Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties
Community Assessment

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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 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 7:00 am 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
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</table>
| The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant parents, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:  
  • 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3.1 The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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).</td>
<td>12-24, Appendix A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3.3 The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.</td>
<td>48-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3.5 The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.</td>
<td>Accepted on July 28, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Area</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness Prevention</td>
<td>5,839</td>
<td>Through Rent, Utility, Deposit Assistance; Supporting Housing Program + Rent Wise; Tenant Support Services; Representative Payee Program; and Affordable Housing programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>Through Early Head Start, Head Start, and the Foster Grandparents Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunger Relief</td>
<td>3,280</td>
<td>Through the Gathering Place Soup Kitchen and the Healthy Food Access Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>7,044</td>
<td>Through Language Linc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than high school graduate, 22%</th>
<th>High school graduate, 35%</th>
<th>Some college, 24%</th>
<th>Associate's degree or higher, 19%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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:

- **Children ages 0–4** were served by Head Start programs: 453
- **Pregnant individuals** were served by Head Start programs: 31

**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).

- Family Income Below Poverty Line: 332
- Family Income 100-130% of the Poverty Line: 52
- Family Eligible for Public Assistance: 52
- Child in Foster Care: 25
- Child is Homeless: 54
- Other: 13
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).

- American Indian and Alaska Native: 4%
- Asian: 2%
- Black or African American: 25%
- White: 58%
- Two or more races: 9%
- Some other race: 3%
- Unspecified: 0%

**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).

- English: 47%
- Middle Eastern languages: 28%
- Spanish: 20%
- Other languages: 3%
- African languages: 2%
- European languages: 0%
- Far East Asian languages: 0%
- Caribbean languages: 0%
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.

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

**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.

- American Indian and Alaska Native: 1%
- Asian: 5%
- Black or African American: 9%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0%
- White: 75%
- Two or more races: 6%
- Some other race: 4%
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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Less than high school graduate, 18%</th>
<th>High school graduate, 30%</th>
<th>Some college, associate’s degree, 34%</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree or higher, 18%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Experience</th>
<th>Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months, 12%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months, 53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Did not work, 35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

![Graph showing population increase from 253,035 in 2010 to 280,849 in 2018. The y-axis 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family, 58%</th>
<th>Non-Family, 42%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married couple, 75%</td>
<td>Female Householder, 18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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%.

![Graph showing median income increase from $48,846 in 2010 to $55,224 in 2018. The y-axis ranges from $45,000 to $57,000 to emphasize the median income change.]

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

| Less than high school graduate, 18% | High school graduate, 30% | Some college, associate's degree, 34% | Bachelor's degree or higher, 18% |

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.

- Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months: 12%
- Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months: 53%
- Did not work: 34%
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%.

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%.
Saunders County Community Profile

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.

White 97%
Two or more races 2%
Saunders County Community Profile

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).

| Less than high school graduate, 22% | High school graduate, 41% | Some college, associate's degree, 32% | Bachelor's degree or higher, 5% |

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.

- Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months: 9%
- Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months: 45%
- Did not work: 45%

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.

![Population graph]

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%.

![Median Income graph]

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.

| Less than high school graduate, 24% | High school graduate, 47% | Some college, associate’s degree, 30% |

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.

- Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months: 6%
- Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months: 28%
- Did not work: 66%
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Under 6 Years in Poverty</th>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>3,979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>3,908</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>264</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Under 6 Years in Poverty by Race</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=3,979)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=3,908)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=264)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=115)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2,713</td>
<td>2,642</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Spoken at Home</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=35,477)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=34,669)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=1,545)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=471)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spoke only English</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke Spanish</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke other languages</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Spoken at Home</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=3,979)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=3,908)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=264)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=115)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spoke only English</td>
<td>3,160</td>
<td>3,089</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke Spanish</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoke other languages</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 343 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
Head Start-Eligible Children and Families

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>1,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>1,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=4,232)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=3,949)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=330)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=101)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimates of Number of Expectant Parents in Poverty by Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=1,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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 33\textsuperscript{rd}, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North 33\textsuperscript{rd}</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Street</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (Saunders)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health 360</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-based</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Cost Nebraska</th>
<th>Cost 4-year-old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of Nebraska</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>$12,571</td>
<td>$11,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>families could</td>
<td></td>
<td>(EPI, 2019)</td>
<td>(EPI, 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not afford infant care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(based on the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Health and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affordability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standard of 7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of family income;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI, 2019)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=485)</th>
<th>Lincoln County (n=451)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=41)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=19)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Home I</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Home II</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 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 participant 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=24,411)</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=22,202)</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=1,642)</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=444)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=24,411)</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=22,202)</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=1,642)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=444)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $15,000</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000-$24,999</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000-$34,999</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000-$49,999</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000+</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.

> “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.”

Secondary Data: SNAP Participation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=35,959)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=32,232)</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=2,561)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=577)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.”
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Individuals with Food Insecurity</th>
<th>Children with Food Insecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>37,080 (12%)</td>
<td>11,580 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>2,320 (11%)</td>
<td>900 (17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County School Districts (n=54,329)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Public Schools (n=42,258)</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County School Districts (n=3,899)</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo Public Schools (n=1,066)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 safetyness, 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.
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.

Specialized Needs

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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith-based</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-based</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Causes of Poverty</td>
<td>Job access and transportation, living wage, access to health care, discrimination, and individual factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Strengths</td>
<td>Connection, culture, local government, and Community Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Challenges</td>
<td>Poverty, COVID-19, and racism and discrimination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

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.”

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=167,569)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=151,960)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=10,819)</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=2,138)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=161,568)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (146,981)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=10,352)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=2,029)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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: 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=164,173)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (148,606)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=10,806)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=2,125)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

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

*Source: Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S0801*
Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

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.

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

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Adults (Working Adults)</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Lancaster County</th>
<th>Saunders County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Living Wage (Hourly)</td>
<td>Required Pre-Tax Annual Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Adult</td>
<td>0 Children</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$22,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Child</td>
<td>$23.94</td>
<td>$49,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Children</td>
<td>$28.68</td>
<td>$59,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Children</td>
<td>$35.84</td>
<td>$74,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Adults (1 Working)</td>
<td>0 Children</td>
<td>$18.13</td>
<td>$37,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Child</td>
<td>$22.54</td>
<td>$46,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Children</td>
<td>$25.10</td>
<td>$52,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Children</td>
<td>$28.84</td>
<td>$59,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Adults (2 Working)</td>
<td>0 Children</td>
<td>$9.06</td>
<td>$37,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Child</td>
<td>$13.32</td>
<td>$55,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Children</td>
<td>$15.68</td>
<td>$65,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Children</td>
<td>$18.63</td>
<td>$77,497</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>1,480:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>2,630:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020)

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>270:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>2,660:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=305,693)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=276,619)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=20,752)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=4,305)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=6,815)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=6,657)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=234)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=87)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

- Lancaster County: 9% employed uninsured, 35% unemployed uninsured
- Lincoln: 9% employed uninsured, 35% unemployed uninsured
- Saunders County: 5% employed uninsured, 61% unemployed uninsured
- Wahoo: 4% employed uninsured, 86% unemployed uninsured

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table S2701
Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $15,000</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000-$24,999</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000-$34,999</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000-$49,999</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000+</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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 no equate to a livable income. 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.

“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.”

“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 Needs and Strengths Assessment**

**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.

“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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Median Rent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=47,623)</td>
<td>$822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=46,591)</td>
<td>$822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=1,623)</td>
<td>$747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=578)</td>
<td>$676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=46,859)</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=45,828)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=1,573)</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=533)</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Owner-occupied units</th>
<th>Renter-occupied units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=122,646)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=112,124)</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=8,326)</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=1,781)</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Estimation of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County (n=310,094)</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln (n=280,849)</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders County (n=21,024)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo (n=4,487)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

2,365 Individuals experienced homelessness on a given night in Nebraska in 2019.

12.3 in 10,000 Individuals experienced homelessness in the population in 2019.
Community Needs and Strengths Assessment

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.”
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.


Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (n.d.) *Living wage calculator.* https://livingwage.mit.edu/


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).

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

*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.

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

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=122,646)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=112,124)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=8,326)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=1,781)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Family</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables (2010-2018); Table S1101

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Household Type</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=72,982)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=64,558)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=5,750)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=1,075)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married-couple family household</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder, no wife present</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband present</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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%.

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

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.

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

*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%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=296,676)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=267,604)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=20,757)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=4,311)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># below poverty level</td>
<td>38,952</td>
<td>38,083</td>
<td>1,752</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% below poverty level</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=38,952)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=38,083)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=1,752)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=559)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=38,952)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=38,083)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=1,752)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=559)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 years</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17 years</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-34 years</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64 years</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=15,526)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=15,063)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=912)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=297)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, associate's degree</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=17,407)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=17,106)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=538)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=118)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=310,094)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=280,849)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=21,024)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=4,487)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=38,952)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=38,083)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=1,752)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=559)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=3,979)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=3,908)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=264)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=115)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>2,968</td>
<td>2,907</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>1,011</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table (2018); Table B17020, B17020I

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County (n=1,020)</th>
<th>Lincoln (n=1,006)</th>
<th>Saunders County (n=54)</th>
<th>Wahoo (n=24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?
Appendix B

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.
Appendix B

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?
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/](https://bbbslincoln.org/)
Mentoring for youth.

**Cedars**
6601 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506
402-434-5437
info@cedarskids.org
[https://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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](https://malonecenter.org/)  
7:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday  
Food assistance, leadership programs, and after school programs.

**Willard Community Center**  
1245 S Folsom St, Lincoln, NE 68522  
402-475-0805  
[https://www.willardcommunitycenter.org/](https://www.willardcommunitycenter.org/)  
6:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday  
Before and after school programs.

**The Salvation Army**  
2625 Potter St, Lincoln, NE 68503  
402-474-6263  
[https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lincoln](https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lincoln)  
9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday  
Utility, food, clothing assistance, summer youth programs, and after school programs.

**Yazda-Yazidi Cultural Center**  
300 N 27th St, STE C, Lincoln, NE 68503  
531-289-7132  
[https://yazda.org/](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@voicesofhopelincoln.org
https://www.voicesofhopelincoln.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 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 Bank Backpack Program
https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/services/youth-family-2/
Contact child’s school for enrollment information.
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/mission-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.

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.
Preventative Care and Flu Shots

**Center For People In Need**
3901 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
402-476-4357
[https://www.cfpin.org/](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](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/](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/](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](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/](https://birthright.org/)  
**Hours:**  
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/](https://fhsi.org/)  
**Hours:**  
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 68510  
402-476-7000  
[https://www.nap.org/](https://www.nap.org/)  
**Hours:**  
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](https://www.plannedparenthood.org)  
**Hours:**  
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  
**Hours:**  
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  
**Hours:**  
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/](https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/aging/)
Listings of subsidized and retirement housing.

**Assistive Technology Partnership**
1-877-428-8844
[www.housing.ne.gov](http://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/](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/](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/](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/](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
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
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/telecommunication/nebraska-phone-assistance-program/lifeline
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://clianeb.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 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 Officer
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.

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.

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.
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 Emergence 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
402-441-4250
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln Fire &amp; Rescue Fire Station #16</strong></td>
<td>9765 Boathouse Rd, Lincoln, NE 68527</td>
<td>402-441-8366</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malcom Fire and Rescue</strong></td>
<td>150 W 2nd, Malcolm, NE 68402</td>
<td>402-796-2490</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Raymond Volunteer Fire &amp; Rescue</strong></td>
<td>4210 W Raymond Rd, Raymond, NE 68428</td>
<td>402-783-3251</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Waverly Fire &amp; Rescue</strong></td>
<td>10530 N 141st St, Waverly, NE 68462</td>
<td>402-786-3055</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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  
lsso@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

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

Lincoln Police Department. (n.d.). [Precinct Map].  
https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/teams/teammap.htm
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://leagueofhuman dignity.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  
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 68510  
402-476-7000  
[https://www.nap.org/](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  
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  
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](mailto:StarTranInfo@lincoln.ne.gov)  
[https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/startran](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](mailto: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

**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

**Carol M. Yoakum Family Resource Center**  
4621 NW 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68524  
402-434-2621

**The HUB**  
1037 S 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-471-8526  
rose@hublincoln.org  
http://hublincoln.org/  
9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

**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

**Indian Center Inc**  
1100 Military Rd, Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-802-3167  
https://www.indiancenterinc.org/  
Hours are by appointment

**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

**People's City Mission**  
110 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-475-1303  
https://pcmlincoln.org/  
24 hours

**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

**People's City Mission Help Center**  
6800 P St, Lincoln, NE 68505  
402-475-6888  
8:00am-4:00pm 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

**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
402-4-41-7940
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/About Us
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://bethlehemlutheranwahoo.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.

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**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.

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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-program\lifeline
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/EC/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.
Saunders County

Legal and Court Resources

**Saunders County Public Defender's Office**  
666 N Broadway, Wahoo, NE 68066  
402-443-3815  
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](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](https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/attorney/attorney.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/county_court/county_court.html](https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/county_court/county_court.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](https://saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/juvenile/juvenile.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.

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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://lincaaa.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/
Meeting List
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.

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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.

*Indicates the office is not in Saunders county but the program or agency provides services to residents of Saunders county.*

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
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.sanderscountylostopets.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/About Us
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.

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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 LBGTQ 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?