



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 7, 2024

**Contact:** Lori Vrtiska Seibel, President/CEO

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## **Community Health Endowment Awards \$350,000 to New Projects**

To achieve the vision of making Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation, the Community Health Endowment (CHE) Board of Trustees recently approved grants totaling nearly \$350,000 to fund new projects. All grants listed begin on January 1, 2025. A total of \$3.1 million will be distributed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, including new funding and previously approved projects. **This is the largest annual allocation to community grant making in the history of CHE.**

### **New Awards**

#### **Healthy Food Access**

- **Purchase fresh produce associated with mobile neighborhood food distribution by Lincoln Fresh.** (Food Bank of Lincoln, \$75,000 over three years)

#### **Youth Fitness**

- **Support a year-round soccer program for Yazidi youth ages 9-15 with four Yazidi coaches, evidence-based curriculum and nutrition education.** (Nebraska Extension, \$5,000 over one year)
- **Support construction of an all-wheels skatepark in the proposed South Haymarket Park, including free skating clinics.** (Lincoln Parks Foundation, \$150,000 over three years)
- **Expand an existing youth football complex to add additional fields, a practice area, and a warm-up area.** (Lincoln Youth Football League, \$10,000 over one year)
- **Provide partial funding for renovation of a neighborhood swimming pool.** (Meadowlane Park Association, \$40,000 over one year)

#### **Mental Wellness and Human Connection**

- **Provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training for 15 staff and 30 scout leaders, and certify a staff member to become a YMHFA instructor.** (Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America, \$7,825 over one year)
- **Provide YMHFA training to 100 adult volunteers and certify a Lincoln staff member to become a YMHFA instructor.** (Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, \$7,277 over one year)
- **Train a staff member as a Peer Support Specialist to address social connection and mental wellness among New American women.** (ECHO Collective, \$3,300 over one year)
- **Co-create, in partnership with BraveBe, an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) wellness module for child care providers and parents/guardians in Lincoln.** (Lincoln Littles, \$10,000 over one year)
- **Provide funding to support groups for kinship families i.e. relatives or non-relatives who have assumed parental responsibilities of children for biological parents.** (Lutheran Family Services, \$15,000 over three years)
- **Fund staff training to respond to mental health concerns of new mothers and sustain current peer support groups.** (MilkWorks, \$23,583 over one year)

Information about the next grant cycle will be made available before the end of the year at [www.chelincoln.org](http://www.chelincoln.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 30, 2024

**Contact:** Lori Vrtiska Seibel, President/CEO

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## **Community Health Endowment Awards \$870,000 to New Projects**

To achieve the vision of making Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation, the Community Health Endowment (CHE) Board of Trustees recently approved grants totaling \$870,000 to fund new projects. All grants listed begin on July 1, 2024.

### **Early and Adequate Prenatal Care**

- **Expand prenatal care services for at least 70 refugee and immigrant clients.** (Asian Community and Cultural Center, \$99,022 over 1 year.)
- **Improve adequate prenatal care among high-risk women.** (Partnership for a Health Lincoln, \$59,423 over 1 year.)

### **Healthy Food Access**

- **Annually serve 12,000 low-income Lincoln residents through a market style "People's Pantry" designed to encourage and support healthy eating.** (Center for People, \$60,000 over 3 years)
- **Increase the nutritional value of approximately 245 meals served daily to individuals who are homeless or near homeless.** (Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, \$30,000 over 3 years)

### **Youth Fitness**

- **Provide capital funding toward an activity center/gym at FiftyOne Commons in northeast Lincoln.** (Family Service Lincoln, \$50,000 over 1 year)
- **Support a sports league (soccer, basketball and running) in 20 elementary schools.** (Lincoln Community Learning Centers, \$169,300 over 3 years)
- **Support renovation of the Municipal (Muny) Pool Building at 21<sup>st</sup> & M Streets to provide at least 1,200 bikes and helmets to children, 80% who reside in census tracts with low youth fitness scores.** (Lincoln Bike Kitchen, \$25,000 over 1 year)
- **Support a 10-week summer soccer camp for 100 youth that features bilingual staff and volunteers from refugee communities.** (Lincoln International FC, \$10,000 over 2 years)
- **Support the construction of an inclusive playground in northeast Lincoln (Mahoney Park) that provides physical accommodations and specialized equipment for children with different levels of ability.** (Lincoln Parks Foundation, \$15,000 over 1 year)

### **Mental Wellness and Human Connection**

- **Create and staff "The Parent Place" at the K Street Head Start Center to build human connection among Head Start parents, many who are immigrants/refugees.** (Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, \$176,409 over 3 years)
- **Fund a full-time Peer Support Specialist to provide unconnected young adults (ages 14-24) with opportunities to develop goals, obtain emotional support, increase knowledge and resilience, and decrease barriers.** (The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults, \$117,736 over 3 years)
- **Provide capital support for a 5,000 square foot Community Center in a "tiny home village" with a focus on justice-involved and homeless individuals.** (Bridges to Hope, \$50,000 over 1 year)

- **Host a one-year series of human connection and neighborhood-building activities on Centerpointe's Campus of Health and Wellbeing.** (CenterPointe, \$8,150 over 1 year)

Applications for the next grant cycle are due August 1, 2024. For more information on CHE's funding priorities and how to apply, please visit [www.chelincn.org](http://www.chelincn.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 1, 2022

**Contact:** Lori Vrtiska Seibel, President/CEO  
402-436-5516, [lori.seibel@chelincoln.org](mailto:lori.seibel@chelincoln.org)**Community Health Endowment Awards Nearly \$1 Million**

Data from the Place Matters Mapping Project (<https://www.chelincoln.org/placematters>) informed the Community Health Endowment's (CHE) most recent awards totaling nearly \$1 million. Grants were awarded to non-profits to address geographic disparities in healthy food access, youth fitness, and mental wellness and human connection. All grants begin on January 1, 2023.

- **Distribution of fresh produce by Lincoln Fresh, a neighborhood-based food distribution truck.** (Food Bank of Lincoln, \$50,000 over two years)
- **Staff support for local child care centers to increase employee retention and recruitment, staff wellness, and public/community education.** (Lincoln Littles, \$67,519 over two years)
- **Mentoring opportunities for youth (grades 3-12), with an emphasis on increasing male mentors and mentors of color, improving graduation rates, assuring 75% match retention, returning to pre-pandemic recruitment levels, and providing leadership to the Lincoln Youth Mentoring Coalition.** (Lincoln TeamMates, \$90,000 over three years)
- **Gap funding for dollar-for-dollar match on fresh fruit and vegetable purchases by SNAP recipients.** (Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln, \$283,362 over two years)
- **A Trauma Warriors Program to identify, train, and support Native American youth and their families by increasing protective factors, decreasing stigma rates, educating stakeholders about health disparities among Native Americans, and fostering healthy behaviors among Native youth.** (Santee Sioux Nation – Society of Care, \$135,000 over three years)
- **Barber mentors among racially and economically diverse youth in a barbershop environment, with the goals to grow support systems, reduce isolation, develop caring relationships with supportive adults, and improve academic scores.** (Visionary Youth, \$194,400 over three years)
- **Swim lesson scholarships for children/youth with autism.** (Autism Family Network, \$11,000 over one year)

Information about CHE can be found at [www.chelincoln.org](http://www.chelincoln.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 9, 2021

Contact: Lori Vrtiska Seibel, President/CEO  
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**Community Health Endowment Awards  
Nearly \$1 Million from Resiliency Fund**

In 2020, the Board of Trustees of the [Community Health Endowment](#) of Lincoln (CHE) established a Resiliency Fund to support the community's efforts to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund focuses its funding on health equity and human connection.

At its most recent meeting, the CHE Board of Trustees approved grants totaling nearly \$1 million. All grants listed begin on January 1, 2022. This round of grants from the Resiliency Fund will focus efforts on vulnerable populations as determined by [CHE's Place Matters Report](#). Projects will address mental health services for low income youth, peer mentoring for vulnerable families, youth mentoring in high poverty areas, hunger relief, and more.

Additional funds from the Resiliency Fund will be awarded in Spring, 2022.

CHE funds will:

- **Address pandemic-related isolation and educational gaps among youth through small group peer-to-peer mentoring and success mentoring, with goals to combat isolation, expand networks, increase feelings of safety, and improve student grades.** (City Impact, \$90,000 over one year)
- **Address the financial challenges of providing outpatient behavioral health services to low-income youth and families by covering some of the "gap" between Medicaid reimbursement and the actual cost of care.** (HopeSpoke, \$60,000 over one year)
- **Provide funding to assist in re-opening the Early Childhood Development Pre-K Program in the Lakeview Elementary neighborhood.** (Willard Community Center, \$7,000 over one year)
- **Support a capital campaign to renovate the facility at 1843 K Street to include Head Start classrooms for 197 children and family support services (e.g. job training, financial education, and nutrition/health).** (Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, \$250,000 over one year)
- **Implement a three-year pilot program that will reach 400 individuals by recruiting, training, and supporting parents with lived experience to serve as peer mentors to vulnerable families.** (CEDARS Youth Services, \$137,777 over three years)

- continued -

- **Enhancing the existing UPLIFT program by providing additional legal assistance to clients of three human service agencies in order to address access to healthcare, economic and housing stability, Medicaid denials, insurance issues, hospital debt, employee rights, unemployment,**

**SNAP, disability benefits, evictions, utility shutoffs, and more.** (Legal Aid of Nebraska, \$75,000 over three years)

- **Assist in funding capital costs associated with the new Food Bank of Lincoln, including a Community Room, Conference Room, Freezer/Cooler in the main building, and Cooler on the Lincoln Fresh produce vehicle.** (Food Bank of Lincoln, \$200,000 over one year)
- **Continue to address the mental health needs of immigrants and refugees through providing cultural competency and workforce development, the use of peer workers, and the goal that at least 90% of clients achieve individual goals in the management of behavioral health conditions.** (Asian Community and Cultural Center, \$72,012 over six months)
- **Support the implementation of a rental housing inspection program that will serve as a referral tool for community partners and an informational tool for prospective renters.** (Affordable Housing Initiative, \$10,000 over one year)

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