

JANUARY 2026 DASHBOARD

NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION



★ 234 ★
THOUSAND

of LIHEAP assistance provided in
December with 355 applications
approved.

A total of 29 ECIP applications and 51 Crisis applications
were approved providing over \$38,146 of assistance in
critical financial support to families in need.

**229 households including 618 individuals were
provided with 15,307 LBS of food and essential
non-food items.**

FaDSS

Iowa Health and Human Services' Healthy Iowans newsletter recently spotlighted FaDSS, featuring NEICAC's local program! The article reinforces the impact of intensive, whole-family engagement and highlights strong outcomes in employment, income growth, and family stability- areas where our program continues to perform at or above state expectations. Check out the article here [Supporting Families, Strengthening Communities: How FaDSS Helps Create Stronger Futures](#).

Thrive Iowa

NEICAC executed the Thrive Iowa contract effective 1/1 and is currently in the implementation phase, including staffing and partner engagement. Thrive Iowa is a new, community-led initiative aimed at helping families achieve long-term stability by addressing key social determinants of health.

EARL Public Transit

Transit wrapped up December with 39,601 miles on the road and 4,566 passengers getting where they needed to go. A solid finish to the year!



CACFP

CACFP Coordinator Rebecca Phillips, is giving the book "Sophie's Squash" to providers at their 1st site visit of the current program year. When time allows at a site visit to read a book, play a game or do a food activity - it's a great way to connect with the children.



Housing

Our Weatherization and Housing Director, Julie Buddenberg continues to represent NEICAC through her service on the Upper Explorerland Regional Housing Commission Board. In December, the Board approved an increase in Trust Fund support per project, from \$12,500 to \$15,000, strengthening resources available for housing preservation and improvement across Northeast Iowa. Learn more about the Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund [here](#), and read about the related Iowa Finance Authority funding announcement [here](#).



Early Childhood Programs

In November, Early Head Start Home Visitors completed 194 home visits, serving 60 families. Our EHS families recently enjoyed a field trip to Pinter's pumpkin patch near Decorah, story time at the Elkader library, and a homemade toy workshop in Postville! Early Head Start is a home-based program serving pregnant moms and children ages 0-3. EHS provides educational activities, health and developmental screenings, and monthly playgroups.

Weatherization



December and January marked a period of transition for the Weatherization Program. Our Weatherization Director, Scott Fischer, will be retiring at the end of January. We are pleased to congratulate Julie Buddenberg on her promotion to Weatherization & Housing Director. Julie will provide leadership for both programs moving forward. As part of this transition, NEICAC is hiring a Housing Coordinator to support the Housing Program. The Weatherization Program is also recruiting for an Energy Auditor to support ongoing service delivery. Current employment opportunities are posted at <https://neicac.org/job-openings/>



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