



Agenda

City Council Work Session Meeting
Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa
5:30 PM

August 28, 2023
Oelwein, Iowa

Mayor: Brett DeVore

Mayor Pro Tem: Lynda Payne

Council Members: Karen Seeders, Tom Stewart, Matt Weber, Dave Garrigus, Dave Lenz

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

- [1.](#) Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) Presentation.

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation



Presented by Trisha Wilkins

Mission & Vision



Through dynamic partnerships, quality family services, advocacy, and education, NEICAC advances community development and improves social and economic conditions for individuals and families with limited resources.



NEICAC's vision is to create inclusive communities with equitable access to resources and opportunities where all individuals and families thrive.

The Heart of Our Work



America was built on the promise that every family should have opportunity for success. Whether our neighbors are experiencing a temporary setback or face a continuous challenge to meet their basic needs – too many struggle to achieve a good quality of life. On a national level, nearly 40 million people are still living in poverty, and even more are just one missed paycheck away from hardship. We believe everyone should be able to take care of their families and have an equal opportunity at success. Community Action Agencies serve 99% of all American counties with life-changing services to help families achieve stability. All agencies are locally controlled and represented by the private, public and low-income sectors of the community.



Who Are We?



Office Locations



NEICAC provides the support and resources to improve the stability and quality of life for individuals and families with limited resources.

The organization began in 1965 and continues today to serve the northeast Iowa counties of Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek.

We assist those who need it the most. Our work enables individuals and families in Northeast Iowa to live, work, and contribute to their communities.

Crisis Program & Food Pantries

- ➔ Operated out of NEICAC's Family Services Outreach Offices
- ➔ Food Pantries –Bremer, Howard, Winneshiek
- ➔ Direct Assistance through the Crisis Program may be available for:
 - ➔ Past-due or disconnected utility
 - ➔ Past-due rent or mortgage
 - ➔ Vehicle repairs
 - ➔ Emergency medical, dental, or mental health services
 - ➔ Transportation
 - ➔ Emergency Shelter
 - ➔ Assistance gaining or maintaining internet or phone service

Referrals to
other
community
partners

Payments go
directly to
vendors

Current
eligibility
guidelines are at
200% of the FPL

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- ➔ Designed to aid qualifying low-income households with a supplemental payment of a portion of residential heating costs for the winter heating season
- ➔ Encourages regular utility payments and promotes energy awareness reduction
- ➔ Eligible households may also receive financial assistance with a past due heat and/or electric account and repair or replacement of a nonworking heating system

Eligibility is currently 200% of FPL

Visit our website to find office hours and locations!

Clients can apply online!

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- ➔ Provides assistance with past due water bills to avoid a disconnect from drinking water and wastewater
- ➔ Households can receive assistance twice per year (10/1 - 9/30)
- ➔ Eligibility guidelines are the same as LIHEAP

**YouTube
LIHWAP Iowa
Spotlight to
check out a
video that
highlights this
program.**

**Partnered with
city water
vendors.**

**Cannot assist with
deposit of a new water
service, repair of water
equipment, or digging
a private well.**

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- ➔ Helps to improve housing safety, comfort, and affordability to eligible households
- ➔ Services include a cost effectiveness energy audit, air leakage checks, insulation, and all combustion appliances inspection for repair and/or replacement
- ➔ All households who apply for LIHEAP are automatically placed on a waitlist for Weatherization services

Far more applications for LIHEAP than funding to weatherize homes

Priority based on energy usage and needs of individuals residing in the home

4,000+ LIHEAP applications & around 115 homes weatherized per year

Housing

➔ NEICAC's housing program provides safe and affordable housing to seniors, individuals with disabilities, and individuals and families with limited resources



Our housing application can be found on our website or requested from housing@neicac.org

➔ Own and manage rental apartments, duplexes, and single-family homes throughout northeast Iowa



Head Start & Early Head Start

- ➔ Head Start and Early Head Start promote school readiness of children and teach parents that they are their child's first and most important teacher
- ➔ Early Head Start | Home Visiting Services are offered in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties for pregnant women and families with children 0-3 years old
- ➔ Head Start | Child Development-Classrooms (Preschool programming) for 3-5-year-old children are located in all seven of the counties we serve



**Both services are
100% free to eligible
households!**



Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- ➔ The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- ➔ Registered childcare providers in our seven-county service area are eligible for this program that:
 - ➔ Provides financial support for offering nutritious meals and snacks for children in childcare settings
 - ➔ Provides educational resources and training to expand the knowledge of good nutrition and childcare

Significantly decreases the financial burden of operating childcare



Allows registered childcare providers access to money that they would not have access to until tax time

Family Development & Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)

- ➔ FaDSS engages families in dynamic partnerships to address their basic needs, improve child well-being, and develop career opportunities that, in turn, improves lives, families, and communities
- ➔ Family Development Specialists do this by:
 - ➔ Reducing sources of stress that destabilize families
 - ➔ Strengthening core skills that are essential for work, school, and life
 - ➔ Creating responsive relationships that are safe and supportive

Structured Home Visits
Assessment Tools

Goal Pursuit
Career Development

Referrals to stabilizing supports
Advocacy

EARL Public Transit

- ➔ Promotes community development with safe and reliable transportation for the public
- ➔ All rides are open to the general public, including persons with disabilities
- ➔ Provides rides for work, appointments, getting groceries, running errands, etc



**Vehicles are
ADA compliant
and wheelchair
accessible**

**Door-to-door service
in Allamakee,
Clayton, Fayette,
Howard, and
Winneshiek counties**

NEICAC Offices



Administrative Office & Winneshiek County Family Services

305 Montgomery St.
Decorah, IA 52101
563-382-8436

Allamakee County Family Services

955 3rd Avenue NW
Waukon, IA 52172
563-568-4224

134 West Greene St
Postville, IA 52162
563-380-2780

Bremer County Family Services

117 West Bremer Avenue
Waverly, IA 50677
319-352-4532

Chickasaw County Family Services

2275 South Linn Avenue
New Hampton, IA 50659
563-379-8761

Howard County Family Services

204 2nd Avenue East
Cresco, IA 52136
563-547-4413

Fayette County Family Services

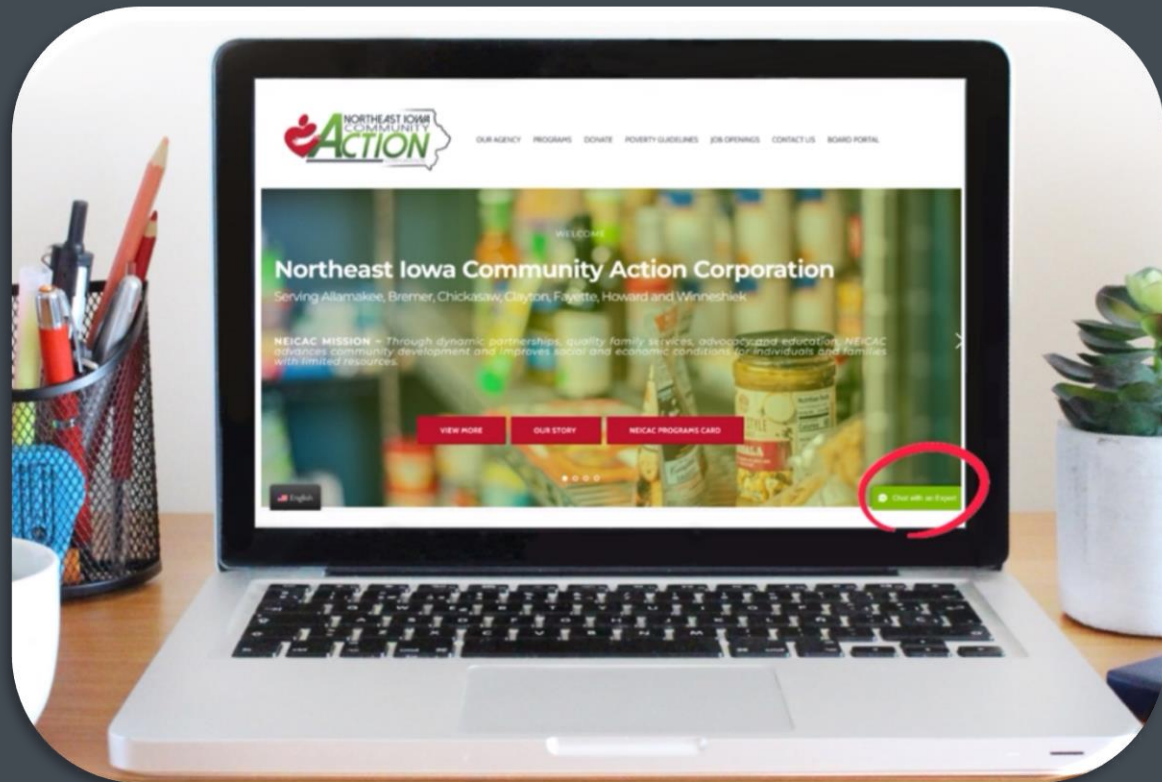
297 5th Avenue SW
Oelwein, IA 50662
319-283-2510
114 N Vine St (basement of courthouse)
West Union, IA 52175
563-422-3354

Clayton County Family Services

600 Gunder Road Northeast
Suite 11
Elkader, IA 52403
563-245-2452
514 South River Park Drive
Guttenberg, IA 52052
563-380-3728



NEICAC HELPER BOT



➔ Provides Opportunity to communicate directly with an NEICAC staff member who can assist with bill help and other NEICAC programs and services.

www.neicac.org

“Huggy Heart” can be found in the lower right corner on green box titled “Chat with an Expert”



NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

Knowledge Article Topics:

- Bill Help
- Early Childhood Education & Childcare Services
- Food Assistance
- Housing Services
- Transportation Resources


If you don't find what you're looking for in the knowledge articles, you can request to communicate directly with an NEICAC staff person who can assist.

“Huggy Heart”, NEICAC’s Helper Bot, can be found in the lower right corner of every page of our website when clicking on the green “Chat with an Expert” box.

Chat with an Expert



10/1/2021-09/30/2022 Community Services Block Grant Program Year in Review



10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022

Demographics

City of Oelwein – PROJECTS & SERVICES

AGE

689 MALES
761 FEMALES

193 Ages 0 to 5
374 Ages 6 to 17
451 Ages 18-44
112 Ages 45-54
320 Ages 55+

RACE

7 American Indian or Alaskan Native
6 Asian
51 Black or African American
3 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
1263 White
29 Other
89 Multi-race

WORK STATUS

154 Employed Full-Time
114 Employed Part-Time
468 Unemployed
135 Retired

Program	Households Served	Total Assistance
Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)	55	\$31,864
Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) - ARPA	504	\$427,644
Vendor Negotiation	158	
Vendor Negotiation - ARPA	168	
Crisis Assistance (Utility, Rent & Other Emergency)	272	\$60,961
Weatherization (WAP)	14	\$161,567
Energy Crisis Assistance	150	\$145,432
Energy Crisis Assistance - ARPA	169	\$177,254
Family Development & Self Sufficiency (FaDSS) - Case Mgmt.	9	
Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)	127	\$54,027
General Relief/Assistance	3	\$3,000
Head Start & Early Head Start	43	
Embrace Iowa/Amerigroup Bed Grant	6	\$3,582
Iowa Disaster Case Management & Individual Grant Program	1	\$1,000
Special Projects (holiday food/gifts and personal care)	47	
Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program	2	\$6,560
Referrals	366	
TOTAL		\$1,072,891

6 Lease Purchase Homes,
1 Single Family Rental & 3 NSP Homes/Rental
Built in Fayette County
Total Assessed Values of \$1,707,040

7,892 Transit Rides
In Fayette County



Let's Stay In Touch!



Trisha Wilkins,
Chief Executive Officer
twilkins@neicac.org



Karli Schmelzer,
Operations & Development Director
kschmelzer@neicac.org

Follow our social media platforms to have more agency news and information at your fingertips!



Snapchat:
neicac_65



Facebook:
NEICAC Decorah



Instagram:
@northeastiowacomunityaction

Visit our website to learn more and
subscribe to our newsletter: <https://www.neicac.org>