

Goldenrod Hills Blade

Immunizations Program

Busy With Back to School Season

GHCA's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally-funded and state-operated vaccine supply program. VFC provides free vaccines to eligible children. Through the combined efforts of public immunization clinics and private physicians, the program strives to increase vaccine coverage levels nationwide. The VFC program was created to meet the vaccination needs of children from birth through 18 years as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP and the American Academy of Pediatrics are working closely to ensure uniformity in the childhood immunization schedule.



The vaccines available through the VFC program currently include: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenza Type B, Poliomyelitis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal (pneumonia), Flu, Varicella, Meningococcal, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

CLIENT COMMENT
I appreciate the immunization clinics.

CLIENT COMMENT
Goldenrod Hills Community Action is doing great work. Thanks for their help.

Operation Building Blocks

Operation Building Blocks is a home visitation program that is tailored to meet Parent's specific needs. Parents receive one-on-one prenatal and postpartum educational services to provide parents with knowledge and skills to create and support an optimal parent and a child healthy environment. The program is provided free of charge to those who are pregnant or have one or more children through age five and reside in one of the following counties: Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dixon, Madison, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne.

Early Development Network Services Coordination

The Early Development Network Services Coordination program provides services and supports for children birth to age three, based on their needs with the belief that parents know what is best for families.

Who may need this program? Families with an infant or toddler who: Is not developing typically, or has been diagnosed with a health condition that will affect his or her development

What services may be available through the Early Development Network Services Coordination Program? Services Coordination; Special Instruction; Speech/Language Therapy; Physical Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Psychological Services; Assistive Technology Devices and Services; Transportation; Audiology and Vision services.

Goldenrod Hills Comm Action provides Early Development Network Services Coordination in Norfolk Public Schools. Referrals and questions regarding services for infants and toddlers (birth-3 yrs) with disabilities call Nebraska CHILDFIND (Toll Free) at 1-888-806-6287.

CLIENT COMMENT
Great job!! Thank you!

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THE PROGRAMS OF GHCA

Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Family Services

- Food Pantry
- Free Income Tax Assistance
- Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)
- Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA)
- Child Safety Seat Program
- Case Management
- Budgeting

Head Start

Health Services

- Immunizations
- Early Child Development Network
- Operation Great Start
- Operation Building Blocks

Weatherization

- Weatherization Expansion Project

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



NEW PLACES, NEW FACES

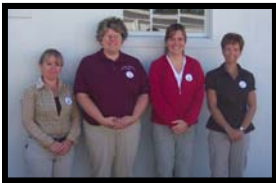


Head Start is up and going in Northeast Nebraska! Returning staff at centers are located in Blair, Hartington, Madison, Norfolk, South Sioux City, Stanton, Wayne, West Point and Wisner. Our pre-k partners sites are Creighton, Newman Grove and Walthill and we have one child care partner - Children's World in Pierce.

This Year We Welcome Three New Pre-k Partners!

Clearwater-Orchard

Clearwater-Orchard partnership is housed at the Elementary School in Clearwater we welcome Kendra Shrader - Teacher and Shari Ritter - Family Service Worker. Currently they are serving thirteen children in this partnership.



Neligh-Oakdale

The Neligh-Oakdale partnership is working from the existing Head Start building in Neligh. Staffing includes: Donna Miller - Teacher, Heather Veik - Family Service Worker, Carol Freeman - Teacher Aide and Lois Bright - Part-time Teacher Aide and they have 20 children in their classroom.



Oakland-Craig

At the Oakland-Craig Elementary School, this partnership offers morning and afternoon sessions with a total of 34 children. This busy center has the following staff - Rebecca Massie - Teacher, Charity Walker - Family Service Worker, Erica Jensen, Robin Smith and Melanie Swenson are Teacher Aides.

The Early Childhood Education Grant Program helped to make these partnerships possible. Programs can be funded when they expand and/or combine existing pre-kindergartens, including Head Start. Our projects are required to operate in compliance with Rule 11 - Regulations for Early Childhood Education Grant Program and the Head Start Performance Standards. Head Start is excited to start a new year with these new places and new people, as we all "support young children and their families to discover and develop their potential throughout life." For more information to become a Head Start partner contact Rita Eichelberger, Head Start Director @ 800-445-2505 ext 225.

CLIENT COMMENT

I could not ask for more wonderful people to deal with in all respects. Thank you.

CLIENT COMMENT

Wonderful job

AUGUST IS "NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH"

Goldenrod Hills Community Action WIC program supports breastfeeding and encourages mothers to breastfeed their baby to 1 year of age.

WIC clinics in the Norfolk, South Sioux City and Wisner areas have each created and displayed an educational bulletin board indicating the many benefits of breastfeeding. These displays talk about the "Buzzing Benefits of Breastfeeding" and how it is "Baby's First Purr-fect Food". There are many reasons why breastfeeding is the best choice for your baby, listed below are just a few:

1. provides best nutrition for baby
2. decreases and delays allergies
3. helps mom get back into shape
4. provides ready to feed warm milk
5. builds a special closeness with mom

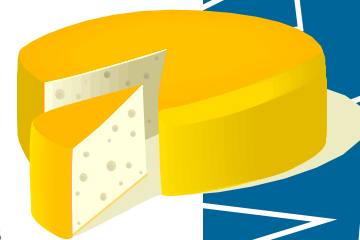
CLIENT COMMENT: Services are always met with dignity and I'm never discriminated against.

If you are pregnant and considering breastfeeding your baby or are currently breastfeeding your new born baby and have questions or concerns, contact your local WIC staff who are trained to help you with any concerns you have.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

On June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) was enacted into law. Section 4406(b)(3) of the Farm Bill authorizes appropriations for CSFP through 2012.

Previously, CSFP State and local agencies were required by statute to serve all women, infants, and children eligible to participate in the program before serving low-income elderly. Section 4221 of the Farm Bill eliminates this statutory preference. Effective October 1, 2008, all State and local agencies must begin serving all CSFP applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.



CLIENT COMMENT: I would like to thank you for the food, as for without it I wouldn't be eating much. THANK YOU



Do You Know Someone that Could Benefit From GHCA's Weatherization Program ?



What is Weatherization?

This program helps alleviate the ever increasing cost of heating and cooling homes among Nebraska's low income residents. Weatherization services include the following practices: weather-stripping; caulking; attic and wall insulation; foundation insulation; replacement of broken glass; repair/replacement of furnaces.

Who Qualifies?

To qualify for the weatherization program, the household must show proof of income from the past 12 months and must not have been weatherized since October of 1993. Please contact the Weatherization Department to see if you qualify. Eligible low income participants include renters as well as home owners.

Did you Know?

Goldenrod Hills uses bonded, licensed and dependable private contractors who are required to use materials which meet industry standards. During the year, Goldenrod Hills will weatherize approximately 210 homes including mobile homes. The Weatherization Program is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Energy and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program as administered by the Nebraska Energy Office, for more information call Goldenrod Hills Community Action at (402) 529-3513.

CLIENT COMMENT
We had our house weatherized by you and very happy with the results. Thank you!

CLIENT COMMENT: Without your help, we would not have had heat for the winter; plus the old furnace we found out was so bad, it could have started a fire. Thank You! You don't know what your services mean to families.

CLIENT COMMENT: This organization and the workers did a fabulous Job No Complaints. The service people were fast and got everything done I needed. Great Job!!



New Needs Assessments + New Perspectives=New Strategic Plan



GHCA's Action Plan was completed this summer. The Action Plan is a planning tool that includes the strategic plan following needs assessment data: GHCA Community Needs Assessment Survey Results; Customer Satisfaction Survey Results; Service Provider Survey Results and Staff Survey Results. The Action Plan also includes a service area profile that includes the following sections: Poverty; Economics; Transportation; Maternal Child Health Profile; Adult Health Profile; Resource Availability; Housing; Education Rates; Child, Parenting and Marriage Education; Youth; Crime. The document will be available soon on our Agency website: www.goldenrodhillscommunityaction.org.

Summary of Needs Assessments

- 73% of service providers in the 14 county area believed that a barrier to addressing developmental delays is “knowing what services are available.”
- 62% of GHCA staff believed that developmental delays is an issue that GHCA needs to address in the strategic plan.
- 84% of GHCA staff reported that they would participate in a worksite wellness program if one was offered. Heart Disease is the number one cause of death in the service area.
- 10 out of 14 counties have higher rates of children age 5 and under that live in poverty than the state rate.
- 61% of social service providers in the service area reported that training in child abuse prevention and parental awareness is a high need.
- 79% of social service providers reported a “lack of parental skills” creates a barrier that prevents people from getting needed services in regards to child abuse.
- Basic Needs-16% disagreed with this statement “I have enough money to buy clothes and household supplies.”
- Focus Group participants reported transportation as one of the top barriers to employment and needed services.
- The 2000 Census Bureau reported that 46% of all housing in the fourteen county service area were built before 1979.
- In the last four years, 1,707 clients have been assisted with rental and utility assistance through Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) funds.

SENIORS! VETERANS! PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES! EARNED WAGES! YOU MAY ELIGIBLE!

Through collaborative efforts with the IRS, GHCA's Family Services program is trying to get the word out to all who may be eligible for the Economic Stimulus Payment. There is still time to file for an Economic Stimulus Payment from the Government Worth \$300, or \$600 for Married Couples!

To get your payment:

- \$ File a tax form (Form 1040A) with the IRS by October 15.
- \$ You must file the form even if you do not usually file taxes.

You can qualify for a payment:

- \$ If you had \$3,000 or more in income in 2007 from social security benefits; Social Security Disability (SSDI); Veterans Disability benefits; Railroad Retirement benefits; earnings from work; OR a combination of any of these benefits.
- \$The payment should not affect other benefits you may get, like SSI, Food Stamps or Medicaid.

HAVE QUESTIONS? NEED HELP FILLING OUT FORMS? For “FREE” assistance call Goldenrod Hills Community Action, Inc., at 1-800-445-2505 or 1-402-529-3513 and ask for Family Services or call and we can direct you to the nearest Family Services office near you.