

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May
2024



A Heartwarming Visit from a Special Guest



On Thursday, April 25th, Lindsay Head Start Room 4 welcomed a special guest, Senator Kristen McDonald-Rivet, for an inspiring visit filled with warmth and learning. During her time at the Head Start center, Senator McDonald-Rivet immersed herself in the world of these young learners, engaging in reading sessions and exploring the vibrant classroom environment. However, what truly captured her attention were the seeds of knowledge and growth being cultivated within the classroom. It was a delightful opportunity for the Senator to witness firsthand the enthusiasm and curiosity with which these children approached the concept of gardening and sustainable food practices. Senator Kristen McDonald-Rivet's visit serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of education and the profound impact that community engagement can have on shaping the future.

May is Community Action Month!

MAY 2024 Heritage Months - (Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Haitian Heritage Month, Jewish-American Heritage Month, South Asian American Heritage Month) – Sample graphics provided. Older Americans Month - Give recognition and raise awareness about issues facing older adults. Sample graphic and tweets provided. Mental Health Awareness Month - Help raise mental health awareness and combat stigma around mental illness. Sample graphics and tweets provided. CCAP Celebration Week (May 13 – 19) – Celebrate your agency's Certified Community Action Professionals on social media.		The Promise 1 Recite the Promise of Community Action on social media. Sample graphic provided. Recognizing 60 Years of Community Action Recognize Community Action's 60th anniversary on social media. Sample graphics and messaging provided.	BABY DAY 2 Share our graphic and messaging or spotlight your Early Head Start or Whole Family services.	HUGGY HEART DAY 3  Color the Huggy Heart and post to social media.	MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU 4
Sunday Success 5 Celebrate your customer success stories on social media. Sample messaging provided. #SundaySuccess	NATIONAL NURSES DAY 6 Honor nurses on social media. Sample graphic and tweets provided. STATE ASSOCIATION DAY Honor and promote your Community Action State Association with group board and/or staff photos and highlights from Association services.	National Teacher Day 7 Honor your Head Start teachers. Sample graphic and messaging provided.	IMPACT WEDNESDAY Promote Community Action's national impact with our collection of social media graphics and messages or use our customizable template to promote your agency's local impact. #ImpactWednesday	Throwback thursday 9  Share our sample graphic honoring Sargent Shriver and/or post your own #TBT photo.	PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY 10 Give recognition to childcare providers on social media. Sample graphic and messaging provided.
		Older Americans Month 11 Give recognition and raise awareness about issues facing older adults. Sample graphics and tweets provided.			
12 HAPPY Mother's DAY Celebrate the mothers of Community Action. Sample graphics provided.	Motivation Monday Share our sample graphic honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. #MotivationMonday 13 CCAP Appreciation Week Celebrate your agency's CCAPs on social media.	TRAINING TUESDAY 14 Promote Community Action training programs that help equip families for success. Sample graphics and tweets provided. #TrainingTuesday	15 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES Promote the importance of family well-being in our communities. Sample graphic and tweets provided.	Mental Health Awareness Month 16 Help raise mental health awareness and combat stigma around mental illness. Sample graphics and tweets provided. CCAP Appreciation Week Share your digital badge on social media.	International Day 17 Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia A day to reaffirm our commitment to end violence and discrimination against LGBTQ communities. Sample graphic and messaging provided.
super soul sunday 19 Shoutout faith-based leaders and initiatives that are providing needed access to resources and opportunity in local communities.	mission monday 20 Use the customizable social media template to promote your agency's mission. #MissionMonday	World Day for Cultural Diversity 21 Celebrate the richness and diversity of our world. Sample graphic provided and messaging provided. Tuesday Testimonial Have a great customer testimonial to share? Post it to social media! Sample messaging provided. #TuesdayTestimonial	Weatherization Wednesday Promote the importance of Community Action weatherization services. Sample graphic and tweets provided. 22 Harvey Milk Day Share our graphic honoring Harvey Milk.	23 THROWBACK THURSDAY Share our graphic honoring Lyndon B. Johnson and/or post your own #TBT photo.	24 fact friday Sample graphic and tweets provided. #FactFriday
				25 saturday spotlight Spotlight a program or service provided by your CAA or State Association. #SaturdaySpotlight saturday shoutout Shoutout local partners on social media.	
Sunday Success 26 Celebrate your customer success stories on social media. Sample messaging provided. #SundaySuccess	MEMORIAL DAY 27 A day to honor and mourn military personnel who have died while serving our country. Sample graphic provided.	28 transformation tuesday Let folks know how your CAA is transforming lives in your community. Sample graphics and tweets provided. #TransformationTuesday	Impact Wednesday 29 Promote Community Action's national impact with our collection of sample graphics and messages or use our customizable template to promote your agency's local impact. #ImpactWednesday	Thankful Thursday 30 Give thanks to those who make a difference and inspire us – board members, staff, customers, and the Community Action Network at large. Sample messaging provided. #ThankfulThursday	Fun Friday 31 Post a photo of yourself to social media with our "I <3 Community Action" selfie sign. #FunFriday Recognizing 60 Years of Community Action Recognize Community Action's 60th anniversary on social media. Sample graphics and messaging provided.

Board Members:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Support NEMCSA & Advocate for the mission & programs.
- Attend Full-Day NEMCSA Poverty Education Training
 - May 14th at Grayling Commission on Aging 9 am-4 pm
- Join us for lunch!
 - May 7th: Bucks Country Cookin', West Branch
 - May 30th: Mulligan's Restaurant, Cheboygan
 - June 11th: El Patron Grill, Gaylord



Program Impact

AREA AGENCY ON AGING



Come check out this joint event in Grayling at the Crawford County Commission on Aging.

Breakfast Presentation

Presented by NEMCSA!
May 8th at 9:30 am!

Presentation will be on Caregivers and helpful tools on their website. Breakfast will be scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, wheat toast, hash browns, blueberry yogurt, juice and coffee!



Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
Training Held in April

Three SCSEP participants received training at the Michigan Works Office in Mio. Alayne Hansen, Business Solutions Professional for the Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium, gave a presentation on available services. Connie McQuarrie, SCSEP Coordinator reviewed the NEMCSA and Aging website along with the TruAlta and GetSetUp websites. Various program brochures and flyers were distributed. After lunch the group joined the AAA virtual Healthy Living Webinar Series on Managing Stress and Mental Health. Speaker Rhianna Compton from the Alcona Health Center discussed types of stress and shared ways to manage and reduce it.



After a successful 23 years as Region 9 Area Agency on Aging's Nutrition Coordinator, Kelly Robinette retired April 23rd. Kelly says she will miss being with the seniors and staff at the centers and giving the Councils/Commissions on Aging the help and tools they need to assist the seniors in their counties.

Enjoy your retirement, Kelly.
You will be missed!



Caregiver Empowerment and Wellness Conference
Friday, April 19, 2024
Mio Baptist Church

The Annual Caregiver Empowerment and Wellness Conference was held in Mio on Friday, April 19th. Over 80 professional and family caregivers were able to hear about Dementia, Brain Health, 211, Community Resources, Technology & Caregiving, and Self Care to Prevent Burnout. Many thanks to the sponsors, vendors, and participants for making the day a success.

REGISTER NOW



ADVANCING CAREGIVING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



This conference aims to explore the important role of technology in caregiving while celebrating diversity and strength within the caregiving community.



DR. FEI SUN
Technology Tools for Dementia Care



DR. DANIEL VELEZ ORTIZ
Expanding Access to Support and Services through Technology



JAMES GIORDANI
Technology to Support Aging in Place



PAUL FREDDOLINO
Technology to Foster Social Connections



BETH NOLAN, PHD
Developing Activities That Have Meaning for Those Living with Dementia

This conference invites caregivers of all types, guardians, professionals, and direct care staff, whether caring for someone with dementia or a chronic illness to attend.

FLYING PIG
VENUE
(STANDISH)

MAY 17

**10:00 AM
3:00 PM**

989.358.4616

mainvilleb@nemcsa.org

Caregiving is not an easy task, come celebrate you and all that you do!

There will be a complimentary breakfast and lunch along with great door prizes and an array of vendors. All caregivers are welcome to attend this free, fun, and informative conference.

For more information or to register for this free event, please call 989.358.4616 or click here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rWrAYX2g6i>

PODCAST

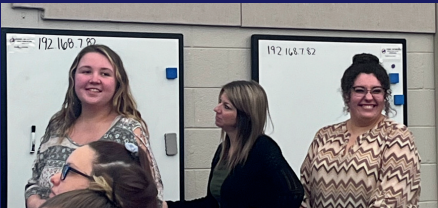
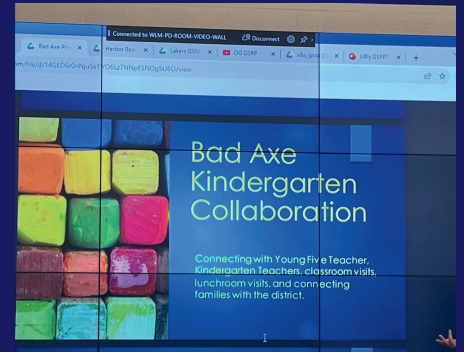
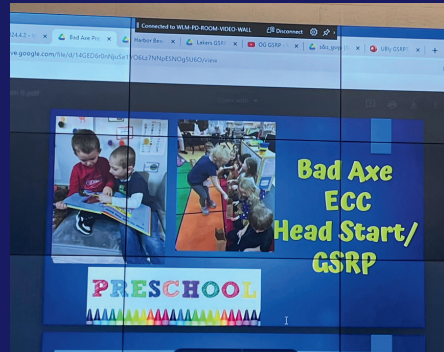
Listen to the latest podcast about MI Senior Advocacy Council here:

<https://www.nemcsa.org/services/senior-services/podcast.html>



Program Impact

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



Bad Axe & Caseville

Showcase Preschool Programs



In a bid to foster collaboration and discuss the expansion of state-funded preschool initiatives, educators from Huron County's GSRP programs, including NEMCSA's Bad Axe and Caseville classrooms, took center stage at Huron Intermediate School District on April 2. Presentations were delivered to an attentive audience comprising superintendents, principals, directors, and teachers.

The presentations were comprehensive, covering key aspects of preschool programming such as staffing, daily schedules, curriculum, assessments, transitions, and partnerships with public schools. Numerous photos were shared, showcasing classroom environments and engaging activities.

The primary objective of the gathering was to facilitate a collaborative dialogue on the expansion of state-funded preschool programs while also providing a platform for the exchange of ideas. Participants took an in-person tour of all classrooms on a separate day, gaining firsthand insights into the operational dynamics of the various preschool programs.

NEMCSA continues to engage in universal preschool discussions around the state, from the local level in Huron County to the Capitol in Lansing. Thank you to Gabrielle Kerr, Kasey Palmer, and Nicole Murawksi from Bad Axe; and Emily Kaake, Ashley Arntz, and Debra Heller from Caseville for making our voices heard!

Program Impact

BRIDGES OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The BOSS Program Facilitator, Amanda Bergeron, is thrilled to share the latest accomplishments and impactful stories from NEMCSA's BOSS Program. The Agency's commitment to empowering families and individuals in the community has never been stronger, and the results are truly inspiring.

Training and Development:

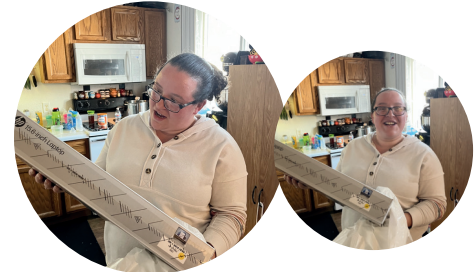
- All of the dedicated BOSS mentors have successfully completed their first round of comprehensive training with poverty education expert Donna Beegle.
- Additionally, the team has also completed the MiBridges Navigator training, enhancing their ability to connect clients with essential state resources and benefits.

Support and Guidance:

- The BOSS Program Facilitator has been diligently meeting one-on-one with all BOSS mentors, providing tailored support and guidance.
- Optional weekly group check-in meetings for BOSS Program mentors have been scheduled.

Transformative Wins:

- A family plagued by bed bug infestation received necessary treatments, enabling the children to return to school.
- An aspiring student received a laptop to pursue her GED, bringing her closer to educational goals and future opportunities.



A Testament to Impact:

- BOSS Mentor, Chris Powroznik, expressed the profound impact of the BOSS Program.
- A long-time staff member found renewed purpose through involvement with the BOSS Program.



A Semester of Progress:

- BOSS Program Staff worked closely with a graduate student from the University of Michigan, bringing fresh perspectives to the program.
- Staff anticipates the presentation to the NEMCSA Development Team from a graduate student will share findings and recommendations.



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.

Program Impact

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NEMCSA's Community Resource Coordinators (Amanda & Madison) conducted community visits throughout Arenac County, meeting with community partners from MDHHS, the Health Department, MiWorks, Multiple Libraries, and local township halls. We distributed numerous NEMCSA programmatic materials, and business cards as well as shared valuable information about our agency and the services offered.



During the month of March, the program assisted 44 individuals, families, and community partners, including 17 NEMCSA staff. Assistance included: navigating difficult-to-locate resources, connecting to funding sources, determining eligibility, providing NEMCSA overview information, creating marketing materials, and sharing valuable information on multiple platforms including internally, in print, and through social media.

*"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much."
- Helen Keller*

The Vehicle Assistance Program has assisted individuals and families with getting their primary vehicles back on the road, making it possible to continue to go to work and get children to school. As of the end of March, we have assisted with \$5,640.22 in repair assistance. One recipient of this program stated: "My car is literally driving better than when I first bought it! The help you extended to me was basically life-changing. I don't know what I would've done otherwise! I cannot thank you enough from the bottom of my heart!"



FOOD PROGRAM

In April, the food program distributions had some visitors to help out. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan was there to observe how NEMCSA does its distributions. They were amazed at how organized the staff were and that staff were able to hand out food, take applications, and add TEFAP foods during the short amount of distribution time. The West Branch State Police Community Service Trooper joined distribution as well and a cadet with him. Those gentlemen physically lifted and placed the boxes in the vehicle, stacked the empties, and conversed with the patrons. Madison from the Boss program volunteered as well as bringing fliers of other programs to be passed out. Each set of hands at a distribution makes it a little easier on the Food Staff Employees. The Food Coordinator has been working with the RSVP Coordinator to obtain volunteers for some of the remaining distributions to continue handing out the extra food items. The program can always use help opening and packing the boxes in the warehouse too. This month, a Girl Scout group, as well as the FFA from Alpena, came and did "special" pack sessions. These added to the ones already scheduled and allowed the warehouse staff to get a little ahead of schedule. The program always welcomes extra hands.

If you or someone you know would like to assist, please contact the food program at 989-358-4708.

Program Impact



SCHOOL SUCCESS



Prom season is here! Pictured to the left is Natalie Gill, Truancy Intervention Liaison at Alcona Schools (left), and Jada Worth, School Success Liaison at Alcona Elementary (right). Natalie and Jada recently hit the streets, gathering donations for Alcona's upcoming Prom. These ladies have raised almost \$800 for Alcona Prom to this day. Every student who could not afford a ticket to the Prom will be paid with money left over for pictures.

Meet Brian Colorite (right), School Success Career Development Coordinator at Tawas Area High School. Brian works with secondary students in grades 8th-12th. Brian has worked hard all school year to connect with almost every Junior & Senior in preparation for post-high school continued learning and/or job placement. It has been an amazing first year with this position in place at Tawas Area High School and with Brian in this role.

Nikolas Klein (pictured left) is a determined student at Tawas Area High School with a passion for both academics and extracurriculars. His proactive approach is evident through setting up a Charles Schwab investment account and pursuing multiple scholarships. He is planning on attending Central Michigan University to study Engineering. When he's not studying or working a part-time job, you'll find Nikolas on the field, showcasing his skills in baseball, basketball, and football. Nikolas is a true go-getter!



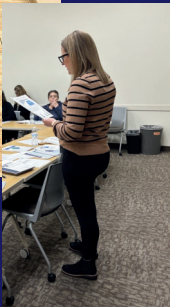
Welcome to the School Success Team, Taylor Fleming!

Taylor is the new School Success Liaison for K-2 at Ella White Elementary in Alpena.



Meet Joy Garrison (pictured left), School Success Liaison at Clara Bolen Elementary, pictured here with student, Bradley (pictured right). Joy works diligently with the students at Clara Bolen on social-emotional groups, one-on-one check-ins, supporting the sensory space, building strong relationships with caregivers and so much more. Joy manages resources for McKinney Vento-eligible students of all ages with assistance from the SSP Liaison at Tawas Area High School.

Dorothy Pintar, Community Program Director (NEMCSA), and Elizabeth Skiba, SSP Area Manager (NEMCSA) were invited to speak on behalf of the School Success Program and NEMCSA's Community Programs to Northeast Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Board of Directors and leadership staff. Hot topics and questions that were asked were chronic absenteeism, funding sources, behavioral issues, and staffing. Tina Smigelski, Director of DHHS, and Heather Baker, DHHS Program Manager will be presenting to the School Success Staff in the fall on various Child Protective topics.



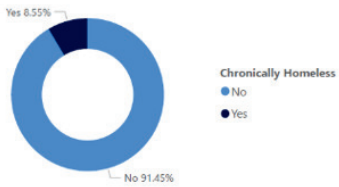
Program Impact

HOUSING

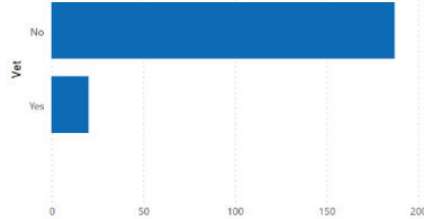
Point in Time Count has revealed that the homelessness situation has worsened, with a 15% increase from last year, totaling 207 individuals, 82 of whom were street homeless. Many of the unhoused attribute their situations to lack of affordable housing.

An Iosco resident, who has faced significant personal tragedy and struggles with illiteracy, found himself chronically homeless, disabled, and living in dire conditions. Through collaborative efforts involving referrals and support from various organizations including FISH and Street Outreach, along with the assistance of Permanent Supportive Housing and a compassionate landlord, he has been successfully housed in a comfortable living arrangement. This act of kindness reflects the transformative power of community support and highlights the potential for positive change in the lives of those facing adversity. Picture of his new house, which came fully furnished, ready to move in!

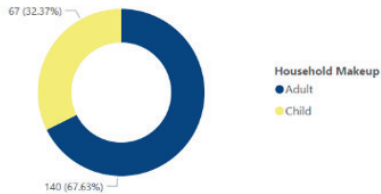
Sum of Age by Chronically Homeless



Count of Veterans



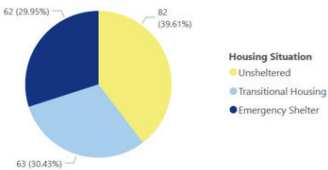
Count of Household Makeup



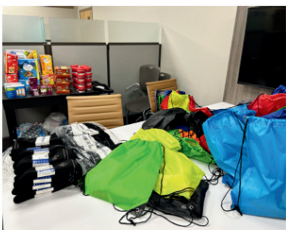
Count of Domestic Violence Survivors



Count by Location



Point in Time (PIT) Count - The last Wednesday of January every year is the Point-in-Time Count. For 24 hours, households in a place not meant for human habitation - Cars, campers, tents, public restrooms, etc. - are met with by volunteers who take down general information about their household. Public access points such as Libraries, Laundromats, 24-hour Gas stations, food pantries and soup kitchens, called in to report individuals that would frequent their establishments seeking warmth from the winter weather. Volunteers were able to engage with 207 homeless individuals. 125 were sheltered and 82 were unsheltered. The volunteers collected count information to present to HUD and state partners and provided the unhoused with outreach bags.



Welcome Home



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

Program Impact

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

In the month of March, staff worked with 3 households to complete Pre-Purchase Counseling to better help them become prepared to complete the homebuying process, completed three Homebuyer Education classes, and two households participated in Rental Counseling. These households were all previously homeless and are working with staff to be able to maintain their housing.

At the end of January, NEMCSA created internal assistance to help prevent households from experiencing foreclosure due to property taxes. In the month of April, the program has had 15 households contact staff for assistance and is in the process of approving them for payment.

During the third week of March, Housing Stability Intake staff attended a training conference in St. Paul Minnesota hosted by NeighborWorks America. The training was focused on Foreclosure Intervention and Default Counseling and will help educate staff on new ways to assist households in the NEMCSA service area that are facing foreclosure so they're able to stay housed.

The Family Self-Sufficiency program currently has 36 active participants. This number is always changing as new people are enrolling or people decide that they don't have to participate and are exiting.

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

WEATHERIZATION

Total spent in all DOE grant categories to date = \$436,419.41

Total spent in LIHEAP = \$254,541.38

Total spent in Bill 1 ½ year total = \$995,812.78

With about 86 homes in progress and over 100 client homes on the current waitlist, the program is pleased to say cost totals should rise substantially and staff are so thankful that they are able to help meet most client needs in the way of lowering energy usage and the burden of our clients' monthly bill costs.



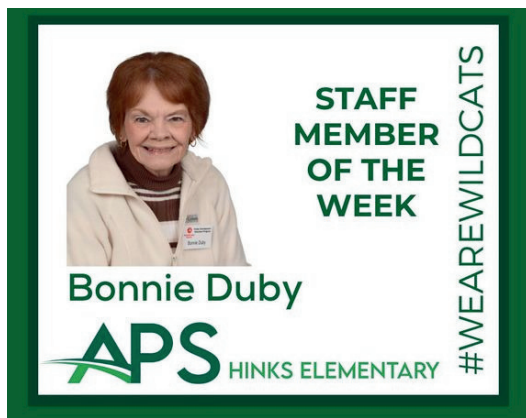
***Weatherization
Works***

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

Program Impact

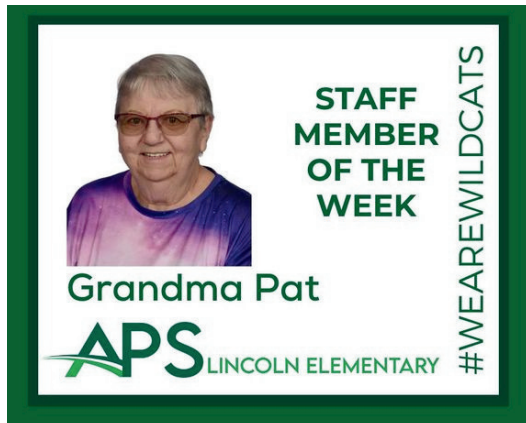
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SENIOR COMPANION & FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAMS



Two Foster Grandparent volunteers have been recognized by their schools for their outstanding performance and contributions to the students. Pictured are Pat Marchlewski, or Grandma Pat as she is known throughout Lincoln Elementary. Grandma Pat has been a constant figure and part of the fabric of Lincoln Elementary School, Alpena going on 13 years. She loves spending time with the students helping them with their reading skills.

Foster Grandparent Bonnie Duby has followed in her mother's footsteps serving the students at Hinks Elementary for nearly three years now. She looks forward to spending her day with the students in the kindergarten classroom giving hugs and encouragement to those who need a little extra help.



The program is also excited to welcome two new Foster Grandparents to the family of volunteers. Janet Kernstock from Alger will be joining the team at Standish-Sterling Elementary and Linda Uchwal will be serving at Atlanta Community Schools.

It is very exciting to be growing the program and expanding services throughout our 12-county area!

The RSVP Volunteer Program continues to take on new volunteers and speaking engagements with local community groups. A new station has been added with the hopes of opening a new food pantry and childcare center in the summer for Iosco County. Staff will be working to fill those volunteer positions. RSVP Ambassador Volunteer Sherry Haag had a table at the opening of the new Crawford County Commission on Aging Center in March and at the Caregivers Conference in Mio in April. Sherry is on the RSVP Advisory Council Board, volunteers at the COA where she makes telephone reassurance calls to people who are homebound, and leads a monthly Alzheimer's Support Group. As an RSVP Ambassador, Sherry helps spread the word at local events about the volunteer program and encourages people 55 and up to become a volunteer in their community. The RSVP Project Director is working on putting items together for the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Event scheduled for May 2nd at Kirtland Community College.

RSVP



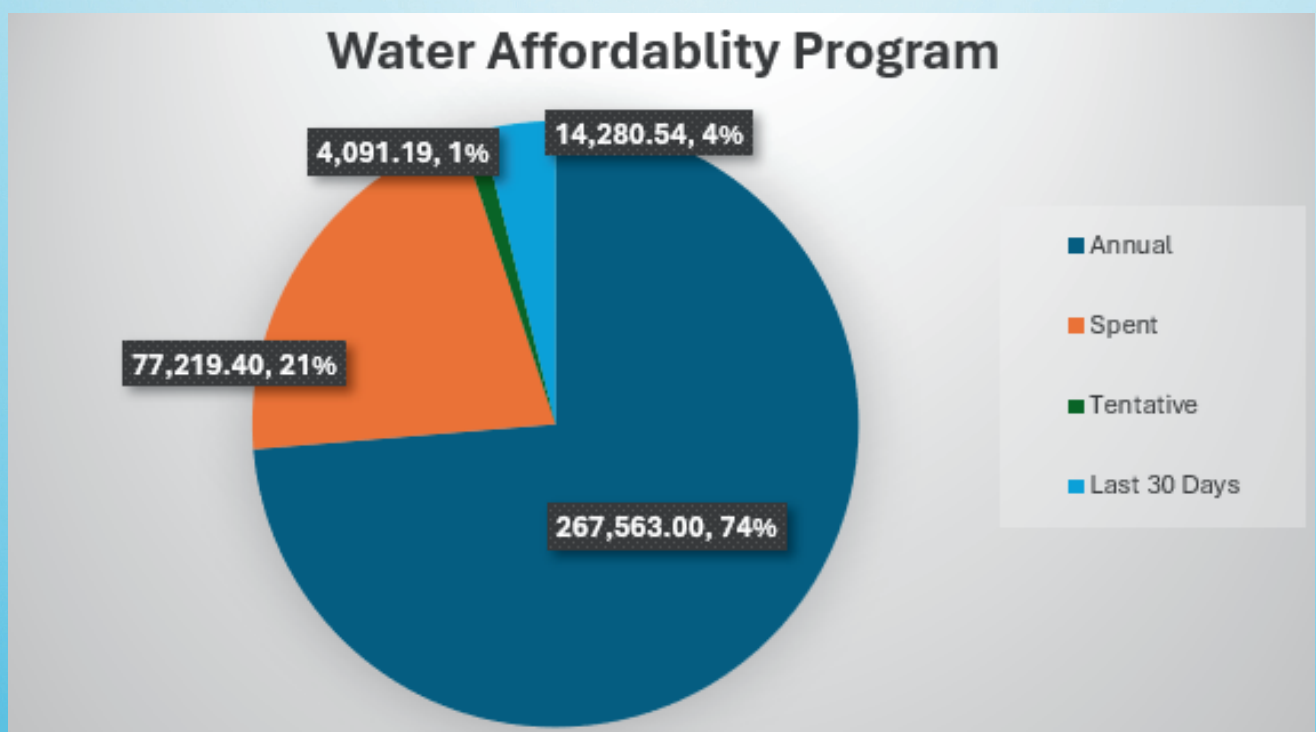
Program Impact

WATER PROGRAM

The NEW Water Utility Affordability Repair Program, specifically targeting plumbing repairs, began on April 1st. Staff are overseeing ongoing projects in two households, where work is currently in progress. Also, they are working with five other households to facilitate their applications. The estimated financial allocation for the ongoing projects stands at \$8,300.00.

The Water Affordability Program has seen a growing number of homeowners submitting applications, indicating a heightened community interest in the initiative. As part of ongoing efforts to engage with the community, radio advertisements have been utilized to reinforce outreach initiatives and ensure continued awareness of the program's availability and benefits.

On April 16th, a LWUA/WATER mass text campaign message was sent out and there were a total of 7,305 successful sends!



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



NEMCSA

Water Affordability Program

ASSISTING ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS WITH THE FOLLOWING

- FINANCIAL BURDEN
- ACCUMULATED WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITY BILLS
- HAVE HAD THEIR WATER SHUT OFF
- AND/OR AT RISK OF HAVING WATER/WASTEWATER SERVICE SHUT OFF

Email

villarrealh@nemcsa.org

Call Us Today!

+1 (989) 358-4675

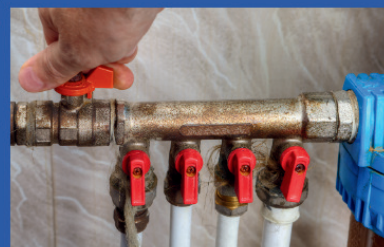
*** Plumbing improvements are applicable to metered services only***
Well and septic repair are unallowable expenses



Improve in-home plumbing



Capping or lowering utility bills



Protection from water shut-offs

ELIGIBILITY

Must be at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level

Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle

200% Federal Poverty Chart

Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Income Limit (\$)	\$30,120	\$40,880	\$51,640	\$62,400	\$73,160	\$83,920	\$94,680	\$105,440	\$116,200	\$126,960	\$137,720	\$148,480	\$159,240	\$170,000

Reach us on the web: <https://www.nemcsa.org/>