

# News Release

Community Health Endowment of Lincoln



**To:** Media  
**CC:** Mayor's Office, Lincoln City Council  
**From:** Lori Vrtiska Seibel, President & CEO  
402-436-5516, [lori.seibel@chelincoln.org](mailto:lori.seibel@chelincoln.org)  
**Date:** October 24, 2014  
**Re:** CHE Announces Fall 2014 Funding Awards

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## **Community Health Endowment Awards \$590,000 in Fall 2014 Grant Cycle**

The Board of Trustees of the [Community Health Endowment](#) (CHE) is pleased to announce funding awards for 12 projects totaling \$591,864. Added to previous commitments, these awards bring the total committed in FY2014/15 to \$1.5 million. Since its inception in 1999, CHE has committed nearly \$22 million to make Lincoln a healthier community.

New grants are:

- **Children (90% from low-income, minority, or New American families) will be engaged in after-school and summer recreation programs that maintain or improve fitness and knowledge of good nutrition.** (Lincoln Parks & Recreation, \$12,460 over one year.)
- **Physicians trained at the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership will understand and implement the medical home model while reducing unnecessary emergency department and urgent care visits by 5%.** (Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, \$20,000 over one year.)
- **Low-income, uninsured patients will receive free dental care and information about establishing a dental home.** (Nebraska Mission of Mercy, up to \$10,000 over one year.)
- **A planning grant will guide the development of community strategy and partnerships to address the impact of parent and child trauma on physical health.** (Child Guidance Center, up to \$20,000 over one year.)
- **Early Head Start/Head Start children and families will receive nutrition education and coaching that helps improve children's health behaviors and Body Mass Index (BMI) scores.** (Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, \$139,404 over three years)

*(continued)*

- **Homeless women in transition will address housing and health care needs and establish a medical home. Fresh Start will complete an energy audit and roof repairs.** (Fresh Start, \$121,426 over three years.)
- **Consumers of behavioral health services will receive medication compliance education and co-pay assistance.** (Lutheran Family Services, \$15,000 over three years.)
- **A transportation program serving people who are low-income, elderly or disabled with more than 16,000 trips for medical visits per year will save \$40,000 annually by converting vans to use natural gas as fuel.** (Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, \$33,175 over one year.)
- **Matching loan repayment funds will help attract two additional primary care physicians, provide capacity for an additional 3,000-4,500 appointments and reduce wait times for appointments.** (People's Health Center, \$86,000 over four years.)
- **Integrating a dental assistant into the primary care setting will provide dental homes for 500 children and 500 adults and educate nearly 65 pregnant women on the importance of early dental care.** (People's Health Center, \$25,169 over one year.)
- **A new model of care coordination will be piloted with low-income, high risk elders, allowing them to age in place and resulting in decreased hospital admission, re-admission and emergency department use.** (Tabitha, Inc., \$78,250 over two years.)
- **Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities will achieve improved health outcomes by participating in fitness/recreation activities. Increased awareness and understanding among community members and recreation advocates will help create more inclusive recreation environments.** (The Arc of Lincoln, \$30,980 over one year.)

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*The Community Health Endowment of Lincoln (CHE) is a municipal endowment dedicated to making Lincoln, Nebraska, the healthiest community in the nation. To achieve this vision, CHE invests in health-related projects and programs, works to ensure a strong healthcare safety net and access to quality, coordinated care and medical homes, and convenes the community around important health issues. Since its inception in 1999, CHE has returned nearly \$22 million to the community.*