

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE THROUGH ARPA

STRATEGIZING NEED & IMPACT

July 26th, 1pm - 2:30pm

Hosted by Nonprofit Association of the Midlands



This discussion is being recorded.

Please change your Zoom screen name to the name you used to register.
This will help with small group breakouts.

Agenda

- **Welcome** - Anne Hindery, CEO of Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
- **Understanding ARPA** - Renee Fry, CEO OpenSky Policy Institute
- **Setting the Stage** - Beth Morrisette, CEO of Parlay Consulting Firm
- **Small Group Brainstorming** - Transformational ideas
- **Going Forward** - Anne Hindery

Welcome (Anne Hindery)

Who is here today?

AARP	First Lady of Nebraska	Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations	Peter Kiewit Foundation
American Communications Group, Inc	Food Bank for the Heartland	Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors	Ponca Economic Development Corporation
American Red Cross	Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.	Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Project Harmony
Asian Community & Cultural Center	Friendship Home	Nebraska Children & Family Foundation	Project Houseworks
Autism Center of Nebraska	GESU Housing	Nebraska Children's Home Society	Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha
Ay Spivey	Goodwill Omaha	Nebraska CASA Association	Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc
Bethlehem House	Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln	Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative	Senator Cavanaugh
BHECN	Habitat for Humanity of Omaha	Nebraska Family Helpline	Senator Clements
BKD	Hall County Community Collaborative, Inc	Nebraska Family Planning	Senator DeBoer
Buffalo County Community Partners	Heartland Family Service	Nebraska Housing Developers Association	Senator Dorn
Buffett Early Childhood Fund	Heartland United Way	Nebraska Medical Association	Senator Hunt
Center for Rural Affairs	Houses of Hope of Nebraska, Inc.	Nebraska Medicine	Senator McDonnell
CHI Health	Housing Foundation for Sarpy County	Nebraska Recycling Council	Senator Pansing Brooks
Children's Hospital & Medical Center	HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults	Nebraska State AFL-CIO	Senator Wishart
Child Saving Institute	Institute for Public Leadership	Nebraska State Legislature	Seventy-Five North Revitalization Corp.
City Sprouts	J&J Real Estate Investment & Property Management Group	NeighborWorks Home Solutions	Sheltering Tree, Inc.
CNEDD	Kids Can Community Center	NEMA	Siena Francis House

Coalition for a Strong Nebraska	Learning Community Foundation of Douglas & Sarpy Counties	New Beginnings Transitional Living Homes, LLC	St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services for Women
Community Alliance	Legal Aid of Nebraska	New Life Family Alliance	The Connection Homeless Shelter, Inc.
CUES Fund	Liberty Center Services	No More Empty Pots	ThriVinci Consulting Group
Descendants of DeWitty, NE	Lift Up Sarpy County	North Platte Public Schools Foundation	Together
DHHS	Lincoln - Lancaster County Health Department	NOVA Treatment Community	Two Rivers Public Health Department
Douglas County Drug Court	Lisa Sock + Associates	Omaha by Design	University of Nebraska Lincoln
Education Rights Counsel	Lutheran Family Services	Omaha Community Foundation	Valentine Children & Families Coalition
enCourage Advocacy Center	MDBMSC	Omaha Housing Authority	Veridian Credit Union
Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska	Millard Public Schools Foundation	Omaha Sports Commission	Voice Advocacy Center
Fashion Arts Collective	Mutual of Omaha	Omaha STEM Ecosystem	Willard Community Center
Family Housing Advisory Services	Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers	OpenSky Policy Institute	Women's Center for Advancement
First Five Nebraska	Nebraska Appleseed	Panhandle Partnership	YMCA of Hastings, NE
Gothenburg Early Childhood Learning Coalition	Boys Town	Partners for Otoe County	Sparkpositivity
Center for People in Need	InCOMMON Community Development	Omaha Sister Cities Association	Scotts Bluff County
Completely KIDS	Compassion in Action Inc.	Twin Cities Development Association, Inc.	Northeast Nemaha County Long-Term Recovery Group
Fremont Family Coalition	Santa Monica, Inc	ForUs Omaha LGBTQ+ Center	

Understanding ARPA (Renee Fry)

See separate document for the powerpoint slides shared during this session.

Setting the Stage (Beth Morrisette)

Session One - TODAY - Brainstorming Transformational Ideas

Session Two - August 3rd, 9am -10:30am - Reflection, clarifying, expanding

Session Three - August 11th, 11am - 12:30pm - Final narrowing / prioritizing ideas and identifying who would like to help share at legislative hearing in October the groups ideas.

Small Group Understanding

- Be fully present
- Participate with an open mind and a willingness to consider different perspectives
- Listen for understanding
- Be mindful of your airtime; make space for multiple voice
- Have grace for yourself and others
- Please keep your cameras on! Give grace if not on, there may be a great reason!

Brainstorming

Facilitator, Notetaker & Small Group Presenter Instructions

- Click on the link for the group next to your name.
- Please have the Facilitator share their screen in the small group
- Begin with a small group presentation about ARPA Funding and your topic.
- Use the question prompts to engage the group in discussion.
- Please ensure all voices have the opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts.
- Take notes about the discussion in the box below each question.

You will have until 2:25pm.

Participants were split into one of five small groups to discuss and share their ideas on specific topics. When participants registered they signed up for their top choices for small groups. Small group topic choices were: Early Childhood, Food, Health, Housing and Workforce. A few participants changed their small group assignment during this activity.

Each small group had a facilitator, a notetaker and a small group presenter with the exception of workforce. They did not have a small group presenter. Small group presenters provided additional information about ARPA related to their specific topic.

Early Childhood

FACILITATOR | **Valerie Calderon** NOTETAKER | **Aubri Faustman**
 SMALL GROUP PRESENTER(S) | **Nick Brotzel / Aubrey Mancuso**

Please note the names listed below were individuals who signed up to attend the Roundtable. Attendance was not confirmed for who attended which small group attendance.

Alexandra Stewart Veridian Credit Union	Janelle Soderling Willard Community Center	Lorraine Chang The Learning Community Foundation of Douglas & Sarpy Counties	Robert Patterson Kids Can Community Center
Amy Vajgart Friendship Home	Janet Anderson Senator Myron Dorn	Marian Fey Millard Public Schools Foundation	Shannon Cotsoradis Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative
Aubrianna Faustman American Communications Group, Inc.	Jessie Rasmussen Buffett Early Childhood Fund	Michelle Toukan Buffalo County Community Partners	Jennifer Thielen Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Corrie Kielty Nebraska CASA Association	Johanna Pesante-Daniel Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Nicole Hertz Gothenburg Early Childhood Learning Coalition	Sonia Coates Valentine Children & Families Coalition
Deb Anderson Project Harmony	Julie Sigmon Omaha STEM Ecosystem	Nicole Paul Project Harmony	Teri Rheinheimer Sparkpositivity
Elizabeth Everett First Five Nebraska	Kimberly Barnes Women's Center for Advancement	Nikki Roseberry Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	TJ Ernst Bethlehem House
Gladys Haynes Buffett Early Childhood Fund	Lauren Vargas Education Rights Counsel	Peg Harriott Child Saving Institute	Troy Stickels YMCA of Hastings, Nebraska
	Lisa Sock Lisa Sock + Associates	Portia Kennel Buffett Early Childhood Fund	Valerie Calderon Parlay Consulting Firm

Child Care Funding in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Aubrey Mancuso, Voices for Children in Nebraska
Nick Brotzel, Children's Respite Care Center (CRCC)

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Funding for States

- **Total Funding Available: \$14.990 Billion**
- **Nebraska Share of Funding: \$89,466,898**
- **Legislative Directed Spending**
- CCDBG dollars can be used to support Nebraska's existing Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, with new pandemic-related flexibilities.
- The Legislature appropriated ~\$63 million to fund LB485 a measure to expand eligibility in the State Child Care Subsidy Program to 185% FPL. The intention is to utilize ARPA funds to cover the costs of expanded eligibility. Expanded eligibility sunsets at the end of fiscal year 2023-24.
- New funds must be liquidated by September 30, 2024

Child Care Stabilization Funding for States

- **Total Funding Available: \$23.975 Billion**
- **Nebraska Share of Funding: \$143,093,322**
- Child Care Stabilization dollars are to be awarded to child care providers via a lead state agency. These sub grants can be made to all licensed providers regardless of whether they are paid with child care subsidies or receive other federal assistance.
- Providers must use sub grant money for any or all of the following:
 - Personnel costs
 - Rent under a lease and other facility-related payments
 - PPE, cleaning supplies, or training and professional development related to health/safety practices
 - Equipment and supplies needed during COVID-19
 - Activities necessary to maintain or resume care
 - Mental health supports
 - Reimbursing providers for costs already incurred during the pandemic that meet these requirements
- States may also dedicate funding to administrative, technical assistance, outreach, and supply-building activities, though states can reserve not more than 10% of their allocation for this purpose.
- Funds must be liquidated by September 30, 2023

1. What do we know specifically for Early Childhood ARPA guidelines? (presented by Nick Brotzel & Aubrey Mancuso from Voices for Children) (8 minutes)

- Overview on presentation slides above; Goal is to build out recommendations for the state (legislature and Governor) to consider.

2. Questions of clarification or additions by participants?

- To what extent is there coordination between state/cities/counties in distribution of funds? Nick commented some of the foundational ideas we discuss today can also be taken to cities/counties; regarding timing, cities/counties likely will distribute funds before the legislature makes their decisions.
- [Need] for clarification on child care center sizes and if there are limitations on funding consideration.
- The general guidance offered by the Dept. of Treasury is just that, general guidance. The state will have wide latitude on how to use these funds.

3. We know people of color were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, how do we see this for Early Childhood specifically?

- Child care closures and if there are stats on minority owned centers that didn't make it and/or how we can help those centers keep doors open; [This] points to the childcare stabilization fund and the ask of states to give extra consideration to child care providers hit especially hard by the pandemic and/or in underserved communities. The funds are there, now the state has to get the funds to those in need.
- Small providers seeing a lingering impact from the pandemic
- Home care providers also need to have this on their radar and not sure they do; look at looping in home care providers to the conversation
- Followup comments to chat box; have to get the authentic voices of those most impacted at the table; look at equitable, not equal, but equitable distribution across the state; who should be at the table that isn't right now?

- Trying to connect with these providers during the day is not realistic since they are caring for the children
- Keep in mind the “messengers” to these providers; they need to be trusted programs and agencies they are already familiar with and comfortable with.

4. Politics aside, what are the major problems and/or issues that are preventing Nebraska from being a leader in this Early Childhood?

- Child care is unaffordable for many families; copays are a huge obstacle
- Workforce; the pandemic put even greater stress on the workforce
- We know centers have closed b/c of lack of adequate staff; families on subsidy are facing obstacles; would like to see mental health be considered to help with long term effects on the workforce
- Seeing the tremendous stress families are under; we need to mobilize and go into the communities and ask families, what do you need?
- The mental health impact of the pandemic on our young learners has seen an uptick; school based clinics were no longer available when the schools closed; how can our recommendations link up with our small groups on this, like the health care group; marry ideas and recommendations
- Issue schools are facing with the new proposed curriculum and CRT; possible facing a large number of children being pulled from school, homeschooled, and that includes pulling from child care
- Very interested in how we can directly subsidize and help parents take care of their kids; even diapers and formula; how can we help parents make ends meet

a. What outcomes and/or impact MUST we achieve in Early Childhood for this generation and the next?

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5. Keeping in mind the problems created due to the pandemic for early childhood....

If you can make one transformational change, without thinking about money, that would change the outcomes for the next generation when it comes to Early Childhood, what would you do?

- Broadband technology issues; transformation for so many reasons to have equal services in rural/urban communities
- Recreational therapy supports and how we can strengthen the system, in person or telehealth
- Infrastructure, hardware, software, support/training on technology
- Involve employers to support needs
- Workplace flexibility on attendance and absences
- Share ideas w/city leaders and bring Early Childhood to the fore of conversation
- Data and data infrastructure/systems
- Increase subsidy to 200% of poverty level; eliminate co-pays
- Training and support for family child care educators

6. Based on what you know about ARPA and our conversation today, what ideas or suggestions do you have that we should consider for recommendations to local and/or state entities for Early Childhood?

- Expanding subsidy eligibility and Senator Day’s LB 68 (program to pay providers based on enrollment

instead of attendance)

- How will workforce and training opportunities flow together?
- How do we involve Higher Ed in prepping early childhood educators/expanding a more diverse provider workforce
- Ensure we invite participants whose voices should be heard to inform the ways funds are distributed
- Partner w/the Workforce workgroup
- Reflect/include the childcare needs of those with children w/special needs

Notes from Zoom chat:

- I am interested in how these funds will be used to address those most affected by the pandemic. These systems of care are often not included in the formal planning processes like this one today,
- I would like to see disaggregated data by race, ethnicity and zip code. How do we get the funds equitably distributed in Nebraska
- Having the data on disproportionate impact will be key!
- As I'm sure many or all of us know this issue is impacted on both sides, child care providers are struggling to stay open, but parents are also struggling to find care that meets their needs and paying for those services. So on the parent side of the coin, I am wondering about parents who are on subsidy but have a family fee that they were unable to pay during the pandemic and are now unable to have their children in care because they are too far behind on their payments.
- Parent copays are an issue and so is access to quality programs
- Agree workforce
- subsidy payments
- Buffett also reported data in the last year or 2 about the aging workforce in childcare, especially in child care homes. The pandemic led to retirement for some older providers and could continue to be an issue over the next several years.
- Not sure if it goes here, but increased illness/absent subsidy payments over the next year. With the rising of variants, we anticipate more classroom closures and expenses will continue on without incoming revenue.
- The pandemic was a traumatic experience of children, families, providers, and the community. The challenge is how to provide the mental health and emotional support WHILE RECOGNIZING the Resilience that many families and providers have shown. I think we need these services but MH providers should build from a position of strength base assessments and approach
- There are some communities that are doing "community baby showers" for expectant mothers who do not have the support system to help them get those items. This makes me wonder, are there programs that have already been successful in some communities that could be broadened to a larger scale.
- We need to think of "early childhood" to include birth to age 8.
- Appropriate compensation and benefits for child care providers to stabilize the workforce. 40% of our child care providers currently qualify for public assistance. Providers who are stressed will not be able to provide high quality care.
- Wide access to transportation so parents can get to both childcare and their job. This would include all areas of the city.
- compensation + benefits - agree!
- Business training and technology, particularly for family child care educators, so they can recover from the current crisis and weather the next one.
- Employers as part of this conversation - especially as their employees may be returning one or two days a week, five-day traditional childcare is likely not a fit any more.

- Permanently increase the subsidy threshold to 200% of poverty level and eliminate co-pays for families
- I have heard from several employers that want to engage to support their employees around child care but they aren't sure what to do.
- In addition to broadband support, many families also need the device on which to use it. It is hard to access resources (applications, lessons, etc.) using only your phone and may be expensive.
- we also need to improve our early childhood data systems to make sure we have the right information
- Costs for software too
- Data infrastructure is desperately needed
- Families also need some education in the area of technology. How to help their children.
- We need more flexibility as it relates to attendance and absences. Providers need flexibility especially in the age of Covid
- Add that to my subsidy dream list :-)
- There hasn't been any discussion about the child care needs of families who have children with special needs and they were impacted by the pandemic.
- I have big dream which is that subsidies with to a Grant
- Partnering with the Workforce subgroup will be key as workforce and early child care are intertwined. We can't lift up the ECC workforce in a silo, nor can we ignore the role wages, hours, etc play for parents ability to obtain quality child care.
- Could we have a process to invite other participants whose voices should be heard? Not to add 100 people but it would be great to have more diverse opinions and thoughts on how to distribute and spend the ARPA funds
- How do we involve higher ed (colleges and universities) in preparing early childhood educators and expanding a more diverse provider workforce?

Food

FACILITATOR | **Liz Codina** NOTETAKER | **Akia Sparkman**
 SMALL GROUP PRESENTER(S) | **Zach Nelson / Chris Schroeder**

Please note the names listed below were individuals who signed up to attend the Roundtable. Attendance was not confirmed for who attended which small group attendance.

Andrew Brown University of Nebraska Lincoln	Carole Boye Community Alliance	Kate Swinarski No more Empty Pots	Senator Machaela Cavanaugh Nebraska Legislature	Rochelle Golliday Nebraska Legislature
Angela Adkins-Miller Food Bank of Lincoln	Chris Schoeder NEMA	Katie Kresha City Sprouts	Senator Megan Hunt Nebraska Legislature	Steve Sheridan Center for People in Need
Anne Hindery Nonprofit Association of the Midlands	Christine Funk Center for People in Need	Katie Pitts Nebraska Appleseed	Michael Jefferson J&J Real Estate Investment & Property Management Group	Suzanne Shore First Lady of Nebraska
Akia Sparkman Nonprofit Association of the Midlands	Denise Scales Descendants of DeWitty, NE	Kellie Harry Mutual of Omaha	Milo Mumgaard Legal Aid of Nebraska	Tanya Gifford Lift Up Sarpy County
Autumn Taddicker Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc.	Emily Kluver DHHS	Laurie Ponce Coalition for a Strong Nebraska	Nathan Beacom Center for Rural Affairs	Terri Burchell North Platte Public School Foundation
Brenda Weyers Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Eric Garcia-Mendez Heartland United Way	Lisa Chaney Partners for Otoe County	Nancy Williams No More Empty Pots	Senator Tom Brandt Nebraska Legislature
Brian Barks Food Bank of the Heartland	Faith Mills Panhandle Partnership	Liz Codina Peter Kiewit Foundation	Nyomi Thompson OpenSky Policy Institute	
Carla Kimball CNEDD	Julie Garman Parlay Consulting Firm			

ARPA Food Security Update: \$11B in USDA Allocations

Allocated or Announced by USDA in March 2021:

- \$6.295B: Additional CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) payments, applications still open.
- \$200M: Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters & Haulers Program (PATHH), applications open through Oct 15.
- \$700M: Biofuel producers.
- \$400M: Dairy Donation Program.
- \$580M: Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage.
- \$700M: Pandemic Response and Safety Grants.
- \$20M: Cost share assistance for organic producers (or those transitioning to organic).
- \$35M: Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program.
- Additional support for producers, growers left out of previous rounds of assistance.

Allocated or Announced since March 2021:

- \$170M: Specialty Crop Block Grants.
- \$75M: Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.
- \$37.5M: Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.
- \$80M: Payments to Domestic Users of Cotton.
- \$92.2M: Local Agriculture Market Program.
- \$20M: Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP).
- \$50M: Assistance for small hog producers that negotiate prices or utilize the spot market.
- \$12M: FY2021 Farm to School Grants. [NE Dept. of Ed. Receiving \$25k]
- Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) – Applications open through Sept 17.

ARPA Food Security Update

[USDA Announces Additional Aid to Ag Producers and Businesses in Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative Funding Programs for Farmers | Farmers.gov](#)
[USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program -- https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap)
[USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers -- https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance](https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance)
[USDA Farm Service Agency local office locator -- https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator)

Nebraska Food Security Task Force

- Weekly updates every Monday with information, funding opportunities, local needs from partners.
 - Examples: last-mile food delivery capacity and services; summer food resources; farm to school & school food staff support; fundraisers; volunteer needs; back to school drives; resources and updates from other areas (housing assistance, mental health services, etc.).
- Meetings every other Wednesday via video conference.
- To get involved, learn more, or sign up for the weekly email updates, contact Chris:
chris.Schroeder@nebraska.gov
402.480.9087

1. What do we know specifically for Food ARPA guidelines? (presented by Zach Nelson & Chris Schroeder) (8 minutes)

- Information provided above

2. Questions or clarification or additions by participants?

- Want to know more about farm to school legislation

3. We know people of color were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, how do we see this for Food specifically?

- Do we have data that shows that
- [Our] organization partners with Wakonda to distribute food to the youth. She would like to continue this partnership. Stated that the need is great, because the line for food was around the corner. They often run out of food due to the growing number of people. It is no longer low-income families getting food, but also middle-class families needing additional supplements. Also, working class families and single- family households.
- Doesn't have client data tracking. Exposed the food insecurity problem and exacerbated it. Distributed over 3 million meals since last March. Food distribution levels have dropped slightly. Believes that we will be doing this work for the next several years. Inflation is a barrier, as the increase rises. As well as an increase in fuel costs.
- Saw an increase in fresh food needs. Created farmers to family food boxes program. Concerned about the stability of the programs as needs/demands continue to be high
- CARES Act funds were beneficial and utilized
- CARES Act funds allowed No More Empty Pots to do additional things. However, no longer having the funds made the organization shift their focus. They no longer can serve the same number, and had to decrease the number of participants after March
- 91% increase in families. Food distribution had to be moved outside the building. Concern is how can they get better food?

4. Politics aside, what are the major problems and/or issues that are preventing Nebraska from being a leader in this Food?

- Transportation. Often family members are sharing one care. They are unable to get to locations due to the hours. Works to get mobile food pantry to families by coordinating pickup times. (Currently feeding a couple hundred a week). Food supplements were not enough, and had to supplement with Walmart gift cards
- A challenge getting culturally appropriate food

5. What outcomes and/or impact MUST we achieve in Food for this generation and the next?

- Teaching families how to better utilize the food in the boxes. Provided coaching in addition to food distribution.
- Saw collaboration to help reduce food waste by creating markets for that food

6. Keeping in mind the problems created due to the pandemic for Food.

If you can make one transformational change, without thinking about money, that would change the outcomes for the next generation when it comes to Food, what would you do?

- Switching the narrative, so that it can be about valuing food.
- More community farming/gardening in schools
- Importance of local food production. Larger urban farm presence

7. Based on what you know about ARPA and our conversation today, what ideas or suggestions do you have that we should consider for recommendations to local and/or state entities for Food?

- Find a balance between feeding the line and shortening it. What can we do to prevent people from showing up to the line? SNAP is helpful, cheaper and efficient to have funds go on a card.
- Education of families about utilizing food resources. Removing stigmas regarding using Free/Reduced lunch.

Notes from Zoom Chat

- Question 1. Re: data on disproportionality of POC impacted by pandemic.
www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/16/2021-22612/identifying-barriers-in-usda-programs-and-services-advancing-racial-injustice-and-equity-and-support.
- Issues with acquiring culturally appropriate food are ongoing.
- Requests for fresh food increased.
- Concerns about sustainability of food programs if funding begins to change or are only short-term efforts.
- Barriers faced by food...inflation increasing food cost and fuel costs
- Question 2. Re: what outcomes and/or impact must we achieve in food for this generation?
- Work with extension office for food coaching/education
- Support for self-sufficiency, cooking classes, seasonal eating support, working toward being able to group food and prepare food
- Working toward no waste and making sure the food we produce gets to those who need it.
- Increase capacity and ability of local pantries, etc.
- Question 3. Re: transformational change
- Community gardens, education for children
- Livable wages, capacity for processing and distribution
- City Sprouts, Independent local food production, early education, infrastructure...access to water, space for storage, larger facilities
- Question 4. Re: what ideas/suggestions do you have that we should recommend to local and/or state entities?
- Feed the line and shorten the line
- Infrastructure support, livable wages, expanding SNAP benefits, integrated enrollment system for public assistance programs
- School tracking for free/reduced lunch program

From the Food breakout chat box

Increasing the capacity and ability of local pantries, nonprofits, and partners -- many do not have adequate (or any) refrigerators, freezers, equipment, or staff. And doing the same for farmers markets, retailers who accept SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks.

Value those who grow, harvest, and distribute food; livable wages for everyone; food is one component but have the same issues with housing, childcare, etc.

More capacity, equipment, staff, capability for local food processors -- almost all of whom are currently booked up and lined out for months and months.

Understanding where food comes from and what it takes to produce it; touch it in natural state, taste it, prepare it in a way that matches taste preferences and introduce opportunities to try new foods or same foods in different way with different flavor profiles

Yes, capacity for processing and distribution

More robust outreach and food sources during the summer -- many kids don't eat as they should when school is not in session.

technology and infrastructure

post harvest handling is one of the most important processes for maintaining food at a higher quality

what do we need to do keep feeding the line and shorten the line at the same time?

infrastructure support for feeding

*reduce and eliminate

I focus on SNAP and access/expansion of the program. I am thinking about outreach to food insecure, low income Nebraska constituents, and ways to maximize SNAP as a tool to alleviate food insecurity. I found many Medicaid enrollees in Nebraska are not enrolled in SNAP, and those who are not often aren't confident they will be food secure in the next 4 weeks. I believe an integrated enrollment system across all public assistance programs could be an incredible tool for targeted outreach and improving food outcomes for low income individuals, while limiting administrative costs.

Not just capacity but also job training. Butchers are good paying jobs, jobs that are needed in small towns.

Job training for many food focused trades

The issue is keeping those jobs when we don't focus on local food systems but go back to non-localized food production and distribution system

Health

FACILITATOR | **Renee Fry** NOTETAKER | **Anne Hajek**
SMALL GROUP PRESENTER(S) | **Annette Dubas / Jeremy Nordquist**

Please note the names listed below were individuals who signed up to attend the Roundtable. Attendance was not confirmed for who attended which small group attendance.

Aban Laa New Live Family Alliance	Charlie Knapper Scotts Bluff County	Johanna Pesante-Daniel Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Marissa Galardi Nebraska Family Planning	Roxanne Dockter ThriVinci Consulting Group
Amber Jurgens Friendship Home	Colby Jensen BKD	Julie Fisher-Erikson LFS	Melanie Thornton Nebraska Medicine	Sara Keeney Institute of Public Policy
Anne Hajek Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations	Dexter Schrodt Nebraska Medical Association	Kari Ketchum Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha	Pat Lopez Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department	Sarah Maresh Nebraska Appleseed
Annette Dubas Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations	Gedimina Murauskas Omaha Sister Cities Association	Kristi Berst Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska	Patty Skokan Liberty Centre Services	Sondra Nicholson Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors
Ashley Carroll CHI Health	Happy Aldana Nebraska CASA Association	Kyle Kinney Nebraska Family Helpline	Rachelle Kucera Mehra Nebraska Family Planning	Senator Wendy DeBoer Nebraska Legislature
Becky Gould Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest	Jeremy Eschliman Two Rivers Public Health Department	Liz Lyons Children's Hospital & Medical Center	Renee Fry OpenSky Policy Institute	Tawnta Staten American Red Cross
Carol Russell Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Jeremy Nordquist Nebraska Medicine	Margaret Buck Senator Cavanaugh	Rose Hood Buss HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults	Whitney Anderson Lutheran Family Services
	Josh Todd Omaha Sports	Margaret Vacek Boystown		

	Commission			
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ARPA Behavioral & Physical Health Funding Opportunities

Annette Dubas, Executive Director
 Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO)

Jeremy Nordquist, Government Affairs Director
 Nebraska Medicine

Funding Overview

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF): State.....	\$1.04 billion
Cities, counties, villages, townships.....	\$653 million
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).....	\$12.7 million
Capitol Projects Fund.....	\$128.2 million
Education.....	\$546 million
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	
Family Violence Prevention.....	\$681,000
Child Care and Development Block Grants).....	\$89.28 million
Nebraska Medicaid & Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).....	\$90 million
Converting/Renovating Facilities.....	\$20.7 million

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)

State:

\$1.04 billion

Cities, counties, villages, townships:

\$653 million

“Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.”

- Treasury Department, May 10, 2020

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Categories

Support Public Health Response

- Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
- Enhancement to health care capacity
- Eligible uses to address disparities in public health outcomes
- Vaccination programs
- Quarantine costs
- Payroll for health care workers related to COVID-19
- Public health surveillance & contact tracing
- Mental health treatment
- Substance misuse treatment
- Crisis intervention

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Categories

Providing Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- Health care is a key sector
- Prioritize low- and moderate-income workers
- Retention bonuses

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Categories

Serving the hardest-hit communities and families

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health
- Community health workers
- Public benefits navigators
- Remediation of lead hazards
- Community violence intervention programs;
- Affordable housing development
- Residential counseling and housing navigation assistance
- Tutoring or afterschool programs
- Evidence-based services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs
- Promoting healthy childhood environments
- Home visiting programs for families with young children
- Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth

SAMHSA



\$12.7 million



Largest aggregate amount of funding to date

Capitol Projects Fund

**\$128.2
million**

ACF

Family Violence Prevention: **\$681,000**

Child Care & Development Block Grants:
\$89.28 million, including mental health
supports for children and employees

Nebraska Medicaid & HCBS

\$90 million

\$20.7 million:
converting/renovating facilities

Education

\$546 million

Including implementation of strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs

1. What do we know specifically for Health ARPA guidelines? (presented by Annette Dubas & Jeremy Nordquist) (8 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
2. Questions or clarification or additions by participants?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
3. We know people of color were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, how do we see this for Health specifically?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lincoln Lancaster County health saw minority populations having difficulty accessing services. They worked to get them what they needed. Several worked at meat processing plants and did not have sick leave or other benefits afforded to them. A lot of working individuals. A lot of misinformation to counteract. Getting information out in a culturally appropriate way and language that the community can access. Access to testing has been a problem. Many don't have access to computers or doing things over the internet, including using QR codes.• Seeing delayed access to care becoming a more urgent issue, whether it's routine care. Increase in additional respiratory illnesses. Underlying theme: socially vulnerable populations are affected disproportionately.• [Talk] about quarantine costs and the ability for addressing disparities in underserved populations.• ARPA guidelines lift up the importance of addressing challenges faced by underserved communities.• In areas of health we have the most flexibility, ability to be creative in putting together

packages of programs to address those disparities.

- Beyond quarantine, we know that we have made leaps and bounds in telehealth for services, but those individuals at an economic disadvantage didn't always have access. We can look at how to use these dollars to make services available in a safe, secure, affordable way.
- Many young adults don't have transportation, no way to get to testing, a large barrier to access health supports, especially since they were not to use public transportation to control spread.
- A CDC article speaks to race and she put it in the chat:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005a3.htm>.

4. Politics aside, what are the major problems and/or issues that are preventing Nebraska from being a leader in this Health?

- Access to technology was mentioned in the first part of the discussion
- Lack of access within the communities in which individuals reside, having to commute outside of their local residence, not conveniently located is a big contributor to the disparities. Access to services is limited, and to access those services, they have to commute outside of their communities, which causes the transportation issues. Getting access to the vaccine in the beginning: most of the vaccination sites were not in communities of people of color, those were some of the last communities to get access to vaccination.
- Need for bilingual services and culturally appropriate communications. Need to meet people where they're at, giving them a level of comfort and confidence about where services are coming from and what their needs are.
- Lack of consistent care and coverage. Making sure people have healthcare coverage and are comfortable seeking out services. Issues with coverage gaps.
- Lack of data transparency to make informed decisions, you need to use data. Having good, accurate, reliable, transparent data helps in making good decisions.
- The way the system was set up, you should be able to make a call for yourself. What happened to those people who could not call for themselves because they cannot understand English or cannot get onto the website, they don't have access to make an appointment. They have to wait.
- Need to be careful about making generalizations. Different geographic locations took different actions. It is different in every community. There was a lot being done on the ground in trying to learn what needed to be done. People did not have the resources they should have had from the beginning: people were underemployed, did not have sick leave, ways of compensation that work for them. We could learn lessons from what worked and what didn't work. It is a problem when people don't have access to regular care.
- There are a lot of people who are doing a great job, but there are pockets that we are not paying attention to. And we are trying to improve. There are people who are not computer literate, who don't have broadband, they face challenges in making appointments. How can we pull up people who are lagging behind.
- Depending on where you live, the response may have been very different. Uneven response based on local government.
- We don't have consistent infrastructure across the state. It's a major problem.
- To be a leader in healthcare going forward we have to make major investments in workforce. We are not keeping up in the state, there will be a shortfall by 2025. If we don't we will not maintain a leadership position in healthcare as a state.

- Data collection - we have such a fragmented approach to collecting data; until we have a solid data information system that can talk to all the healthcare systems, we will be challenged to move forward.
- There have been advances in the availability of telehealth services but are trailing and failing in other areas. There are more people who need acute mental health care services.

5. What outcomes and/or impact MUST we achieve in Health for this generation and the next?

- We need wide-spread and even access to health, regardless of the community you are from, be it low-income, a community of color; there are uneven impacts geographically.
- Regardless of immigration status.
The pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues. They are unable to serve as many children because of workforce problems. Finding providers for them when they discharge; hard to do discharge planning. The kids are sent home without the means to do well because of shortages in the community: therapists, etc.
- We need to address the workforce issues.
- Continuum of care - it's not just treating the acute, presenting condition but also having a way to ensure people get the help they need on their next step. The continuum of care must be well thought-out. What would our goals be? What benchmarks? Need some definition. 100% of residents will be supported by insurance, will go for yearly well-being checks, will get flu shots, reducing obesity (things to get on the road to health). Large-picture trends that can be benchmarked against national standards.
- Have a more diverse healthcare workforce, which could improve outcomes in underserved communities.
- Physicians are promoting primary care, looking to find ways to better fund primary care. Patient-centered medical home. They should be included in the conversation.
- Explore telehealth further within mental health.
- Everyone has access appropriate and tailored to their needs. Equitable access is different in different areas; it won't look the same everywhere. Need to see what works best for each community and have communities inform what that looks like.

6. Keeping in mind the problems created due to the pandemic for Health....

If you can make one transformational change, without thinking about money, that would change the outcomes for the next generation when it comes to Health, what would you do?

- Become the sixth state with a public option health insurance plan. Lack of money somewhere is the root cause of many issues.
- Create a truly integrated system to treat the whole person, all services in easily accessible

format.

- Need more step-down residential programs for highly volatile children. More residential beds.
- Poverty prevention, look upstream at prevention efforts.
- Find ways to put money in people's hands, with stimulus-type payments, people can address their immediate problems. In the healthcare space, if people have the resources they need, they can better address their own healthcare challenges. How do we continue to address stigma around mental health, could we address mental health similarly, everyone goes for a checkup regularly, reimagine the system to address the stigma that prevents people from taking the first step.

7. Based on what you know about ARPA and our conversation today, what ideas or suggestions do you have that we should consider for recommendations to local and/or state entities for Health?

- Workforce shortages can be due to housing and transportation, need to pay them more
- None of the areas are truly separate, will be looking for cross-over themes.
- Look for incentives, scholarships to get people into the workforce

Notes from Zoom Chat

- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005a3.htm>
- I have to sign off for another meeting, but wanted to also add (for #4) a need for more healthcare workforce generally, from community health workers to prescribers. BHECN focuses on the behavioral health workforce, but have heard from many organizations that there is a large need to fill healthcare jobs
 - YES!!!!
- Loved what was said about holistic approach and what Lynn said about continuum of care with defined goals.
- Normalizing preventative care, especially normalizing employers allowing employees off work for preventative care (since clinics are mostly open 8-5) could go a very long way in improving out health outlook. It would also get patients more familiar and rooted with a medical home, so they are more willing to seek help early
- Clinics, Dr's, etc need to have expanded hours - evenings and weekends to accommodate work hours
- I echo prevention based strategies needs to be prioritized and normalized if we want to reimagine the current state.
- I second Lynn's comment on expanded hours.
- Funds for 988, Tele-health, Mobile Crisis Teams, Preventative Services in the community/schools
- student loan repayment programs are HUGE with current students

Housing

FACILITATOR | **Kay Doyle** NOTETAKER | **Stephanie Wenz**
SMALL GROUP PRESENTER(S) | **Courtney Lyons**

Please note the names listed below were individuals who signed up to attend the Roundtable. Attendance was not confirmed for who attended which small group attendance.

Ashley Frampton American Red Cross	Deborah Solie Northeast Nemaha County Long-Term Recovery	Josh Hanshaw Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln	Linda Davis New Beginning Transitional Living Home, LLC	Sarah Dunbar St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services for Women
Ashley Lewis The Connection Homeless Shelter	Denise Gehringer Sheltering Tree	Kasey Ogle Nebraska Appleseed	Linda Twomey Siena Francis House	Scott Mertz Legal Aid of Nebraska
Bev Ferguson Liberty Centre Services	Eric Gerrard American Communications Group	Kay Doyle Parlay Consulting Firm	Lisa Johns Legislative Counsel	Stephanie Wenz Parlay Consulting Firm
Brenda Mueller Houses of Hope of Nebraska, Inc.	Erin Feichtinger Together	Lauren Lightner Omaha Housing Authority	Megan Moslander Legal Aid of Nebraska	Steve Andrews Goodwill Omaha
Burke Harr GESU Housing	Jana Ahlman Liberty Centre Services	Leslie Bishop Hartung Autism Center of Nebraska	Mitchell Clark Legislative Council	Teresa Hunter Family Housing Advisory Services
Christian Gray InCOMMON Community Development	Jim Clements Project Houseworks	Leah Droge Friendship Home of Lincoln	Monica Battreall Housing Foundation for Sarpy County	Tim Pendrell Senator McDonnell
Courtney Lyons Nebraska Housing Developers Association	Jina Ragland AARP	Leslie Coleman NeighborWorks Home Solutions	Senator Patty Pansing Brooks Nebraska Legislature	Tina Murray Together
Courtney Mustoe Habitat for Humanity of Omaha	Jo Bair Springer enCourage Advocacy Center		Rebecca Armstrong Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	

1. What do we know specifically for Housing ARPA guidelines? (presented by Courtney Lyons) (8 minutes)

- Separated into two areas: Federal, rental assistance, vouchers, 2nd: State and local fiscal recovery funds-state allocation for pandemic-State will be getting about 1B
- Federal:several provisions to Housing
- https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/Factsheet_Housing_Provisions_American_Rescue_Plan_Act-2021.pdf
- Will be able to spend out from 2025-increase in housing choice vouchers, additional vouchers later this year
- Up to 50 million in assistance for families in Nebraska or used for Rehab products or down payment assistance
- Funds from USDA
- Money for neighbor works
- Increase in funds for HUD
- Can also choose from state and local funds to use for housing
- https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/ARPA_Coronavirus-State-and-Local-Fiscal-Recovery-Funds.pdf
- Vouchers, counseling and rental assistance
- Set up eviction statewide program
- https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/ARPA_State-Local-Housing.pdf

2. Questions or clarification or additions by participants?

- No questions

3. We know people of color were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, how do we see this for Housing specifically?

- Douglas County accounts for 50% eviction filing-30% of all evictions statewide happened in 9 zip codes
- 3200 eviction files in Douglas county and 1/3 happened in North Omaha
- We rec'd state trust funds to develop a facility for adults with developmental disabilities. Our bids were negatively impacted by COVID and we don't have enough funds to finish the project. Can these funds be used for capital projects?
- Property taxes increasing
- Access to resources available (no internet access)
- Sometimes homeownership access is limited with these funds
- Young people were not renewing leases-they were being denied or even if they had the money
- I [agree with this] I work for a domestic violence shelter and we're seeing this as well
- Peru state college high number of students who are people of color and first time college students-getting them the information has been hard
- Housing has not been updated, how to make sure they are in a safe space
- As properties are being torn down, how to keep them from going away and updating them instead to help make it affordable

4. Politics aside, what are the major problems and/or issues that are preventing Nebraska from being a leader in Housing ?

- Lack of resources and programs that support affordable housing
- Every level of government to know housing is a right

- Lack of willingness to try innovative programs that other states have tried
- Lack of creativity
- Proposals sitting out there now that could address code enforcement for example-to help incentivize homeowners
- Have to protect tenants
- With Covid prices have gone up 25-30%-already low income so we don't have enough funding to do projects-Scottsbluff area
- North Platte-lack of resources on this end of the state, building affordable housing seems to be hard, need help in smaller communities
- Need increased incentives and funding for affordable housing - absolutely
- Schools are trending to free and reduced lunch, transfers into economic health of these families
- Code enforcement an issue in North Platte as well

5. What outcomes and/or impact MUST we achieve in Housing for this generation and the next?

- Increased funding and incentives to build affordable housing
- Increased tenant protections
- Code enforcement
- Elected officials need to see these issues
- Ultimate outcome is for people to spend less on their housing. How do we get there?
- Everyone in NE deserves a safe and affordable place to live
- Access to home ownership
- North Platte-older, small homes are being purchased by investors, this takes away from our first time home buyers. They can't compete in the market
- Scottsbluff-people are moving here from Colorado so creating issues-but same in Omaha as well
- Understanding that people were denied housing in the past-those things did actually happen. When people understand it, it should become more of an issue we should address

6. Keeping in mind the problems created due to the pandemic for Housing...If you can make one transformational change, without thinking about money, that would change the outcomes for the next generation when it comes to Housing, what would you do?

- Subsidizing people's rent or home payments as a right for everyone
- Available funding that is constantly available
- Right to counsel in eviction court
- Low income homeowners are in need of more representation
- Laws in place that ensure housing instability
- Historically institutions got certain people into loans they couldn't afford, those loans they gave people are still an issue-fund correction for these people?
- Housing reparations
- Down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers with low-to-moderate income
- People need to make a livable wage then they can afford housing and able to fix these homes
- More of a commitment from the state and federal government for affordable housing in rural and urban communities
- Transportation-not appropriate transportation in these areas that are being developed
- Mandating affordability in new residential developments
- Persons' with disabilities need access as well

- Next generation of housing -think about the end in mind
- Banning Source of Income Discrimination
- When getting close to transitioning to housing-how do we help them find affordable housing (Universal Design / accessibility in design)
- Re-entry population housing should be a right
- What is the role that nonprofits play in affordable housing?
- Strengthen relationship with landlords, incentivizing landlords?
- Rehab and repair funds for homeowners but need assistance to upkeep
- Incentivizing employers? Tie into maybe hiring someone with a past record or disability?

7. Based on what you know about ARPA and our conversation today, what ideas or suggestions do you have that we should consider for recommendations to local and/or state entities for Housing?

- Mortgage assistance
- Apply as many funds as possible toward affordable housing development
- The number of people they are serving? Same organizations always getting funding vs others?
- Eviction Diversion and Right to Counsel programs
- Difficulty of access to getting these funds. Can be slow distribution. They need to have few restrictions for allocation
- Right to counsel programs AND ordinance/legislation that supports it
- Preservation dollars allocated to communities we want to serve-help with gap funding to make these quality homes
- Code enforcement for it to be safe to live in
- Grant programs in rural areas they get more applications then they can award-make sure they have funding available
- Not for ARPA funding necessarily, but as top of mind that programs are potentially only as successful as policy exists to back it up
- Helping people with down payments-facilitate access to homeownership
- Making it easier for the applicant would make it easier to provide assistance vs. the provider
- Rehab funds available
- State or locally funded voucher for mortgage/rental payments
- Undo some damage that was done during the pandemic
- Buy or forgive debts?

Other comments that were not discussed today:

- Investments with social services to help homeowners for long term success
- Geography of housing beyond city or zipcode-not same program or policy for each community

- We rec'd state trust funds to develop a facility for adults with developmental disabilities. Our bids were negatively impacted by COVID and we don't have enough funds to finish the project. Can these funds be used for capital projec
- I work for a domestic violence shelter and we're seeing this as well
- Need increased incentives and funding for affordable housing - absolutely
- Yes right to counsel
- Right to counsel in eviction court
- expanding housing choice vouchers, minimizing barriers to participate in that program
- Banning Source of Income Discrimination!
- What's happening with other housing programs federally funded. We're seeing landlords who don't want to rent to anyone that will come with those 'strings'
- Down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers with low-to-moderate income
- Mandating affordability in new residential developments
- Did we get Banning Source of Income Discrimination on that list?
- can you specifically add Universal Design / accessibility in design
- Eviction Diversion and Right to Counsel programs
- Apply as many of the funds as possible toward affordable housing development
- right to counsel programs AND ordinance/legislation that supports it
- (not for ARPA funding necessarily, but as top of mind that programs are potentially only as successful as policy exists to back it up)
- https://www.nifa.org/about/news/view-article/HAF_publichearing
 - if anyone wants to give input on NIFA's homeowner assistance fund

Workforce

FACILITATOR | **Ashlei Spivey** NOTETAKER | **Craig / Laurel**
SMALL GROUP PRESENTER(S) |

Please note the names listed below were individuals who signed up to attend the Roundtable. Attendance was not confirmed for who attended which small group attendance.

Alisa Parmer Heartland Family Service	Donna Magnuson Lutheran Family Services	Laura Contreras Omaha Community Foundation	Senator Myron Dorn Nebraska Legislature	Rosey Higgs Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
Ashlei Spivey Ay Spivey	Erin Schnieder BHECN	Lee Kriemer Asian Community & Cultural Center	Naomi Hattaway Nonprofit Consultant	Sara Riffel Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Brittaney Williams Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Gail McNair	Lynn Castrianno Project Harmony	Paula Crozier Fashion Arts Collaborative	Selwyn Bachus Omaha by Design
Carla Rizzo Completely KIDS	Heather Creevan Nebraska Recycling Council	Lynne Brehm Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Pegg Siemek-Ashe NOVA Treatment Center	Shaun Illahi Seventy-Five North Revitalization Corp
Clarice Jackson Voice Advocacy Center	Heather Kirk Santa Monica	Lynette Farhart Project Houseworks	Rawanda Pierce Twin Cities Development Association, Inc.	Sue Martin Nebraska State AFL-CIO
Craig Beck OpenSky Policy Institute	JohnCarl Denkovich ForUs Omaha LGBTQ+ Center	Mary Pinker Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	Senator Robert Clements Nebraska Legislature	Teela Mickles Compassion in Action, Inc.
Deanna Brakhage DHHS	Judi Meyer Ponca Economic Development Corporation	Megan Pendley Douglas County Drug Court	Stephanie Gardeman Fremont Family Coalition	Terri Sanders MDBMSC
				William Stock American Communications Group

1. What do we know specifically for Workforce ARPA guidelines? (presented by) (8 minutes)

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/small-business-programs/state-small-business-credit-initiative-ssbci> -

- The SSBCI provides funds to states, territories and tribal governments to support programs for small businesses.
- In FY 21, Treasury is authorized to provide up to \$10 billion in support for small business capital and technical assistance programs ([allocations](#)).
 - **Nebraska set to receive a total of \$56,234,176**
 - \$52,092,000 for employment based allocation
 - \$4,142,176 for very small business allocation

Timeline

- June 4, 2021 -- [Public comment \(request for information\)](#)
- December 11, 2021 -- Applications due for states
- *Treasury guidance not yet posted*

SSBCI

- Originally created in 2010 and funded at \$1.5 billion from 2011 to 2017
 - The original program provided funding for two program categories -- capital access programs and other credit support programs.
 - Capital access programs provide portfolio insurance for business loans by setting up loan loss reserve funds for participating financial institutions.
 - Other credit support programs include -- but are not limited to -- collateral support programs, loan participation and guarantee programs and venture capital and other venture financing programs.
- ARPA reauthorized the program, providing \$10 billion in funding. ARPA modified the SSBCI program in a few ways:
 - Provides a separate allocation for tribal governments (\$500 million)
 - Provides additional allocations to support business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (\$1.5 billion)
 - Provides incentive allocations to support business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for states, territories and tribal governments that demonstrate robust support for these businesses (\$1 billion)
 - Provides additional allocations to support very small businesses (\$500 million)
 - Very small business is defined as fewer than 10 employees (may include independent contractors and sole proprietors)
 - Provides technical assistance to small businesses applying (\$500 million)

SSBCI Funding

- The funding will be divided into thirds:
 - First third distributed to state after approved by Secretary; states have three years from approval to deploy the funds.
 - Second third distributed after state certifies to the Secretary that it has deployed 80% of first installment.
 - Third one-third of funds distributed after state certifies that it has deployed 80% of second installment.
 - Incentive allocations of \$1 billion distributed in third installment to states that demonstrate robust support for the SSBCI Programs.

2. Questions or clarification or additions by participants?

-

3. We know people of color were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, how do we see this for Workforce specifically?

- Work on issues surrounding those in the meatpacking industry -- one of the big issues was paid time off
- Refugee-serving nonprofits serving unique populations; need assistance in helping fill out applications, translating, etc.
- Have done work around mental health and early childhood; seeing child care provider's inability to access a local bank; childcare providers of color need more access to the "being a business" side of things, including things like access to capital.
- We work with a lot of organizations that provide internships; those were not provided during the pandemic (which set them back in their careers; about a year behind)
- Theme: what does paid family leave look like in today's world?

4. Politics aside, what are the major problems and/or issues that are preventing Nebraska from being a leader in this Workforce?

- Access to healthcare; pandemic shone light on patchwork system of child care for families; very low pay for workers and no health care. They are essential workers but are paid low wages and are on services themselves. Difficult to retain these workers with low wages and lack of health care.
- The minimum wage is an issue -- we need to figure out a way to increase wages so that it doesn't hurt companies but so that it helps those in the jobs making minimum wage.
- Women had to leave the workforce last year due to lack of childcare and low wages.
- Have thought about more incentives for people in rural communities; we train people well but the people leave. What are incentives to keep people in our state / in our rural communities?
- Leverage opportunities for certificated coursework in high school, particularly in rural areas (CNA, e.g.)

5. What outcomes and/or impact MUST we achieve in the Workforce for this generation and the next?

- Especially in the rural areas, broadband access is important. People could work from home instead of moving to Lincoln/Omaha.
- Living wage, paid family medical leave, support for families in child care, incentives for keeping people

here; make it simpler for people to apply for such incentives. (Wrap-around supports to support those in the workforce).

6. Keeping in mind the problems created due to the pandemic for the Workforce....

If you can make one transformational change, without thinking about money, that would change the outcomes for the next generation when it comes to Workforce what would you do?

- Living wage; if money is not an object, that's what we need.
- Opportunity scholarships for first-generation students; legislature has allocated some money but a need still exists for low-income, first-generation students.
- More connections to trade schools in addition to 4-year institutions.
- Making connections early on; models out there but need to be expanded so students know what they're doing when they leave high school.
- Apprenticeship programs; getting information to high school students, not everyone can afford to go to college and not everyone wants to. Apprenticeship programs can help connect these students to good paying job opportunities.
- Quality child care that is accessible (affordable) for all. Can't have a workforce without it.
- Finding new ways to recognize the skills and experience of immigrants and refugees from other countries who struggle to do so after moving to the US.
- Workforce housing, affordable child care; having these available would be important for Senator Stinner's district.
- Workforce housing is entry-level housing (\$250k range for metro areas; less in rural Nebraska); issue in rural areas is the jobs might be there but the adequate housing is not.
- Pathways to permanent residency or citizenship.
- Startup capital for entrepreneurs; make it easier to access for, for example, formerly incarcerated people and immigrants.
- Finding ways to get formerly-incarcerated people into the workforce; reduce stigma around their re-entry; provide incentives for companies hiring those workers.

7. Based on what you know about ARPA and our conversation today, what ideas or suggestions do you have that we should consider for recommendations to local and/or state entities for Workforce?

- Develop the capacity to host events like this one to ensure we are connecting people to the right programs (ensuring these programs are successful and sustainable)
- Infrastructure; how do we address root issues; the opportunity to address those root causes is here with this funding. Could mean researching, etc.
- Accessibility; make it simple for whomever applying; direct application should be accessible regardless of who/what
- The more barriers in place, the less accessible. Collaboration in rural areas?
- Affordable childcare; workforce housing: rural workforce housing fund (direct ARPA towards supply side -- to contractors building single-family homes and on demand side (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); Childcare -- make it easier for people to work in child care; will in the long term make it easier to access. Grants for parents to get their children into programs.
- Ensuring that everyday folks have the opportunity to weigh in; how can we be good stewards of these funds and ensure they reflect the needs of our communities (make this information available in different languages and forums; digestible).

- Senator Wayne's bill -- missing middle housing act (urban housing initiative); PPP loans helped employers keep people on payroll; some businesses have not recovered and so some sort of support or loan for those who haven't recovered.

Notes from Zoom Chat -

- Finding new ways to recognize the skills and experience of immigrants and refugees from other countries who struggle to do so after moving to the U.S.!
- Have you talked about how to work with High Schools for developing critical skills?
- Thank you for facilitating

Going Forward (Anne Hindery)



Our next Roundtable is August 3rd, 9am - 10:30am. If you have not registered for it yet, please go to <https://www.nonprofitam.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1534261&group=>

