selected demographic characteristics and prevalence of poverty in each of Community Action's service areas, Lancaster and Saunders Counties, as well as the main city in which Community Action provides services in each county.

Head Start-Eligible Children and Families: Provide estimates on the number of Head Start-eligible children and expectant parents within the service area.

Head Start Family Needs Assessment: Provide information on the education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families and include the perspectives of Head Start parents.

Community Resources Profile: Detail resources that are available in Lancaster and Saunders Counties to address the needs of Head Start-eligible children and their families.

Community Needs and Strengths Assessment: Provide information on the causes and conditions of poverty, and the needs and strengths of communities in the service area.



Key Findings



Community Profiles

The population in Community Action's service area has consistently grown since 2010. According to the most recently available data, **Lancaster County has a poverty rate of 13%, and Saunders County has a poverty rate of 8%. There are notable differences between the demographic characteristics of people in the counties regarding sex, age, and race.** First, while Saunders County has the same percentage of female and males comprising those in poverty, a higher percentage of those in poverty in Lancaster County identified as female. Second, the highest percentage of those in poverty in Saunders County were under the age of 18 whereas nearly half of those in poverty in Lancaster County were between the ages of 18–34. Lastly, Lancaster County is much more racially diverse than Saunders County. In addition, in Saunders County the racial composition of those in poverty closely matched the racial composition of all residents. In contrast, Lancaster County has a higher percentage of people of color, especially Black or African American individuals, comprising those in poverty compared to the county population.



Head Start-Eligible Children and Families

Based on best available estimates, **approximately 4,243 children in Community Action's service area may be eligible for its Head Start programs.** According to Community Action's 2018–2019 Self-Assessment report, Head Start programs served just over 10% (n=453) of the estimated eligible children. **Approximately 1,074 expectant parents may be eligible for Head Start,** the majority of whom are White and speak only English. The majority of Head Start-eligible children are White followed by Black or African American, which is the same trend that existed for Head Start enrollees in 2018–2019. Regarding languages spoken, while estimates suggest most Head Start-eligible children speak only English, the actual enrollment information from 2018–2019 showed the majority of enrollees spoke a language other than English. Although most Head Start enrollees are eligible for programs based on family income, children are also eligible for programming if they are in foster care or experiencing homelessness. At a point-in-time in 2019, 17 children were in out-of-home care in Saunders County and 584 were in out-of-home care in Lancaster County. In the 2017–2018 school year, 343 students enrolled in Lincoln Public Schools experienced homelessness. **These numbers support the need for eligibility requirements based on foster care and homelessness statuses.**



Head Start Family Needs Assessment

Most parents interviewed typically work between the hours of 7:00am and 5:00 pm. Although these hours typically coincide with childcare availability, with 252 childcare facilities across Lancaster and Saunders Counties accepting childcare subsidies, **the high cost of childcare remains a burden for Head Start families.** Regarding their work and education goals, families rely on several formal supports such as federal financial aid and childcare facilities as well as informal supports, including friends and family. (Section continued on the next page.)



Head Start Family Needs Assessment (cont.)

Public assistance was another key component of support for Head Start families. Most interviewees rely on Medicaid to meet the health care needs of their families; however, at least one parent interviewed indicated a lack of insurance has been a barrier to receiving affordable health care. Most parents expressed they can provide healthy food for their family with supports such as WIC, TANF, SNAP, Community Action, and family. However, the cost of healthy food as well as specific dietary needs of family members are barriers to healthy eating for families. **While public assistance and other forms of community aid do provide financial support for childcare, health care, and food security, there are often additional financial barriers for families.** Regarding community strengths, parents reported **connections, safety, and available activities as important parts of their communities.**



Community Resource Profile

Overall, most of the resources included in the profile are in Lancaster County. Based on mapping data, these services are concentrated in areas of Lancaster County with higher percentages of families in poverty, which suggests **these resources may be physically accessible to families in poverty as they are more likely to be located within their neighborhood.** It is important to note that not all services for Saunders County residents are physically located within the county, including services for victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, services within Saunders County were less likely to have staggered hours to accommodate individuals working from 8am–5pm. The least common resources across the service area, and potential opportunities to fill resource gaps, are emergency housing, support for re-entry of formerly incarcerated individuals, and organizations providing emergency financial support.



Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

Key informants named **job access, living wage, access to health care, discrimination, and individual factors** as salient factors related to poverty in the service area. For job access, interview and secondary data suggest finding and maintaining employment requires reliable transportation, which may not be accessible to those living in poverty. Even if employment can be secured, the current minimum wage in Lancaster and Saunders Counties is not a sufficient living wage. This means those with minimum wage jobs are typically unable to support their families on their income. In addition to these factors, key informants identified mental health and substance use issues as being barriers to self-sufficiency. These challenges are further exacerbated by lack of access to affordable health care and insurance. Systemic and cultural issues are also related to poverty. According to key informants, within the service area, discrimination based on race or sexual identity are barriers to equal access to education, housing, and employment opportunities. To address these causes of poverty and to prevent or eliminate poverty, **key informants most frequently recommended significant policy changes such as anti-discrimination, living wage, and universal income laws.** Other challenges facing communities in Lancaster and Saunders Counties include COVID-19, gentrification, financial literacy, and lack of federal and financial support for anti-poverty programs. Lastly, key informants identified **community connection, culture, and local government support** as strengths of their communities.



Funder Requirements

Head Start Requirements

Requirement	Page(s)
<p>The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant parents, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A)); • Children in foster care; and • Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies. 	25-30, 41, Appendix C
The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being.	31-41
Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children.	33
Strengths of the community	40, 56
Other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly-funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served.	33-34
Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families.	42-45, Appendix C
CSBG Requirements	
Standard 3.1 The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.	All
Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).	12-24, Appendix A
Standard 3.3 The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.	All
Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.	48-55
Standard 3.5 The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.	Accepted on July 28, 2020



Community Action Service Summary

Services Provided and Individuals Served



The purpose of the following section is to provide information on the services provided by Community Action, as well as an overview of selected characteristics of individuals accessing services.



Community Action Service Summary

Services Provided

According to Community Action's Fiscal Year 2019 counts, the organization served 20,066 individuals in 2019. The number of individuals served, and names of services provided in each of Community Action's impact areas are summarized below.

20,066

individuals were served in Fiscal Year 2019



Homelessness Prevention

5,839

individuals were served through Rent, Utility, Deposit Assistance; Supporting Housing Program + Rent Wise; Tenant Support Services; Representative Payee Program; and Affordable Housing programs.



Financial and Family Wellbeing

2,039

individuals were served through Adult Matched Savings, Opportunity Passport, Financial Coaching, Lincoln Community Response, Weatherization, and Tax Preparation Services.



Early Childhood Education

1,864

Individuals were served through Early Head Start, Head Start, and the Foster Grandparents Program.



Hunger Relief

3,280

individuals were served through the Gathering Place Soup Kitchen and the Healthy Food Access Program.



Other Services

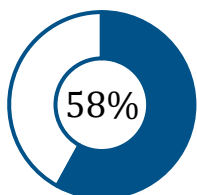
7,044

individuals were served through Language Linc.



Characteristics of Individuals Served

Community Action collected data on 7,947 unique individuals out of the 20,066 who received services in 2019. Community Action collects demographic data on participants from select programs.

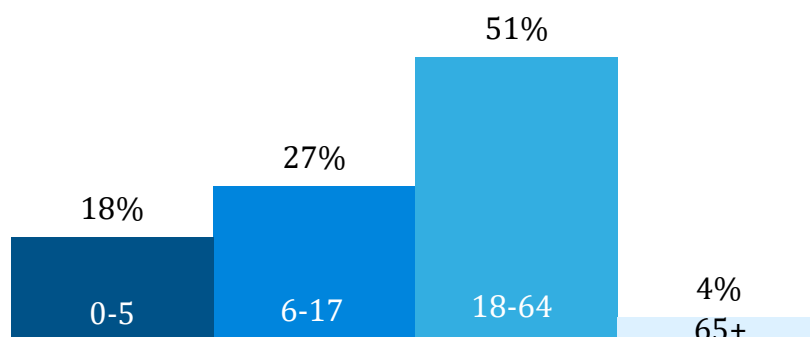


Sex (n=6,846)

Like trends for those in poverty across the service area, more individuals receiving Community Action services identified as female (58%, n=3,951) than male (42%, n=2,891).

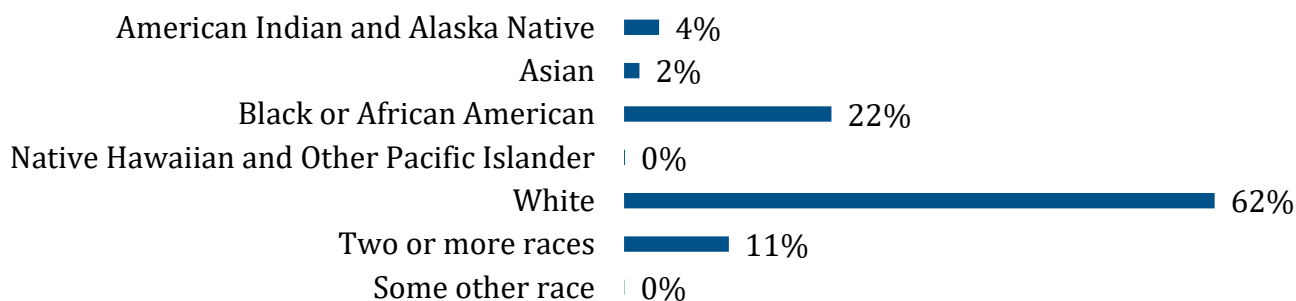
Age (n=7,942)

Community Action served a higher proportion of those under the age of 18 (46%, n=3,622) in comparison to the percentage of youth comprising those in poverty across the service area (26% in Lancaster County and 38% in Saunders County).



Race (n=6,781)

The majority (62%, n=4,194) of individuals served by Community Action in 2019 identified as White. A higher percentage of those served by Community Action identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native than expected based on the population of those in poverty in the service area (4% of those served compared to 1% of those in poverty). A similar trend also exists for Black or African American individuals (22% of those served compared to 8% of those in poverty).



Ethnicity (n=6,815)

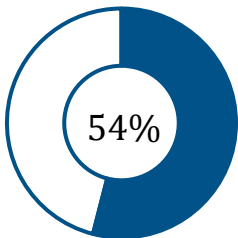
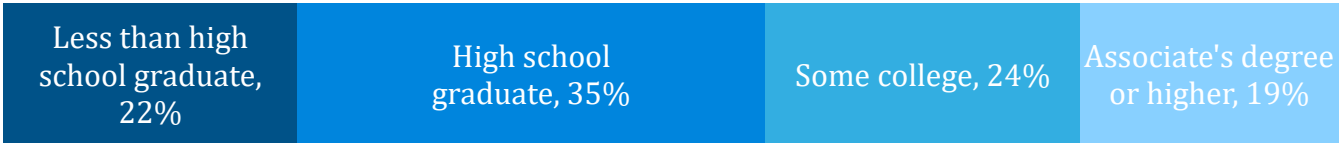
The majority (82%, n=5,587) of individuals served by Community Action in 2019 identified as not having Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origins. A higher percentage of those served by Community Action identified as having Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins than expected based on the population of those in poverty in the service area (18% of those served compared to 13% of those in poverty).



Characteristics of Individuals Served (cont.)

Educational Attainment (n=2,737)

Of those individuals who were at least 25 years old and served by Community Action in 2019 (n=2,737), the highest percentage were high school graduates without college experience (35%, n=959). While response categories differ between those collected by Community Action and the American Community Survey, the educational attainment of those served by Community Action and those in poverty in the service area appear similar.



Employment Status (n=3,424)

The majority (54%, n=1,849) of individuals who were at least 18 years old and served by Community Action in 2019 were employed either full-time, part-time, or as migrant season farm workers. 110 (3%) individuals were retired. Compared to those in poverty across the service area, a lower percentage of those served by Community Action were employed (54% of those served compared to 88% of those in poverty).

Characteristics of Head Start Children and Families

According to Community Action’s 2018–2019 Self-Assessment report:

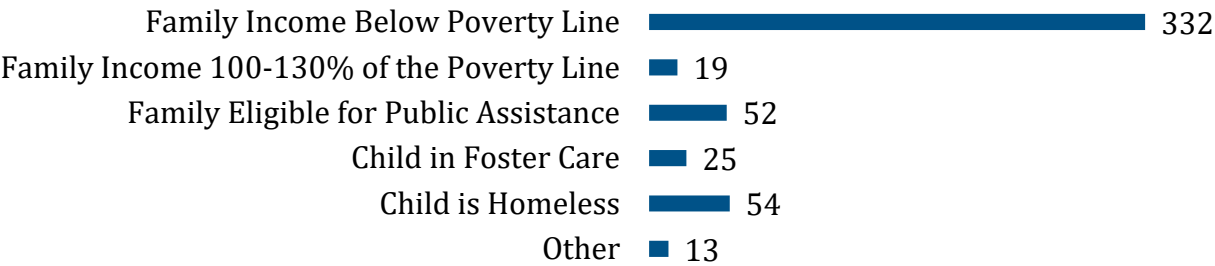
453 Children ages 0–4 were served by Head Start programs

31 Pregnant individuals were served by Head Start programs



Head Start Eligibility Reasons (n=495)

The majority of those served by Head Start programs were eligible because family income was below 100% of the poverty line (67%, n=332).

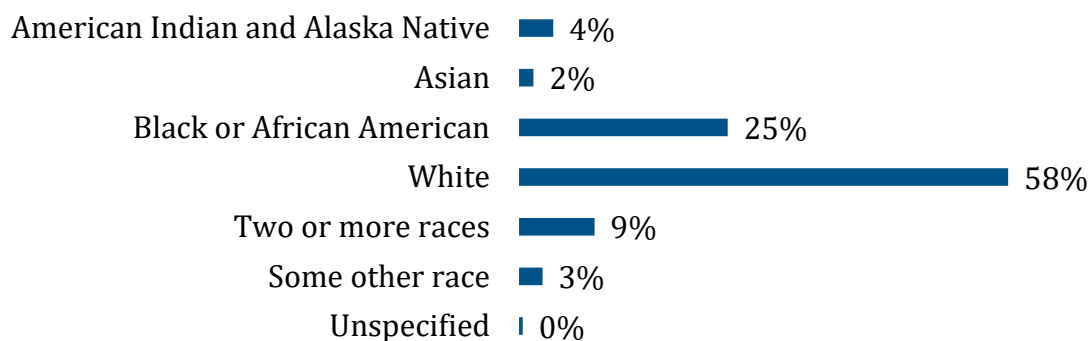




Characteristics of Head Start Children and Families (cont.)

Race (n=472)

The majority (58%, n=272) of those served by Head Start programs in 2018–2019 identified as White. A higher percentage of those served by Head Start programs identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native than expected based on the population of those under age 6 in poverty in the service area (4% of those served compared to 1% of children under age 6 in poverty). A similar trend also exists for Black or African American individuals (25% of those served compared to 13% of those under age 6 in poverty).

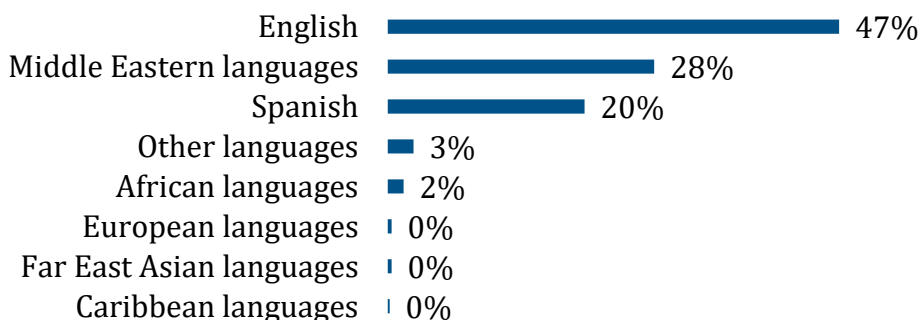


Ethnicity (n=472)

The majority (68%, n=321) of those served by Head Start programs in 2018–2019 identified as non-Hispanic. A higher percentage of those served by Head Start programs identified as Hispanic than expected based on the population of those under age 6 in poverty in the service area (32% of those served compared to 24% of children under age 6 in poverty).

Languages Spoken (n=486)

The highest percentage of those served by Head Start programs in 2018–2019 spoke English (47%, n=47%). The second most frequent language spoken were Middle Eastern languages (28%, n=134) followed by Spanish (20%, n=99). A higher percentage than expected of those served by Head Start programs spoke a language other than English based on the languages spoken at home by individuals age 5 and older in poverty (53% of those served compared to 20% of those ages 5 and older in poverty).





Community Profiles

Lancaster County | Lincoln Saunders County | Wahoo

The purpose of the community profiles on the following pages is to provide an overview of each of Community Action's service areas, Lancaster and Saunders Counties, as well as the main city in which Community Action provides services in each county.

While data is presented separately for each geographic area, a comparison across areas for the information provided can be found in [Appendix A](#).

All data in this section is from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2018, 5-Year estimate tables unless otherwise noted. Detailed source information can be found in the comparison appendix.

Community Profiles include:

- Population trends
- Racial identity
- Household composition
- Median income
- Unemployment rate
- Poverty rate
- Sex of those in poverty*
- Age of those in poverty*
- Racial identity of those in poverty*
- Educational attainment of those in poverty
- Employment status of those in poverty
- Work experience of those in poverty
- Child abuse and neglect**
- Rate of low-birth weight births**
- Teen birth rate**
- Ethnic identity***

* indicates data required by CSBG

** indicates data only available at the county level

*** indicates data was added to [Appendix A](#) in the September 2020 report update





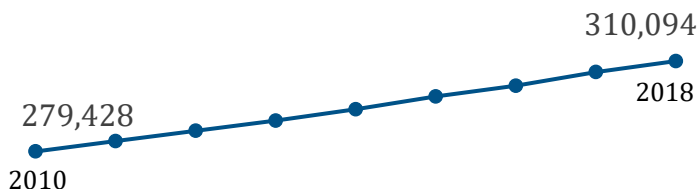
Lancaster County Community Profile



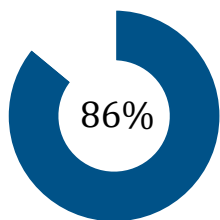
Population and Selected Demographics

Population

Since 2010, the population of Lancaster County consistently increased each year. In the past 9 years, the population of Lancaster County increased by 30,666 individuals or 11%.



Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from 250,000 to 320,000 to emphasize the population change.



Race

In 2018, the majority (86%, n=267,938) of Lancaster County residents identified as white. The second and third highest percentages of racial identities were Asian (4%, n=13,217) and Black or African American (4%, n=12,499).

Household Composition

The majority (60%, n=72,982) of the 122,646 households in Lancaster County in 2018 were comprised of families. The majority (77%, n=56,142) of family households consisted of a married family. 16% (n=11,816) of family households were led by a female householder with no husband present.

Family,
60%

Non-Family,
40%

Married couple,
77%

Female
householder,
16%

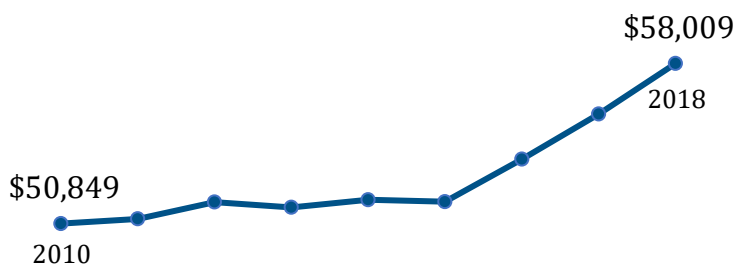
Male
householder,
7%



Income and Employment

Median Income

Between 2010 and 2015, the median income for residents in Lancaster County fluctuated slightly. Since 2015, the median income increased each year. Overall, since 2010, the median income in Lancaster County increased by \$7,160 or 14%.

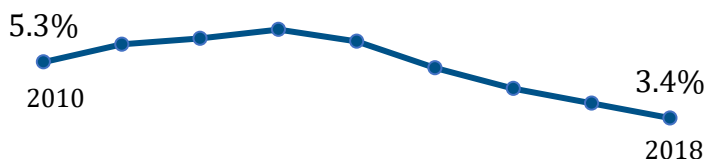


Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from \$46,000 to \$60,000 to emphasize the median income change.



Unemployment Rate

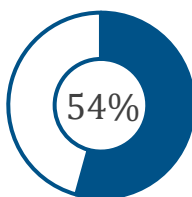
The unemployment rate in Lancaster County increased each year from 2010 before hitting its peak at 6.4% in 2013. Since then, the unemployment rate steadily decreased to the 2018 rate of 3.4%.



Poverty

13%

38,952 Lancaster County residents (13%) lived below the poverty level.

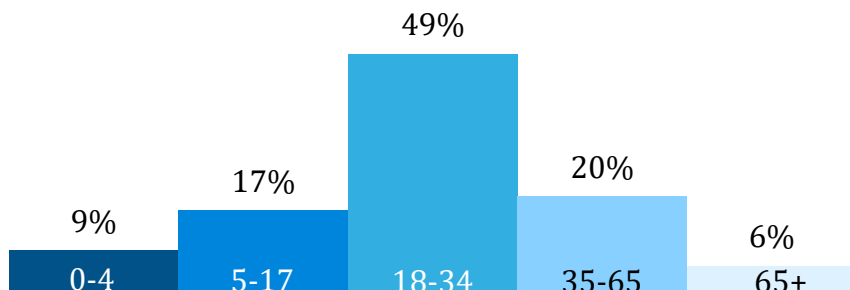


Sex

More individuals in poverty identified as female (54%, n=21,150) than male (46%, n=17,802).

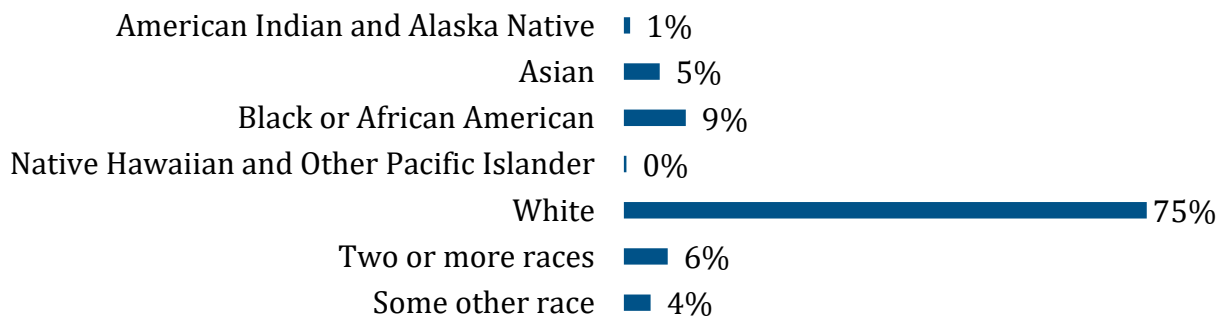
Age

Nearly half (49%, n=18,924) of individuals in poverty (n=38,952) were between the ages of 18–34. 26% (n=10,100) of those in poverty were younger than 18 years old.



Race

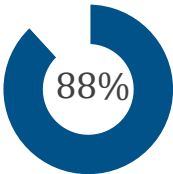
The majority (75%, n=29,083) of individuals in poverty in 2018 identified as White. A higher percentage of those in poverty identified as Black or African American than expected based on the population (9% of those in poverty compared to 4% of all residents). Individuals who identified as being of two or more races and of some other race also made up higher proportions of those in poverty than expected based on the population.





Educational Attainment

Of those individuals who were at least 25 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=15,526), the highest percentage had some college or an associate’s degree (34%, n=5,318).

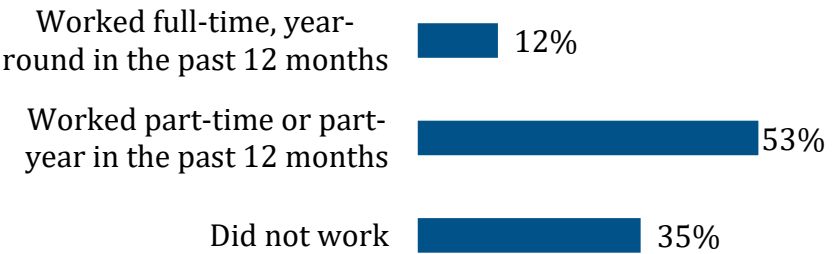


Employment Status

The majority (88%, n=15,352) of individuals who were at least 16 years old, in the civilian labor force, and in poverty in 2018 (n=17,407) were employed.

Work Experience

Of those individuals who were at least 16 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=29,639), the highest percentage worked part-time in the past 12 months (53%, n=15,681).



Additional Statistics of Interest



Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect

According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2020), in 2019 there were 6,915 child abuse/neglect calls in Lancaster County. Of those, 36% (n=2,483) were accepted for assessment/investigation, and 324 cases (5% of all calls) were substantiated.



Rate of Low-Birth Weight Births

Utilizing data from the National Center for Health Statistics from 2012–2018, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020) reported 7% of babies born in Lancaster County had a low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams).



Teen Birth Rate

Utilizing data from the National Center for Health Statistics from 2012–2018, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020) reported there were 16 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 in Lancaster County.



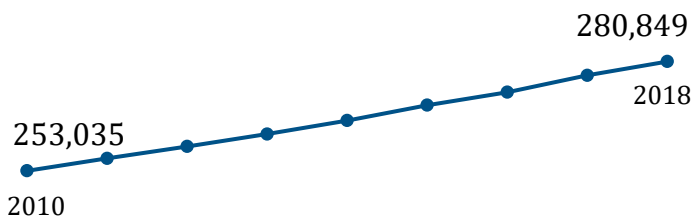
Lincoln Community Profile



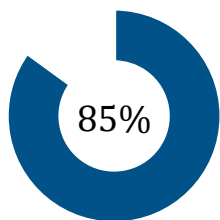
Population and Selected Demographics

Population

Since 2010, Lincoln's population increased consistently. In the past 9 years, Lincoln's population increased by 27,814 individuals or 11%.



Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from 240,000 to 300,000 to emphasize the population change.



Race

In 2018, the majority (85%, n=239,215) of Lincoln residents identified as White. The second highest percentages of racial identities was Asian (5%, n=13,109) followed by Black or African American (4%, n=12,414) and two or more races (4%, n=10,211).

Household Composition

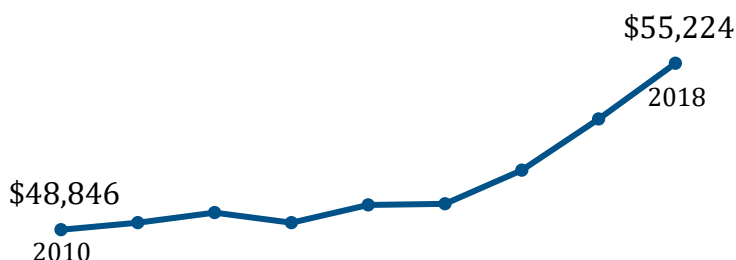
The majority (58%, n=64,558) of the 112,124 households in Lincoln in 2018 were comprised of families. The majority (75%, n=48,521) of family households consisted of a married family. 18% (n=11,322) of family households were led by a female householder with no husband present.



Income and Employment

Median Income

Apart from 2013, the median income for residents in Lincoln increased each year with larger increases beginning in 2016. Since 2010, the median income in Lincoln increased by \$6,378 or 13%.

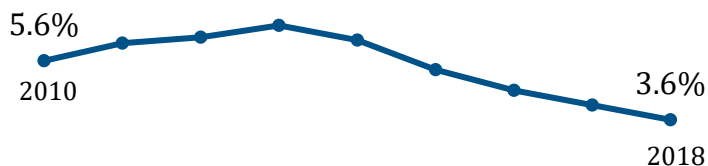


Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from \$45,000 to \$57,000 to emphasize the median income change.



Unemployment Rate

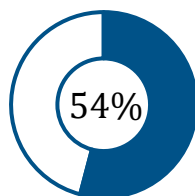
The unemployment rate in Lincoln increased from 2010 before hitting its peak at 6.8% in 2013. Since then, it decreased each year to a low of 3.6% in 2018.



Poverty

14%

38,038 Lincoln residents (14%) lived below the poverty level in 2018.

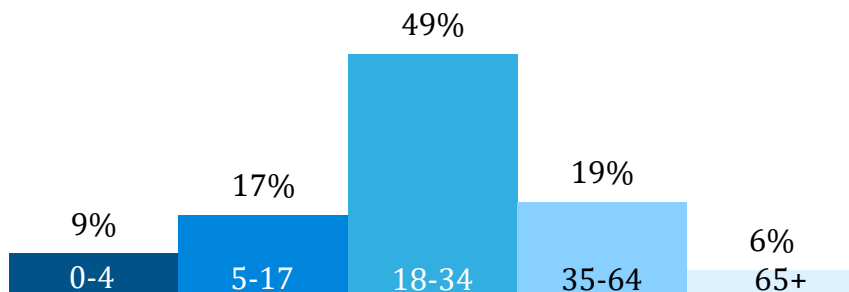


Sex

More individuals in poverty identified as female (54%, n=20,599) than male (46%, n=17,484).

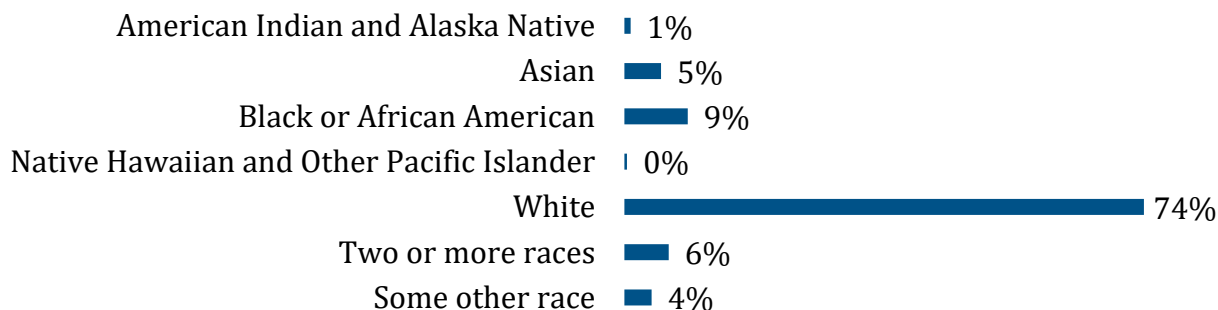
Age

Nearly half (49%, n=18,740) of those in poverty in 2018 (n=38,083) were between the ages of 18–34. 26% (n=9,808) of those in poverty were younger than 18 years old.



Race

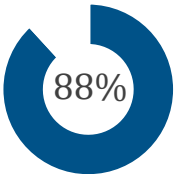
The majority (74%, n=28,256) of individuals in poverty identified as White. A higher percentage of those in poverty identified as Black or African American than expected based on the population (9% of those in poverty compared to 4% of all residents). Individuals who identified as being of two or more races and of some other race also made up higher proportions of those in poverty than expected based on the population.





Educational Attainment

Most individuals (52%, n=7,809) who were at least 25 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=15,063) had at least some college experience.



Employment Status

The majority of individuals (88%, n=15,085) who were at least 16 years old, in the civilian labor force, and in poverty in 2018 (n=17,106) were employed.

Work Experience

Most individuals (53%, n=15,443) who were at least 16 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=29,029) worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months.





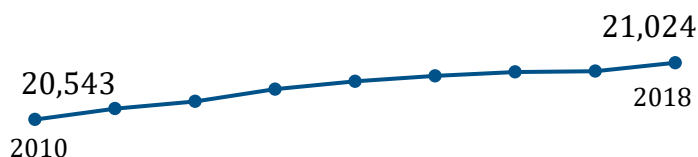
Saunders County Community Profile



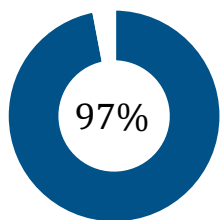
Population and Selected Demographics

Population

Since 2010, the population of Saunders County increased slightly each year. In the past 9 years, the population of Saunders County increased by 481 individuals or 2%.



Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from 20,000 to 22,000 to emphasize the population change.



Race

In 2018, the majority (97%, n=20,468) of Saunders County residents identified as White. The second highest percentage of racial identity was two or more races (1%, n=310).

Household Composition

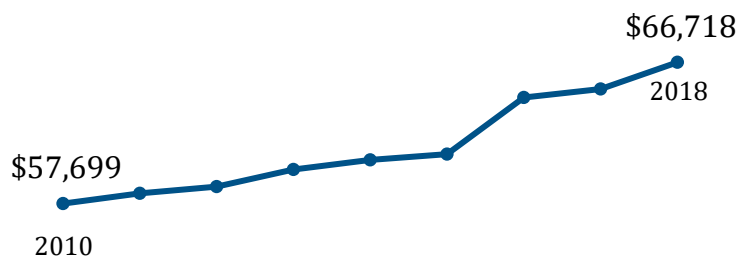
The majority (69%, n=5,750) of the 8,326 total households in Saunders County in 2018 was comprised of families. The majority (84%, n=4,804) of family households consisted of a married family. 10% (n=583) of family households were led by a female householder with no husband present.



Income and Employment

Median Income

Apart from 2013, the median income for residents in Saunders County increased each year. Since 2010, the median income in Saunders County increased by \$9,019 or 16%.

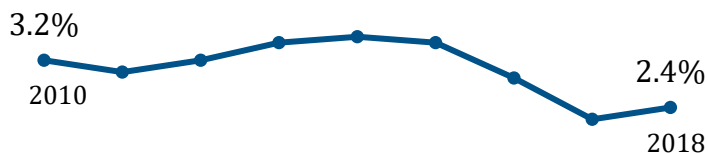


Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from \$50,000 to \$70,000 to emphasize the median income change.



Unemployment Rate

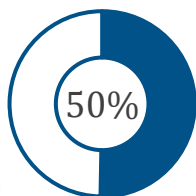
The unemployment rate in Saunders County increased from 2011 before hitting its peak at 3.6% in 2014. The lowest unemployment rate occurred in 2017 at 3.2%.



Poverty

8%

1,752 Saunders County residents (8%) lived below the poverty level in 2018.

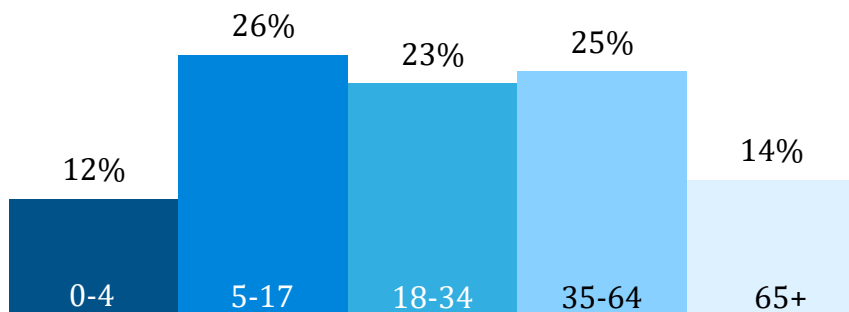


Sex

Half of those in poverty in 2018 identified as female (50%, n=10,278) and half identified as male (50%, n=10,479).

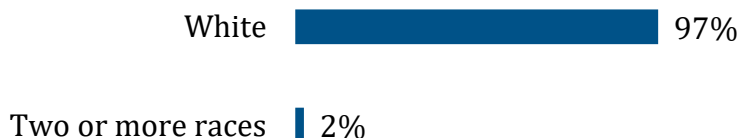
Age

The numbers of those in poverty in 2018 (n=1,752) ages 5–17 (26%, n=462), 18–34 (23%, n=411), and 35–64 (25%, n=432) were similar. 38% (n=669) of those in poverty were younger than 18 years old.



Race

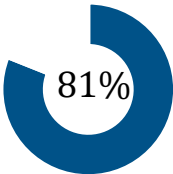
The majority (97%, n=1,702) of individuals in poverty in 2018 identified as White, which is consistent with the racial makeup of all residents in Saunders County.





Educational Attainment

Of those individuals who were at least 25 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=912), the highest percentage had a high school education (41%, n=370).

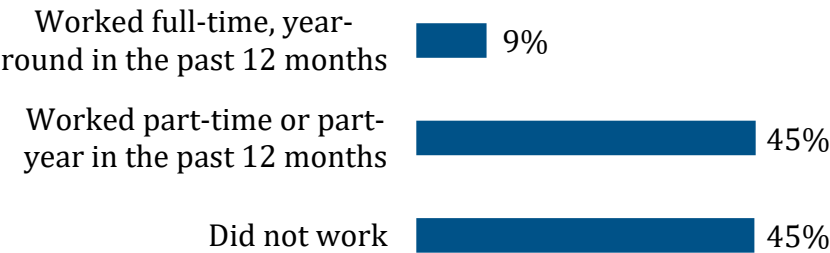


Employment Status

The majority (81%, n=436) of individuals who were at least 16 years old, in the civilian labor force, and in poverty in 2018 (n=538) were employed.

Work Experience

Most individuals who were at least 16 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=1,161) either worked part-time (45%, n=527) or did not work (45%, n=525) in the past 12 months.



Additional Statistics of Interest



Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect

According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2020), in 2019, there were 255 abuse/neglect calls in Saunders County. Of those, 37% (n=95) were accepted for assessment/investigation, and 12 cases (5% of all calls) were substantiated.



Rate of Low-Birth Weight Births

Utilizing data from the National Center for Health Statistics from 2012–2018, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020) reported 7% of babies born in Saunders County had a low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams).



Teen Birth Rate

Utilizing data from the National Center for Health Statistics from 2012–2018, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020) reported there were 10 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 in Saunders County.



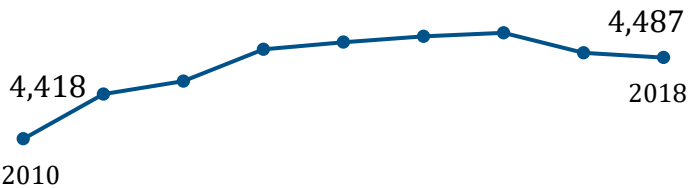
Wahoo Community Profile



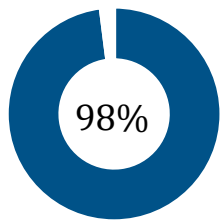
Population and Selected Demographics

Population

From 2010 to 2016, Wahoo’s population increased slightly each year before hitting a high of 4,508. Wahoo’s population decreased in 2017 and 2018.



Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from 4,400 to 4,600 to emphasize the population change.

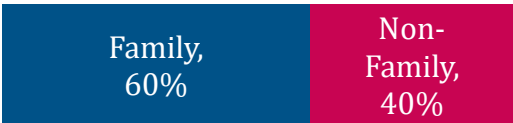


Race

In 2018, the majority (98%, n=4396) of Wahoo residents identified as White. The second highest percentage of racial identity was two or more races (1%, n=46).

Household Composition

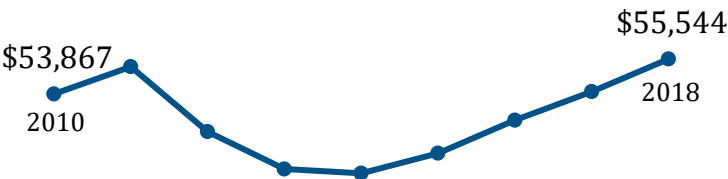
The majority (60%, n=1,075) of the 1,781 households in Wahoo in 2018 were comprised of families. The majority (80%, n=856) of family households consisted of a married-couple family. 15% (n=162) of family households were led by a female householder with no husband present.



Income and Employment

Median Income

After sharply increasing from 2010 to 2011, Wahoo’s median income decreased for 3 years to a low of \$50,069 in 2014. Since then, the median income has increased each year. Overall, since 2010, the median income increased by \$1,677 or 3%.

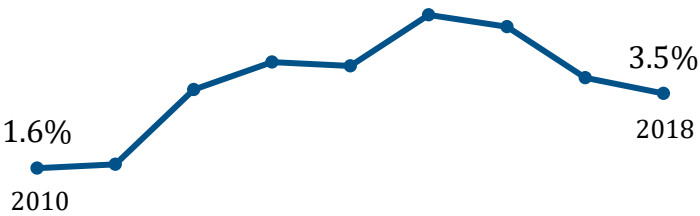


Note: The y-axis for the above graph ranges from \$45,000 to \$60,000 to emphasize the median income change.



Unemployment Rate

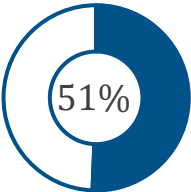
Wahoo’s unemployment rate was at its lowest point (for this time period) in 2010. It increased most years until peaking in 2015 at 5.5%. Since 2015, Wahoo’s unemployment rate has decreased by two percentage points.



Poverty

13%

559 Wahoo residents (13%) lived below the poverty level in 2018.

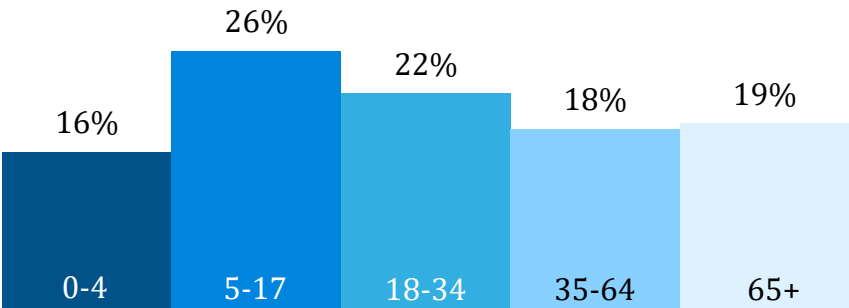


Sex

Slightly more individuals in poverty in 2018 identified as female (51%, n=283) than male (49%, n=276).

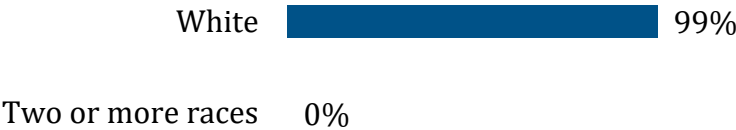
Age

Nearly half (42%, n=223) of those in poverty in Wahoo in 2018 were younger than 18 years old. Wahoo had a higher percentage of those age 65 and older (19%, n=104) comprising those in poverty than other geographic areas.



Race

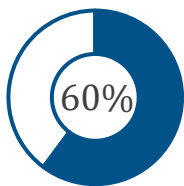
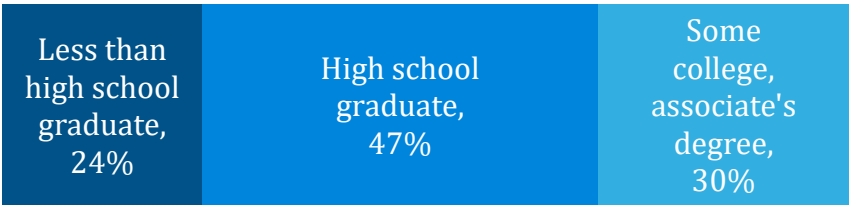
The majority (99%, n=554) of individuals in poverty in 2018 identified as White. Notably, 5 out of 17 Black or African American (29%) lived in poverty in Wahoo.





Educational Attainment

Nearly half (47%, n=139) of individuals who were at least 25 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=297) were high school graduates without college experience.

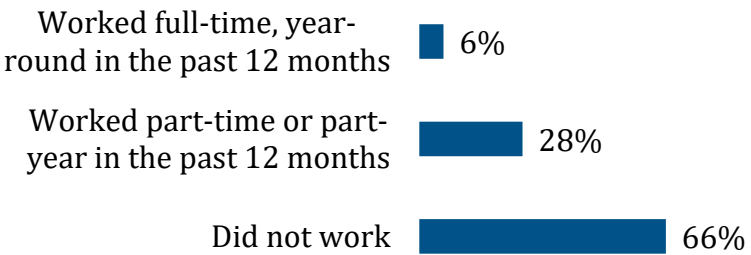


Employment Status

The majority (60%, n=71) of individuals who were at least 16 years old, in the civilian labor force, and in poverty in 2018 (n=118) were employed.

Work Experience

Most individuals (66%, n=215) who were at least 16 years old and in poverty in 2018 (n=326) did not work.





Head Start-Eligible Children and Families

Estimates and Demographics



The purpose of the following section is to provide information on the number of Head Start-eligible children and expectant parents, including information on their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages spoken. Information is also provided on the number of children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care.



Head Start-Eligible Children and Families

Estimates of Number of Eligible Children by Geographic Area

To estimate the number of children eligible for Head Start programs, STEPs used the number of children under the age of 6 who were in poverty. Data further disaggregated by ages 0–3 and 4–5 was not available for all characteristics required to be reported.

4,243 children across Lancaster and Saunders Counties in 2018 could be eligible for Head Start based on their poverty status. The majority (94%, n=3,979) of these children resided in Lancaster County. The majority (98%, n=3,908) of eligible children in Lancaster County resided within Lincoln. Eligible children in Saunders County were less geographically concentrated with only 44% (n=115) of children residing in Wahoo.

Children Under 6 Years in Poverty

Geographic Area	Count
Lancaster County	3,979
Lincoln	3,908
Saunders County	264
Wahoo	115

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B17020

Estimates of Number of Eligible Children by Race

The majority (70%, n=2,977) of children eligible for Head Start in 2018 were White. All Head Start-eligible children in Saunders County identified as White while Lancaster County had a more racially diverse population. The highest percentage of Head Start-eligible children in Lancaster County were White (68%, n=2,713), followed by Black or African American (13%, n=533) and two or more races (10%, n=411). A similar trend existed for children in Lincoln. Estimates of the number of eligible children by ethnic identity can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Children Under 6 Years in Poverty by Race

	Lancaster County (n=3,979)	Lincoln (n=3,908)	Saunders County (n=264)	Wahoo (n=115)
American Indian and Alaska Native	25	25	-	-
Asian	136	136	-	-
Black or African American	533	533	-	-
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	13	13	-	-
White	2,713	2,642	264	115
Two or more races	411	411	-	-
Some other race	148	148	-	-

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables (2018); B17020A-B17020G



Estimates of Number of Eligible Children by Languages Spoken

Data on the language spoken at home is not available for children under the age of 5. Instead, the data below represents the language(s) spoken at home by individuals ages 5 and older who live in poverty. The majority of individual across all geographic areas spoke only English in 2018. The second highest percentage of language spoken at home for all geographic areas was Spanish.

Individuals Ages 5 and Older in Poverty by Language Spoken at Home

	Lancaster County (n=35,477)	Lincoln (n=34,669)	Saunders County (n=1,545)	Wahoo (n=471)
Spoke only English	79%	79%	96%	97%
Spoke Spanish	9%	9%	3%	3%
Spoke other Indo-European languages	3%	3%	1%	0%
Spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages	5%	5%	0%	0%
Spoke other languages	4%	4%	0%	0%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table C16009

Assuming the percentage of language speakers is similar between individuals ages 5 and older and individuals under the age of 6 living in poverty in the geographic areas, the number of Head Start-eligible children speaking each language can be estimated as follows:

Estimate of Children Under Age 6 in Poverty by Language Spoken at Home

	Lancaster County (n=3,979)	Lincoln (n=3,908)	Saunders County (n=264)	Wahoo (n=115)
Spoke only English	3,160	3,089	254	111
Spoke Spanish	364	363	7	4
Spoke other Indo-European languages	118	118	2	-
Spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages	181	182	-	-
Spoke other languages	156	157	-	-

Estimates calculated using ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table C16009



Children Experiencing Homelessness

The exact number of children experiencing homelessness is difficult to determine and relatively little data is available. The best available data on homelessness comes from point-in-time counts by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is only available for the state of Nebraska and Lincoln and Omaha metropolitan areas. According to the 2019 point-in-time count as published by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (n.d.):



178 youth were homeless on a given night in Lincoln.



650 people in families (including adults and youth) were homeless on a given night in Nebraska.

41 youth were homeless on a given night in Nebraska.

170 people in families (including adults and youth) were homeless on a given night in Lincoln.

The U.S. Department of Education provides a second source of data on the number of homeless youth by collecting information on the number of students experiencing homelessness enrolled in school districts across the country. For Community Action's service area, only Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) data is reported due to too small sample sizes in other districts in the service area. For the 2017–2018 school year, LPS reported the following:



Students experiencing homelessness were enrolled in LPS.

157 students experiencing homelessness identified as residing in a shelter.

139 students experiencing homelessness identified as doubled-up.

Children in Foster Care

According to the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office (2019), on June 30, 2019:

584

children in **Lancaster County** were in out-of-home care or trial home visit

17

children in **Saunders County** were in out-of-home care or trial home visit



Household Composition of Eligible Children

More than half of Head Start-eligible children (55%, n=2,347) lived in households with a female householder with no husband present in 2018. Saunders County had the highest rate of children living in households led by single females.

Number of Children Under 6 Years in Poverty by Household Composition

	Lancaster County (n=3,979)	Lincoln (n=3,908)	Saunders County (n=264)	Wahoo (n=115)
Married-couple family household	1,507 (38%)	1,484 (38%)	97 (37%)	59 (51%)
Male householder, no wife present	281 (7%)	268 (7%)	11 (4%)	0 (0%)
Female householder, no husband present	2,191 (55%)	2,156 (55%)	156 (59%)	56 (49%)

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B17006

Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents by Geographic Area

To estimate the number of expectant parents eligible for Head Start programs, STEPs used the number of women ages 15 to 50 who had a birth in the past 12 months and lived below 100% of the poverty line.

An estimated 1,074 expectant parents could be eligible for Head Start services in a given year based on their poverty status. The majority (95%, n=1,020) of these individuals resided in Lancaster County. Nearly all eligible expectant parents in Lancaster County resided within Lincoln (99%, n=1,006).

Women Ages 15-50 in Poverty Who Had Given Birth in the Last 12 Months

Geographic Area	Count
Lancaster County	1,020
Lincoln	1,006
Saunders County	54
Wahoo	24

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B13010

Percentage of Women Ages 15-50 in Poverty Who Had Given Birth in the Last 12 Months

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=4,232)	24%
Lincoln (n=3,949)	25%
Saunders County (n=330)	16%
Wahoo (n=101)	24%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B13010

Approximately one in four women ages 15–50 who had given birth in the last 12 months in Lancaster County, Lincoln, and Wahoo lived in poverty in 2018. Saunders County had a slightly lower percentage of women in poverty who had given birth.



Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents by Race

Assuming the percentage of individuals in each racial category is similar for all individuals and expectant parents in poverty, the estimated number of expectant parents by race is summarized in the table below. Estimates of the number of expectant parents in poverty by ethnic identity can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents in Poverty by Race

	Lancaster County (n=1,020)	Lincoln (n=1,006)	Saunders County (n=54)	Wahoo (n=24)
American Indian and Alaska Native	10	10	0	0
Asian	51	50	0	0
Black or African American	92	91	0	0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
White	765	744	52	24
Two or more races	61	60	1	0
Some other race	41	40	0	0

Estimates calculated using ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701

Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents by Language Spoken at Home

Assuming the percentage of language speakers in poverty in 2018 was similar between individuals ages 5 and older and expectant parents, the number of expectant parents speaking each language can be estimated to be as follows:

Estimate of Expectant Parents in Poverty by Language Spoken at Home

	Lancaster County (n=1,020)	Lincoln (n=1,006)	Saunders County (n=54)	Wahoo (n=24)
Spoke only English	806	795	52	23
Spoke Spanish	92	91	2	1
Spoke other Indo-European languages	31	30	1	0
Spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages	51	50	0	0
Spoke other languages	41	40	0	0

Estimates calculated using Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table C16009



Head Start Family Needs Assessment

Parent Interviews and Secondary Data



The purpose of the following section is to provide information on the education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families. This section also includes information on the number of children with disabilities (including types of disabilities); typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children; other childcare facilities and estimates of the number of Head Start-eligible children served; and community strengths. Head Start parent perspectives and secondary data are integrated throughout this section.



Head Start Family Needs Assessment Methodology

Sampling

Community Action provided STEPs with the names and contact information of 25 parents whose children were currently enrolled in Head Start programs. The list included five parents whose children received services at the North 33rd, K Street, Wahoo, and Health 360 Head Start locations each, as well as those receiving home-based services. STEPs contacted 18 families and conducted seven interviews via phone and Zoom. Seven families did not respond to emails or phone calls and four scheduled interviews but did not participate. Of the seven participants, two lived in Saunders County and five lived in Lancaster County.

Location	Participants
North 33 rd	1
K Street	2
Wahoo (Saunders)	2
Health 360	1
Home-based	1

Parent Interview Numbers



Data Collection and Analysis

STEPs collaborated with Community Action to develop an informed consent script and interview questions that Community Action approved and finalized. The informed consent and interview script can be found in [Appendix B](#). STEPs facilitated all interviews over the phone or Zoom, and audio or video recorded them using Zoom. The audio recordings were professionally transcribed, and STEPs double checked them to ensure accuracy. STEPs coded the transcripts using open codes, which were then developed into categories and themes by one coder and audited by a second team member.

STEPs interviewed parents between May 12 and 20, 2020, which corresponded with the COVID-19-directed health measures implemented in Nebraska.

Head Start Family Needs Assessment Results

Participants mentioned resources that have been helpful to them as a parent with small children. STEPs put these resources into six categories: Schedules, Education and Employment Needs, Health Needs, Nutritional Needs, Community Strengths, and Social Service Needs. Some topics are discussed in multiple sections based on the information and context provided by the participant.

In addition to data collected from Head Start parents' interviews, results include secondary data as additional evidence of the needs of Head Start families.



Child Care Needs

Typical Work, School, and Training Schedules

Participants discussed their typical day, accounting for the changes caused by COVID-19. Participants described working **typically between the hours of 7:00am and 5:00pm**. A few participants were not currently employed and were staying at home with their child(ren) while their significant other worked. Multiple participants talked about the **high cost of childcare**. One participant described taking her child to work with her because of the **high cost of childcare**.

"So instead of going to school, I have to take my son to work in the morning ... 'Cause I consider, if I have a babysitter and then go to work, it's not really good for me, because I would be spending the money I make on a babysitter."



Secondary Data: Childcare Affordability



94.2%

Of Nebraska families could not afford infant care (based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' affordability standard of 7% of family income; EPI, 2019)

\$12,571

Annual cost of infant care in Nebraska (EPI, 2019)

\$11,420

Annual cost of childcare for a 4-year-old in Nebraska (EPI, 2019)

Secondary Data: Childcare Availability

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) maintains a Roster of Licensed Child Care and Preschool Programs. Based on the roster available on April 28, 2020, the number and type of childcare facilities by geographic area is summarized below:

Childcare Facilities by Geographic Area and Type

	Lancaster County (n=485)	Lincoln (n=451)	Saunders County (n=41)	Wahoo (n=19)
Child Care Center	179	170	11	7
Family Child Care Home I	212	195	15	4
Family Child Care Home II	80	73	11	5
Preschool	14	13	4	3

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2020)



Secondary Data: Childcare Availability

The exact number of Head Start-eligible children served by other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare programs cannot be determined as this data is not publicly available. Instead, STEPs estimated the number of Head Start-eligible children served by these programs by using data on the number of childcare facilities that accepted payments through the Nebraska DHHS Child Care Subsidy Program. This program helps families pay for childcare and eligibility is based on specific income requirements. The number and type of childcare facilities accepting subsidies is summarized below:

Total Number of Childcare Facilities Accepting Subsidies by Geographic Area and Type

	Lancaster County (n=242)	Lincoln (n=230)	Saunders County (n=10)	Wahoo (n=3)
Child Care Center	152	144	6	3
Family Child Care Home I	58	56	3	0
Family Child Care Home II	32	30	1	0

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2020)

According to the Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey Report (Welch et al., 2019), childcare providers receive subsidy payments for an average of 4.69 children. By multiplying the number of facilities that accept childcare subsidies by 4.69, STEPs roughly estimates the number of children whose childcare is paid by subsidy to be as follows:

Estimated Number of Head Start-Eligible Children Served by Childcare Facility Location and Type

	Lancaster County (n=242)	Lincoln (n=230)	Saunders County (n=10)	Wahoo (n=3)
Child Care Center	713	675	28	14
Family Child Care Home I	272	263	14	0
Family Child Care Home II	150	141	5	0
Total	1,135	1,079	47	14

Estimates calculated using Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2020) and Welch et al. (2019)



Education and Employment Needs

Employment and Educational Goals

Participants discussed their personal goals related to education and employment. While the individual goals participants shared varied widely, many participants emphasized their **employment goals were linked to their educational goals**. Frequently, participants discussed utilizing both community classes and more formal education (university or college classes) in reaching their employment goals.



"I would like to be able to utilize my degree because I'm going for [field of study removed for confidentiality]. And be able to get a job, I kind of want it in the Wahoo community as my kids are very small, and I have a really hard time leaving town in case something's gonna happen, or you know."

Participants discussed helpful supports for receiving their education. One participant mentioned formal support such as **grants or loans** received by filing the FAFSA. Many participants discussed utilizing **supportive friends and family** to achieve their individual goals. Participants identified having **childcare in the form of Head Start or daycare** as another support as this increased their time and ability to focus on schoolwork.

"If I need help or whatever, they'll step in or if I ask for some assistance somewhere, yes, as long as I'm trying to help myself."

One participant described **remote learning** resources as a helpful educational support. This participant discussed being able to log into the class from home as a key support to staying in school.

"I've been trying to advocate because when I started in fall of 2018, I was just gonna go to school, and you know, I was kind of nervous and all that, and then they introduced me to this robot program..... It was a saving grace, really."

Barriers to Goal Attainment

Participants stated **the closing of childcare centers due to COVID-19** has been a barrier to goal attainment.

Participants discussed barriers to employment. As previously reported, participants identified a **lack of affordable childcare** as a barrier to employment. One participant discussed not being able to find a job due to her pregnancy. A few participants indicated a **lack of work experience** has limited their employability and, therefore, their progress towards employment goals.

"So I would rather make sure I'm in bed early the night before, and possibly miss an assignment and ask for some forgiveness, than to be up 'til 5 o'clock in the morning, and have an entire week thrown off between my school and my children. Like, they're number one."

"So right now, I am considered entry level, but I'd just like to work my way up and become the administrator, like top administrator."



Health Needs

Health Insurance Access

Health care was explored at length during the interviews as it was an area emphasized in interview questions. **Nearly all participants qualified for and utilized Medicaid** to meet the health care needs of their family. Participants stated they utilized Medicaid to receive health, dental, vision, and mental health care.

“I’m so happy that the state, that my kids qualify for Medicaid that I don’t usually go for much more. Like, I just applied for the SNAP benefits. So I was like okay, it’s getting kind of tight, but I’m just so happy that they have Medicaid.”

Preventive Care Experience

Most participants reported visiting their doctor within the last 6 months for preventative care. Each participants described their interactions as positive or neutral. Participants described being treated well by the medical staff. Those who stated their experiences were neutral did not offer reasoning. One participant described an experience as negative due to the medical staff being unable to diagnose a health concern.



“Ours is really good. I love it. Their primary is [physicians name removed for confidentiality] here at [facility name removed for confidentiality]. And I love him. They’ve always been really good. I’ve known, gosh, [physicians name removed for confidentiality] been looking at my kids for 10 years. And, it’s always been really good. I just love him.”

Secondary Data: Health Insurance

The percentage of children under the age of 6 who had health insurance was high for each of the geographic areas.

Children Under 6 Years with Health Insurance

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=24,411)	97%
Lincoln (n=22,202)	96%
Saunders County (n=1,642)	99%
Wahoo (n=444)	100%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2701

Approximately one third of children under the age of 6 had some form of public health insurance.

Children Under 6 Years with Public Health Insurance

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=24,411)	33%
Lincoln (n=22,202)	29%
Saunders County (n=1,642)	35%
Wahoo (n=444)	38%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B27003



Barriers to Preventative Care

In situations where participants had not seen a medical professional in the last 6 months, **COVID-19 was the primary barrier**. Participants discussed having prenatal, dental, and general checkups postponed due to COVID-19. One participant shared the **cost of services is a barrier** due to a lack of health insurance.

"No, it's just I need to pay extra because I don't have health care... Or someone else, I think the financial is a major obstacle because the services are around but very expensive."



Secondary Data: Health Care Costs

In Nebraska, individuals in households with lower incomes reported having a time in the past 12 months when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost at higher rates than those with higher incomes. County- and city-level data is not available for this indicator (source: BRFSS, 2018).

Percentage of Respondents Indicating They Had Not Seen a Doctor When Needed Due to Cost in the Past 12 Months by Household Income



Source: BRFSS Prevalence and Trends Data (2018)

Mental Health

Participants less frequently shared experiences about receiving mental health services. A few participants shared it was **easy to get an appointment for mental health services**. Some participants discussed the **stigma** around mental health care stating the stigma has decreased but is still there. One participant discussed the influence of culture in their community's perception of mental health services. This participant explained the Hispanic community does not believe people need mental health services.

"Well, I come from the Hispanic community, and we have a really silly idea about that. We think that everybody who goes there is crazy. But I don't think that way anymore, 'cause I've started to change the way I see things. Most people in my community say they don't need it; people don't need that."



Nutritional Needs

Food Access

Overwhelmingly, the most often discussed resources that have been helpful to a parent with small children were **WIC, TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, Community Action**, and **family**. Every participant stated **they were able to provide healthy foods** to their family daily. Many utilized government assistance, nonprofit organizations, and churches to access food for their family.

"I've got WIC. So that's a huge help. And, the food banks are usually really good at always having some kind of a bread and some kind of a fruit or vegetable. That's something that we try to stockpile on. I'm also an avid person with food stamps, it's not, 'Go get yourself six T-bone steaks, and, 12 cases of pop so you can eat good for a whole week and starve for the whole month.'"



Others utilized their own income and existing knowledge about healthy foods.

Some participants mentioned **gaining knowledge on healthy foods through a Community Action class, FEAST**. The participants who mentioned relying on their own income stated they were aware of other food pantries and churches offering food assistance but were not currently utilizing them.

Secondary Data: SNAP Participation

Between 12% and 17% of households with children under 18 years old received SNAP benefits.

Percentage of Households Receiving SNAP with Children under 18 years

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=35,959)	16%
Lincoln (n=32,232)	17%
Saunders County (n=2,561)	12%
Wahoo (n=577)	15%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2201

"I just go to the stores, and like, search around. I try to stay at the vegetables and fruits section, instead of so much with the canned stuff... Oh and this is something I've learned too, at Community Action, there was a class called FEAST."

Many participants mentioned the **cost of healthy foods as a barrier to healthy eating**. One participant mentioned fruits and vegetables are costlier in Saunders County as compared to Lincoln or Omaha. A few participants identified the **specific dietary needs of family members as a factor** in providing healthy foods. One participant identified the cost of food for one child requiring a gluten- and dairy-free diet compared to food for children without dietary restrictions:

"Gluten free and dairy free [food] is much [more] expensive than the [food for the] other kids, so that has been a hindrance."



Secondary Data: Food Insecurity and Free and Reduced Lunch Participation

Food insecurity is defined as the “lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods” (Feeding America, n.d.). The table below summarizes the number and percentage of individuals and children with food insecurity in Lancaster and Saunders Counties in 2018:

Number of Individuals and Children with Food Insecurities

Geographic Area	Individuals with Food Insecurity	Children with Food Insecurity
Lancaster County	37,080 (12%)	11,580 (16%)
Saunders County	2,320 (11%)	900 (17%)

Source: Feeding America (n.d.)

In the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the percentage of youth receiving free and reduced lunch varied across geographic areas. Across 21 of 33 school districts in **Lancaster County** (12 districts had masked data and were excluded from analysis), **40% of students participated in free and reduced lunch programs**. In Saunders County, 29% of students participated in free and reduced school lunch programs across eight school districts.

Percentage of Youth Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County School Districts (n=54,329)	40%
Lincoln Public Schools (n=42,258)	47%
Saunders County School Districts (n=3,899)	29%
Wahoo Public Schools (n=1,066)	28%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education (n.d.)



Community Strengths

Connections

Overwhelmingly, participants discussed the sense of safety in their community as a significant community strength. Participants attributed this to the size of the community and their connections within the community. One participant specified that community members care and support each other if a person makes their needs known.

“That the safety, most likely, great place to raise, you know I’m saying, There’s crime everywhere, but the crime rate in Lincoln is lower, you know what I’m saying. And, the resources that do go a little above and beyond for the parent, for a mother, you know what I’m saying, in need. And also the resources as far as the Head Start program. Early learning, basically.”



Participants brought up Community Action throughout the interviews. Participants discussed how **Community Action staff members provide guidance for new parents and connect families to resources**. Regardless of the impact COVID-19 had on access to support services, participants still felt supported by Community Action staff.



“The teachers have been able to stay connected with us. And they’re sending us activities to do and all of that. Just knowing that people care, you know, about us.”

“Every time you know I’ve talked to anybody that—with the Community Action, they were always been like, “How can I help you, what can I do for you?” So they’re really, always very helpful in that regard, like asking you if you need any resources or if you need any help with anything.”

Activities

Some participants talked about **classes provided by Community Action and Lincoln Public Libraries**. Participants specifically mentioned FEAST and classes on purchasing a home, starting a small business, advertising, and budget management. While participants stated they gained useful information from the classes, one participant mentioned the **classes only being offered in English** has been a barrier for friends and family.

“FEAST. It was a really good class. It was like 12 weeks, once a week. But I learned a lot, a lot about sugar, salt, and processing.”



Participants frequently mentioned **wanting more options for low-cost activities in their communities**. Public libraries, pools, church, and Boy Scouts of America were discussed as activities their children currently utilized in the community.



Social Service Needs

Barriers to Self-Sufficiency

While **nearly all the participants shared their needs were being met**, one participant discussed the benefits cliff as a major barrier to reaching self-sufficiency. The National Conference of State Legislators website states the benefits cliff “refers to the sudden and often unexpected decrease in public benefits that can occur with a small increase in earnings” (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019, p. 1).

“Like families that are just above the borderline. I really don't know what the state is doing about that because one of the objectives of community has started to help family out of poverty, right? Well, immediately you are out of the poverty line and just not too much away from it. It's so easy for you to fall back because you lose so many privileges, right? ... I know that lots of parents are just above the poverty line and it's difficult for them to sustain.”

Specialized Needs

Having a child with special needs is another family factor identified as impacting a parent's ability to attain educational or employment goals. Participants discussed how **specialized needs, in combination with being uninsured**, placed a large financial strain on the family. One participant discussed being faced with the choice between taking a new career opportunity or remaining in poverty in order to receive Medicaid to meet the needs of their child. In addition, participants identified the time requirements of attending appointments for their child with special needs and how these requirements impacted their education or employment.

“One of them is autistic, so he needs special needs and it's very expensive if you don't have Medicaid or Medicare to take care of it. But I can't afford to also sit down idle and not moving forward with my career.”

Secondary Data: Disabilities

The table below summarizes the number of individuals under the age of 18 with disabilities in 2018. Little difference exists in the number of individuals with disabilities by geographic area.

Number of Individuals Under 18 Years with Disabilities

Disabilities	Lancaster County	Lincoln	Saunders County	Wahoo
Hearing Difficulty	454	33	411	13
Vision Difficulty	485	60	471	35
Cognitive Difficulty	2,117	205	1,976	78
Ambulatory Difficulty	405	19	401	7
Self-Care Difficulty	459	39	432	22
Hearing Difficulty	454	33	411	13

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1810



Community Resource Profile

Lancaster and Saunders Counties



The purpose of this section is to detail resources that are available in Lancaster and Saunders Counties to address the needs of eligible children and their families. Notably, STEPs collected the resources provided in this profile during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hours, contact information, and availability of services were accurate at the time of collection in May 2020. The complete resource profile can be found in [Appendix C](#).



Community Resources Profile Methodology

STEPS utilized the MyLNK app, Lancaster County Resource Guide, and internet searches to compile a list of community resources available in Lancaster and Saunders Counties. The information was entered into an Excel spreadsheet, and then organized by category and subcategory before being transferred to the Community Resource Profile. Some organizations are listed multiple times to ensure they are easily located by the user of the report.

Key Findings

Lancaster County

There is a higher concentration of services located in areas of Lancaster County with a higher poverty rate. Most agencies are open 8:00am–5:00pm Monday–Friday. However, some agencies have staggered or biweekly alternating hours to ensure later availability for those who may not be available during standard business hours. A variety of services for many populations is available throughout the county, with the focus being within Lincoln city limits.

Saunders County

Saunders County has less people living in poverty. Most agencies are open 8:00am–5:00pm Monday–Friday and are less likely to have staggered hours. There are highly necessary services without a physical office in Saunders County, like the health department and domestic and sexual violence resources. Many of the services available in Saunders County are provided through the county and not individual nonprofits.

Overall

There are many resources available, but travel may be required to access them based on where community members live. The least common resources are emergency housing, prisoner re-entry, and organizations providing emergency funds. Organizations rarely require proof of address to receive services.

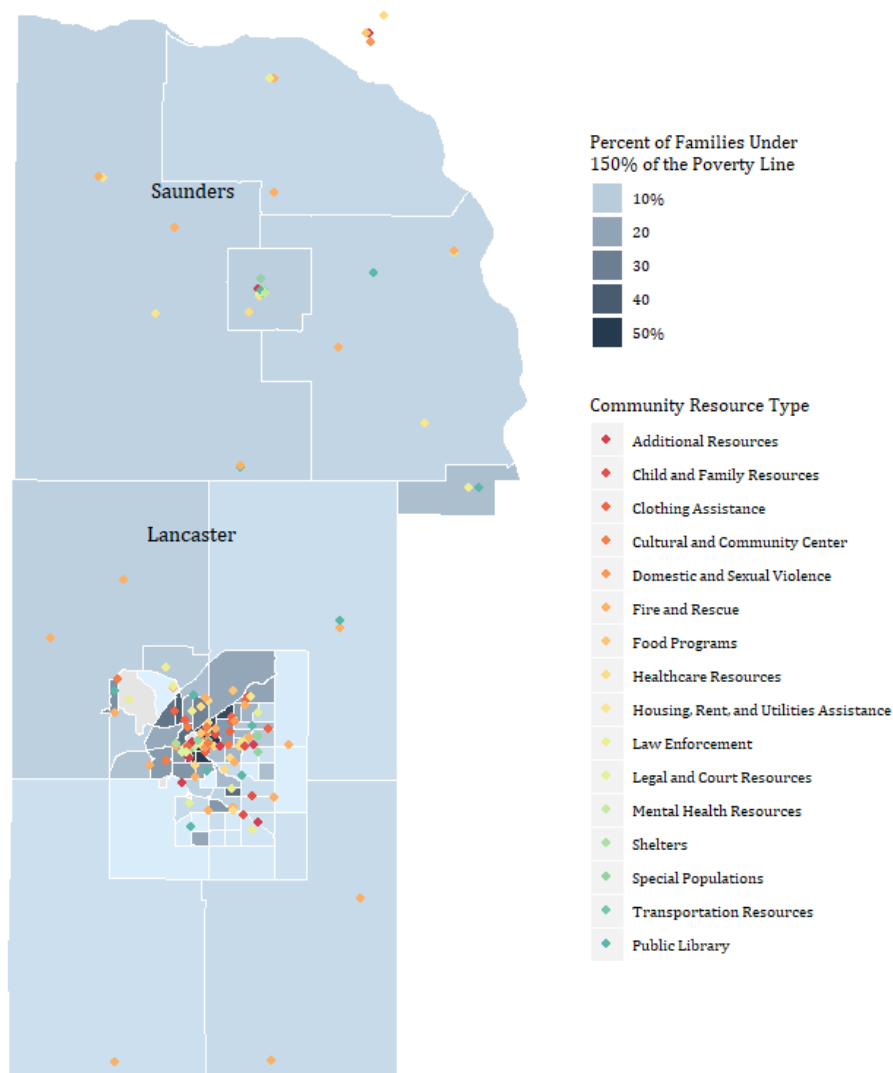


Community Resources Accessibility

To examine the accessibility of community resources, STEPs compared the location of community resources with the concentration of families living below 150% of the poverty line. The map below shows the percentage of families within each census tract (or neighborhood of approximately 4,000 residents) who live under 150% of the poverty line with lighter blues indicating a lower percentage of families under 150% of the poverty line and darker blues indicating a higher percentage of families under 150% of the poverty line.

As the maps show, community resources tend to be in areas with higher percentages of families living below 150% of the poverty line. This suggests these resources may be physically accessible to families in poverty as they are more likely to be located within their neighborhood. Additional analysis such as proximity to bus lines and safe walking paths may provide additional insight to the accessibility of community resources.

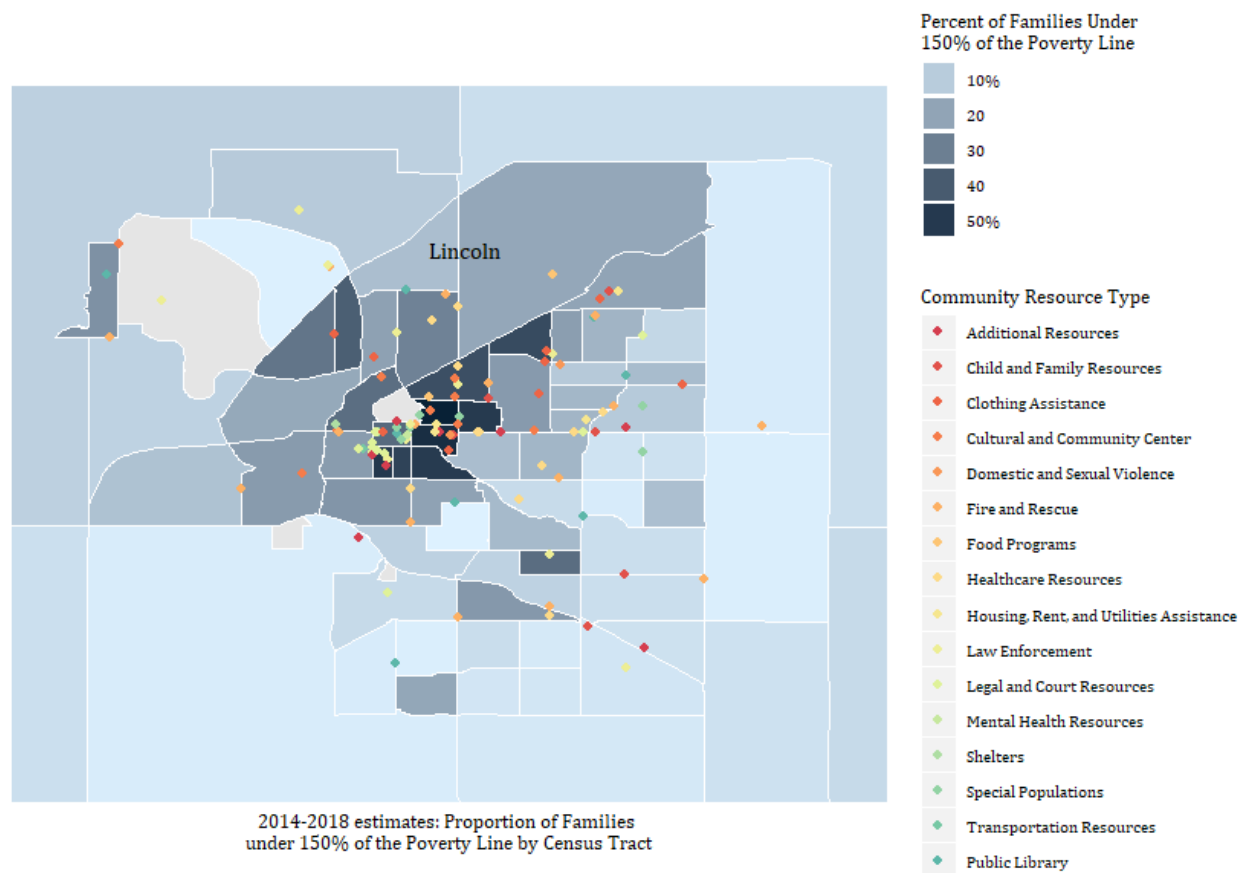
The map on the next page shows the Lincoln metropolitan area in greater detail.



2014-2018 estimates: Proportion of Families under 150% of the Poverty Line by Census Tract



Community Resources Accessibility (cont.)



In alignment with the findings across the service area, Lincoln also has a higher number of community resources concentrated in areas with a higher percentage of families living under 150% of the poverty line.



Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

Key Informant Interviews and Secondary Data



The purpose of the following section is to provide information on the causes and conditions of poverty, and the needs and strengths of communities in Lancaster and Saunders Counties based on interviews with community key informants and secondary data. Interviews occurred between May 6 and 27, 2020, during which time Nebraska had implemented COVID-19-directed health measures.



Community Needs and Strengths Assessment Methodology

Sampling

Community Action provided STEPs with a contact list of 29 community members who represented the private, public, community-based, faith-based, and education-based sectors of Lancaster and Saunders Counties. STEPs contacted 17 of these community members and conducted seven interviews via phone and Zoom. Six key informants did not respond, two recommended a co-worker be interviewed instead, and two scheduled and then cancelled the interview. Of the seven participants, one represented Saunders County and six represented Lancaster County.

Sector	Participants
Private	2
Public	1
Community-based	1
Faith-based	2
Education-based	1

Key Informant Interview Numbers



Data Collection and Analysis

STEPs collaborated with Community Action to develop an informed consent script and interview questions that were finalized with Community Action approval. The informed consent and interview script can be found in [Appendix D](#). STEPs facilitated all interviews over the phone or Zoom, and audio or video recorded them using Zoom. The audio recordings were professionally transcribed and double checked by STEPs to ensure accuracy. STEPs coded the transcripts using open codes, which were then developed into categories and themes by one coder and audited by a second team member.

Community Needs and Strengths Assessment Results

Participants discussed four main areas throughout their interviews including causes of poverty, community strengths, and community challenges. The key themes for each topic are summarized in the table to the right.

Topic	Key Themes
Causes of Poverty	Job access and transportation, living wage, access to health care, discrimination, and individual factors
Community Strengths	Connection, culture, local government, and Community Action
Community Challenges	Poverty, COVID-19, and racism and discrimination



Causes of Poverty

Job Access

The interviews explored the causes of poverty at length due to both the nature of the questions and the perceived impact of poverty in the area. Many participants identified poverty as one of the largest challenges for the community. Participants discussed a variety of factors that cause poverty. One participant discussed how many who live in Saunders County travel to Lincoln or Omaha for employment as **there is not a sizeable job base in the community**.

“We don’t have a great amount of jobs available for people within our community. There are some service jobs, there are some—you know, waitressing and that type of thing, which are not high-paying jobs. We do not have an industry; I think our school is the largest employer.”

While work force development and job access programs exist, **requirements may be burdensome** for job seekers.

“A lot of times the requirements attached to those employment plans, you know, designed by clients, have a lot of strings attached to it. You have to do X number of volunteer hours, you have to show up here, here, and here at this time, this time, that time, you know it’s a lot of hoops to jump through, I think for helping someone find work.”

Transportation

While key informants mentioned issues with transportation less frequently, the information they provided on job access suggests **finding and maintaining employment requires reliable transportation**. With the percentages of individuals commuting outside of their county and average commute times around 20 minutes, exploration of transportation information is warranted. Additional secondary data regarding means of transportation to work can be found on the next page.

Secondary Data: Commutes to Work

Percentage of Workers Working Outside County of Residence

More than half of workers age 16 and older living in Saunders County reported working outside of the county. Similarly, 39% workers residing in Wahoo traveled outside of Saunders County for work.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=167,569)	6%
Lincoln (n=151,960)	5%
Saunders County (n=10,819)	55%
Wahoo (n=2,138)	39%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S0801

Average Commute Time

The average commute time for workers at least 16 years old who worked outside of their home ranged from 19–24 minutes. Residents of Saunders County reported longer commutes than in other geographic areas.

Geographic Area	Minutes
Lancaster County (n=161,568)	19
Lincoln (146,981)	19
Saunders County (n=10,352)	24
Wahoo (n=2,029)	19

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S0801



Secondary Data: Worker Transportation

Percentage of Workers without Available Vehicles

Most workers ages 16 and older in households had at least one vehicle available in 2018. However, given the work commute needs in the area, those without access to a vehicle may be at a disadvantage for accessing employment.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=164,173)	2%
Lincoln (148,606)	3%
Saunders County (n=10,806)	1%
Wahoo (n=2,125)	1%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S0801

Means of Transportation to Work

Most workers ages 16 and older in all geographic areas commuted to work via car, truck, or van in 2018. This includes both individuals who were commuting alone and individuals carpooling with others.

Transportation Means	Lancaster County (n=167,569)	Lincoln (151,960)	Saunders County (n=10,819)	Wahoo (n=2,138)
Car, truck, or van	90%	90%	92%	92%
Worked at home	4%	3%	4%	5%
Walked	3%	3%	2%	1%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	1%	1%	1%	2%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1%	1%	0%	0%
Bicycle	1%	1%	0%	0%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S0801



Secondary Data: Worker Transportation

Means of Transportation to Work for Individuals in Poverty

Compared to all residents of each geographic location, individuals living below 100% of the poverty level relied less on cars, trucks, and vans to get to work and more on walking, public transportation, and other means.

Transportation Means	Lancaster County (n=14,963)	Lincoln (n=14,722)	Saunders County (n=411)	Wahoo (n=54)
Car, truck, or van	87%	87%	85%	86%
Worked at home	2%	2%	5%	0%
Walked	6%	6%	6%	0%
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	2%	2%	4%	14%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	2%	3%	0%	0%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B08122

Additional Barriers to Employment

A few participants **discussed cultural background and language as barriers to employment**. Many participants discussed the high refugee population in Lincoln. Participants mentioned refugees are not used to the challenges and dynamics of a workplace in the U.S. and few programs are designed to support this transition.



“At Catholic Social Services, we’re starting programs that will encourage mentors to meet one-on-one with our refugee immigrant clients that are looking for work, and I think that that’s really important because there’s a lot of things, you know, just being punctual, showing up on time, how to engage with your coworkers, how to speak with your boss about any issues or discrimination that you might be facing in the work place and just kind of knowing the ins and outs of what it’s like working in the United States. And so, mentors I think are very important for that. Just building those personal relationships.”

Secondary Data: Refugee Resettlement

3,262

According to the *Omaha World Herald’s* Data Omaha project (n.d.), 3,262 refugees have resettled in Lincoln since 2002.



Living Wage

Participants representing Lancaster County shared a variety of factors that lead to poverty. Most frequently discussed was **a lack of a living wage**. Participants discussed how the poverty rates in Lancaster County do not consider the caregivers who are working multiple jobs to stay afloat.



"I think a lack of a living wage is really one of the things that's at the root of a lot of poverty, just someone's ability to work one job and be able to pay their rent and their food and their—you know, have insurance."

"For a family of three it would take dad earning \$21 an hour to be totally self-sufficient which is impossible in Lincoln if you're a minimum wage earner."

The table below shows the living wage and pre-tax annual income requirements by family size for Lancaster and Saunders Counties. As shown, the current minimum wage of \$9.00 per hour is insufficient to support nearly all family types (the one exception being two working adults with no children in Saunders County).

Number of Adults (Working Adults)	Number of Children	Lancaster County		Saunders County	
		Living Wage (Hourly)	Required Pre-Tax Annual Income	Living Wage (Hourly)	Required Pre-Tax Annual Income
1 Adult	0 Children	\$11.00	\$22,888	\$10.64	\$22,123
	1 Child	\$23.94	\$49,799	\$23.63	\$49,157
	2 Children	\$28.68	\$59,644	\$28.37	\$59,002
	3 Children	\$35.84	\$74,546	\$35.52	\$73,876
2 Adults (1 Working)	0 Children	\$18.13	\$37,700	\$17.82	\$37,058
	1 Child	\$22.54	\$46,875	\$22.23	\$46,232
	2 Children	\$25.10	\$52,207	\$24.79	\$51,564
	3 Children	\$28.84	\$59,994	\$28.52	\$59,323
2 Adults (2 Working)	0 Children	\$9.06	\$37,700	\$8.91	\$37,058
	1 Child	\$13.32	\$55,391	\$13.16	\$54,748
	2 Children	\$15.68	\$65,217	\$15.52	\$64,575
	3 Children	\$18.63	\$77,497	\$18.47	\$76,827

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator (2020)



Access to Health Care

Participants discussed access to health care as another cause of poverty. Participants stated this was especially true for **mental health and substance abuse**. Participants explained how the effects of mental illness and substance abuse are amplified when affordable treatment is not available. Participants described the spiraling effect of having health insurance linked to employment; a community member may struggle to find employment because of their mental health but cannot afford mental health treatment without health insurance.



"Affordable health care, that they can have all the resources they need to stay on track, to keep on their medications, to meet with counselors."

Secondary Data: Provider Ratio

Primary Care Physician Ratio

In Lancaster County in 2017, there were 1,480 residents for every one primary care physician. In Saunders County in 2017, the ratio was 2,630 residents to one primary care physician. These ratios are higher than Nebraska as a whole (1,330:1) in 2017.

Geographic Area	Ratio
Lancaster County	1,480:1
Saunders County	2,630:1

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020)

Mental Health Provider Ratio

In Lancaster County in 2019, there were 270 residents for every mental health care provider. In Saunders County in 2019, the ratio was 2,660 residents to one mental health care provider. Mental health care providers include a wide array of counselors, social workers, therapists, psychologists, and other professionals.

Geographic Area	Ratio
Lancaster County	270:1
Saunders County	2,660:1

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020)

Secondary Data: Treatment Utilization

Mental Illness and Treatment

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health (2017–2018), in the past year in Nebraska approximately:

- 17% (n=257,000) of adults had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder (excluding developmental and substance use disorders).
- 15% (n=178,000) of adults had received mental health services.

Substance Use and Treatment

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health (2017–2018), in the past year in Nebraska approximately:

- 8% of adults (n=114,000) had a substance use disorder.
- 6% of adults (n=105,000) needed but did not receive treatment for substance use.



Secondary Data: Insurance Rate

Percent of Population Uninsured

In 2018, Lancaster County and Lincoln had higher percentages of individuals who were uninsured compared to Saunders County and Wahoo.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=305,693)	7%
Lincoln (n=276,619)	8%
Saunders County (n=20,752)	5%
Wahoo (n=4,305)	4%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2701

Percent of Uninsured Individuals in Poverty

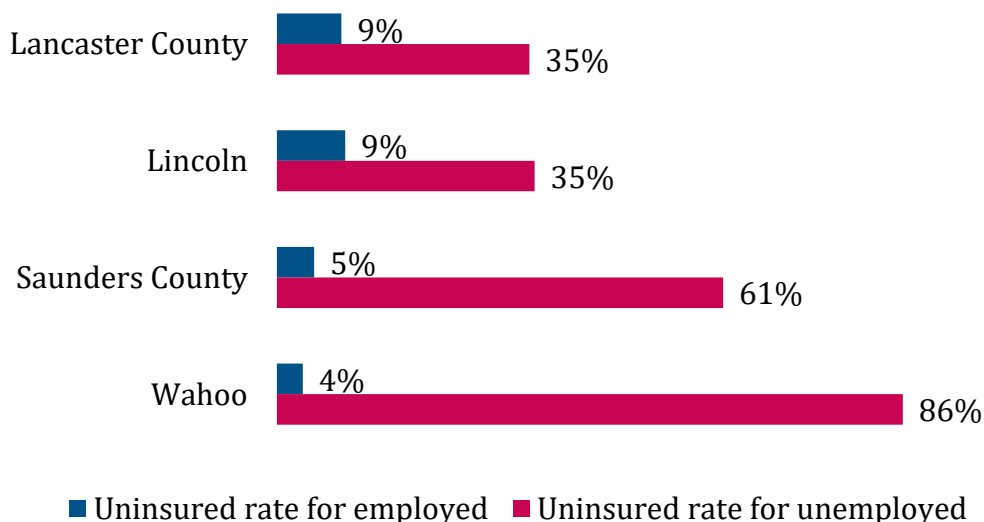
In 2018, individuals whose income was below 100% of the poverty threshold experienced higher uninsured rates than the general population.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=6,815)	18%
Lincoln (n=6,657)	18%
Saunders County (n=234)	13%
Wahoo (n=87)	16%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2701

Uninsured Rate for Employed and Unemployed Individuals

Nearly twice as many employed individuals were uninsured in Lancaster County compared to Saunders County in 2018.



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2701



Secondary Data: Frequency of Health Concerns

Poor Physical Health Days

On average in 2017, residents of Lancaster and Saunders Counties reported 3.1 physically unhealthy days in the prior 30 days. The rate of poor physical health days for these counties was slightly below that of Nebraska as a whole (3.2 days).

Geographic Area	Days
Lancaster County	3.1
Saunders County	3.1

Source: County Health Ratings and Roadmaps (2020)

Frequent Physical Distress

In Lancaster County in 2017, 10% of adults reported experiencing 14 or more days of poor physical health each month. The rate for Saunders County was 9% in 2017.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County	10%
Saunders County	9%

Source: County Health Ratings and Roadmaps (2020)

Poor Mental Health Days

On average in 2017, residents of Lancaster and Saunders Counties reported 3.3 mentally unhealthy days in the prior 30 days. The rate of poor mental health days for these counties was slightly below that of Nebraska as a whole (3.5 days).

Geographic Area	Days
Lancaster County	3.3
Saunders County	3.3

Source: County Health Ratings and Roadmaps (2020)

Frequent Mental Distress

In Lancaster and Saunders Counties, 10% of adults reported experiencing 14 or more days of poor mental health each month in 2017.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County	10%
Saunders County	10%

Source: County Health Ratings and Roadmaps (2020)

Percentage of Respondents by Household Income Indicating They Had Been Told They Have a Form of Depression

In Nebraska, individuals in households with lower incomes reported being told they have a form of depression at higher rates than those with higher incomes. County- and city-level data is not available for this indicator.

Less than \$15,000, 33%

\$15,000-\$24,999, 23%

\$25,000-\$34,999, 24%

\$35,000-\$49,999, 17%

\$50,000+, 13%

Source: BRFSS Prevalence and Trends Data (2018)



Discrimination

Some participants discussed discrimination based on **race or sexual identity as factors contributing to poverty in Lancaster County**. Discrimination leads to unequal opportunities for education, housing, and employment. Participants also expressed that generational poverty was another factor leading to unequal access to opportunity.



"It's hard to pinpoint one reason. When people are poor, they don't have access to the same opportunities, they don't have access to the same jobs, they don't have access to the same education."

Individual Factors

A few participants mentioned a lack of motivation, accountability, and misuse of finances by the individual as causes of poverty. One participant stated there are plenty of resources available, but people must be motivated to get out of poverty.

Eliminating Poverty

To encourage respondents to consider possible interventions without regard to resource limitations, participants were asked how they would prevent or eliminate poverty if they had a magic wand. Most frequently, participants focused on **significant policy and tax structure change** as the best way to reduce or eliminate poverty. One participant discussed addressing racism and sexism to ensure everyone is treated equally. Policy changes include providing full-time jobs with a living wage and a universal income for those who are unable to work. Another participant explained Social Security and disability benefits do not equate to a livable income.

"I would institute a universal wage, right? Like so whether or not you were working you had a living amount of money that you would make, so that, you know, even people who were living with disabilities could [have] access to living wages."

Other participants focused on the family unit and programs to assist in the growth of families. Participants mentioned **high quality childcare** and **affordable mental health treatment** as factors which would allow families to focus on connections and relationships. One participant identified allowing people to be self-sufficient by providing them land to create their own food to provide for the family.

"Give people back land, give people back, you know, property, and that way you can grow your own food and just, you know, raise your own cattle."



Community Strengths

Connection

The greatest assets or strengths of the community were explored in depth with participants. Many participants described **nonprofit organizations in Lancaster County as cohesive, collaborative, and tight-knit.**



"In some communities, nonprofits don't wanna work with each other, and so there's a lot of duplication of efforts because every nonprofit has to have their own program serving a particular group of people or, you know, meeting a particular need, and rather than partner together on something, they'll just start a new program and I don't see that happening in Lincoln. I think in Lincoln, Lancaster County, there's a lot more collaboration."

Participants often mentioned **agencies supporting each other** as a strength of the community. A participant suggested even in situations where duplication of services is occurring, the level of needs is high enough to warrant this. Participants also mentioned non-profit organizations sharing information with each other when one agency has a successful program and the other is starting a similar program.

"I think, you know, having a similar mission, one might think that would be a barrier or kind of a competitive or competition, but, you know, there's so much need in the community that I think we complement each other."

Culture

Participants frequently stated the **culture of the community** allows agencies and individuals to focus on taking care of their own. Participants stated this to be true within all sectors of the community. One participant discussed how caring for the community has become a key focus of start-up companies in recent years.



"There's a new wave of individuals that believe that a part of being a great company is being able to take care of the community in which you touch. And there has been a shift here lately, in Lincoln, for sure. There's a lot of companies that are, like, quote-unquote "start-up companies," that a part of their foundation, and something that's a part of their DNA, is taking care of the community in which they're touching."

Local Government

Participants stated **support by the local government** increases their funding and ability to support the community. Participants stated many members of the local government are attuned to the current needs of the community.



"I think our local governor, city, county or local government, city again, county government and their commitment to human services is a strength of the community. So, we have the Joint Budget Committee funding and some other commitments in the local governments towards caring for vulnerable members of our community, and I think that's a strength."



Community Action's Role in the Community

Level of Awareness

Participants rated their overall knowledge of Community Action as **average**. Participants often discussed having higher awareness of the Head Start and Utilities Assistance programs through Community Action.

"I'd say average. I think there's more I could learn, but I feel I have a pretty good understanding of what their mission is and their work."



Assessment of Role

Participants ranged in knowing about Community Action for over 20 years to hearing about the agency when STEPs inquired about the interview. One participant had not heard of Community Action despite living within the service area. Participants described Community Action as a **hub of services** and considered the work highly important for the population with vulnerability within the community.

"I think they are definitely a safety net organization. Like I think they're really important to the community. I don't know if the community knows that but as another nonprofit person, I really see that as the value that they bring to the community."



Suggestions

Some participants suggested Community Action **expand their presence** in the community through use of social media, networking with community partners, and participating in community events such as PRIDE. It is noted those who discussed increasing a social media presence were not aware of the ways Community Action currently utilizes social media. Participants less often mentioned fundraising as a way of to raise awareness of programs.

"I think having people tell their stories. So I guess another aspect might be compassion, and so if the stories of family and children are more presented out, in a more broader way, that that would leverage people's commitment or garner attention and interest, that personal connection and understanding the situations maybe, that families are facing would help."

One participant discussed how Community Action can **utilize their data** by creating colorful, brief, and easy-to-understand statistics to provide to legislators. This participant advised information in this format is more likely to be read and distributed.

"I know that they do some research and if they get us some of the statistics in some sort of form that's really understandable and legible that could pass it up to others within the legislature."





Community Challenges

Gaps in Services

Participants discussed where they see gaps in services in Lancaster and Saunders Counties. Many identified service gaps including **food insecurity** and **early childhood education**. Participants described an increase in efforts targeting food insecurity and early childhood education, but emphasized these needs are still not being fully met.



“Right now I think hunger relief is probably the most important, and I know there are organizations in [Saunders County] that are addressing that, and the school is addressing it. But there are a lot of hungry young kids and people in [Saunders County].”

“A lot of neighborhoods don’t have walkable grocery stores and things like that, so just the way the city is set up, unfortunately.”

Housing and Homelessness

Many participants mentioned **the availability of affordable and appropriate housing**. Participants further described this as livable housing for a lower price because the minimum wage is not a living wage. One participant mentioned the minimal housing options for young adults or youth aging out of the foster care system.

“That’s especially true for young adults, like ages 18 to 24. That’s an age group that sort of falls through the cracks in a lot of ways.”



178

Youth were homeless on any given night in Nebraska in 2019.

Secondary Data: Housing

Severe Housing Problems

Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data identifies a severe housing problem as one of the following: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, and/or lack of plumbing facilities. It is estimated that 14% of households in Lancaster County and 10% in Saunders County experienced at least one severe housing problem in 2016 (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2020).

Median Rent

Lancaster County and Lincoln had higher median rent costs than Saunders County and Wahoo. Wahoo had the lowest median rent cost across all geographic areas.

Geographic Area	Median Rent
Lancaster County (n=47,623)	\$822
Lincoln (n=46,591)	\$822
Saunders County (n=1,623)	\$747
Wahoo (n=578)	\$676

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles (2018); Table DP04



Additional Needs

Participants less frequently mentioned the need for shelters, transportation, workforce development, and re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals. One participant specified that Lancaster County has three shelters to support victims/survivors of domestic violence and only one homeless shelter. While the one homeless shelter in Lancaster County has a large capacity, one participant noted a lack of options for individuals no longer allowed at that homeless shelter.

"They had a fight at People's City Mission, they're not allowed back; their abuser is staying there, friends of the abuser are at People's City Mission; they know someone who works there who knows someone who knows someone, you know, that they're associated with."

Secondary Data: Housing

Housing Burden: Gross Rent as Percentage of Household Income

A housing cost burden occurs when a household pays more than 30% of their income for housing (HUD, 2020). Nearly half of renting households in Lancaster and Saunders Counties spent at least 30% of their income on rent costs in 2018. In addition, 12% of households in Lancaster County and 8% of households in Saunders County experienced severe housing cost burdens and spent at least 50% of their household income on housing expenses in 2018.

Geographic Area	Percentage
Lancaster County (n=46,859)	46%
Lincoln (n=45,828)	32%
Saunders County (n=1,573)	46%
Wahoo (n=533)	27%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles (2018); Table DP04

Owner- and Renter-Occupied Units

Across all geographic areas, most housing units were owner-occupied. Lancaster County and Lincoln had higher renter-occupied rates compared to Saunders County and Wahoo in 2018.



	Lancaster County (n=122,646)	Lincoln (n=112,124)	Saunders County (n=8,326)	Wahoo (n=1,781)
Owner-occupied units	60%	57%	78%	65%
Renter-occupied units	40%	43%	22%	35%

Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles (2018); Table DP04



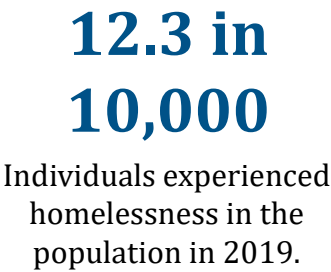
Secondary Data: Housing

Homelessness

Using data provided by National Alliance to End Homelessness, the number individuals experience homelessness on a given night in each geographic area in 2019 are estimated below:

Geographic Area	Estimation of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
Lancaster County (n=310,094)	381
Lincoln (n=280,849)	358
Saunders County (n=21,024)	26
Wahoo (n=4,487)	6

Estimates calculated using National Alliance to End Homelessness' (n.d.) 2019 point-in-time count





Poverty

Most participants listed **poverty as the largest challenge facing the community**. Participants recognized poverty causes additional concerns for individuals in the community and the community as a whole.

"Well, poverty is I think the key problem. Poverty is what drives all the issues regarding homelessness, food security, obviously financial security, and also getting appropriate education. So, I realize that poverty is the key issue."

COVID-19

Participants discussed **COVID-19** as a large challenge for the community. Participants recognized COVID-19 is affecting the nation as a whole, and Nebraska is no different. One participant discussed how COVID-19 exposed flaws in the communities' existing programs. This participant discussed the increased levels of food insecurity that have occurred when school is not in session.



"In a lot of situations, some children are provided with two of their meals—two out of their three meals a day—at school. So, breakfast and lunch at school is provided for these families, and when they don't have those days at school, it affects the children eating it."

Racism and Discrimination

Multiple participants discussed **racism and discrimination** as another challenge facing the community. Participants discussed white privilege being prevalent across the country and described how this impacts employment opportunities and is another cause of poverty. One participant stated organizations must make a commitment to dismantling this long-standing part of American culture.

"Well, in terms of race as a challenge, I think that's—that is just a long standing, institutional, systematic white privilege and I think that's just something that has to, organizations really need to work at dismantling that, and work at being anti-racist, which is a commitment to the kind of training and diversity, equity and inclusion work that can break through that. So I'd say that that particular challenge is something that's existed for, you know, since the United States was founded, since white privilege is really a part of our overarching culture."

Other Challenges

While less frequent, participants noted **gentrification, financial literacy, federal government, and limited emergency funds** to support families with rent or utility assistance as challenges for the community. Participants stated there are programs in place to assist with financial literacy and emergency funds but there are no current projects aimed at stopping gentrification. One participant discussed the current administration's stance on anti-poverty work as a challenge to continue these programs.

"I think we're gonna start seeing cuts in funding for anti-poverty work because this is not a commitment from current leadership at the federal level to see those programs through."





Summary Information

Limitations and Conclusions



The purpose of the following section is to outline report limitations and propose conclusions for Community Action.



Limitations

Secondary Data

1. To fulfill some reporting requirements, STEPs needed to estimate counts and prevalence rates, as exact data was not available. For example, for the number of Head Start-eligible children by languages spoken, the U.S. Census does not include information on the language spoken by children under the age of 5. Therefore, STEPs needed to use the language rates of those above age 5 to calculate rates for eligible children. While these estimates were made with the best available data, they should be considered approximations.
2. Not all data was available at the county and city levels. This resulted in providing only state-level data in some instances.
3. The lag between data collection and reporting varies greatly depending on the source. For example, the most recent American Community Survey data was from 2018. This means the information provided is reflective of communities in 2018 and not the current time period.

Interviews

1. For information regarding the typical schedule of Head Start parents, it is important to note that all were currently participating in Head Start programs, thus, current hours of operation must work for them. The schedule needs outside of this sample are unknown.
2. To interview Spanish-speaking parents, STEPs worked with an interpreter. In translation from Spanish to English, the interpreter may have worded some questions differently and summarized participant responses when direct translations were not possible.
3. Originally, the Head Start parent interviews were going to be in-person focus groups. However, due to COVID-19, interviews took place via Zoom or phone call. The impact of these mediums on participants' ability to be interviewed cannot be known.
4. While STEPs made all reasonable attempts to recruit interview participants, the project's timeline limited available outreach time. This impact on participant response rates cannot be known. Similarly, despite all reasonable efforts to recruit key informants from both Lancaster and Saunders Counties, there was only one representing Saunders County.
5. Because interviews took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, responses expressed by interview participants may differ from those during pre- or post-COVID-19 times.
6. All information collected via interviews is self-report and thus cannot be independently verified.
7. Due to the timeline and scope of this project, STEPs utilized one coder to analyze interview data. Though coding was audited, it is possible coder bias impacted the findings.
8. Because Community Action recommended interview participants, it is possible their involvement with Community Action, and therefore their responses, may differ compared to those not recommended by Community Action.

Community Resource Profile

1. While every attempt was made to be thorough in the identification of resources, some resources may have been unintentionally missed.
2. COVID-19 may have impacted the operations and hours of existing community resources.



Conclusions



Programming

1. Continue to offer programming in alignment with Community Action's mission to "empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability." Findings suggest the population of those in poverty in Lancaster and Saunders Counties is significant and Community Action helps meet the needs of people in these communities.
2. Continue to provide guidance, support, and connections to Head Start parents as interviewees identified relationships with Community Action staff as important.
3. Continue to build relationships with individuals and organizations within the service area. Key informants identified the network of supportive social service agencies as strengths of the community and Community Action was described as a "hub for resources" in the area.
4. Consider the hours Head Start programming is offered. Those interviewed to determine typical family schedules are currently receiving Head Start services, so the hours are accessible for them and their families. Exploring additional barriers to accessing Head Start services among families not currently enrolled may provide additional insight to the hours of availability needed by Head Start-eligible families.
5. Primary data was collected during COVID-19 and the needs expressed reflect this unique time period. Consider ways to adapt programming in the short-term to meet the needs of families during the ongoing crisis and in the long-term to support the recovery of communities from the impact of COVID-19.



Areas for Exploration

1. The majority of key informant interviews identified policy and structural issues, in addition to individual-level challenges, as causes of poverty in the community. Consider opportunities for Community Action to be involved with policy work in alignment with Community Action's mission.
2. Findings suggest people of color in Lancaster County are disproportionately impacted by poverty. Key informants also discussed the role of racism and other forms of discrimination as barriers to self-sufficiency in the community. Consider further investigating and exploring racial and other disparities impacting marginalized individuals.
3. Consider increasing Community Action's social media presence to reach a higher number of residents in the service area.
4. Interview participants living in Lancaster County were represented more frequently than those living in Saunders County. Consider opportunities to explore further the unique needs of people in Saunders County, especially as it relates to resource availability and access both within and outside of the county.



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Appendix A

Below are additional data tables for community profile characteristics.

Population

Each geographic area has increased in population since 2010. Lancaster County and Lincoln had higher percentage increases (11% each from 2010 to 2018) and Saunders County and Wahoo had more modest increases (2% each).

	Lancaster County	Lincoln	Saunders County	Wahoo
2010	279,428	253,035	20,543	4,418
2011	282,931	256,189	20,635	4,456
2012	286,425	259,218	20,696	4,467
2013	289,873	262,365	20,800	4,494
2014	293,726	265,811	20,867	4,500
2015	298,080	269,726	20,913	4,505
2016	301,707	273,018	20,946	4,508
2017	306,357	277,315	20,953	4,491
2018	310,094	280,849	21,024	4,487

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables (2010-2018); Table S0101

Race

White individuals comprised the highest percentage of the population in each geographic area.

	Lancaster County (n=310,094)	Lincoln (n=280,849)	Saunders County (n=21,024)	Wahoo (n=4,487)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%	1%	0%	0%
Asian	4%	5%	0%	0%
Black or African American	4%	4%	0%	0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%
White	86%	85%	97%	98%
Two or more races	3%	4%	1%	1%
Some other race	1%	1%	0%	0%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table (2018); Table B02001



Household Composition

Saunders County had a higher percentage of family households compared to the other geographic areas.

	Lancaster County (n=122,646)	Lincoln (n=112,124)	Saunders County (n=8,326)	Wahoo (n=1,781)
Family	60%	58%	69%	60%
Non-Family	40%	42%	31%	40%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1101

Family Household Composition

Lancaster County and Lincoln had higher percentage of female householder families compared to Saunders County and Wahoo.

	Lancaster County (n=72,982)	Lincoln (n=64,558)	Saunders County (n=5,750)	Wahoo (n=1,075)
Married-couple family household	77%	75%	84%	80%
Male householder, no wife present	7%	7%	6%	5%
Female householder, no husband present	16%	18%	10%	15%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1101

Median Income

The median income in each geographic area has increased since 2010. Saunders County has experienced the greatest increase since 2010 at 16%, followed by Lancaster County (14%) and Lincoln (13%). Wahoo has the lowest increase in median income at 3%.

	Lancaster County	Lincoln	Saunders County	Wahoo
2010	\$50,849	\$48,846	\$57,699	\$53,867
2011	\$51,059	\$49,114	\$58,348	\$55,174
2012	\$51,810	\$49,504	\$58,785	\$52,064
2013	\$51,574	\$49,113	\$59,870	\$50,274
2014	\$51,916	\$49,794	\$60,487	\$50,069
2015	\$51,830	\$49,840	\$60,854	\$51,028
2016	\$53,730	\$51,126	\$64,475	\$52,612
2017	\$55,747	\$53,089	\$65,015	\$53,977
2018	\$58,009	\$55,224	\$66,718	\$55,544

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables (2010-2018); Table S1903



Unemployment Rate

For all geographic areas except for Wahoo, the unemployment rate has decreased since 2010. In 2018, the unemployment rate was lowest in Saunders County.

	Lancaster County	Lincoln	Saunders County	Wahoo
2010	5.3%	5.6%	3.2%	1.6%
2011	5.9%	6.2%	3.0%	1.7%
2012	6.1%	6.4%	3.2%	3.6%
2013	6.4%	6.8%	3.5%	4.3%
2014	6.0%	6.3%	3.6%	4.2%
2015	5.1%	5.3%	3.5%	5.5%
2016	4.4%	4.6%	2.9%	5.2%
2017	3.9%	4.1%	2.2%	3.9%
2018	3.4%	3.6%	2.4%	3.5%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables (2010-2018); Table S2301

Poverty Rate

Saunders County had the lowest poverty rate at 8%. The three other geographic areas all had comparable poverty rates at either 13% or 14%.

	Lancaster County (n=296,676)	Lincoln (n=267,604)	Saunders County (n=20,757)	Wahoo (n=4,311)
# below poverty level	38,952	38,083	1,752	559
% below poverty level	13%	14%	8%	13%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701

Poverty by Sex

In all geographic areas except Saunders County, a higher percentage of those in poverty identified as female. In Saunders County, the percentage of females and males comprising those in poverty were the same.

	Lancaster County (n=38,952)	Lincoln (n=38,083)	Saunders County (n=1,752)	Wahoo (n=559)
Female	54%	54%	50%	51%
Male	46%	46%	50%	49%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701



Poverty by Age

The highest percentage of those in poverty in Lancaster County and Lincoln were between the ages of 18-34. In contrast, Saunders County and Wahoo had higher percentages of youth under the age of 18 comprising those in poverty. Wahoo also had a higher percentage of those in poverty older than age 65, relative to the other geographic areas.

	Lancaster County (n=38,952)	Lincoln (n=38,083)	Saunders County (n=1,752)	Wahoo (n=559)
0-4 years	9%	9%	12%	16%
5-17 years	17%	17%	26%	26%
18-34 years	49%	49%	23%	22%
35-64 years	20%	19%	25%	18%
65+ years	6%	6%	14%	19%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701

Poverty by Race

In Saunders County and Wahoo, the racial composition of those in poverty closely matched the racial composition of all residents. In contrast, Lancaster County and Lincoln both had higher percentages of people of color, especially Black or African American individuals, than expected based on the population.

	Lancaster County (n=38,952)	Lincoln (n=38,083)	Saunders County (n=1,752)	Wahoo (n=559)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%	1%	0%	0%
Asian	5%	5%	0%	0%
Black or African American	9%	9%	0%	1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%
White	75%	74%	97%	99%
Two or more races	6%	6%	2%	0%
Some other race	4%	4%	0%	0%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701



Poverty by Educational Attainment

Educational attainment data is shown below for those above the age of 25 who were living in poverty. A higher percentage of those in poverty in Lancaster County and Lincoln had at least some college compared to those in Saunders County and Wahoo.

	Lancaster County (n=15,526)	Lincoln (n=15,063)	Saunders County (n=912)	Wahoo (n=297)
Less than high school graduate	18%	18%	22%	24%
High school graduate	30%	30%	41%	47%
Some college, associate's degree	34%	34%	32%	30%
Bachelor's degree or higher	18%	18%	5%	0%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701

Poverty by Employment Status

For those over the age of 16 in the civilian workforce who were in poverty, the majority reported being employed in each geographic area. Wahoo is notable for its relatively low percentage of employment compared to the other areas.

	Lancaster County (n=17,407)	Lincoln (n=17,106)	Saunders County (n=538)	Wahoo (n=118)
Employed	88%	88%	81%	60%
Unemployed	12%	12%	19%	40%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701



Poverty by Work Experience

For those over the age of 16 in poverty in Lancaster County and Lincoln, the highest percentage reported having worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months. A higher percentage of those in poverty in Saunders County and Wahoo reported not working in the past 12 months.

	Lancaster County (n=29,639)	Lincoln (n=29,029)	Saunders County (n=1,161)	Wahoo (n=326)
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	12%	12%	9%	6%
Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	53%	53%	45%	28%
Did not work	35%	34%	45%	66%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701

Population by Ethnicity

The majority of residents across all geographic areas identified as not having Hispanic or Latino origins. Lancaster County and Lincoln did have a higher percentage of individuals who identified as having Hispanic or Latino origins compared to Saunders County and Wahoo.

	Lancaster County (n=310,094)	Lincoln (n=280,849)	Saunders County (n=21,024)	Wahoo (n=4,487)
Not Hispanic or Latino	93%	93%	98%	96%
Hispanic or Latino	7%	7%	2%	4%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table DP05

Poverty by Ethnicity

The majority of residents across all geographic areas identified as not having Hispanic or Latino origins. Each geographic region also had a higher percentage of individuals in poverty who identified as having Hispanic or Latino origins than expected based on the population.

	Lancaster County (n=38,952)	Lincoln (n=38,083)	Saunders County (n=1,752)	Wahoo (n=559)
Not Hispanic or Latino	87%	87%	95%	97%
Hispanic or Latino	13%	13%	5%	3%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701



Children Under 6 Years in Poverty by Race

The majority (76%, n=3,215) of children estimated to be eligible for Head Start in 2018 identified as not being of Hispanic or Latino origins. A higher percentage of eligible children identified as having Hispanic or Latino origins in Lancaster County and Lincoln than in Saunders County and Wahoo. Overall, a much higher percentage of children under the age of 6 living in poverty identified as being of Hispanic or Latino origins than expected based on the ethnic identities of all individuals in poverty across the service area.

	Lancaster County (n=3,979)	Lincoln (n=3,908)	Saunders County (n=264)	Wahoo (n=115)
Not Hispanic or Latino	2,968	2,907	247	115
Hispanic or Latino	1,011	1,001	17	0

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table B17020, B170201

Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents by Ethnicity

Assuming the percentage of individuals in each ethnic category is similar for all individuals and expectant parents in poverty, the estimated number of expectant parents by ethnicity is as follows:

	Lancaster County (n=1,020)	Lincoln (n=1,006)	Saunders County (n=54)	Wahoo (n=24)
Not Hispanic or Latino	887	875	51	23
Hispanic or Latino	133	131	3	1

Estimates calculated using ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S1701, B13010



Appendix B

Head Start Parent Interview Script

My name is Daniel Kreuzberg, and I work with STEPs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Community Action has partnered with STEPs to learn more about Head Start and Early Head Start families. I am calling today to hear about you and your community. Our conversation should only take between 45-60 minutes. Is now still a good time for you to talk?

I am now going to read through a verbal consent script so I can provide consistent information to everyone on what they can expect as well as their rights as a research participant:

Today I would like to ask you to talk to us about your experiences with family, health care, mental health care, and food options in your community.

I am asking you to talk to us because you have young children involved in the Head Start or Early Head Start program with Community Action.

If you agree to speak with me today, I will ask you questions related to your experiences as a parent with young children. If you are okay with it, this interview will be recorded so I can be sure to remember exactly what you said. All recordings will be kept secure and destroyed once this project is done.

The information you share today will help Community Action's services. Everything you say will be kept confidential. We will only tell someone what you have said if you say that you, or someone else, is in danger. If this happens, we must tell Community Action staff and the proper authorities to keep everyone safe. Everything discussed in the interview will be anonymous. This means there will not be any names used and no one at Community Action will know specifically who said what.

As a reminder, you are not required to talk to us. Your child(ren)'s status in the Head Start or Early Head Start programs will not be affected by whether you do or do not talk to me or by what you say.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

Would you like to go ahead with the interview?

Do I have your permission to record our conversation today?

**Introductory Questions:**

1. Describe the schedule for a typical day for your family .
 - a. When do you most need childcare?
 - b. On a typical day, do you have access to reliable transportation?
 - i. If yes → What type of transportation do you use?
 - ii. If no → What have been roadblocks to having reliable transportation?
2. What supports and resources have been most helpful to you as a parent with young children?
Prompt: Some parental resources may include informal supports such as childcare, transportation, and financial support from friends, families, or neighbors. Some supports may be more formal such as educational supports through childcare providers or schools; health care supports through doctors, dentists, and mental health providers; financial support through public housing assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP or food stamps), or job assistance programs.

Families with Children with Special Needs Introductory Questions:

1. Describe the schedule for a typical day for your family.
 - a. When do you most need childcare?
 - b. On a typical day, do you have access to reliable transportation?
 - i. If yes → What type of transportation do you use?
 - ii. If no → What have been roadblocks to having reliable transportation?
2. What supports and resources have been most helpful in meeting your child(ren)'s educational needs? Overall needs?
Prompt: Some parental resources may include informal supports such as childcare, transportation, and financial support from friends, families, or neighbors. Some supports may be more formal such as educational supports through childcare providers or schools; health care supports through doctors, dentists, and mental health providers; financial support through public housing assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP or food stamps), or job assistance programs.
3. What additional supports and resources do you need?

Transition: Now I am going to ask you some questions related to health care.

4. Have you visited the doctor recently?
 - a. If yes → What can you tell me about this visit to the doctor? What was that experience like? What did you most like about this visit to the doctor? What did you like least about this visit to the doctor?



- b. If no → Is there something that has kept you from visiting the doctor recently?
What would make it easier or better for you to visit the doctor?
Prompt: Some things that might make it hard to visit the doctor might be no insurance, don't know where to go or no provider in your area, the cost of the appointment, no transportation to the provider, no childcare during the appointment, or fear.
5. One type of health care is called preventive care. This is when you go to the doctor to help prevent illness. Examples of preventive care include wellness exams, well child checks, and immunizations. When was the last time you went to the doctor for preventive care? How do you decide whether or not you will go to the doctor for preventive care?
6. Another type of preventive care is regular teeth cleanings. When was the last time you or someone in your family went to the dentist for a teeth cleaning? How do you decide whether or not you or your family members will go to the dentist for teeth cleanings?
7. Another type of care many people need is mental health care. Mental health includes how people think, feel, and behave. Someone may need help with their mental health if they are having difficulty with daily activities. Can you think of a time when someone needed help with their mental health? Did they get the help they needed?
- a. If yes → Please tell me more about what help they received. How easy was it for them to get the services they needed?
- b. If no → What reasons might make it hard for someone to get the mental health help they needed? What would make it easier or better for someone in your community to get mental health services?
Prompt: Some things that might make it hard to get services might be no insurance, don't know where to go or no provider in your area, the cost of the appointment, no transportation to the provider, no childcare during the appointment, or fear.

Transition: I am now going to ask you a couple of questions about your education or career goals.

8. What are your goals related to your own education and/or employment?
- a. What supports or resources have been most helpful for working toward those goals?
- b. What are barriers to achieving those goals?

Transition: Now I want to ask you about how you provide food for your family.



9. Do you have adequate resources or supports to feed your family every day?
- a. If yes → Go to question #10.
 - b. If no → What are the barriers to feeding your family every day? [This is the final question – do not go on to question #10 if the answer is no.]
Prompt: Some things that might make it hard for someone to feed their family might be lack of food availability (no grocery stores in your area), cost of food, or no transportation to the store.
10. Do you have adequate resources or supports to feed your family healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and whole grains daily?
- a. If yes → What resources or supports have been most helpful for feeding your family healthy foods? What challenges have you faced for feeding your family healthy foods?
 - b. If no → What are some of the barriers to feeding your family healthy foods daily?
Prompt: Some things that might make it hard for someone to feed their family healthy foods might be lack of food availability (no fresh fruit/vegetables, lean protein in stores), cost of food, or no transportation to the store.

Ask only if there is time

Transition: I have one additional question about mental health care I would like to follow-up on.

11. What do you think others in your community think about mental health services?

Transition: I have one final question for you.

12. As a parent with small children, what are three things you like most about your community?
What are three things you would change about your community?



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR
THE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

Community Resource Profile

June 30, 2020

Daniel Kreuzberg, MSW/MPA Student
with December Lange Treacy, MS and
Jeanette Harder, Ph.D., CMSW






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Introduction and Using this Report

The purpose of this report is to profile community resources in Lancaster and Saunders Counties, to be utilized by Community Action staff, program participants, and other community members.

This profile is interactive for the user. Click on the  logo in the top right corner of any page to return to the table of contents. While on the table of contents, users can click directly on the resource needed to navigate to the corresponding page.

The hope is that this resource profile provides valuable information on community resources.

Notably, STEPs collected the resources provided in this profile during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hours, contact information, and availability of services were accurate at the time of collection in May 2020. Please contact the agency directly with questions related to services. Additionally, hours not listed on the resource profile were not publicly available.



Child and Family Resources

Big Brothers Big Sisters

6201 Havelock Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-464-2227

<https://bbbslincoln.org/>

Mentoring for youth.

Cedars

6601 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506

402-434-5437

info@cedarskids.org

<https://cedarskids.org>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Parenting support and resources. Trainings for families, community members, and professionals.

Child Advocacy Center

5025 Garland St, Lincoln, NE 68504

402-476-3200

<https://www.smallvoices.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Forensic interviews, advocacy services, medical services, and case coordination for victims/survivors of child abuse and their non-offending family members. Community and agency trainings available.

City Impact

1035 N 33rd St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-8080

<https://cityimpact.org/>

10:00am-3:00pm Monday-Friday

Mentoring for youth to reach grade level in reading. Leadership and faith academies for youth.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Early Head Start, Head Start, and home learning resources.

Lighthouse

2601 N St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-475-3220

<https://lincolnlighthouse.org/>

2:00pm-9:00pm Monday-Friday

Free programs for middle and high school students. Indoor gym, computers, games, tutoring, snacks, and evening meals.

MilkWorks

5930 S 58th St, Lincoln, NE 68516

402-423-6402

<https://milkworks.org/>

10:00am-4:00pm Monday-Saturday

Breast pumps for a reduced price or through insurance, new mother support groups, and other baby products.

Region V Systems

1645 N St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-4343

<https://region5systems.net/>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Family and parenting support, case management, and training.



Child and Family Resources (cont.)

Teammates of Lancaster County

5905 E O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-436-1990

<https://teammates.org/>

Mentoring for youth.

The Salvation Army Family Store and Donation Center

4690 Leighton Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504

402-466-5052

Clothing and home items for reduced price.



Clothing Assistance

The Barnabas Free Store and Community Center

931 Saunders Ave, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-423-4769

<https://barnabascommunity.org/>

9:30am-12:00pm, 6:00pm-8:00pm Thursday

9:00am-3:00pm Saturday

Must have ServicePoint card.

Capital City Christian Church

7800 Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68505

402-467-4458

9:00am-12:00pm

Free clothing third Saturday of each month.

Esther's Closet

4140 N 60th St, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-466-6736

5:00pm-6:00pm

Free men's, women's, and children's clothing third and last Tuesday of each month.

Foster CARE Closet

643 S 25th St STE 8, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-853-9990

fostercarecloset@fostercarecloset.org

10:00am-8:00pm Monday and Tuesday

10:00am-6:00pm Wednesday and Thursday

Clothing for foster children. Essential items for those who have recently aged out of foster care.

Macie's Place

2601 N 47th St, Lincoln, NE 68504

402-601-1773

10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday-Friday

10:00am-4:00pm Saturday

Family Resource Center and Thrift Shop. All clothing and shoes are \$1 each. Each family member can receive 5-10 pieces of clothing quarterly.

Northwest Lincoln Church of Christ

3110 N 1st St, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-475-3313

9:00am-12:00pm

Free clothing, shoes, and totes the first Saturday of month.

The Purple Peacock

1205 N 45th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-466-5238

9:30am-12:00pm Wednesday and Friday

9:00am-11:00am the third Saturday of month.

Provides gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, and linens at no cost.

The Salvation Army Family Store and Donation Center

4690 Leighton Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504

402-466-5052

Clothing and home items for reduced price.

YWCA Job Outfitters

1111 O St, STE 222, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-434-3494

1:00pm-2:00pm Monday-Friday

For individuals actively seeking employment or working who need work-appropriate clothing. Vouchers can be used at any Lincoln Goodwill.



Cultural and Community Centers

Asian Community and Cultural Center

144 N 44th St, STE A, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-477-3446

<https://www.lincolnasiancenter.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

ELL classes, citizenship classes, women's group, senior programs, youth programs, and cultural education.

The Bay

2005 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-310-5215

info@thebay.org

<https://www.thebay.org/lincoln/>

9:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-4:00pm Saturday

Food Bank distribution site, after school skateboard and digital art lessons, and coffee shop.

Belmont Community Center

3335 N 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-477-8854

belmontcc@windstream.net

<http://belmontcommunitycenter.org/>

6:30am-5:45pm Monday-Friday

Before and after school programs, summer programs for youth.

Carol M. Yoakum Family Resource Center

4621 NW 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68524
402-434-2621

Provides food assistance, clothing, summer youth classes, and low-income bus passes.

El Centro de las Américas

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-474-3950

<http://www.elcentrone.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday and Friday

9:00am-5:00pm, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday

Assistance with applying for government supports, crisis assistance and prevention, health education and outreach, domestic violence and Spanish support groups, and adult education.

F Street Community Center Community

1225 F St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-7951

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/fstreet/index.htm>

8:00am-9:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-5:00pm Saturday

1:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Youth activities, computer lab, and dinner for those 2-18 years old (Monday-Friday).

Good Neighbor Community Center

2617 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-477-4173

info@gncclincoln.org

<https://www.gncclincoln.org/>

10:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Friday

3:00pm-4:00pm Sunday

Food assistance, ELL classes, citizenship classes, low-income bus passes, and clothing.

Indian Center Inc

1100 Military Rd, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-802-3167

<https://www.indiancenterinc.org/>

Hours are by appointment.



Cultural and Community Centers (cont.)

Malone Community Center

2032 U St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-474-1110

<https://malonecenter.org/>

7:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday

Food assistance, leadership programs, and after school programs.

The Salvation Army

2625 Potter St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-474-6263

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lincoln>

9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Utility, food, clothing assistance, summer youth programs, and after school programs.

Willard Community Center

1245 S Folsom St, Lincoln, NE 68522

402-475-0805

<https://www.willardcommunitycenter.org/>

6:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday

Before and after school programs.

Yazda-Yazidi Cultural Center

300 N 27th St, STE C, Lincoln, NE 68503

531-289-7132

<https://yazda.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Education, legal, and psychosocial supports to the Yazidi community.



Domestic and Sexual Violence Resources

Catholic Social Services (St. Gianna's)

2241 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-474-1600

<https://www.cssisus.org/>

9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm Friday

24 apartment units for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Accepts all faiths but will not make referrals or recommendations contrary to the Catholic faith.

Cedars Youth Opportunity Center

318 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-437-8850

info@cedarskids.org

<https://cedarskids.org/>

12:00pm-4:00pm Monday

11:00am-1:00pm, 4:00pm-6:00pm Tuesday-Thursday

10:00am-1:00pm Friday-Saturday

A safe place where runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth can drop in for a hot meal, laundry, personal hygiene items, emergency shelter, employment or housing applications, and group programs.

Child Advocacy Center

5025 Garland St, Lincoln, NE 68504

402-476-3200

<https://www.smallvoices.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Forensic interviews, advocacy services, medical services, and case coordination for victims/survivors of child abuse and their non-offending family members. Community and agency trainings available.

Friendship Home

PO Box 85358, Lincoln, NE 68503

(Physical address is unlisted)

402-437-9302

info@friendshiphome.org

<https://friendshiphome.org/>

24 hours

Support hotline, pre-shelter services, confidential shelter, strengths-based case management, advocacy, support groups, financial education, children services, and education and outreach for victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence.

I've Got a Name

PO Box 6181, Lincoln, NE 68516

<https://ivegotaname.org/>

Street outreach, training, and community awareness.

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

245 S 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-476-6256

<https://www.nebraskacoalition.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

24-hour crisis line, legal referrals and assistance with protection orders, emergency shelter, ongoing support and information, transportation, education and prevention programs, and medical advocacy and referrals.



Domestic and Sexual Violence Resources (cont.)

The Salvation Army (Safe-T)

402-898-6060

Quinceola.cook@usc.salvationarmy.org

Jennifer.alvarez@usc.salvationarmy.org

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/western/safe-t/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Emergency or long-term housing, food, clothing, emotional support and counseling, healthcare, drug and alcohol treatment, childcare, transportation, help navigating the immigration system, education and employment opportunities, legal assistance, and help setting goals.

Voices of Hope

2545 N St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-476-2110 (Office), 402-475-7273

(Crisis)

info@voicesofhopelincn.org

<https://www.voicesofhopelincn.org/>

9:00am-4:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

12:30pm-7:00pm Wednesday

9:00am-12:00pm Friday

Crisis intervention services, parent/child advocacy, support and educational groups, legal advocacy and referrals, and training.



Food Programs

The Bay

2005 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-310-5215

info@thebay.org

<https://www.thebay.org/lincoln/>

9:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-4:00pm Saturday

Food Bank of Lincoln distribution site

12:00pm-1:00pm on the second Saturday of each month.

Blessed Mother Theresa Sandwich Program

2215 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

11:00am-1:00pm Monday-Friday

One free sandwich per person per day.

Carol M. Yoakum Family Resource Center

4621 NW 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68524

402-434-2621

5:00pm-6:00pm

Food baskets provided on the fourth Monday of the month.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Healthy Food Access Program provides hot, healthy meals to children in Lincoln's lowest income neighborhoods.

Food Bank Backpack Program

<https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/services/youth-family-2/>

Contact child's school for enrollment information.

Food Bank of Lincoln

4840 Doris Bair Circle, STE A, Lincoln, NE

68504

402-466-8170

<https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Distribution sites and times vary.

FoodNet, Inc

5516 Sea Mountain Rd, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-416-6197

<http://foodnetlincoln.org/sites/>

Distribution sites and times vary.

F Street Community Center Community

1225 F St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7951

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/fstreet/index.htm>

8:00am-9:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-5:00pm Saturday

1:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Free dinner is served Monday-Friday at 4:30pm for children ages 2-18 years old.

Community Action's Gathering Place

1448 E St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-476-7398

www.communityactionatwork.org/programs/basic_needs/meals.html

5:00pm-6:00pm Monday-Sunday

Free evening meals.



Food Programs (cont.)

Good Neighbor Community Center

2617 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4173

info@gncclincoln.org

<https://www.gncclincoln.org/>

10:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Friday

3:00pm-4:00pm Sunday

Perishable food distribution starting at

10:00am each Monday and Wednesday. Good

Neighbor Community Center client card

required.

Jacob's Well First Presbyterian Church

840 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-477-6037

www.fpclincoln.org/misson-home/jacobs-well/

10:00am-11:30am first and third Saturday of
the month

Groceries for families in need.

Indian Center Senior Lunch Program

1100 Military Rd, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-580-1535

www.indiancenterinc.org

11:30am-12:30pm Monday- Friday

Lunch for seniors from 11:30am-12:30pm

Monday-Friday. Food pantry available

Tuesdays at 1:00pm and Thursdays at

10:00am. Commodity Supplemental Food

Program available once a month.

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

11:30am-12:30pm and 5:30pm-6:30pm

Free meals served seven days a week. No ID
required. Special mealtimes on Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve, and Christmas day.

Northeast Family Center at Havelock UMC

4140 N 60th St, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-471-3700

4:30pm-6:30pm

Perishable and non-perishables foods on

Tuesdays. Commodities Supplemental Food

Program on the fourth Tuesday of each

month.

People's City Mission

110 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-475-1303

www.peoplescitymission.org

Mealtimes for men are 5:45am, 12:30pm, and

6:00pm. Mealtimes for families and women

are 6:45am, 11:30am, and 5:00pm. Food

baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas

available with advanced sign up.

The Salvation Army

2625 Potter St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-474-6263

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lincoln>

9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Food Pantry 12:00pm-4:00pm Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

12:00pm-6:00pm Wednesday

Perishable food distribution at 9:30am on

Tuesday and Friday. Food baskets for

Thanksgiving and Christmas available with

advanced sign up.



Healthcare Resources

Clinic with a Heart

1701 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68502

402-421-2924

teresa@clinicwithaheart.org

<https://www.clinicwithaheart.org>

4:00pm-7:30pm Tuesday and Thursday

Free medical, dental, vision, hearing, mental health, and urgent care. Call in on clinic days after 2:00pm to reserve a spot.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

3131 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-8000

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

***Community Health Services**

402-441-8065

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Individuals may call to speak with a nurse regarding health concerns or services including referrals to medical homes.

***Dental Services**

402-441-8015

8:00am-4:30pm Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday

8:00am-8:00pm Thursday

Dental care for families without dental insurance or Medicaid. Emergency, routine, and preventative services at reduced fees. Interpretation available.

***Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid for Pregnant Women**

402-441-8065

8:00am-3:30pm Monday-Wednesday

Free prenatal care while Medicaid benefits are pending.

***Refugee Health Clinic**

402-441-8065

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Health exams, immunizations, and lab screenings during the first 13 months after entering the United States.

Lancaster County Medical Society

4600 Valley Rd, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-483-4800

admin@lcmsne.org

<http://www.lcmsne.org/home.html>

Referrals to health care professionals based on medical needs and insurance.

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

11:00am-1:00pm

Medical screenings offered by a nurse from Clinic with a Heart on the third Wednesday of each month during lunch.

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition

2331 Fairfield St STE 1, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-434-7177

<http://nuihc.com/>

8:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm

Monday-Thursday

8:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm Friday

Primary health care for people with private insurance, Medicaid/Medicare, or no insurance.

*Located at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



Eye Care

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

Eye exam screenings (January, April, July, October). If the screening indicates a full exam is needed, referrals will be made at no cost.

InfantSEE

1-888-396-3937

<https://infantsee.org/>

Eye exam screenings for children 6-12 months old at no cost. Visit website or call to find participating locations.

Eye Care Council, Inc.

1-800-960-3937

<http://www.nechildrensvision.org/>

See to Learn Program provides free vision assessment for any 3-year-old in Nebraska. Visit website or call to find participating locations.



Preventative Care and Flu Shots

Center For People In Need

3901 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-476-4357

<https://www.cfpin.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Flu shots during winter months.

Every Woman Matters

301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 94817,

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

402-471-0929

dhhs.ewm@nebraska.gov

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Every-Woman-Matters.aspx>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Federally-funded program that pays for Pap tests, pelvic exams, clinical breast exams, and lab fees. For adults 40-74 years old.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

3131 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-8000

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Flu shots for children 6 months-18 years old and adults with low income or no insurance. Suggested fees for services but no one will be denied service if they cannot pay.

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

Nurses provide free flu shots and other immunizations during winter months.

Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program

301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509

1-800-532-2227

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Colon-Cancer-Screening-Program.aspx>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Preventative colon cancer screening and education for adults 50-74 years old.



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Birthright, Inc.

5625 O St STE 4, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-466-2609

<https://birthright.org/>

12:00-2:00pm Monday

1:30pm-5:30pm Tuesday

10:00am-2:00pm Wednesday

12:00-2:00pm and 5:00-6:00pm Thursday

2:00-4:00pm Sunday

Free or low-cost pregnancy tests, prenatal care, and counseling.

Family Health Services Inc.

630 N Cotner Blvd STE 204, Lincoln, NE

68505

402-466-1012

<https://fhsi.org/>

8:00am-6:00pm Monday

8:00am-4:00pm Tuesday-Thursday

7:00am-12:00pm Friday

STD testing, annual exams, birth control, and pregnancy testing at a reduced price.

Nebraska AIDS Project

1919 S 40th St STE 320, Lincoln, NE 6851

402-476-7000

<https://www.nap.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00am-7:00pm Wednesday

STD testing, legal assistance, therapy, and other referrals for those living with HIV and AIDS.

Planned Parenthood

5631 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516

877-811-7526

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday, Thursday, Friday

8:00am-4:00pm Tuesday

12:00pm-8:00pm Wednesday

10:00am-3:00pm Saturday

Abortion services, birth control, emergency contraception, general health care, HIV services, LGBT services, pregnancy testing and services, STD testing and treatment, and cancer screenings.

Pregnancy Center

111 Piazza Terrace, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-483-4247

<http://pregnancycenterlincoln.org/>

10:00-5:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-1:00pm Friday

Free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, and relationship education.

Sexual Health Clinic

3131 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-8065

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

STD testing and treatment available at free or reduced cost.



Housing, Rent, and Utilities Assistance

Aging Partners

1005 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7070

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/aging/>

Listings of subsidized and retirement housing.

Assistive Technology Partnership

1-877-428-8844

www.housing.ne.gov

Free online or phone service to list and find rental housing and housing services in Nebraska.

Black Hills Energy

1-800-303-0752

<https://www.blackhillsenergy.com/>

24 hours

Will assist families in utilizing a payment plan to keep services on after receiving a disconnect notice.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Emergency Services Program provides emergency financial assistance with past-due rent, deposit, and utility bills (including propane) for those that qualify.

Weatherization services available to reduce energy costs.

Good Neighbor Community Center

2617 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4173

info@gncclincoln.org

<https://www.gncclincoln.org/>

10:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Friday

3:00pm-4:00pm Sunday

Food assistance, ELL classes, citizenship classes, low-income bus passes, and clothing.

Lincoln Electric System

402-475-4211

<https://www.les.com/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Will assist families in utilizing a payment plan to keep services on after receiving a disconnect notice. Must pay full bill to start services if disconnected.

Lincoln Housing Authority

5700 R St, Lincoln, NE 6850

402-434-5500

info@l-housing.com

<http://www.l-housing.com/>

7:30am-5:30pm Monday-Thursday

8:00am-5:00pm Friday

Section 8 housing assistance, RentWise classes, and landlord/tenant mediation.

Lincoln Water System

402-441-7533

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/water/customer/>

7:30am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Will assist families in utilizing a payment plan to keep services on after receiving a disconnect or late payment notice.



Housing, Rent, and Utilities Assistance (cont.)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

1-800-383-4278

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Energy-Assistance.aspx>

24 hours

Heating and cooling assistance, emergency furnace repair and replacement, and weatherization services for Nebraskans with low-income.

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

11:00am-1:00pm Monday-Sunday

RentWise classes and assistance in finding affordable housing.

Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program

PO Box 94927, Lincoln, NE 68509

402-471-3101 (Lincoln)

1-800-526-0017 (Nebraska)

<https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nebraska-telephone-assistance-programlifecycle>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Reduces the cost of local telephone service by \$12.75 per month on one landline or wireless phone bill for families with low-income.

NeighborWorks Lincoln

2240 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-7406

<https://nwlincoln.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Home ownership program, mortgage counseling and assistance, foreclosure prevention.

The Salvation Army

2625 Potter St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-474-6263

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lincoln>

9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Assistance with utility bills. Limited funding available. Must apply to LIHEAP program first. Call for an appointment.

St. Vincent de Paul

402-435-7968

Leave a message and a volunteer will return the call. May be able to assist with either partial or complete payment of a utility bill or rent.



Legal and Court Resources

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Lancaster County

1141 H St STE C, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-474-5161

info@casa4lancaster.org

<https://www.casa4lancaster.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Volunteers provide court advocacy for abused and neglected children in the court system.

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance

3047 N 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-471-1777

<https://cliane.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Must have an appointment to meet with an attorney.

Child Support Enforcement

421 S 9th St STE 137, Lincoln, NE 68508

1-877-631-9973

<https://childsupport.nebraska.gov/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Pay or receive child support through the child support enforcement.

Community Justice Center

5625 O St STE 114, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-429-1050

jjonesoasis-ne@neb.rr.com

<https://communityjusticecenter.org/>

Victim/offender program to address the harm suffered by the victim and hold offenders accountable.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Eviction prevention through landlord/tenant mediation and information on tenant rights.

Lancaster County Adult Drug Court

555 S 9th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-3612

<https://drugcourt.us/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Adult Probation

605 S 10th St STE 1163, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7777

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/1072/Adult-Probation>

5:00am-7:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Attorney's Office

575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7321

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/179/County-Attorney>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Court Clerk

575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7291

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/376/County-Court>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday



Legal and Court Resources (cont.)

Lancaster County District Court

575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7328

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/216/District-Court>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Juvenile Court

575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-6928

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/366/Juvenile-Court>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Public Defender's Office

633 S 9th St STE 100, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7631

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/556/Public-Defender>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Lancaster County Youth Services Center

1200 Radcliff St, Lincoln, NE 68512

402-441-7090

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/243/Youth-Services-Center>

24 hours

Youth detention center.

Legal Aid of Nebraska

941 O St STE 325, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-435-2161

<https://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/>

1:00pm-4:00pm Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Legal services in the areas of children and families, debt and finances, housing, and income and benefits for families with low-income.

Lutheran Family Services

2301 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-7940

info@lfsneb.org

<https://www.lfsneb.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Immigration and legal services for refugees.

Nebraska Appleseed

941 O St STE 920, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-438-8853

<https://neappleseed.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Legal support and advocacy in the areas of economic justice, immigration, health care, and child welfare.

The Mediation Center

610 J St STE 100, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-5740

info@TheMediationCenter.org

<http://www.themediationcenter.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Mediation for divorce, parenting plans, elder issues, landlord/tenant concerns, legal matters, medical and health, and small claims courts.



Mental Health Resources

This is a partial list of mental healthcare providers; a complete list is available through insurance providers, including contact information. Ask for in-network mental health providers. Call the provider for information on eligibility and costs.

Bryan West Campus Mental Health Emergency Department

2300 S 16th St, Lincoln, NE 68502

402-481-1111

<https://www.bryanhealth.com/services/counseling-mental-health/>

24 hours

Youth (5-18 years old) and adult (19 years old and above) inpatient treatment.

Clinic with a Heart

1701 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68502

402-421-2924

teresa@clinicwithaheart.org

<https://www.clinicwithaheart.org>

4:00pm-7:30pm Thursday

Free mental health screenings and referrals.

*Call in on clinic days after 2:00pm to reserve a spot.

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

2121 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4116

info@mtko.org

<https://www.mtko.org/>

11:00am-12:30pm

Representatives from CenterPointe are on-site to screen for the SOAR program on the first Thursday of the month.

Region V Systems

1645 N St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-4343

info@region5systems.net

<https://region5systems.net/>

8:00am-4:30am Monday-Friday

Call or visit website to find mental health providers.



Public Libraries

Anderson Branch Library

3635 Touzalin Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-441-8540

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Bennett Martin Public Library

136 S 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-8503

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Bethany Branch Library

1810 N Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68505

402-441-8550

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-6:00pm Monday-Saturday

Eiseley Branch Library

1530 Superior St, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-441-4250

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-8:00pm Sunday

Gere Branch Library

2400 S 56th St, Lincoln, NE 68506

402-441-8560

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-8:00pm Sunday

Gere Branch Library

2400 S 56th St, Lincoln, NE 68506

402-441-8560

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-8:00pm Sunday

South Branch Library

2675 South St, Lincoln, NE 68502

402-441-8570

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-8:00pm Sunday

Walt Branch Library

6701 S 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68512

402-441-4460

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

10:00am-6:00pm Friday-Saturday

12:00pm-8:00pm Sunday

Waverly Community Library

11120 N 141st St, Waverly, NE 68462

402-786-0248

<http://waverlylibrary.org/>

10:00am-7:00pm Monday and Thursday

10:00am-6:30pm Wednesday

10:00am-12:30pm Friday

Williams Branch Library

5000 Mike Scholl St, Lincoln, NE 68524

402-441-8580

<https://lincolnlibraries.org/>

4:00pm-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

4:00pm-6:00pm Friday

1:00pm-6:00pm Saturday-Sunday



Fire and Rescue

Emergency Fire, Police, and Medical
911

Bennet Fire & Rescue
480 Fir St, Bennet, NE 68317
402-782-6195

Firth Fire Department
8900 Firth Rd, Firth, NE 68358
402-560-1769

Hallam Volunteer Fire Department
130 S Harrison St, Hallam, NE 68368
402-787-2235

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #1
1801 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-8350
Provides up to two smoke detectors per residence at no cost for families with low income (must own the property unless deaf or hard of hearing alarm).

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #2
1545 N 33rd St, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-441-8372

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #3
121 S 2nd St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-8373

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #4
5600 S 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68512
402-441-8374

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #5
3640 Touzalin Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507
402-441-8375

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #6
5051 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516
402-441-8376

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #7
1344 S Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68510
402-441-8377

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #8
2760 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68502
402-441-8378

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #9
901 N Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68505
402-441-8363

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #10
4421 N 24th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-441-8380

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #11
4600 W Adams St, Lincoln, NE 68524
402-441-8381

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #12
4405 S 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68516
402-441-8392

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #13
1700 S Coddington Ave, Lincoln, NE 68522
402-441-8393

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #14
5435 NW 1st St, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-441-8494

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #15
6601 Pine Lake Rd, NE 68516
402-441-1915

*Call 911 for emergencies. All other phone numbers are non-emergency.



Fire and Rescue

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Fire Station #16

9765 Boathouse Rd, Lincoln, NE 68527
402-441-8366

Malcom Fire and Rescue

150 W 2nd, Malcolm, NE 68402
402-796-2490

Raymond Volunteer Fire & Rescue

4210 W Raymond Rd, Raymond, NE 68428
402-783-3251

Waverly Fire & Rescue

10530 N 141st St, Waverly, NE 68462
402-786-3055

*Call 911 for emergencies. All other phone numbers are non-emergency.

Law Enforcement

Emergency Fire, Police, and Medical
911

Lancaster County Sheriffs Office
575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-6500
lso@lancaster.ne.gov

Lincoln Police Department
575 S 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-6000
lpd@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov

LPD Center Team Station
1501 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-441-7751

LPD Northeast Team Station
4843 Huntington Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504
402-441-3002

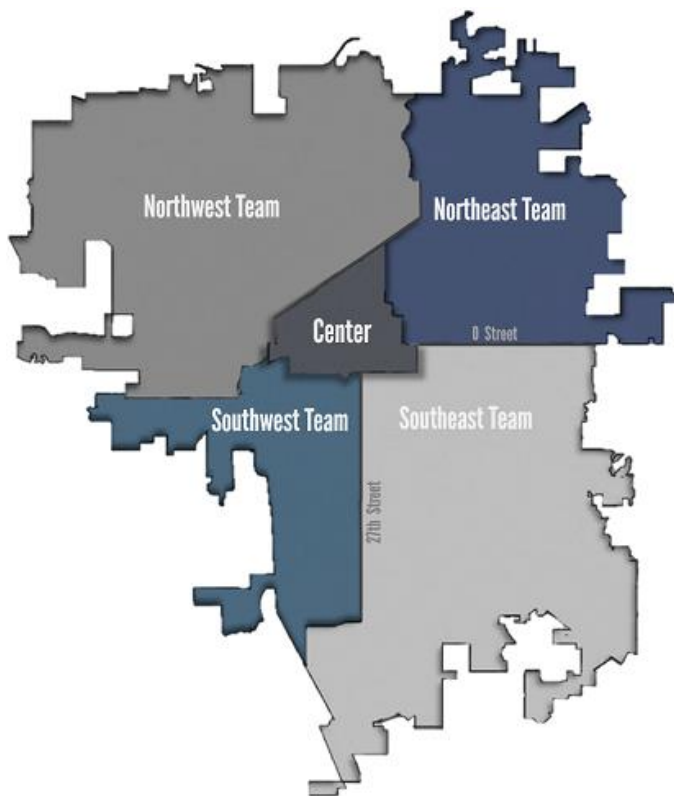
LPD Southeast Team Stations
6601 Pine Lake Rd, Lincoln, NE 68516
3800 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68506
402-441-7755

LPD Northwest Team Substations
3220 N 14 St, Lincoln, NE 68521
700 Penrose Dr, Lincoln, NE 68521
5435 NW 1st St, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-441-6555

LPD Southwest Team Substations
300 S 16th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
6701 S 14th St, Lincoln, NE 6812
1225 F St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-7754

Nebraska State Patrol
4130 NW 37th St, Lincoln, NE 68524
402-471-4680

UNL Police Department
300 N 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-472-2222
unl.police@unl.edu



Lincoln Police Department. (n.d.). [Precinct Map].
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/teams/teammap.htm>

*Call 911 for emergencies. All other phone numbers are non-emergency.



Shelters

Catholic Social Services (St. Gianna's)

2241 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-474-1600

<https://www.cssisus.org/>

9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm Friday

24 apartment units for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Accepts all faiths but will not make referrals or recommendations contrary to the Catholic faith.

CEDARS Emergency Shelter

6601 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506

402-436-5437

info@cedarskids.org

<https://cedarskids.org/>

Short-term care for youth ages 12-19, who do not have immediate access to a safe or more appropriate living arrangement.

Fresh Start

6433 Havelock Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507

402-475-7777

<https://freshstarthome.org/>

Safe, structured, alcohol and drug-free environment for women invested in attaining self-sufficiency. Services are offered to women ages 19 years and older. They can be homeless for any reason but must be homeless in order to be eligible for services.

Friendship Home

PO Box 85358, Lincoln, NE 68503

(Physical address is unlisted)

402-437-9302

info@friendshiphome.org

<https://friendshiphome.org/>

24 hours

Support hotline, pre-shelter services, confidential shelter, strengths-based case management, advocacy, support groups, financial education, children services, and education and outreach for victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence.

People's City Mission

110 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-475-1303

<https://pcmlincoln.org/>

24 hours

The Family Shelter has community and single-family rooms to accommodate single women, single- and two-parent families, and families that include teenage boys. The Men's Shelter is for homeless men. Provides three meals a day, personal hygiene items, employment assistance, mail services and telephone, personal counselling, Life Skills curriculum, access to legal advice, transportation assistance, case management, referral services and drug testing when necessary.



Special Populations

Resources for the Disabled Community

League of Human Dignity

1701 P St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7871

<http://leagueofhumandignity.com/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Peer support and referrals to programs for senior and disabled citizens.

Region V Services

936 N 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68505

402-471-9222

<https://region5services.com/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Vocational and residential services for those with developmental disabilities.

Resources for the Formerly Incarcerated Community

Bridges to Hope

3107 S 6th St STE 107, Lincoln, NE 68502

402-420-5696

<https://www.bridgestohopene.org/>

1:00pm-4:00pm Monday and Tuesday

9:00am-12:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday

Basic household items, clothing, hygiene products at no cost for men and women released from incarceration.

Community Justice Center

5625 O St STE 114, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-429-1050

jjonesoasis-ne@neb.rr.com

<https://communityjusticecenter.org/>

Victim Impact and Empathy Program to assist incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals re-enter the community.

Resources for the Addiction/Recovering Community

Al-Anon and Alateen

402-477-9662

<https://al-anon.org/>

[Locate A Meeting](#)

Al-Anon meetings, Alateen meetings, education, and support for those affected by a loved one's alcohol use.

Alcoholics Anonymous

2748 S St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-438-5214

<http://lincaa.org/>

[Online Meeting List](#)

[In Person Meeting List](#)

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday

9:00am-1:00pm Friday and Saturday

AA meetings, education, and support for those addicted to alcohol.

Narcotics Anonymous

PO Box 80902, Lincoln, NE 68501

402-474-0405

publicinformation@sena-na.net

<https://www.na.org/>

[Meeting List](#) (updated December 2019)

NA meetings, education, and support for those addicted to narcotics.

Resources for the LGBTQ+ Community

OutNebraska

211 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-488-1130

<https://outnebraska.org/>

Referrals to inclusive agencies and other community programming. A LGBTQ+-owned and gay-friendly resource list available on the website.



Special Populations (cont.)

PFLAG

402-219-3923

board@pflagcornhusker.org

<https://pflaglincoln.org/>

Peer-to-peer support, education, and advocacy.

Planned Parenthood

5631 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516

877-811-7526

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday, Thursday, Friday

8:00am-4:00pm Tuesday

12:00pm-8:00pm Wednesday

10:00am-3:00pm Saturday

Offers hormone replacement therapy, sex education programs for all sexual orientations and gender identities, and STD testing and treatment.

Resources for the Senior Community

Aging Partners

1005 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7070

agingpartners@lincoln.ne.gov

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/aging/>

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Assistance with health, living at home, staying involved, transportation, and referrals for senior citizens.

League of Human Dignity

1701 P St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7871

<http://leagueofhumandignity.com/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Peer support and referrals to programs for senior and disabled citizens.

Resources for the Veteran Community

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509

402-471-2458

ndva@nebraska.gov

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Employment and benefits assistance.

Veterans' Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

600 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-489-3802

https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/LIncoln_CBOC.asp

7:00am-4:30am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

7:00am-6:30pm Wednesday,

8:00am-12:00pm Saturday

Primary healthcare for veterans in Lincoln area. Therapy services available.



Transportation Resources

Disabled American Veterans Volunteer Transportation Network

600 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68510
402-489-3802 ex 7842

<http://www.nebraska.va.gov/>

Provides transportation to VA Medical Center only. Not wheelchair accessible.

Lancaster County Rural Transit

402-441-7031

8:00am- 3:30pm Monday-Thursday

Clients are picked up in rural Lancaster county and brought into Lincoln. Return time is set. Wheelchair accessible. \$2 each way.

Nebraska AIDS Project

1919 S 40th St STE 320, Lincoln, NE 6851
402-476-7000

<https://www.nap.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday

9:00am-7:00pm Wednesday

Connections to appropriate transportation for medical appointments.

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition

2331 Fairfield St STE 1, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-434-7177

<http://nuihc.com/>

8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:00pm
Monday-Thursday

8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm Friday

For Native Americans with no other transportation to medical or dental appointments. Call 24 hours in advance to schedule.

Road to Recovery Transport (American Cancer Society)

1-877-227-1618

<https://www.cancer.org/treatment/support-programs-and-services/road-to-recovery.html>

8:30-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Free transportation to medical appointments related to cancer treatment Not wheelchair accessible. Call 72 hours in advance to schedule.

StarTran Bus Service

710 J St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7185

StarTranInfo@lincoln.ne.gov

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/startran>

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Single ride, daily, and monthly passes available. Low-income rate is available.

StarTran Handi-Van

402-441-7109

StarTranInfo@lincoln.ne.gov

6:00am-6:30pm Monday-Friday, Saturday

6:30am-6:00pm Saturday

StarTran riders must meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements determined by registration with the League of Human Dignity. Provides transportation within Lincoln city limits. Wheelchair accessible. Must call 1 week in advance. Fare is \$3 each way.

Transportation Plus

2004 SW 5th St, Lincoln, NE 68522

402-805-7975

Transportation for elderly, disabled and visually impaired individuals. Appointment-based services so clients will need to call in advance to schedule.



Bus Passes

31-day low-income bus passes (\$8) and 31-day low-income Handi-Van passes (\$16) can be purchased at any of these locations. Must present photo ID with birth date.

The Bay

2005 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-310-5215

info@thebay.org

<https://www.thebay.org/lincoln/>

9:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-4:00pm Saturday

Carol M. Yoakum Family Resource Center

4621 NW 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68524

402-434-2621

Center For People In Need

3901 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521

402-476-4357

<https://www.cfpin.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

El Centro de las Américas

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-474-3950

<http://www.elcentrone.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday and Friday

9:00am-5:00pm, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday

**Community Action Partnership of
Lancaster and Saunders Counties**

210 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

F Street Community Center Community

1225 F St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7951

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/fstreet/>

8:00am-9:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-5:00pm Saturday

1:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Good Neighbor Community Center

2617 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-477-4173

info@gncclincoln.org

<https://www.gncclincoln.org/>

10:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Monday-Friday

3:00pm-4:00pm Sunday

The HUB

1037 S 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-8526

rose@hublincoln.org

<http://hublincoln.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Indian Center Inc

1100 Military Rd, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-802-3167

<https://www.indiancenterinc.org/>

Hours are by appointment

People's City Mission

110 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-475-1303

<https://pcmlincoln.org/>

24 hours

People's City Mission Help Center

6800 P St, Lincoln, NE 68505

402-475-6888

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

StarTran Bus Service

710 J St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7185

StarTranInfo@lincoln.ne.gov

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/startran>

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday



Additional Resources

Capital Humane Society Pieloch Pet Adoption Center

6500 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68516

402-441-4488

<https://www.capitalhumanesociety.org/>

3:00pm-7:30pm Monday

11:30am-7:30pm Tuesday-Friday

11:00am-5:30pm Saturday and Sunday

Animal shelter.

The Cat House

3633 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-9593

info@thecathouse.org

<https://thecathouse.org/>

6:00pm-8:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

1:30pm-4:00pm Sunday

Cat shelter.

The HUB

1037 S 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-8526

rose@hublincoln.org

<http://hublincoln.org/>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

General Education Development classes, job readiness, and case management for youth aging out of foster care.

Lincoln Literacy

745 S 9th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-476-7323

<https://www.lincolnliteracy.org/>

9:00am-1:30pm Monday-Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm Saturday

English education classes. General Education Development classes, certified nursing assistant prep class, and other adult education classes.

Lutheran Family Services

2301 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

402-441-7940

info@lfsneb.org

<https://www.lfsneb.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Therapy, interpretation services, immigration legal services, and refugee education, employment, and placement.

People's City Mission Help Center

6800 P St, Lincoln, NE 68505

402-475-6888

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Furniture, baby formula, and hygiene products at a reduced price.

Unemployment Claims Center

1111 O St, STE 222, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-471-2275

ndol.lincolnwfd@nebraska.gov

<https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/Home/AboutUs>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

UNL Center for Civic Engagement

1400 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588

402-472-7211

vita@unl.edu

<https://vita.unl.edu/signup/>

Free tax preparation for working families or families with low-income. By appointment only.



Domestic and Sexual Violence Resources

***The Bridge**

141 S Union St, Fremont, NE 68025
402-721-4340 (Office) 402-727-7777 (Crisis)
info@bridgefromviolence.com
<http://www.bridgefromviolence.com/>
8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday
Safety planning, emergency shelter, support groups, medical and criminal support, and community education.

***Child Advocacy Center**

5025 Garland St, Lincoln, NE 68504
402-476-3200
<https://www.smallvoices.org/>
8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
Forensic interviews, advocacy services, medical services, and case coordination for victims/survivors of child abuse and their non-offending family members. Community and agency trainings available.

The Salvation Army (Safe-T)

402-898-6060
Quinceola.cook@usc.salvationarmy.org
Jennifer.alvarez@usc.salvationarmy.org
<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/western/safe-t/>
8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
Emergency or long-term housing, food, clothing, emotional support and counseling, healthcare, drug and alcohol treatment, childcare, transportation, help navigating the immigration system, education and employment opportunities, legal assistance, and help setting goals.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Food Programs

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Wahoo Backpack Program

504 W 8th St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-3160

Wahoo.Bethlehem@gmail.com

<http://bethlehemplutheranwahoo.org/>

Food baskets for children enrolled in Wahoo public and private schools. Contact for enrollment.

***LifeHouse**

723 N Broad St, Fremont, NE 68025

402-721-3125

<https://lifehousene.org/>

10:00am-2:00pm Tuesday

5:00pm-7:00pm Thursday

Food pantry. Bring ID and mail with current residence received within the last 30 days.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Healthcare Resources

***Every Woman Matters**

301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 94817,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-0929
dhhs.ewm@nebraska.gov
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Every-Woman-Matters.aspx>
8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
Federally funded program that pays for Pap tests, pelvic exams, clinical breast exams, and lab fees. For adults 40-74 years old.

Eye Care Council, Inc.

1-800-960-3937
<http://www.nechildrensvision.org/>
See to Learn Program provides free vision assessment for any 3-year-old in Nebraska. Visit website or call to find participating locations.

InfantSEE

1-888-396-3937
<https://infantsee.org/>
Eye exam screenings for children 6-12 months old at no cost. Visit website or call to find participating locations.

***Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program**

301 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, NE 68509
1-800-532-2227
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Colon-Cancer-Screening-Program.aspx>
8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
Preventative colon cancer screening and education to men and women 50-74 years old.

Saunders Medical Center

1760 County Road J, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-4191
<https://saundersmedicalcenter.com/>
7:30am-6:30pm Monday and Wednesday
7:30am-5:30pm Tuesday and Thursday
7:30am-5:00pm Friday
8:00am-12:00pm Saturday
Emergency room is open 24 hours
Hospital, family clinic, and nursing home.

***Three Rivers Public Health Department**

2400 N Lincoln Ave, Fremont, NE 68025
402-727-5396
info@3rphd.org
<https://threeriverspublichealth.org/>
7:00am-4:30pm Monday and Thursday
8:00am-4:30am Tuesday
7:00am-7:00pm Wednesday
8:00am-4:00pm Friday
Reproductive health services and immunizations at a low cost.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Housing, Rent, and Utilities Assistance

Cedar Bluffs City Hall

101 S 1st St, Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015
402-628-3115
Section 8 housing application assistance.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

365 W. 1st St, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-277-7330
<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>
8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
Emergency Services Program provides emergency financial assistance with past-due rent, deposit and utility bills (including propane) for those that qualify. Weatherization services available to reduce energy costs.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

1-800-383-4278
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Energy-Assistance.aspx>
24 hours
Provides heating and cooling assistance, emergency furnace repair and replacement, and weatherization services for low income Nebraskans.

Memphis Town Hall

203 Natchez St, Memphis NE 68042
402-994-2283
Section 8 housing application assistance.

***Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program**

PO Box 94927, Lincoln, NE 68509
1-800-526-0017
<https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nebraska-telephone-assistance-programlifeline>
8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday
Reduces the cost of local telephone service by \$12.75 per month on one landline or wireless phone bill for families with low-income.

Prague City Hall

401 Center Ave, Prague, NE 68050
402-663-5235
Section 8 housing application assistance.

Wahoo City Hall

605 N Broadway St, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-3222
Section 8 housing application assistance.

Wahoo Utilities Department

605 N Broadway St, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-3222
<https://www.wahoo.ne.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/Wahoo%20Utilities%7COnline%20Bill%20Payment>
Will assist families in utilizing a payment plan to keep services on after receiving a disconnect notice. Must pay full bill to start services if disconnected.

Weston City Hall

140 Pike St, Weston, NE 68070
402-642-5496
Section 8 housing application assistance.



Legal and Court Resources

Saunders County Public Defender's Office

666 N Broadway, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-3815

https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/public_defender/public_defender.html

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Saunders County District Court

387 N Chestnut St STE 6, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8113

https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/district_court/district_court.html

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Saunders County Attorney's Office

387 N Chestnut St STE 1, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8151

<https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/attorney/attorney.html>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Saunders County Youth Services

403 N Chestnut St STE 103, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8107

<https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/juvenile/juvenile.html>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Saunders County Court

387 N Chestnut St STE 6, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8119

<https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/court/court.html>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday



Mental Health Resources

This is a partial list of mental healthcare providers; a complete list is available through insurance providers, including contact information. Ask for in-network mental health providers. Call the provider for information on eligibility and costs.

Blue Valley Behavioral Health

355 E 4th St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-4414

<http://bvbh.net/>

9:00am-5:00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Wednesday hours alternate weekly between

9:00am-5:00pm and 1:00pm-8:00pm

Outpatient mental health services and medication management.

***Region V Systems**

1645 N St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-4343

info@region5systems.net

<https://region5systems.net/>

8:00am-4:30am Monday-Friday

Call or visit website to find mental health providers.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Public Libraries

Ashland Public Library

1324 Silver St, Ashland, NE 68003

402-521-2012

<http://libraries.ne.gov/ashland/>

9:30am-6:30pm Monday-Wednesday

9:30am-8:00pm Thursday

12:00pm-5:00pm Friday-Saturday

Ceresco Village Community Library

425 S 2nd St, Ceresco, NE 68017

402-665-2112

<https://www.cerescone.com/vnews/display.v/SEC/Ceresco%20Library>

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm Friday

Mead Public Library

316 S Vine St, Mead, NE 68041

402-624-6605

10:00am-1:00pm, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday-Wednesday

9:00am-3:00pm Thursday

9:00am-2:00pm Friday

9:00am-12:00pm Saturday

Wahoo Public Library

637 N Maple St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-3871

<https://www.wahoo.ne.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/City%20of%20Wahoo%7CLibrary>

9:30am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday

9:30am-5:30pm Friday

9:30am-1:00pm Saturday

Yutan Public Library

410 1st St, Yutan, NE 68073

402-625-2111

<http://libraries.ne.gov/yutan/>

9:00am-3:00pm Monday

9:00am-12:00pm, 4:00pm-8:00pm Tuesday

9:00am-3:00pm, 4:00pm-8:00pm Wednesday

4:00pm-8:00pm Thursday

8:00am-12:00pm Friday

9:00am-12:00pm Saturday



Fire and Rescue

Emergency Fire, Police, and Medical
911

Ashland Fire Department
2304 Silver St, Ashland, NE 68003
402-944-7004

Cedar Bluffs Fire and Rescue Department
13 E Main St, Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015
402-628-5495

Ceresco Volunteer Fire Department
217 S 2nd St, Ceresco, NE 68017
402-665-2227

Colon Community Fire & Rescue
124 Spruce St, Colon, NE 68018
402-647-4455

Ithaca Volunteer Fire Department
1296 County Rd H, Ithaca, NE 68033
402-623-4323

Malmo Volunteer Fire Department
122 Center Ave, Malmo, NE 68040
402-642-5658
mvfd@nntc.net

Mead Fire Department
220 4th St, Mead, NE 68041
402-624-3610

Prague Fire Department
109 Railway St, Prague, NE 68050
402-663-4844

Wahoo Fire & Rescue
158 W 6th St, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-1520

Yutan Volunteer Fire Department
102 Poplar St, Yutan, NE 68073
402-625-2273

*Call 911 for emergencies. All other phone numbers are non-emergency.



Law Enforcement

Emergency Fire, Police, and Medical
911

Nebraska State Patrol
4130 NW 37th St, Lincoln, NE 68524
402-471-4680

Saunders County Sheriff Department
387 N Chestnut St STE 3, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-1000
kstukenholtz@co.saunders.ne.us

Saunders County Crime Stoppers
387 N Chestnut St STE 3, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-3718

Ashland Police Department
2304 Silver St STE 3, Ashland, NE 68003
402-944-2222
ashlandpd@ashland-ne.com

Cedar Bluffs Police Department
101 S 1st St, Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015
402-628-3115
clerk@cedarbluffsne.org

Mead Police Department
316 S Vine St, Mead, NE 68041
402-443-6846

Wahoo Police Department
605 N Broadway St, Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-4155

Yutan Police Department
112 Vine St, Yutan, NE 68073
402-625-2468
thannan@cityofyutan.com

*Call 911 for emergencies. All other phone numbers are non-emergency.



Special Populations

Resources for the Disabled Community

Region V Services

1910 N Chestnut St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-4694

<https://region5services.com/>

Vocational and residential services for those with developmental disabilities.

Resources for Addiction/Recovery Community

Al-Anon and Alateen

402-477-9662

<https://al-anon.org/>

[Locate A Meeting](#)

Al-Anon meetings, Alateen meetings, education, and support for those affected by a loved one's alcohol use.

*Alcoholics Anonymous

2748 S St, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-438-5214

<http://lincaa.org/>

[Online Meeting List](#)

[In Person Meeting List](#)

9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday

9:00am-1:00pm Friday and Saturday

AA meetings, education, and support for those addicted to alcohol.

*Narcotics Anonymous

PO Box 80902, Lincoln, NE 68501

402-474-0405

publicinformation@sena-na.net

<https://www.na.org/>

[Meeting List](#) (updated December 2019)

NA meetings, education, and support for those addicted to narcotics.

Resources for the LGBTQ+ Community

*OutNebraska

211 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-488-1130

<https://outnebraska.org/>

Advocacy, celebrating and educating to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people. A LGBTQ+-owned and gay-friendly resource list available on the website.

*PFLAG

402-219-3923

board@pflagcornhusker.org

<https://pflaglincoln.org/>

Peer-to-peer support, education, and advocacy.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Special Populations (cont.)

Resources for the Senior Community

***Aging Partners**

1005 O St, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-441-7070

agingpartners@lincoln.ne.gov

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/aging/>

8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

Assistance with health, living at home, staying involved, transportation, and referrals for senior citizens.

Resources for the Veteran Community

Saunders County Veterans Services

426 N Broadway St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8137

mpace@co.saunders.ne.us

https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Additional Resources

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties

365 W. 1st St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-471-4515

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/>

8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Early Head Start, Head Start, and home learning resources.

*LifeHouse

723 N Broad St, Fremont, NE 68025

402-721-3125

<https://lifehousene.org/>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Housing assistance, life skill classes, homelessness prevention and aftercare, and 24-hour emergency shelter.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

355 E 4th St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-4252

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Medicaid, SNAP, and welfare offices and assistance.

Saunders County Lost Pets - Pet Rescue

226 W 5th St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-432-2814

<http://www.saunderscountylostpets.com/>

8:00am-9:00am, 11:00am-12:00pm,

4:00pm-5:00pm Monday-Saturday

11:00am-12:00pm, 4:00pm-5:00pm Sunday

Animal shelter.

Saunders County Public Transportation

426 N Broadway St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8168

<https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/transportation/transportation.html>

8:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday (office)

8:00am-4:15pm Monday-Friday (van hours)

\$1 each way for same town travel. \$2 each

way for town-to-town travel. \$4 each way for

out-of-county travel. A charge of \$1 applies for

each additional stop. No fee for transportation

to the Saunders Medical Center. Schedule 24

hours in advance.

Saunders County Treasurer's Office

433 N Chestnut St, STE 201, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-8128

ascanlon@co.saunders.ne.us

<https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/treasurer/treasurer.html>

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Driver's license and vehicle registration

services. Driver's license exams are provided

Monday and Tuesday from 8:00am-12:00pm,

12:30pm-4:00pm.

*Unemployment Claims Center

827 North D St, Fremont, NE 68025

402-276-1019

ndol.fremontwfd@nebraska.gov

<https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/Home/AboutUs>

8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Teammates of Saunders County

504 W 8th St, Wahoo, NE 68066

402-443-1029

<https://teammates.org/>

Mentoring for youth.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.



Hotlines

Crisis Text Line

Text HOME to 741741

Text line provides support for anyone who is experiencing a crisis.

Economic Assistance

1-800-383-4278

Helpline for those applying for economic assistance through ACCESSNebraska.

Homeless Veterans Hotline

1-877-424-3838

Hotline provides resources, information, and referrals to veterans by Veterans' Affairs staff.

Medicaid Assistance

1-855-632-7633

Helpline for those applying for Medicaid assistance through ACCESSNebraska.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

TTY: 1-800-787-3224

Chat online:

<https://www.thehotline.org/help/>

Hotline provides support, resources, and information to those experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence. Over 200 languages available.

National Runaway Safeline

1-800-786-2929

Chat online: <https://www.1800runaway.org/>

Hotline provides crisis counseling for youth runaways as well as parents and guardians of youth runaways.

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline

1-866-331-9474

TTY: 1-866-331-8453

Text loveis to 22522

Chat online: <https://www.loveisrespect.org/>

Hotline provides support, resources, and information about healthy relationships to teens experiencing dating violence.

Nebraska Adult Protective Services and Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-254-4202

Hotline receives reports about suspected abuse to elders and adults with vulnerabilities.

Nebraska Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-652-1999

Hotline receives reports about suspected child abuse and neglect in Nebraska.

Nebraska Family Helpline

1-888-866-8660

Hotline provides recommendations and referrals to appropriate resources. Hotline assesses for safety immediate needs and level of behavioral health crisis.

Need2text

Text TALK to 38255

Chat online: <https://need2text.com/>

Textline provides support for teenagers experiencing depression, anxiety, relationship issues, and more.



Hotlines (cont.)

Postpartum Depression Hotline

1-800-773-6667

Hotline provides support for mothers experiencing postpartum depression from mothers who previously experienced postpartum depression.

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network

1-800-656-4673

<https://rainn.org/>

Hotline provides confidential support from a trained staff member, referrals to local services, information about the laws in the community.

*The information cannot be kept confidential if the victim/survivor is a child.

Suicide Prevention

1-800-273-8255

TTY: 1-800-799-4889

Chat online:

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>

Hotline provides immediate and confidential emotional support to those in suicidal or emotional crisis.

Suicide Prevention (Spanish)

1-800-784-2432

Hotline provides immediate and confidential emotional support to those in suicidal or emotional crisis.

The Trevor Project

1-866-488-7386

Text START to 678678

Chat online:

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Hotline for suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ youth.

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

Hotline provides crisis intervention for veterans by Veterans' Affairs staff.



Appendix D

Key Informant Interview Script

My name is Daniel Kreuzberg and I work with STEPs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Community Action has partnered with STEPs to learn more about the strengths and needs of your community. Community Action will use the information you share to inform their strategic planning process. I am calling today to hear about your relationship to Community Action, as well as the needs and assets of families in poverty in [Lancaster/Saunders] County. Our conversation should only take between 45-60 minutes. Is now still a good time for you to talk?

I am now going to read through a verbal consent script so I can provide consistent information to all study participants on what they can expect as well as their rights as a research participant:

Today I am inviting you to participate in an interview about your perceptions of community needs and assets as it relates to families in poverty in [Lancaster/Saunders] County.

I am inviting you to participate in this study because you were identified as a community stakeholder by the Community Action staff.

If you agree to be in this study, I will ask you a series of questions related to your perception of community needs and assets. If you consent, I would like to record our conversation today so I can be sure to remember what you say. The recordings and transcription will be kept secured and destroyed once the project concludes.

I will keep all of your information confidential and anonymous. I will remove all identifying information, such as your name and organization, from the transcripts.

Please know that participating in this interview is optional, and you can stop participation at any time without penalty.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

Would you like to proceed with the interview?

Do I have your permission to record?



1. To get started, please tell me the name of your organization and your title.
2. How did you first hear about Community Action? How would you describe your overall knowledge of Community Action? Of their programs and services?
3. Do you or your organization currently partner with Community Action?
 - a. If yes → How do you and your organization partner with Community Action?
 - b. If no → Community Action offers 18 programs that address the causes and conditions of poverty in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Homelessness Prevention, Financial and Family Well-Being, and Hunger Relief and Healthy Food Access.
 - i. Which of these areas is most relevant to you considering the needs and priorities of your organization?
 - ii. Considering Community Action's focus areas, in what ways might they help you in solving problems you've identified within your community and/or organization?
 - iii. What barriers might exist to your partnering with Community Action?

Transition: The remaining questions will ask you about experiences in your community. When we ask about your community, we are referring to [Lancaster/Saunders] County.

4. What role do you believe Community Action plays in your community? What needs is it meeting?
5. What needs are currently unmet in the community? How might Community Action fill those needs?
 - a. What gaps in services exist in your community? How could Community Action play a role in providing these?

Transition: Now, I want to ask about your community more broadly.

6. What do you consider to be the greatest strengths and assets of your community?
7. What do you think are the biggest challenges or problems in your community?
 - a. Follow-up question(s): What do you think is the primary cause of [challenge names] in your community?
 - b. Follow-up questions(s): What do you think your community can or should do to reduce these challenges?



Transition: I want to shift to focusing on poverty in your community.

8. What do you think causes poverty in your community?
 - a. What barriers exist for those seeking self-sufficiency?
 - b. What barriers exist for those seeking agency and/or organizational resources to achieve self-sufficiency?
 - c. What factors contribute to poverty in your community?

Transition: I want to ask you about barriers to employment and workforce entry in your community

9. In your professional role, what have you experienced or observed as barriers to employment for your workforce and/or those you serve?
 - a. What resources and support do people need to gain or maintain employment?

Transition: I have one final question for you today.

10. If you had a magic wand, what single thing would you do to prevent poverty in your community? What would you do to eliminate it?