

# Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation



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Presented by Trisha Wilkins

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# 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

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



Our housing application can be found on our website or requested from [housing@neicac.org](mailto:housing@neicac.org)



# 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**

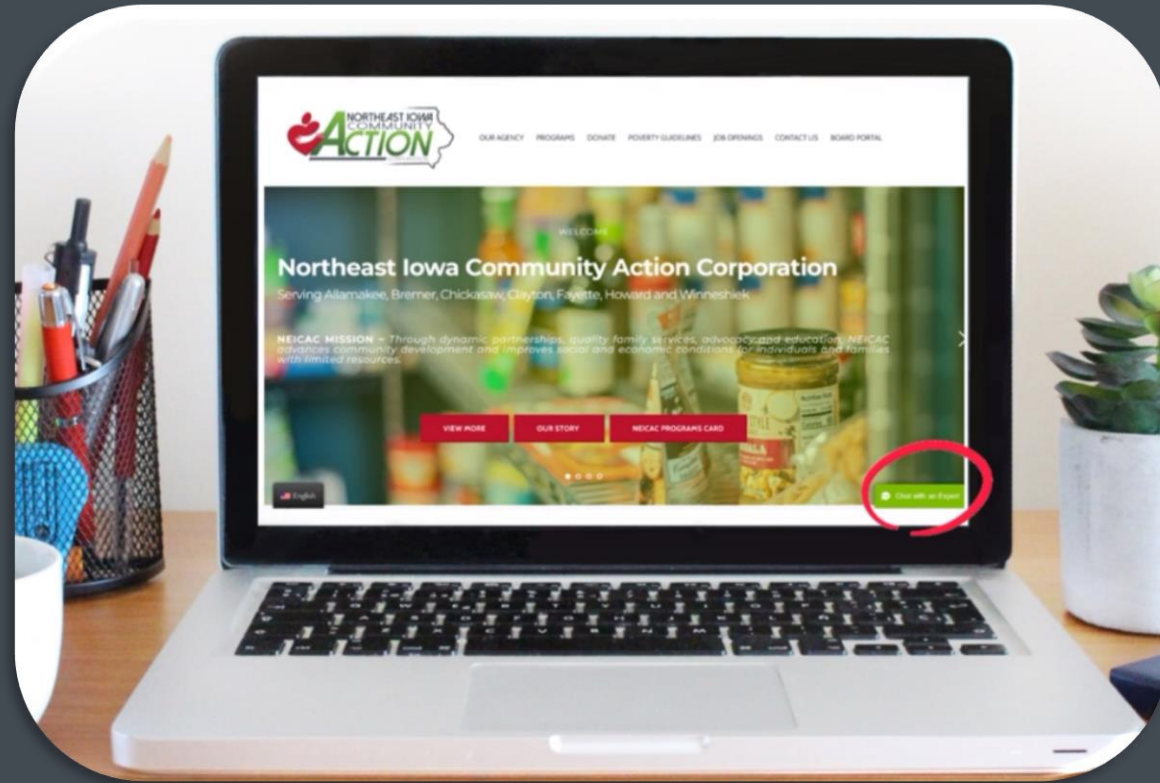
297 5th Avenue SW  
Oelwein, IA 50662  
319-283-2510  
114 N Vine St (basement of courthouse)  
West Union, IA 52175  
563-422-3354

## **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](http://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

<b>AGE</b>	<b>RACE</b>	<b>WORK STATUS</b>
689 MALES	7 American Indian or Alaskan Native	154 Employed Full-Time
761 FEMALES	6 Asian	114 Employed Part-Time
193 Ages 0 to 5	51 Black or African American	468 Unemployed
374 Ages 6 to 17	3 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	135 Retired
451 Ages 18-44	1263 White	
112 Ages 45-54	29 Other	
320 Ages 55+	89 Multi-race	

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	

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

**TOTAL**  
\$1,072,891





# Let's Stay In Touch!



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**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>