
Rent and Utility Assistance Report

October 2009 - November 2010



Community Services Initiatives

Mission:

Community Services Initiatives' mission is to provide an integrated process for ongoing planning and implementation for human services in our community.

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“Being without the ability to pay for rent and/or utilities was identified in Lincoln as a significant reason, in the multiplicity of factors, which force a family into a homeless situation... “

“...regardless of the well-being of the Lincoln economy in upcoming years, there will be the need at some level among low-income families for financial assistance for rent and utilities. “

“This report finds that the current network of agencies providing rent and utility assistance to low-income families in Lincoln is providing significant financial resources to assist families in need... “

Introduction

The following report is a product of the CSI Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition. The ability to meet rent and utility obligations for low-income families are fundamental to the CSI Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition goal of increasing housing security. Improving housing security has far reaching implications that extend beyond the basic and emergency needs of Lincoln families.

The report presents the data gathered by the Lincoln Rent and Utility Assistance Network (RUN) participating agencies and analyzed for the Community Services Initiatives (CSI) by the University of Nebraska Lincoln—Center on Children, Families, and the Law. A mid-term evaluation report on the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is scheduled for the spring of 2011, focusing on the program’s effectiveness in preventing homelessness and increasing housing stability.

“Improving the housing security and household energy security to decrease homelessness and housing instability helps improve the long-term health, educational and developmental outcomes for all persons in low-income Lincoln families.”

