

# BUFFALO COUNTY ACCESS



<https://bcchp.org/communityresponse/>

## Key Purpose

Increase collaborative engagement to find innovative solutions to strengthen communities and thriving families. Inviting partners to share success stories, challenges, innovations, and resources.

## Community Partners

- Buffalo County Schools & Counselors
- Buffalo County Sheriff's Office
- Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska
- COMPASS Nebraska
- Crossroads Mission
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Families CARE
- Family Advocacy Network
- Goodwill Nebraska
- Kearney Community Sustainable Housing
- Kearney Housing Agency
- Kearney Jubilee Center
- Kearney Police Department
- Kearney Public School Social Workers
- Kearney Salvation Army
- Kearney Village & Sober Transition
- Lutheran Family Services
- Nebraska Aids Project
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Total Care
- RAFT Nebraska
- Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- South Central Behavioral Services
- South Central Economic Development District
- South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging
- The S.A.F.E. Center
- Two Rivers Public Health Department
- United Way of the Kearney Area
- United Healthcare

*With more partners, too numerous to list, working collaboratively on this issue.*

## Community Challenges

**812** households were unable to find local resources to sufficiently support needs, from 2021-2024.<sup>1</sup>

*of these households,*

**16.63%** were referred to coaching

*recent household participants reported,<sup>2</sup>*

**65.79%** employment

**23.68%** seeking employment

**10.53%** unemployment

## Priority Work

Our communities' shared goal is to increase connections to necessary programs, trainings, resources, and services for vulnerable populations in Buffalo County communities to enhance family economic stability.

1. Support a collaborative of 170 partner organizations with a shared vision to improve access.
2. Engage persons with lived experience in co-designing the work.
3. Improve knowledge of informal and community supports through coaching.

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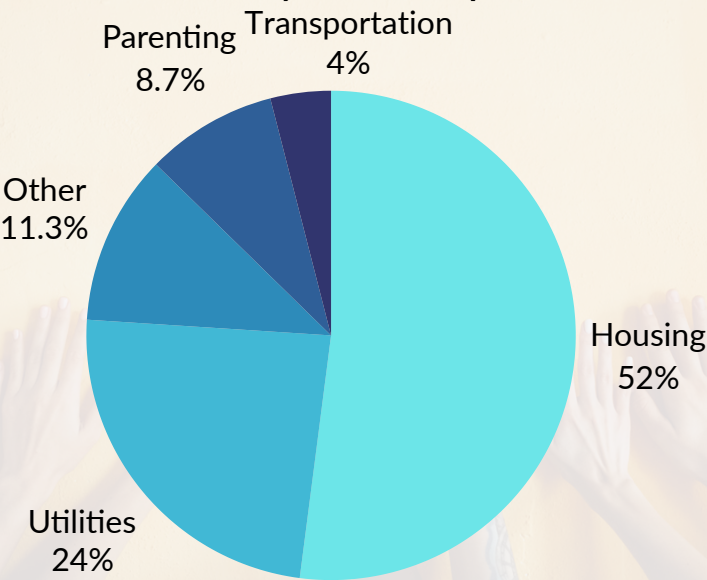


## Community Partners Response Data

\$265,619

in grant funds by Community Partners Response were utilized by households **to sufficiently support needs, while informing Buffalo County communities about gaps** in services.<sup>1</sup>

Types of support requested through Community Partners Response:



of Community Partners Response applicants **did not return for services or coaching.**<sup>1</sup>

## Buffalo County Data

26 paid and volunteer coaches actively participating in Community Partners Response.<sup>3</sup>

Coaching is a free and voluntary program for families and individuals and is intended as a safety net of support beyond what helping agencies provide.

10 agency partners, on average, **meet monthly** for the Housing & Emerging Issue Task Force **to coordinate household requests.**<sup>4</sup>

45% of Buffalo County Community Partners volunteers report having lived experience that helps co-design innovative solutions.<sup>5</sup>

Lived experience is “representation and understanding of an individual’s human experiences, choices, and options and how those factors influence one’s perception of knowledge” based on one’s own life. Lived experience provides insight into patterns, common behaviors, challenges, and barriers among individuals who share similar experiences.<sup>6</sup>

## Connect

- 📍 **Martha Marfileño**, Bilingual Central Navigator  
✉ [mmarfileno@bcchp.org](mailto:mmarfileno@bcchp.org)  
☎ (308) 865-2284
- 📍 **Wanda Fedorchik**, Central Navigator  
✉ [wfedorchik@bcchp.org](mailto:wfedorchik@bcchp.org)  
☎ (308) 865-2284

1. From 2021-2024, Community Response Data  
2. From October 2024 to January 2025, Community Response Data  
3. Community Response Program data  
4. Community Partners Meeting Attendance Minutes  
5. Buffalo County READI survey results

6. Skelton-Wilson, Syreeta, et al. “Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience.” Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 20 Dec. 2021.