The SENCA Management Team has completed the agency self-assessment process for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Performance Management Scorecard has been used as a way to assess our management practices since 2010. The process allows the Management Team to evaluate the condition or “health” of our programs and provides benchmarks that can be used to evaluate core strengths and weaknesses.

Each program is evaluated using twenty-one different categories. Those include a range of things from staff being evaluated annually and on time, programs meeting goals, staying within program budgets, filing reports on time, ensuring staff receive training hours, and resolving client or partner issues.

The final score is calculated according to the following scale: A – 90-100%, B – 80-89%, C – 70-79%, and D – below 70%. All individual programs received either an A or B this year. SENCA’s overall agency score was 89% or B. Even though we did not hit the A mark, this score was an improvement over last year’s score. We are striving for an A in 2018!

Are you looking for a job in healthcare?

SCEC (Southeast Community College) classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) begin February 13th in Nebraska City and Falls City. SENCA has money to help with tuition through our Job Skills program. Please see page 3 for program details. For more information, please contact Vicky McNealy at vmcnealy@senca.org or 402-862-2411 x 101.

Thank you for your continued support of SENCA’s programs and services. Tax Deductible Donations can be made online at www.senca.org.
Weatherization Saves Energy, Reduces Heating and Cooling Costs, and Ensures the Health and Safety of Households Served

The goals of the Weatherization Program are to save energy, reduce heating and cooling costs and to ensure the health and safety of the households served.

A typical home that has participated in the program experiences an average 8.7% reduction in heating costs. Additional savings are achieved in cooling costs.

This conservation of energy reduces Nebraska’s dependence on imported energy and has a major impact in the self-sufficiency of low-income persons, therefore allowing them to stretch their available income.

During fiscal year 2016-2017, SENCA provided Weatherization services and energy conservation education to 148 adults in 96 households throughout Cass, Douglas, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Sarpy counties.

Funding through this program has supported nine full-time employment opportunities and generated construction related income of approximately $615,494. The investment of funds into these 96 homes has the potential of creating long-term direct energy savings of approximately $1.5 million in addition to nearly $57,600 in the reduction of annual utility costs. An additional $712,000 in non-energy related savings may also be realized over the long-term.

The Weatherization program has produced both long-term and one-time benefits resulting in a 2.5 to 1 return on investment.

Household and community benefits: Existing housing stock becomes more affordable by improving the health, safety, and energy efficiency of homes.

Elderly and/or disabled individuals are able to remain in their home for a longer period of time postponing their need for assisted living and/or nursing home care.

Energy efficiency and conservation helps decrease the drain on the nation’s energy resources and the budgets of those living on a fixed income. Lower utility bills result in increased household spending in local communities. Weatherization services help generate jobs and purchase materials within the local communities adding to the overall local economy.

Thinking About Buying a Home in 2018? If So, Then Home Buyer Education is For You!

Buying a home is a dream come true for many households looking to purchase their first home. However, home ownership is a big step and doesn’t end once the loan is approved, the SOLD sign is put in place and the new owners have the keys to their new abode in hand.

As a fact, many of today’s lenders are requiring that first-time homeowners complete a Home Buyer Education class prior to them being eligible for funding. From start to finish, SENCA’s Home Buyer Education instructors walk potential homebuyers through the home buying process.

In addition participants learn how to develop a budget, determine a down payment, and how to work with a realtor. Credit issues, financing options, insurance and taxes, offers and closing, and home maintenance are also addressed. A full 8 hours of class time is required in order to successfully complete the course.

Pre-Registration is Required. SENCA offers face-to-face classes in addition to online classes.

For Face-to-Face Classes: All interested parties must register by completing a home buyer education application and submitting a $35 non-refundable registration fee. Applications and fees are due no later than one week before a scheduled class. Applications may be obtained by calling 402-862-2411, extension 108 or toll free at 888-313-5608. Applications also may be obtained by logging on to www.senca.org.

All face-to-face classes will be held at the Nemaha County Hospital 2022 13th Street, Auburn, NE 68305.

Class Schedule: February 6th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.; March 6th & 13th, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.; April 3rd, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; May 1st & 8th, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.; June 5th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; August 7th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; September 4th & 11th, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.; October 2nd, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; November 6th & 13th, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.;

No class in July or December.

Since 2002, more than 826 first-time homebuyers representing 617 households have completed this program. Of those, 40% have gone on to complete the purchase of their first home with mortgage financing in excess of $15 million.

Family Outreach

Job Skills Helps Start a Career in Health Care

Since the spring of 2014 SENCA has partnered with SCC (Southeast Community College) and local care facilities to offer Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) classes through the SENCA Job Skills program.

SENCA provides financial assistance to qualifying students for the cost of the course on a loan basis. After completing the class and gaining employment in the health care field, students repay the loan which allows SENCA to offer the program to additional individuals. Program participants also participate in 90 days of follow-up case management where they work on budgeting, life skills and job soft skills.

Since the programs implementation more than fifty individuals have enrolled. Of those 74% completed the class with 81% of those individuals receiving certification and gaining employment in the health care field. 73% of those individuals have repaid their loan paying it forward for others seeking a career in health care.

Youth Education

Open Enrollment for Head Start Preschool

Will your child be ready for Kindergarten? Why not give your child a Head Start in the right direction!

Southeast Nebraska Community Action (SENCA) Head Start is now taking applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Head Start is a tuition-free high-quality child and family development program for preschool children ages 3 to 5 years of age. Program services include education, nutrition, health and disability services, transportation and family support.

To qualify for the program, household income must fall within federal standard guidelines, or applicant must meet minimum eligibility requirements, whichever more accurately reflects the family’s current needs. Individual attention is also given to children with disabilities. For age requirements, children born between 7/31/13 to 7/31/15 may be eligible.

Space is limited, so don’t delay! Call SENCA and give your child a Head Start today!