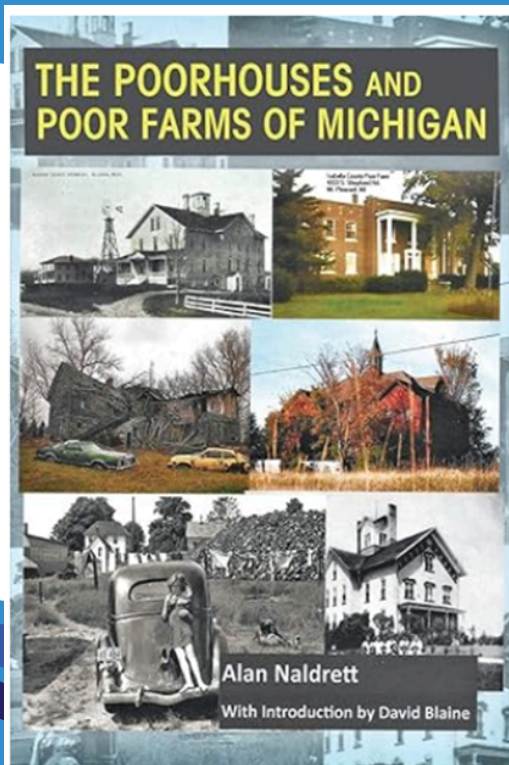


# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November  
2024



## Lisa's Book Corner



**This Month's Spotlight:**  
The Poorhouses and Poor  
Farms of Michigan

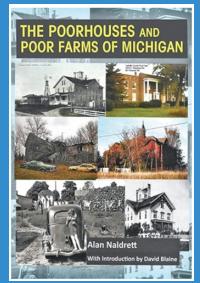
*Learn more about the book  
and some highlights on the  
next page!*

**READ MORE**





# Lisa's Book Corner



## A few key points from the book:

- When Michigan became an official territory in 1805, a 10-page document titled Act for the Relief of the Poor was passed. This law allowed the Overseer to auction off care of the indigent to the lowest bidder.
- The Overseers duties were defined as inquiring about the poor families in his jurisdiction.
- In 1830 Michigan enacted its “Poor House Laws,” laws that were enacted to require the Board of Supervisors for each county to build accommodations to provide for the well-being of their poor residents.
- Many poorhouses worked on the principle that able-bodied indigents were expected to work for their food and lodging and faced imprisonment if they didn’t. Most worked on typical farms but some were sent to “workhouses” or “work farms” and lived there. These were facilities with only the bare essentials. The idea was to make poverty extremely unappealing, as if it wasn’t already for most people.
- Most poorhouses had a “Poor House Cemetery,” or something similar, where deceased indigents not claimed by their relatives were buried.
- The types of patients housed in a poorhouse system varied. Many institutions had a separate building, insensitively called the “Crazy House,” to lodge insane inmates. Some had a “Pesthouse” where people with contagious diseases would be housed.
- There were a number of circumstances that could have a person assigned to a poorhouse. A sample from Onondaga County Poor house in New York state in 1877 included:
  - Vagrancy 127, Intemperance Direct (Alcoholic) 64, Indigent and Destitute 53, Lunacy 42, Sickness 30, Debauchery 13, Old Age 10, Bastardy (Unwed Mother) 7, Lameness 6, Idiocy 6, Blindness 4
- In Michigan, the Poorhouse concept changed when the State of Michigan passed Public Act 280 in 1939. The act changed the direction of Poor Farms and Poorhouses to an infirmary system, primarily to provide medical and nursing care to the needy.

The book lists each county’s poorhouse location. Many include pictures, as well as the locations of their cemeteries.

## An example: Cheboygan County

- Cheboygan had a Poor Infirmary, as they called it, built about three miles from Cheboygan. It was a wood, two-story building with a heating plant installed. It was originally a mill boarding house. It had bathrooms, steam heat, and a good water supply and drainage.
- In 1920 it housed 34 men and 9 women. By 1950 the Infirmary had closed, and the county sold the building and land to help fund the “Northern Michigan Fair” held in Cheboygan County. This entry includes no picture.

**For a deeper dive, the Michigan Department of Education did a YouTube video, “Michigan County Poor Farms with Adam Oster.” You can access the video by scanning the QR code to the right or clicking [here](#).**





# Program Impact

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

### *Social Security & Medicare Updates*

#### **Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D is underway with several big changes for 2025**

Medicare beneficiaries have from **October 15 through December 7** each year to review their prescription drug plan and select a new plan to start January 1. There are several changes that everyone needs to be aware of for next year.

- 2025 is when the “Donut Hole” ends for Part D and Advantage plans with a Part D (MA-PD). This means that Part D copays are capped at \$2,000 and beneficiaries will no longer pay catastrophic rates for prescriptions over that amount.
- Beneficiaries will be able to stretch out their copays through the calendar year by paying monthly copays to their plan (not the pharmacy).
- Region 9 has one less pharmacy chain in its network with the Rite Aid pharmacies now closed.
- Many beneficiaries will need to renew their Extra Help subsidy that caps copays at lower rates.

There are 14 Part D plans to choose from in 2025, and depending on where you live, there could be as many as 54 Advantage plans or as few as 27 MA plans. This also represents a reduced number of insurance providers (5-6) offering the plans. Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to contact their local Council/Commission on Aging or **call 800-803-7174** to schedule an appointment to review Part D.

### *AAA Partners with State to offer Virtual Support Groups*

Area Agencies on Aging around Michigan have teamed up to offer virtual support group options open free to the public. The groups: General Caregiving, Dementia Caregiving, Kinship Caregiving, and Professional Caregiving, will discuss issues, challenges, and concerns that caregivers face. These groups are informal and provide dialogue along with peer support at no cost to attendees. Participants will be able to reflect and connect with others in a similar situation. “Being able to offer these support groups, not only locally, but to the whole state, allows each region to bring its own strengths and resources to the conversation,” says David LaLumia, Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. “We’re excited to grow these support groups over the coming months so all caregivers can find the support they need.” Once a month, each of the four caregiver support groups will offer two meeting sessions to accommodate various schedules. The support groups will have different themed topics for each month. The first five months are as follows:

- November: Caregiving During the Holidays
- December: Self Care
- January: Setting Healthy Boundaries
- February: Understanding Grief and Loss
- March: Caregiver Burnout Compassion Fatigue

Support groups offer a safe, supportive environment for sharing experiences and emotions through guided discussions. If you or someone you know could benefit from one of these support group, please reach out to Brooke at 989.358.4616 or [mainvilleb@nemcsa.org](mailto:mainvilleb@nemcsa.org).

### *Healthy Living Webinar Series*

**Upcoming Healthy Living Webinar Series: Contact Brooke Mainville at [MainvilleB@nemcsa.org](mailto:MainvilleB@nemcsa.org) to register.**

- November 14, 2024: Creating Healthy Shopping Lists
- December 12, 2024: Introduction of Tai Chi
- January 9, 2025: Protect Yourself from Scams and Fraud
- February 13, 2025: Home Safety and Radon
- March 13, 2025: Medication Safety
- April 10, 2025: What is Normal Aging?

# Program Impact

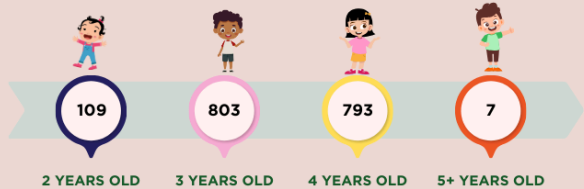
## EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



### 2023-2024 HEAD START PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORT



TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN: 1712



# OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM  
TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED



421  
Children

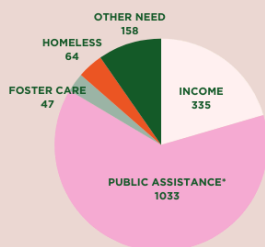
# OF DUAL LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS

42

Children



PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY  
DOCUMENTATION



\*PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- TANF DOCUMENTATION: 18
- SSI DOCUMENTATION: 70
- SNAP DOCUMENTATION: 929

# OF CHILDREN  
EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS



92

Children

FATHER ENGAGEMENT  
# OF FATHERS ATTENDED

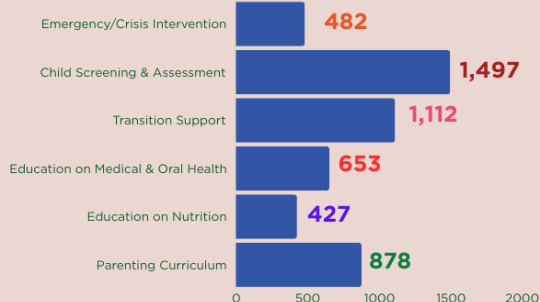
Family Assessment - 403  
Family Goal Setting - 393  
Child Development Experiences - 708  
Program Governance - 10  
Parenting Education Workshops - 255



163 of 501 Staff are  
Current or Former Early Head  
Start or Head Start Parents

1,532 FAMILIES USED AT LEAST ONE FAMILY SERVICE

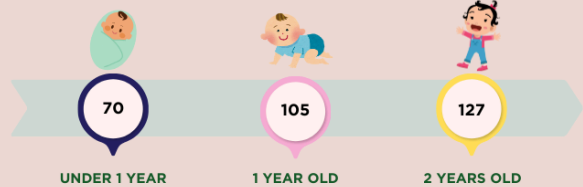
TOP 6 SERVICES USED



### 2023-2024 EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORT



TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN: 302



# OF CHILDREN UP-TO-DATE  
ON ALL IMMUNIZATIONS



255  
Children

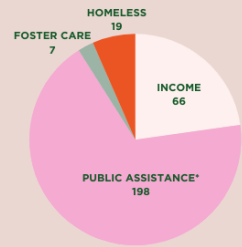
# OF DUAL LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS

9

Children



PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY  
DOCUMENTATION



\*PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- TANF DOCUMENTATION: 10
- SSI DOCUMENTATION: 26
- SNAP DOCUMENTATION: 160

# OF CHILDREN  
EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS



24

Children

FATHER ENGAGEMENT  
# OF FATHERS ATTENDED

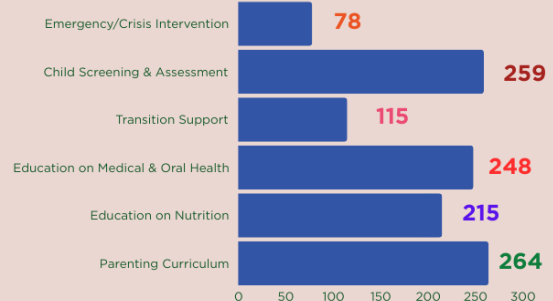
Family Assessment - 86  
Family Goal Setting - 59  
Child Development Experiences - 123  
Program Governance - 1  
Parenting Education Workshops - 6



6 of 54 Staff are  
Current or Former Early Head  
Start or Head Start Parents

269 FAMILIES USED AT LEAST ONE FAMILY SERVICE

TOP 6 SERVICES USED



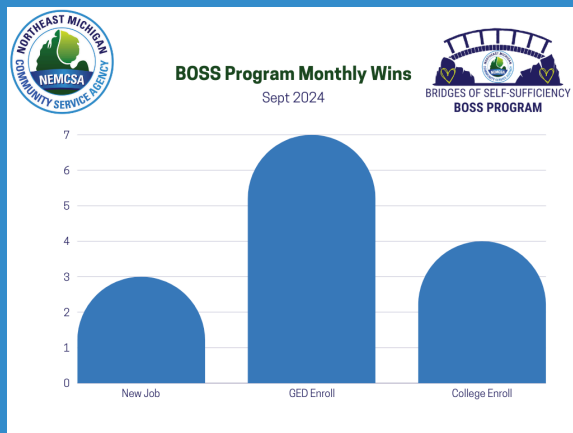
# Program Impact

## BRIDGES OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This month, the BOSS Program celebrated an important milestone: It's very first BOSS 2.0 Graduate! The participant, through hard work and dedication, successfully increased her financial well-being, secured a full-time job, and transitioned to a new area to strengthen her support network. Program Staff extend their congratulations to both the participant and her mentor, Madison, for achieving this incredible success!

In September, Amanda, the BOSS Program Manager, presented updates to the NEMCSA Board, showcasing the history of BOSS, where the program is today, and the vision for future growth. The expansion of the program and the success stories we've seen are setting the stage for further opportunities to serve the communities.

### September BOSS Program Wins



*This project was supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRF4951 awarded to The State of Michigan by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

This month marked the successful closeout of the Temporary Auto Repair Assistance Program. Through this initiative, the team was able to provide \$65,576.11 in repairs for 41 individuals and families across Northeast Michigan. Though the program has now ended, we are proud to have temporarily addressed one of the region's most pressing needs: reliable transportation. The Community Resource Team also had a busy month of engagement, attending three major events: the Grayling Community Health Fair, the Crawford County Health Fair, and the Arenac County Community Connections event. During these events, the team interacted with hundreds of families, distributing flyers and providing valuable information about NEMCSA's services. Additionally, in September, we assisted 74 individuals and 19 NEMCSA staff members by providing resources, referrals, and connections to community partners. The team also created graphics and presentations to support outreach efforts. Our Community Resource Team continues to support internal staff—Madison and Amanda have been hard at work assisting with flyer creation, advertising plans, and social media share-outs. If you need support with graphic design, marketing, or advertising, feel free to reach out to the team at [crc@nemcsa.org](mailto:crc@nemcsa.org).

### VEHICLE REPAIR ASSISTANCE



Temporary Auto Repair Assistance Program. Through this initiative, the team was able to provide:

**\$65,576.11**

in repair expenses for 41 individuals and families across Northeast Michigan!

Though the program has now ended, we are proud to have temporarily addressed one of the region's most pressing needs: reliable transportation.





# Program Impact

## SCHOOL SUCCESS



School Success Liaisons and School Success Behavior Techs are able to equip their spaces with materials that enable students to experience environments that foster restorative behavior with the focus on creating positive relationships between students and the schools. The ultimate result is that by creating these environments the students are able attend class regularly and perform better in school because they feel that they have a safe, accessible, welcoming restorative space with the tools that they need. In the photos, see the impact of using a weighted blanket. "It has been especially useful with children who struggle with loud noises and sensory overload in a classroom. Coming into my room, laying down with blanket around them or on top of them has de-escalated their emotions and gives them a way to de-stress in a healthful, calm manner. Within a matter of minutes, there is a positive change in the child's attitude and ability to articulate what is going on in their minds and how I can best help. Sometimes, it is just laying with the blanket and playing soft music, other times it can be sitting with the blanket wrapped around them while I read a book to them."

-Ann Smith, School Success Liaison, Wilson Elementary, Alpena



We Donations

School Success Liaisons, Sarah B. and Jolene P., during a homevisit, show off new twin beds and other goodies donated from the woman's group at Trinity Episcopal Church in Alpena. Thank you to all the ladies for their hard work, kindness and dedication to caring about our community, kids and our School Success families. This same fantastic group of ladies will also be donating 30 turkey dinners to our SSP families next month. A special thank you to Ellen Eagan, when she heard about School Success and the needs some of our families and kids had, Ellen jump into motion and made things happen. We appreciate and value this new partnership.



The School Success Program staff were led by Jodie Baker, Data & Development Coordinator, through a full day of EmpowOR refresher training. The SSP group was split into two separate days to accommodate a full day of training for all the staff that enter monthly reporting data into EmpowOR. This is School Success's second year utilizing the EmpowOR database and so far, they have learned a lot and worked diligently to understand the database. Ashley Gagnon, Financial Coach, from the Homeless Prevention Program, joined the SSP team for the training too. It was a wonderful two days of learning and team networking.



# Program Impact

## HOUSING

### 2024 Homeless Awareness Month Theme:

“Destination HOME: Sharing the Common Goal of Housing for All.”

Homeless Awareness Month is observed yearly in the state of Michigan. The entire month showcases avenues in which individuals, families, agencies, and businesses can play a role in supporting those experiencing housing instability.

### Homeless Awareness Month Activities:

- Kindness Closet Supply & Blanket Drive: 11/1 to 11/30 Locations TBD, flyer to follow.
- Homeless and Hunger Walk: 11/2 @ 10am – Alpena Salvation Army



**SATURDAY, NOV. 2ND 10AM - 11AM\***

Meet at Salvation Army Church – 722 N. 2nd Ave, Alpena  
Questions? – Call Randy at 989-657-9313



**HUNGER & HOMELESS WALK**

\*not a NEMCSA sponsored event

Thank you, Wolverine State Credit Union! They are kicking off the HAM events! Their staff rallied together to fulfill the needs of others. They donated items to The Kindness Closet, a resource used by Housing Case Managers and Street Outreach staff to provide personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and household essentials for those experiencing homelessness or those who are in the process of exiting homelessness.

*Thank you*

New lease ups are happening every week as Street Outreach and Case Managers work together to find available rentals for current participants in shelters and places not meant for human habitation. Check out this beautiful new home a participant moved into last week! If you know a landlord willing to work with the housing program, please have them reach out to Tarin at 989-358-4718!



**To find out more about Homeless & Prevention Services, call: 989-358-4678.**

# Program Impact

## FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

During Fiscal Year 2024, staff worked with 33 households to complete Pre-Purchase Counseling to better help them become prepared to complete the homebuying process. 14 participants that worked with our Financial Coach have successfully completed the purchase of a home and become successful homeowners. Staff assisted 28 households with Foreclosure Prevention counseling to avoid losing their homes, 19 of which were successful in stopping their foreclosure. Staff also completed 36 Homebuyer Education classes, and completed Rental Counseling with 32 households, 30 of these households were all previously homeless and are working with staff to be able to maintain their housing. Staff had 6 BOSS participants participate in Financial Literacy/Budgeting class.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program currently has 24 active participants. This number is always changing as new people are enrolling or people deciding that they don't have to participate and are exiting. MSHDA recently sent FSS invitations to every Housing Choice Voucher holder in 7 of our counties so we expect there will be an increase in participants in the next month or two while they're applications are being processed by MSHDA.

**To find out more about the Financial Empowerment Programs, Call: 989-358-4627.**

## WATER PROGRAM

*For Fiscal Year 2024:*



**To find out more about the Water Program, Call: 989-358-4675.**



# Program Impact

## WEATHERIZATION

As we celebrate Weatherization Awareness Month this October, we shine the spotlight on Doug Tallant, NEMCSA's Weatherization Program Manager, who has been at the helm of the program since 2018. With a deep commitment to energy efficiency, sustainability, and community service, Doug has led a team dedicated to improving homes and lives across northeast Michigan. What inspired Doug to pursue this leadership role? Doug shares that he was looking for a new professional direction when he applied to be the Weatherization Program Manager in 2018. What drew him in was the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives by improving the safety, health, and energy efficiency of their homes. "It's a win on so many levels," Doug says, reflecting on how reducing energy usage not only benefits individual families but also contributes to a larger goal of reducing our environmental footprint.

The most rewarding aspects of leadership: For Doug, watching his team grow professionally has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of his role. He takes pride in their determination and dedication, celebrating their progress toward shared goals. "Our team has matured in how they approach their work and interact with both clients and each other," Doug notes. He feels deeply rewarded seeing how they pull together to overcome challenges and continuously improve the lives of local families. Challenges and teamwork in the weatherization field- Doug's team works on a diverse range of homes, each presenting unique challenges, from structural differences to varied client personalities. But it's in these challenges that the strength of his team shines through. "Our team uses each of our unique skill sets to effectively implement the program," Doug explains, noting how collaboration helps them succeed in their mission. Looking toward the future of weatherization- The future of weatherization looks bright, as Doug predicts continued expansion within the program. With growing funding and a collective focus on reducing our environmental footprint, he envisions NEMCSA playing a key role in meeting those goals. Doug is committed to ensuring the program continues to deliver high-quality, compassionate services to the community. Advice for future leaders in Weatherization- Doug's advice for aspiring leaders is rooted in a focus on the client. He emphasizes the importance of ensuring the best possible outcome for each family served. "Always remember why we were drawn to serve people in need," he advises. Doug believes that thoughtful and mindful leadership is key to successfully navigating a program that has such a direct impact on local families. Doug was a key note speaker at our Weatherization Technical Conference this month, he spoke about building relationships with his contractors. Our clients, staff and contractors alike, are very lucky to have Doug Tallant managing this program! A special "thank you" goes out to our marketing team for creating such a wonderful leadership spotlight!!!

**To find out more about the Weatherization Program, Call: 989-358-4700.**



Weatherization Awareness Month

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**DOUG TALLANT**



# Program Impact

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

### Foster Grandparent/ Senior Companions



The Foster Grandparent program would like to congratulate, Joanne Richards, a Foster Grandparent volunteer at Lincoln Elementary School, Alpena! Grandma Joanne has accepted the paid position of Instructional Assistant with Alpena Public Schools and is transitioning from volunteering to employment staying with Lincoln Elementary. While we never like to lose a Foster Grandparent, we couldn't be happier for her. To be eligible for the Foster Grandparent Program an individual 55 years old and older must have income at or below 200% poverty and be willing to serve 15-20 hours a week. In return for their service, our volunteers receive a \$4 an hour stipend, mileage reimbursement, and other benefits. The wage of an ASP Instructional Assistant exceeds Michigan's minimum wage. So, you can see what a boost this is for Joanne, and we wish her great success. While we have every confidence Joanne would have been selected for the position had she not been a Foster Grandparent, we believe being a Foster Grandparent contributed to this opportunity for her. We would also like to showcase Joanne's experience as another example of how our Senior Volunteer Programs, Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), fulfill NEMCSA's mission of enhancing quality of life by empowering individuals and strengthening communities. Congratulations Joanne, we hate to see you go and know we will welcome you back to the Foster Grandparent program at any time!

### RSVP

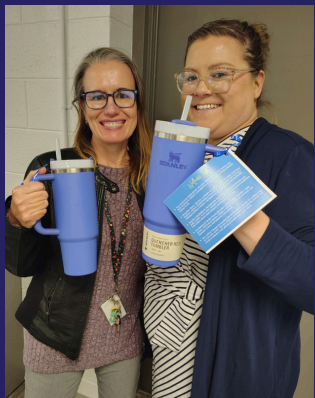
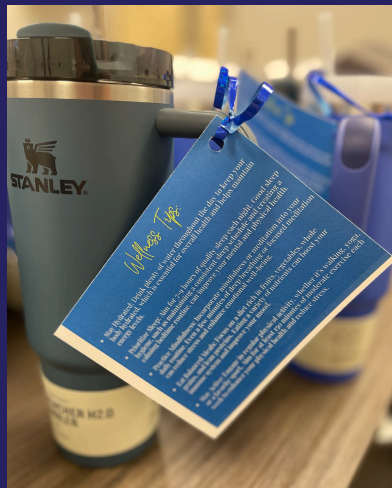


RSVP Services Coordinator, Tammy Dean, has been at the Presque Isle Project Connect events in both Onaway and Rogers City promoting the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteer Program. Karol Shellenbarger recently signed up with the volunteer program and will be serving at Hale Fish Store in Hale, MI. This is a community thrift store, that also has a baby closet and food pantry. The store also provides community individuals with resources and information for services or any needs they may have. Mary Santure has been an RSVP volunteer since early 2019 at the Sunrise Side Senior Services in Omer, MI. Mary is at the center almost every day and helps with lunches, events, bingo and more. She enjoys the good times and friends she has made going to the center throughout the years.



# Sip Sip Hooray!

The NEMCSA Leadership Team provided welcome back goodie bags to all staff in October. The goodie bag consisted of a Stanley Cup, a waterproof sticker of the NEMCSA logo, a healthy snack, a wellness note, and a bag to hold it all with an inspirational message on it. NEMCSA hopes that each and every one of our staff know that they are valued and appreciated each day by NEMCSA and our clients. This is just one way that we want to show that appreciation to them.



Some words of appreciation from our staff:

*"I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE my Stanley!"*

*"...something I would have never bought for myself..."*

*"Thank you so much, it was a very nice surprise."*



# Development Team Update!

NEMCSA recently introduced its own Poverty Education Curriculum, crafted from decades of community experience and expert insights to deepen understanding around the complexities of poverty. Last week, Jodie Baker and Frances Ommani led an engaging presentation for a small group of NEMCSA staff, who described the session as eye-opening and transformative. Participants shared that they gained a broader understanding of poverty's causes and how individual backgrounds affect communication styles and daily priorities.



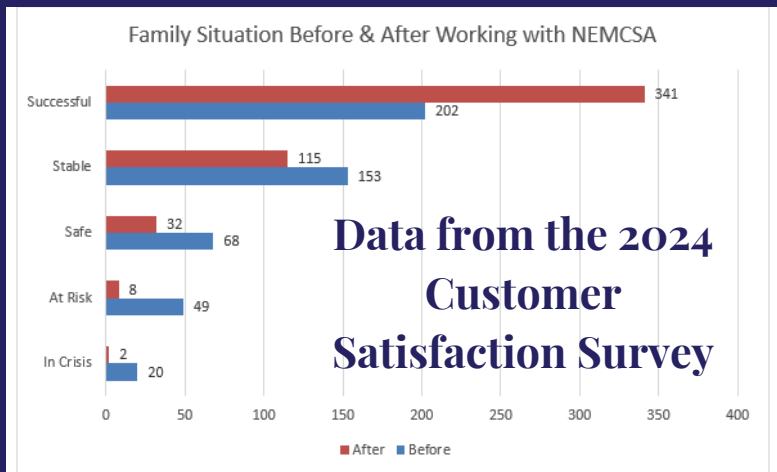
NEMCSA was able to provide assistance to individuals utilizing the CSBG grant for this fiscal year. We ran four programs; Automobile Repairs, Emergency Hotel Stays, Home Repairs, and Tax Arrearages. Below is the amount of assistance and number of individuals benefiting from the programs.

Automobile Repairs assisted 122 individuals with \$65,576.77 in expenses.

Emergency Hotel Stays housed 128 homeless individuals in hotels with \$55,574.26 in expenses.

Home Repairs made repairs to 3 homes with \$22,786 in expenses.

Tax Arrearages helped 42 people pay past due property taxes with \$35,305.47 in expenses.



## *A few of our open positions include:*

- Financial Specialist
- Youth & Young Adult Coordinator
- School Success Behavior Tech
- Truancy Intervention Liaison
- Home Visitor
- Instructional Coach
- Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Classroom Aides, Bus Aides & Subs

We have job openings! Interested in joining the NEMCSA team? Visit our careers page at [nemcsa.org/careers](https://nemcsa.org/careers) to learn more & apply!

Covid test kits are available to order by visiting [covidtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov). Test kits are also available at the NEMCSA main office in Alpena, reach out to Paige Sumerix at 989-358-4674 or [sumerixp@nemcsa.org](mailto:sumerixp@nemcsa.org) if you would like some.

