

NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION
305 MONTGOMERY STREET, P.O. BOX 487
DECORAH, IA 52101

Approved

The Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at the Fayette County Courthouse. The Finance Committee met at 5:46 pm. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Board Vice-Chair Janel Langreck called the meeting to order, followed by reciting the NEICAC mission statement.

Present were:

Corey Cerwinski	Stacie Cooper (Virtual)
Linda Voshell (Virtual)	Melissa Timmermans (Virtual)
Jasmin Morrison	Shirley Vermace (Virtual)
Melissa Nation (Virtual)	Steve Doeppke
Joseph Pisney	Dan Byrnes
Wendy Shea	Nina Brickman
Janel Langreck	Marcia Hesse

Trisha Wilkins, Staff	Ken Wohlford, Staff
Karli Schmelzer, Staff	
Chrishelle Stravers, Staff	

Board members unable to attend are as follows:

Jeff Bunn	Lynn Weidler
Les Askelson	Nick Winter (2)
Steve Breitbach	

Trisha Wilkins shared that Lynn Weidler joined the board as the new Chickasaw County Low-Income Representative, after being democratically elected by the New Hampton Head Start Parent Group.

Review of the 4/27/26 meeting agenda was next. Move to approve the 4/27/26 meeting agenda by Joseph Pisney, seconded by Jasmin Morrison. Motion carried all voting aye.

The next item was the consent agenda which included the minutes for the 3/23/26 Board Meeting; April Program and Agency Dashboard Report; Head Start, Early Head Start, CACFP Reports and Policy Council Minutes; LIHEAP and Crisis Reports; and set next meeting date of May 18, 2026 (Virtual). Move to approve the consent agenda by Nina Brickman, seconded by Steve Doeppke. Motion carried all voting aye.

Trisha Wilkins then reviewed with the Board the March Financial Reports. Move to approve the March Financial Reports as presented by Dan Byrnes, seconded by Corey Cerwinski. Motion carried all voting aye. The balance sheet was included with the Board packet and was for the Board's information.

Joseph Pisney presented on behalf of the Finance Committee, stating that everything looked to be in order with no discrepancies noted. Move to approve the Finance Committee report on the bill and credit card statements as presented by Joseph Pisney, seconded by Dan Byrnes. Motion carried all voting aye.

Ken Wohlford, Transportation Director, was this month's program presenter. Ken provided an update on the Transit program, highlighting successes and challenges. Transit piloted a Saturday night route from Luther to Walmart and downtown, which was open to the public. He said there were 73 rides in March and 107 on April 18. The route will resume this fall. Ken also shared that 2025 saw 434 new riders and had a 96% on time performance rate. Ken stated that Gary Brown was recognized as 2025 Transit Driver of the Year by IPTA. He also shared Transit assisted in an emergency exercise with WinnMed last fall and is continuing to look for similar ways of being involved in other counties. FY27 operational funding is down from the current year. The Transit program will also be purchasing four new vehicles. A Fleet Maintenance & Operations Specialist has been hired along with additional Drivers. Lastly, Ken shared a Success Story that included partnering with NEI3A, to provide transportation for a hospice patient to be able to see their family farm one last time. "Transit is more than just transportation; it also provides the dignity of self-sufficiency along with caring and respectful drivers." The Board thanked Ken for his presentation.

Trisha Wilkins shared the FY27 Consolidated Grant for Transit Funding. Move to approve the FY27 Consolidated Grant for Transit funding as presented by Jasmine Morrison, seconded by Shirley Vermace. Motion carried all voting aye. The Notice of Public Hearing with additional information and the Authorizing Resolution were also included for the Board's information.

The annual rate increase for Transit was next on the agenda. Trisha Wilkins shared the proposed increase of in-County rides by \$1.00, and the hourly service fare will increase to \$100 per hour from vehicle start to vehicle end. Wendy Shea asked where the figure for the increase came from, and Ken Wohlford answered that we looked at the current costs and talked to other transit providers to calculate a comparable rate. Move to approve the rate increases as presented by Dan Byrnes, seconded by Corey Cerwinski. Motion carried all voting aye.

Next, Trisha Wilkins shared an update on the NEICAC Strategic Plan. A snapshot of the plan that indicates the current objectives status along with a written update of the quarter's accomplishments, was included in the board packet. This was for the Board's information.

Head Start preschool program applications for the 2026-2027 school year were discussed. Trisha Wilkins shared 109 income-eligible applications, 18 applications at 101-130% FPI, and 26 over-income applications have been received. This was for the Board's information.

The Annual 425 Head Start & Early Head Start report was next on the agenda. Move to approve the Annual 425 Head Start & Early Head Start report as presented by Corey Cerwinski, seconded by Marcia Hesse. Motion carried all voting aye.

Trisha Wilkins then shared the Administration for Children & Families/Office of Head Start Program Performance Summary Report and corrective responses, as a follow-up to last month's unannounced monitoring visit. This was for the Board's information.

FY26 Community Services Block Grant Mid-Year and Target Modifications were next on the agenda. There were changes to the final target numbers from those initially anticipated, reflecting the

numbers served in the past six months and expectations for the next six months. Each indicator reported is associated with NEICAC programs, including Housing, Head Start, Crisis/LIHEAP, Weatherization, and FaDSS. Trisha Wilkins stated that this has been submitted and HHS's acceptance response had been received. This was for the Board's information.

Next, Trisha Wilkins shared that the Fundraising Committee will be meeting on April 28th. Karli Schmelzer shared that the committee has been developing a fundraising calendar and participation opportunities for Board Members. Wendy Shea mentioned possible summer activities, such as parades and festivals. Nina Brickman mentioned many churches are going to be closing, and there may be an opportunity for Transit to provide transportation to churches in other communities. This was for the Board's information.

Trisha Wilkins then discussed an agency job description and wage scale for the Fleet Maintenance and Operations Specialist position. Move to approve the Fleet Maintenance and Operations Specialist job description and wage scale as presented by Joseph Pisney, seconded by Jasmin Morrison. Motion carried all voting aye.

Legislative updates were next on the agenda. Trisha Wilkins shared on the federal level there was frustration with the Office of the Management & Budget's (OMB) delay on the release of congressionally appropriated funds. The Community Services Block Grant and LIHEAP are the programs that would have been impacted by this delay. NCAF has been diligently working on this, and Iowa Senator Grassley specifically requested that OMB release the delayed quarter CSBG funding. At the time of this meeting, the funding had been released. The state's legislative session is ending soon, and we are continuing to monitor the bills that impact our network and families we serve. We also continue to watch the 5% indirect cap bill, but it has not moved through the legislative process. This was for the Board's information.

Trisha Wilkins then reviewed the Grants, Contracts and Funding Report. These included amendments for the Weatherization department. Trisha Wilkins also discussed the denial of the Head Start Program Shared Visions grant funding, from the State Department of Education. Shared Visions had provided support and augmented federal Head Start funds to expand preschool operations to Head Start classrooms for several years. Trisha stated there were no programs funded within our seven-county service area, including school districts. This was for the Board's information.

Next, Trisha Wilkins shared the CEO's Report. This was for the Board's information.

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 by Steve Doeppke, seconded by Wendy Shea. Motion carried all voting aye.

Reporting Secretary

Chrishelle Stravers, CFO