



**Eastern
Nebraska
Community
Action**

Impact Report 2023

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Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership's (ENCAP) mission is to provide high-impact programs to help people get ahead.

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Since 1965, ENCAP has been helping individuals and families who face poverty in Douglas and Sarpy Counties to access needed resources, build stability, and improve their health and wellbeing. **In FY23 ENCAP provided 42,613 services to 15,812 individuals.** Typically experiencing an emergency or temporary setback, the people we serve are working hard to build a brighter future. Thank you for looking inside to read about our programs, partners, and accomplishments. Your support helps grow our work!

Programs

Bellevue Pantry: The Bellevue Pantry is the largest provider of food support focused on Bellevue and surrounding Sarpy County. The pantry, located at 1912 Hancock St. in Bellevue, distributes food to walk-up customers Monday through Thursday, and also delivers food weekly to individual households who are not able to visit the pantry due to mobility or health challenges. We collaborate with Food Bank of Heartland and a community of generous supporters to keep our shelves stocked, and a mighty group of volunteers dedicate thousands of hours each year to keep our work moving forward.

Senior Longevity: We provide evidence-based initiatives focused on falls prevention and health improvement to adults aged 60+ in North Omaha to increase their physical, social, and emotional health: Bingocize and SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life). Participants also engage in a diversity of enrichment and educational activities and receive free transportation to all events if they cannot drive themselves. Within this program, our Senior Ambassadors provide peer-to-peer support and recruit and welcome new seniors. ENCAP also leads the Generation Xchange Omaha program in partnership with Lothrop Elementary and UNMC's Center for Reducing Health Disparities. Training and placing older adult mentors in K-3 classrooms, the program aims to improve the health and mobility of the mentors while helping students

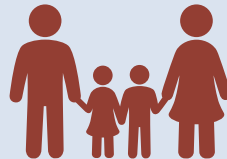
improve their math and reading proficiency and reduce challenging classroom behaviors.

Omaha Nutrition Center: We operate two food distribution programs from our North Omaha location. Through operation of Nebraska's largest Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), ENCAP provides essential food to 1,200 income-eligible seniors ages 60+ per month through drive-up service in North Omaha and deliveries across Douglas, Sarpy, and Cass Counties, and Fort Calhoun via individual and bulk deliveries. For our homebound seniors, a CSFP delivery may be one of the few social contacts they have. We also work with The Bridge Family Resource Connector Network to provide food pantries and household goods (e.g. diapers, toilet paper, etc.) to families with children in Douglas County. We source, package, and deliver these items over a three-month period to help these families stretch their limited incomes and eat healthier as they get back on their feet.

Support Services: Based on Social Work theory and practice, our Support Services department provides financial assistance to cover past due rent or utilities, reduce debt, and help with car repair or other transportation challenges. Once these urgent needs are met, staff work with participants to create a plan for greater financial stability and ongoing coaching and connections to community resources.

Impact Numbers (FY23)

October 1, 2022 - September 20, 2023



42,613 services were provided to **15,812** individuals.



515 individuals avoided homelessness as a result of emergency rent or utility assistance.



587 activities were provided to **40** low-income seniors through Senior Longevity.



1,862 meal kits were delivered to individual households experiencing food insecurity.



13,110 food boxes were distributed to **1,411** low-income seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).



17,472 safe rides to school and aftercare programs were provided to approximately **91** ESL, migrant, and homeless students (pre-k to high school).



18,216 individuals received food assistance through the Bellevue Food Pantry.

Bringing Everyone to the Table: Future of the Bellevue Pantry

ENCAP currently operates the Bellevue Pantry out of a cramped 1,000-square-foot space. We serve approximately 1,200 individuals each month, but this space significantly limits our capacity to meet the steadily increasing community need and was not originally built/intended to facilitate a mid- to large-size food distribution and community services hub.

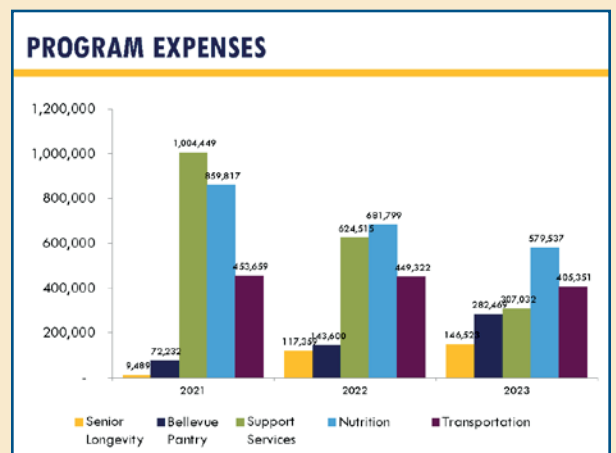
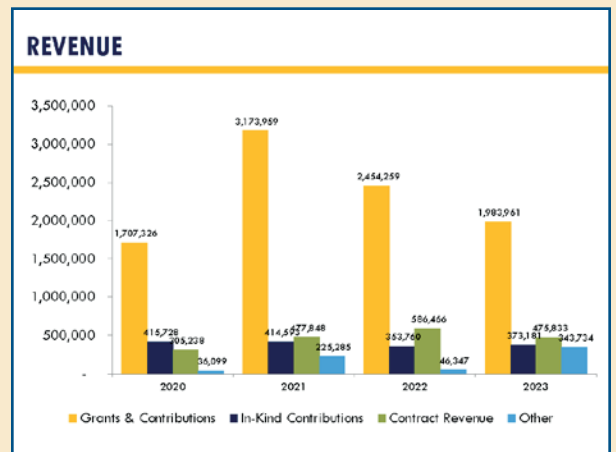
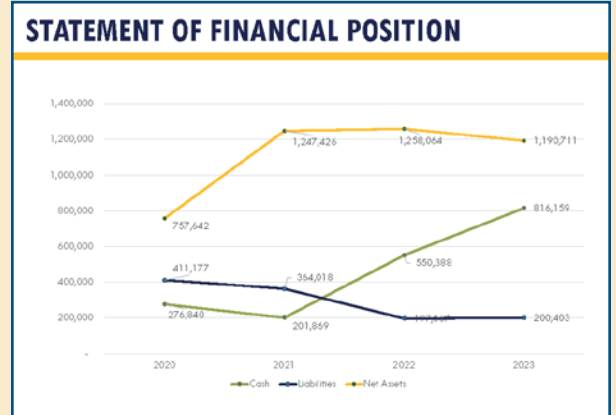
Now, we have the opportunity to broaden our services to those seeking support in Bellevue and the surrounding area through the creation of a new Bellevue Pantry space that will offer more food choices for families, more effective triage and wrap-around services, and more space to bring the community together. We envision a community hub, a place where all can come together to serve, to meet, and to nourish.

Our long-standing partnership with the City of Bellevue is helping to see this project come to fruition. In summer 2022, the Bellevue City Council approved the sale of the Bellevue Public Library building (1003 Lincoln Rd.) to ENCAP, and on 11/30/23 the sale was complete. With this larger and more accessible building, we will expand our fresh and frozen storage, create a community garden to supply households with fresh produce, have the capacity to accept more bulk items and donations from our community partners, and most importantly, give families the ability to shop and select the foods that best meet their needs.

When people are able to move beyond crisis and meet their own needs, they can more fully contribute as. So many in our community need a short-term boost to turn the corner and make a new start. To these ends, ENCAP is launching a community-wide effort – our Bringing Everyone to the Table Capital Campaign – to fund the relocation and renovation of a new Bellevue Pantry.



Financials



How ENCAP Does Things Differently

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE: We plan our work with intention and adjust our approach as conditions change. ENCAP continually assesses the needs of low-income and other under-resourced populations in its services area, as well as takes inventory of the resources accessible to these populations. This information forms the basis for the programs and services we will provide. This ensures that we aim our efforts for greatest impact and avoid duplicating other services available in the community.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION: We implement rigorous evaluation practices to ensure that what we do results in the intended outcome(s) for program participants. Utilizing many types of evidence, we generate accurate and relevant information that demonstrate that we are achieving our mission. The data we collect belongs to our participants, and we maintain sharp focus on enhancing the well-being of the populations ENCAP serves based on what we learn.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPACT: As a recipient of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding—federal anti-poverty funding designated for Community Action Agencies like ENCAP nationwide—we are responsible for leveraging these dollars to create new initiatives and partnerships that transform communities in our service area. We leader at the table when addressing emerging community needs alongside a diversity of community organizations, schools, state and local government offices, and faith-based organizations. Where services or programs do not exist, ENCAP contributes its resources (e.g. staff time, building space, vehicles, data, etc.) to solving pressing community challenges.

BOARD STRUCTURE: ENCAP's three-part board consists of equal parts of local private sector, public sector (elected officials or their appointees), and representatives of the low-income community leads ENCAP. The purpose of this structure is to bring together these groups to collaborate on developing responses to local needs, to keep the community informed about the causes and conditions of poverty in our community, , and to help bridge the gap between policy-makers and those impacted by their decisions.

Thank You For Your Financial Support!

Collaboration is at the core of our work to reduce the power of poverty in the community. ENCAP is generously supported through:

- City of Bellevue's Community Development Block Grant
- USDA's Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Weitz Family Foundation
- William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation
- Walter and Suzanne Scott Foundation
- The Lozier Foundation
- Sherwood Foundation
- Immanuel Vision Foundation
- Bellevue Community Foundation
- Nebraska Arts Council
- NE DHHS via Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Private donations from individuals, faith-based Organizations, and community groups.

Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership

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encapnebraska.org



**Eastern
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ENCAP's Board of Directors

Based on the Community Action model of community empowerment, ENCAP's Board of Directors is composed of one-third representatives of the low-income community, one-third private sector representatives, and one-third elected officials or their designees representing our service area.

Board Members

Aban Laa

Chalis Bristol

(Designee of Barbara Weitz, UNL Regent)

Claudia Granillo

(Designee of Senator Tony Vargas, District 7)

Jennifer Gaughan

Jennifer Mayhew

Jessica Krimmel

Maranda Adams

Mary Spurgeon

OPPD Board of Directors

Michael Sands

Nick Townley, MD

Rachel Eggerss

Shirley Coffey

Susan Hester

(Designee of Bellevue City Council

Member Thomas Burns)

Tawaina Hunter

(Designee of John Ewing,

Douglas County Treasurer)

Tom Weigent

ENCAP Leadership Team

Aaron Bowen Executive Director

Jill Connor Deputy Director

Nicki Murphy Director of Research & Evaluation

Allison Brown-Corson . . . Development Dir.

Sarah Hacke Finance Manager

Sarah Mixan Human Resources Mgr.

Deanna Wagner . . . Bellevue Food Pantry Mgr.

Cat Pitman Senior Longevity Manager

Tiffany Turner . . . Food Distribution Supervisor