October 2011

RE:  Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week - November 12 - 20, 2011

Dear Fellow Nebraskans:

The Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness invites you to join us in supporting the National Coalition for the Homeless to recognize National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 12 - 20, 2011.

Nebraska is faced with alarming statistics concerning poverty and homelessness. In 2009 nearly 215,000 individuals lived in poverty. 38,000 of this number were children. Over 3,900 individuals were homeless.

We have summarized recent statistics to assist in the role you can play in addressing the challenges of hunger and homelessness in our state. Also included are the website links to additional information pertaining to this increasing challenge, and we hope they can be utilized to increase public awareness as we work toward a resolution to these problems. A copy of this packet can also be located on the Nebraska Department of Economic Development website http://www.neded.org/under the Community & Housing tab.

Governor Dave Heineman will be signing a proclamation on October 24th in recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. We encourage you to contact your local public officials and invite them to make a proclamation to increase public awareness and recognize the many individuals and organizations who work to feed and shelter the poverty stricken.

Many thanks for your support.

Respectfully,

DiAnn Kolkman
Chairperson
Education and Awareness Committee
Poverty

According to the US Census Bureau, the official poverty rate for 2010 is 15.1% which means 46.2 million people are living in poverty. This is the highest since 1993. In 2009, there were 43.6 million people or 14.3% living in poverty. The US Census Bureau calculates the poverty rate using poverty thresholds as illustrated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Weighted average thresholds</th>
<th>Related children under 18 years</th>
<th>Eight or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)...</td>
<td>11,139</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 65 years.................</td>
<td>11,344</td>
<td>11,344</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over..............</td>
<td>10,458</td>
<td>10,458</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people.....................</td>
<td>14,218</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under 65 years.....</td>
<td>14,676</td>
<td>14,602</td>
<td>15,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65 years and over...</td>
<td>13,194</td>
<td>13,180</td>
<td>14,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people...................</td>
<td>17,374</td>
<td>17,057</td>
<td>17,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people....................</td>
<td>22,314</td>
<td>22,491</td>
<td>22,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people....................</td>
<td>26,439</td>
<td>27,123</td>
<td>27,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six people.....................</td>
<td>29,897</td>
<td>31,197</td>
<td>31,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven people...................</td>
<td>34,009</td>
<td>35,896</td>
<td>36,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight people...................</td>
<td>37,934</td>
<td>40,146</td>
<td>40,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine people or more............</td>
<td>45,220</td>
<td>48,293</td>
<td>48,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Nationally the group with the highest poverty rate is children under age 18 at 22.0%. In Nebraska the poverty rate for children under age 18 is 18%. The family poverty rate was 11.7% in 2010 and 11.1% in 2009.

In the Midwest, the poverty rate was 13.9% in 2010. In Nebraska, the poverty rate was 12.2% or 212,312 people in 2009.

Food Security

Food security has slightly improved in 2010. 85.5% of households in the U.S. are food secure during 2010; meaning they have adequate food in their home for all members to have an active, healthy life. In 2009, food security was at 85.3%.
There were 14.5% of households that were food insecure or that have limited or uncertain availability of food for members of the household. Of this percentage, 5.4% or 11.3 million people were considered very low food secure and 9.1% were low food secure.

Households with children headed by a single woman have the highest food insecurity rate of 35.1%. The next group is Hispanic households with 26.2% food insecurity.

In the Midwest, 13.3% of households were food insecure. In Nebraska 12.7% of households were food insecure in 2010; compared with 12.2% in 2009.

**Homelessness**

Point In Time (PIT) counts for the U.S. in 2010 showed 649,879 were homeless compared to 643,067 in 2009. Chronic homelessness has decreased overall 1%. This is the intent of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act which brought about the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). During 2010, 690,000 people received assistance because of this program. 23% of these people moved from the streets or a shelter into permanent housing.

The number of families that are homeless has increased in the U.S. by 1.2% in 2010. Since 2007 homeless families has increased by 20%.

In Nebraska there were 3,877 homeless in 2010 compared to 3,718 in 2009. Some figures for 2011 show homelessness tends to be decreasing slowly in Nebraska and that may be because of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). In Lincoln, Nebraska 112 people moved from the streets or shelter into permanent housing according to the PIT counts for 2011. This accounts for part of the decrease of the homeless in Lincoln, Nebraska from 908 in 2010 to 834 in 2011.

During the first year of HPRP (2010-2011) in Nebraska: 1,388 near homeless individuals (those assisted via Prevention) were assisted. This is the category of individuals who are currently housed but are proverbially “one paycheck away” from homelessness.

During the first year of HPRP (2010-2011) in Nebraska: 728 literally homeless individuals (those assisted via Rapid Rehousing) were assisted. This is the category of individuals who are truly homeless upon case management intake.
In 2010
- Official poverty rate is 15.1 percent (14.3% in 2009), highest rate since 1993
- 46.2 million people were in poverty
- 22.0% of children under age 18 were in poverty
- 13.7% of people age 18-64 were in poverty
- 9.0% of people 65 or older were in poverty
- 11.7% of families were in poverty or 9.2 million families
- Midwest poverty rate is 13.9% (13.3% in 2009) or 9.1 million (8.7 million in 2009) people in poverty

In 2009
- Nebraska poverty rate was 12.2% or 212,312 people
- 15.3% or 67,346 of children under age 18 were in poverty in Nebraska

In 2010
- 14.5% of households (14.7% in 2009) or 48.8 million people or 17.2 million households were food insecure some time during 2010
- 5.4% of households or 11.3 million people or 6.4 million households were very low food secure (5.7% in 2009)
- 9.1% of households were low food security (9.0% in 2009)
- 9.8% of households with children or 3.9 million households were food insecure (10.6% in 2009)
- 16.2 million children lived in food insecure households
- 35.1% of households with children headed by a single woman were food insecure
- 25.4% of households with children headed by a single male were food insecure
- 25.1% of black households were food insecure
- 26.2% of Hispanic households were food insecure
- 8% of elderly living alone were food insecure
- 13.3% of households in the Midwest were food insecure
- 5.2% of households in the Midwest were very low food insecure
- 12.7% of households in Nebraska were food insecure
- 5.2% of households in Nebraska were very low food secure

In 2010
- On a single night in January 2010, 649,917 people were homeless.
- 79,446 households were homeless, 1.1% over 2009
- 207,966 were individuals, not members of a household
- 1.59 million people spent at least 1 night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing
- Homeless families have increased 20% since 2007
- Single mother with young children is the majority of homeless families
- Individuals that are homeless has decreased 6% since 2007
- Chronic homelessness has decreased 11% from 2007 to 2010
- Fewer homeless are seeking transitional housing; those seeking emergency shelter increased a little; and those seeking permanent supportive housing increased the most which is consistent with HUD’s emphasis to end homelessness with more permanent supportive housing programs
- Permanent supportive housing beds increased 8% between 2009 and 2010 to 236,798.
- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) provides 2 types of assistance
  - Homelessness prevention assistance to very low income households at risk of being homeless
  - Homeless assistance or rapid re-housing to those that is homeless to obtain and maintain permanent housing
- 77% or 531,000 received homelessness prevention assistance
  - 75.1% received financial assistance
  - 89.1% received housing relocation and stabilization services
- 23% or 159,000 received homeless assistance
  - 61.1% received financial assistance
  - 89.1% received housing relocation and stabilization services
- 2.4% received both

NEBRASKA STATISTICS

In 2010
- 3,877 were homeless compared to 3,718 in 2009
- Sheltered PIT counts, 3,355
  - North Central Nebraska 729
  - Omaha/Council Bluffs 1,335
  - Lincoln 824
  - Southwest Nebraska 78
  - Southeast Nebraska 236
  - Panhandle of Nebraska 50
  - Northeast Nebraska 103
- Unsheltered PIT counts 522
  - North Central Nebraska 281
  - Omaha/Council Bluffs 94
  - Lincoln 84
  - Southwest Nebraska 1
  - Southeast Nebraska 52
- Panhandle of Nebraska  7
- Northeast Nebraska  3

- PIT homeless counts 3,877
  - North Central Nebraska 1,010
  - Omaha/Council Bluffs 1,429
  - Lincoln  908
  - Southwest Nebraska  79
  - Southeast Nebraska  288
  - Panhandle of Nebraska  57
  - Northeast Nebraska  106


In 2011, Omaha/Council Bluffs
  - Sheltered PIT counts 1,532
  - Unsheltered PIT counts 36
  - PIT homeless counts 1,580

http://www.lincolnhomelesscoalition.org/homelessness-awareness/reports/

In 2011, Lincoln
  - Sheltered PIT counts 762
  - Unsheltered PIT counts 69
  - PIT homeless counts 834

Other Resources


http://frac.org/reports-and-resources/reports-2/


http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml


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