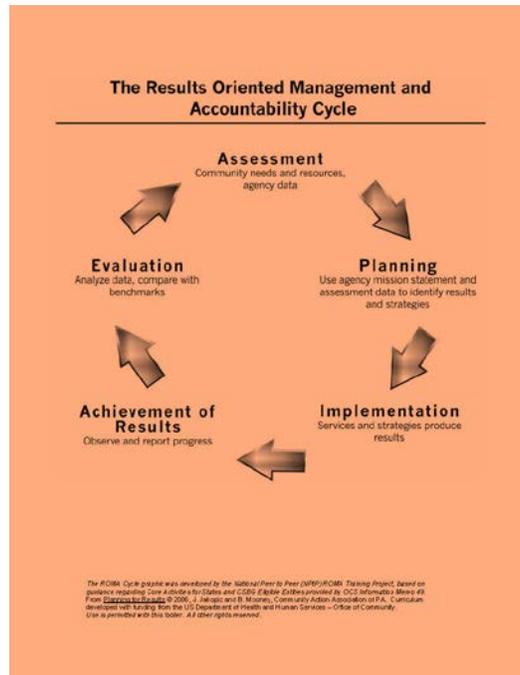


CSBG Application and Work Plan for 2019

Summary Overview

Our CSBG Work Plan describes how our programs utilize the ROMA Cycle.



ASSESSMENT/PLANNING

Describe the identified gaps in services and how were they identified.

Community Services: Multiple sources were utilized to determine gaps in services in regard to risks that contribute to homelessness. In the Community Action Nebraska 2016 needs assessment negative behaviors identified due to a lack of sufficient income were: use of credit to cover basic needs, spent savings, paid utilities late, delayed medical care, and purchasing affordable food. Programing will address NPI goal 1- housing indicators, income and asset building, outcomes in multiple domains, and NPI goal 2 healthy food resources.

The analysis of the CSBG IS FY 16-17 indicated that 68% of client income was below the 100% FPG. A breakdown of Individuals receiving assistance, 55% was renters. Housing studies show that individuals who rent pay in excess of 30% of their income toward rent. Programing will address these needs under NPI goal 1- housing indicators.

A study from “Communities in Schools National Impact Report” dated 2016 supports that students perform better in school when they have needed items to participate in learning in

school. A study of the number of students who receive free or reduced lunches in the Mid area with no other school supply assistance was targeted. Programing will address the need under NPI goal 1 Education and Cognitive Development- services of school supplies.

Early Head Start & Head Start: A series of assessments are completed in regard to service delivery of Head Start and Early Head Start services. Once every five years Head Start completes an in depth annual community assessment, and updates every other year. The community assessments identify gaps in services within the communities we serve. OHS focus has been on transition from part day part year centers to full day centers, however, a Program Instruction, ACF- PI-HS-18-01, 01/19/2018, was issued, stating that the Secretary has exercised his authority and programs no longer are mandated to provide the full day program option to 50% of the funded enrollment. Programing will address NPI goal 1- Education and Cognitive Development. Annually the centers and the central office completes a self-assessment which would identify gaps if being able to meet a HSPPS based on a community gap, such as lack of dental care in western Nebraska. Programing will address Goal 2- Health and Social/Behavioral Indicators.

How Head Start partners include public schools including educational service units, health departments, and other child and family resource entities that are pursuing funding sources to address gaps. Head Start knows the county/community changing demographics such as populations, percent of poverty levels, establishment or elimination of businesses or services, etc. through our annual community assessment process so this assists partners by the sharing of information, making referrals, continuing case management and follow-up through the support of all community outreach. Head Start is required to have partnerships in each community to strengthen Head Start services to preschool children and their families.

Health: In a study completed by Peer-Reviewed Journal for Managed Care and Hospital Formulary Management in July of 2016 shows that vaccination has been proven to be one of the most effective public health strategies to control and prevent diseases. Our program attempts to address this issue in an effort to avoid alternative immunization schedules due to economic reasons. With a portion of our clients a school break may result in many families go back to their native countries, therefore not available for scheduled vaccines. Through our programs we provide an additional venue to provide this needed service. Programing will address Goal 1 and 2 Health and Social/Behavioral Indicators.

Housing: Down-payment Assistance for First-time Homebuyers was identified as a gap in services through conversations with the Buffalo County Board of Realtors, the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County, the Kearney Area Builders Association, a number of local lenders and first-time homebuyers completing Mid's Homebuyer Education courses. The City of Kearney's Housing Study released to the public on May 10, 2017, identified owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, rental rehabilitation; first-time homebuyer rehabilitation and down-payment assistance, and an exterior paint program as needs. Programing will address Goal 1 Housing indicators.

Mobile Produce Pantry: According to the *2016 Community Action of Nebraska State and Regional Report*, 1 in 3 individuals reported issues with affording utilities, food, and clothing. Additionally, Feeding America data reports that Buffalo County food insecurity rate is at 12.2%. This is calculated based on the median family income and the subsequent poverty rate. The child food insecurity rate is at an alarming 18.3%. Programing will address Goal 1 and 2 Health and Social/Behavioral Indicators.

RYDE Transit: Statewide Mobility management surveyed the residents of Maxwell, Brady, Cozad, Gothenburg, and Lexington to determine the need for services in North Platte. Based on that survey, the Statewide Mobility Management asked RYDE Transit to start an Inter-City Based Bus service from Lexington to North Platte. Programing will contribute to NPI Goal 1 Outcomes across Multiple Domains, and services in transportation areas.

Senior Centers - The Senior Centers in Minden, Kearney, and North Platte conduct annual customer satisfaction and feedback surveys. We continue to see feedback from clients eating at the Senior Center indicated they would like to see more flexibility in to-go meals. Many retired people are still in the workforce and would like this option included. Programing will address Goal 1 and 2 in the area of Health and Social/ Behavioral Development Indicators.

WIC Woman Infant and Children Program (WIC): WIC's identified gap in services is caseload. Caseload at the National level as well as the State level has declined since 2010. According to the State WIC participation report, Mid served 3810 in 2010 and 3292 in 2017. This is concerning due to our U.S. population increasing. The Census Bureau Project reported the U.S. population in 2010 as being 308.7 million and 326.9 in 2017. In addition the National data shows 53% of all infants born in the US can be supported by the WIC program. Programing will address both NPI goals 1 and 2 under Health and Social/ Behavioral Development Indicators.

IMPLEMENTATION

How do the services Mid Provides impact the gaps or community needs?

Community Services: Rent and utility assistance will prevent evictions that result in a family becoming homeless. Through partnerships we increase the available low cost or free health resources found in our area. We also address hunger needs through pantries that operate in our outlying offices. With Policy Advisory Boards located in outlying areas we make leadership roles available to individuals to make sure the needs of the community are a focus that is addressed.

Early Head Start & Head Start: In addition to addressing school readiness and the educational needs of the students, Head Start provides many opportunities for parents/families to be a part of activities that provide leadership roles, such as policy council and parent committees. Parents who have a child enrolled in the HS 0-5 program are a member of the parent committee for their center and can sign up for individual committees such as the Family

Connections/Group Socialization Committee where parents plan, prepare and implement events. Through volunteering in the program, attending events and participating in parent/staff goal setting and conferences parents have many opportunities to receive information and referrals to assist with economic security, health and leadership.

Health: Administration of immunizations, not only keeps a person healthy but the same time, communities become healthier preventing disease outbreaks.

Housing: The Down-payment and/or Closing Cost Assistance funds will assist a minimum of 15 first-time homebuyers whose incomes are at or below 120% of the area median income with up to \$10,000 in grant funds to purchase a property in Buffalo County, if funded.

Mobile Produce Pantry: The mobile pantries help low-income families' access healthy foods while stretching their food dollars. By diverting funds from food the funds can be put toward other basic needs in the household resulting in a more stable economic security.

RYDE Transit: Several specific sites that will be targeted are Eustis and routes to the west and east to larger cities. Eustis had no public transportation options. RYDE Transit began Serving Eustis in July of 2017. Now buses travel through Eustis every Tuesday on their way to Farnam and Gothenburg. RYDE Transit is also recommending Intercity Bus services to those individuals who need to travel west to Denver or Beyond, and East to Omaha and beyond. Intercity bus services go through the RYDE Transit service daily at approximately 2:30pm and approximately 2:30am.

https://www.nebraskatransit.com/assets/pdf/Intercity_bus_Assessment.pdf
<https://www.nebraskatransit.com/mobility-1.php>

Senior Centers: While struggling with outmigration of population in small communities, seniors will continue to receive nutritious food to aid in maintaining their health, wellbeing, and remain living independently for a longer period of time.

WIC Woman Infant and Children Program (WIC): The purchase of the National WIC Association Recruitment and Retention Campaign was designed as outreach and advertising to increase enrollment of WIC eligible moms, improve perception of the WIC program and retain moms in the WIC program longer. This will result in a larger caseload and more low income families receiving assistance making their home more stable.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS/EVALUATION

All programs are evaluated using the National Performance Indicators which are reviewed by the board. In addition:

Commodity Supplemental Food Program does annual surveys on clients who receive this service. The data and comments are analyzed and suggestions, if reasonable, are implemented.

Community Services: Child Abuse Resource and Education (CARE) uses post surveys for both Happy Bear and Bullying. The teachers do a follow up on the presentation and document the

number of kids who are able to recall the information that is presented. Many of the programs through community services directly relate to the National Permanence Indicators and Outcomes. Staff report monthly on each applicable indicator for the Director to review.

Early Head Start and Head Start: In our center based programs 0-5, we use the Child Observation Record (COR), which is the assessment that goes with our curriculum High Scope. The Child Observation Record assists the teachers in supporting the children at every developmental level including children who are English language learners and those with special needs. The COR is used to plan instruction and monitor progress, measure school readiness, prepare for parent/staff goal setting conferences, design program improvements, aggregate data, and create professional development for staff.

In our home-based programs 0-5, Head Start uses the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP), which is a curriculum-based assessment. With HELP, we utilize Kinder Charts, which is the management reporting system that is used with HELP. The curriculum and reporting system are used for the same purpose as stated above for the COR.

The tools we use focus on the following Domains of School Readiness: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition (includes Mathematics Development and Scientific Reasoning), Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development.

Head Start collects child development outcomes, family engagement outcomes, end of the year surveys, data from parent goals established and the completion of those goals, provides monthly enrollment data to the Office of Head Start, and completes a yearly Program Information Report. Managers visit their assigned centers monthly, monitor their centers in depth in the fall and spring, and track completion of paperwork weekly.

Housing: An assessment used is the Nebraska Energy Office Utility Consumption Evaluation. This is completed annually to document the energy savings achieved as a result of the WAP.

Health - Immunization: Effectiveness of the program can be checked on the compliancy rates through NE DHHS Afix reporting. To ensure that clients receiving the services are the targeted population questions are asked verifying if the individual does fall under the categories of Medicaid, No Insurance, Underinsured or American Indian/Alaskan Native then the parent or guardian signs the form attesting that yes they do qualify.

Minden, North Platte and Kearney (Peterson) Senior Centers: Effectiveness is measured by Area of Aging annual reviews, stakeholder and funder surveys, data reviews, and customer satisfaction surveys.

Mobile Produce Pantries: Effectiveness is measured in part through the number of participants per clinic, which steadily grows. An example of growth would be the first Kearney mobile reaching 158 households followed by the second mobile serving 208 households. This shows an increase of 32%. Elm Creek's first mobile was 89 participants and their third mobile served 109 showing a growth of 22%. Clients give positive verbal affirmation that the program is effective and very much needed. A survey was completed at one mobile, in Pleasanton, showed 61 participants out of 61 found savings on their grocery bill that they could spend on other bills. 60

out of 61 stated that the mobile produce helps them to eat healthier. 60 out of 61 reported to having more food choices after attending the mobiles.

Senior Companion Volunteer Program: Annual surveys are completed by the recipients of Companion services. Annual performance reviews are completed with the Senior Companions providing services.

WIC: The effectiveness of the dental treatment has been studied and proven by the American Dental Association and by proxy, would benefit the family members who receive the treatment with reversing decay, improved development of permanent teeth, and speeding the re-mineralizing of teeth. The new enrollment and retention focus will result in an increase in caseload and retention of families.

What innovative community based and/or neighborhood-based initiatives has the agency implemented in the last two years (FY2017 and FY2018)?

Mobile Produce Pantry: According to the *2016 Community Action of Nebraska State and Regional Report*, 1 in 3 individuals reported issues with affording utilities, food, and clothing. Additionally, Feeding America data reports that Buffalo County food insecurity rate is at 12.2%. This is calculated based on the median family income and the subsequent poverty rate. The child food insecurity rate is at an alarming 18.3%. Programing will address Goal 1 and 2 Health and Social/Behavioral Indicators. The Mobile Produce Pantries serve primarily Buffalo County to help address this food security gap.

Partners include:

- Community Based: Walmart Foundation grant provided funds for salaries; Kearney Area Community Foundation, Cope Foundation
- Black Hills Energy provides volunteers to help at the mobiles.
- Public Schools provide a venue and volunteers.
- Local and County Governments: Area townships provide community halls, utility buildings, fairgrounds and fire halls for venues.
- CHS.Inc (a farmer owned co-op) provides funds for operation and food purchases.
- Local grocery stores and one coffee house provide food rescue items
- Charitable Based: Feeding America and the Food Bank for the Heartland in Omaha
- Civic: Gibbon American Legion provides a venue.
- Faith Based: Churches provide some donations, publicity and volunteers.

How do the initiatives relate to the community needs assessment for the area?

According to the *2016 Community Action of Nebraska State and Regional Report*, 1 in 3 individuals reported issues with affording utilities, food, and clothing. Additionally, Feeding America data reports that Buffalo County food insecurity rate is at 12.2%. This is calculated based on the median family income and the subsequent poverty rate. The child food insecurity rate is at an alarming 18.3%. Programing will address Goal 1 and 2 Health and Social/Behavioral

Indicators. The Mobile Produce Pantries serve primarily Buffalo County to help address this food security gap.

What programs were eliminated in FY2018 and will not be part of your FY2019 activities. Why?

The Affordable Care Act Navigator Program ended for the agency as we dispersed all of our contractual funding in January of 2018.

What new programs do you plan to institute in FY2019? Why and what quantitative or qualitative data did you use to make the determination to add new programs?

We will expand our NHAP Program with an additional staff person for our south west counties. The quantitative data continues to be the number of individuals that are on the Most Vulnerable Review Team (MVRT) calls on a weekly basis, especially in the North Platte area. Due to the Connection Homeless Shelter being one of two shelters located in the western half of the state the number of occupants continues to remain high even with placements occurring. Seeing the amount of funds expended and the waitlist seeming to never end resulted in a focus of assistance at this area with additional staff to assist with the HUD process of permanent housing placements.

We will begin the SOAR program starting in July covering our entire service area. In addition of the NHAP needs, we see a large number of individuals who are homeless and have a severe mental illness and in need of applying for Social Security. With no program or individual in the Mid region providing this service Mid was able to add a staff to focus on this underserved need.

We hope to continue expanding our Mobile Produce Pantries in Kearney and Phelps Counties based on community feedback, our survey assessments, and Census data in regards to food security concerns, especially among children, in our counties