

# BENCH CARD: Aging Out Resources



**Aging  
Out  
of the  
System**



## Where to Start?

The first place a young person can look for help is their area's **Central Navigator**. The Central Navigator can provide numbers and websites specific to the young person's needs. This contact list is updated about once per month, as information does change. The most updated version can always be found on the Nebraska Children website under "Vital Links" and "Community Coordinators/Central Navigators contacts" at this link: <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/what-we-do/community-prevention-systems/community-contacts.html>

The common referral form that can be used for any young person across the state to access all of the supports/services of **Connected Youth Initiative** is on the Project Everlast Omaha website at this link: [https://www.nebraskachildren.org/file\\_download/010ce69c-1a95-41de-b74c-0de5c7560dbe](https://www.nebraskachildren.org/file_download/010ce69c-1a95-41de-b74c-0de5c7560dbe)

Young people, case workers, etc. can access central navigation either by contacting the Central Navigator in their area (see above) or by completing the common referral form.

## Medical

- **Medicaid** — Free or low cost health coverage.
  - <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/>
- **CHIP/Subsidy** — low cost health coverage for children under 19 yrs of age or primary caregiver who do not qualify for Medicaid.
  - <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1607>
- **B2i Program** — Bridge to Independence Program — helps with funding for housing, Medicaid and case management.
  - <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/bridge-to-independence.aspx>
- **Extension of Adoption or Guardianship Subsidy/Assistance** — continued funds to guardians, adoptive parents and Medicaid coverage if eligible.

## Mental Health - with resources for Housing and Case Management

- **DHHS** — Mental health, treatment and recovery assistance-link to all 6 regions for assistance mainly with housing for those with mental health/substance abuse.
  - <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Addiction-Treatment-and-Recovery.aspx>
- **Region 1 — Panhandle**
  - **HART program** — Housing Assistance Rental Transition Program-assist those 18+ with mental disorders or substance abuse dependency with housing.
    - <https://www.region1bhs.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/Services%7CHART%20Program>
- **Region 2 — Southwest**
  - **Youth Care Coordination** — a wraparound program for high risk youth and young adults.
    - <https://www.r2hs.com/services.html>

- **Region 3 — Central**
  - **Co-op for SUCCESS** — a wraparound planning and coordination of existing services/resources
    - <http://region3.net/Services-Programs/Professional-Partner-Program/Co-Op-for-SUCCESS>
- **Region 4 — Northern**
  - **Transitions Housing Voucher Program** — "Housing First Model"
    - <https://region4bhs.org/Programs-Services/Housing-Assistance>
- **Region 5 — Southeast**
  - **FYI** — Family and Youth Investment Program
    - <https://region5systems.net/how-we-help/family-youth-investment-program/>
  - **TAPP** — Transition Age Professional Partner-serves young adults age 18-24 with serious mental illness and are transitioning from youth to adult behavioral health systems.
- **Region 6 — Omaha Metro**
  - **TAYRAP** — Transitional Age Youth Rental Assistance Program-an 18 month rental assistance program for those age 18-26 with a transition subsidy to help transition them into paying full rent
  - **RentWise** — tenant education program to help young adults in money management skills to build credit to qualify for a mortgage.
    - <https://www.region6.com/programs/housing/>

## Nebraska DHHS Community Support Specialists (CSS)

Shelly Witt – Western/Central	402-984-9905 shelly.witt@nebraska.gov
Stacy Schenk – Northern/Central	402-375-7055 stacy.schenk@nebraska.gov
Darla Berger – Sarpy/Douglas County/Southeast	402-595-3314 darla.berger@nebraska.gov
Darniece Amos – Douglas County/Eastern	402-595-3369 darniece.amos@nebraska.gov



**Text HELP to 402-226-5842**

You'll be connected to a local Central Navigator who has experience dealing with all kinds of problems. NEHelpChat was the brainchild of young people like you and brought to life by Nebraska Children's Community Response in collaboration with Casey Family Programs.



## Education - with Financial Assistance Resources

- **ETV** — Education Training Voucher-provides direct support and financial assistance of up to \$2400/year for tuition, fees and books, youth and young adults 17-26 yrs of age.
  - <https://central-plains.org/what-we-do/education/erv.html>
- **FAFSA** — Free Application for Federal Student Aid-where to file for financial aid/loans for school.
  - <https://studentaid.gov/>
- **EducationQuest** — non-profit that provides free college planning services as well as help with FAFSA and scholarship opportunities.
  - <https://www.educationquest.org>
  - Also has ScholarshipQuest through this organization to help apply for various scholarships starting their Junior year.
    - <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/scholarshipquest/>
  - Call to set up appointment for assistance with this in the following areas of state:
    - **Omaha:** 888-357-6300
    - **Lincoln:** 800-303-3745
    - **Kearney:** 800-666-3721
    - **Scottsbluff:** 800-303-3745 ext 6654
- **The Connected Youth Initiative** — LEAP provides post-secondary education and career-focused coaching support for youth up to age 26 in Nebraska. This includes financial support via ETV and some private LEAP scholarship as well as youth-led coaching and academic support. This can be accessed via central navigation.
- **The HUB** — provides support and access for young people transitioning into adult life-offering free GED classes and helps with postsecondary education plans as well as outreach services to young adults aged 16-24, located in Lincoln, Nebraska.
  - <https://www.hublincoln.org/history>

## Financial - with Food/Utility Assistance Resources

- **Connected Youth Initiative — Opportunity Passport** — (matched savings asset and credit building program) and financial education and coaching for youth with foster care experience up to age 26. This can be accessed statewide via central navigation.
- The **Connected Youth Initiative** also support service funds like needs-based emergency funds and provides financial assistance for emergencies and basic needs for youth up to age 26-this can be accessed through central navigation.
- **Access Nebraska site** — apply for Economic Assistance for SNAP benefits, LIHEAP, Medicaid.
  - <https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en>

- **SSI** — Social Security Income- Disabled or blind youth that receive Title IV-E foster can apply to start receiving SSI up to 180 days before his/her foster care eligibility ends due to age.
  - <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-disabled-youth.htm>

## Housing

- **Community Action Health Center of Western Nebraska** — supports 14-24 year old homeless or ward or former ward of state with housing and other services.
  - <https://capwn.org/>
- **Tenant Support Services Program** through Community Action Partnership.
  - <https://www.tenantservices.org/tenant-support/for-tenants/legal-help.html>
- **Legal Aid** — new expansion happening across Nebraska for legal services related to housing.
- **League of Human Dignity** — assists adults with disabilities age 18-64 with personalized goals for independent living.
  - <https://leagueofhumandignity.com/about-us/>
  - **Lincoln:** 402-441-7871
  - **Norfolk:** 402-371-4475
  - **Omaha:** 402-595-1256
  - **SW Iowa:** 712-323-6863
  - **Kearney:** 308-223-3665
  - **North Platte:** 308-532-4911
  - **Scottsbluff:** 308-632-0470
- **Project Everlast** works with four partners to assist with transitional services:
  - **Lincoln** — Region V Professional Partners assists 17-24 year olds finding housing. (those with behavioral needs are given priority).
    - <https://region5systems.net/how-we-help/family-youth-investment-program/>
  - **Bridges Program at Cedars** assists 17-24 year olds with a 2-year housing and savings plan.
    - <https://www.cedarskids.org/who-we-help/kids-unable-live-home/bridges-contact-form>
  - **Centerpointe** assists with housing for 19 years and older (those with health or substance abuse are given priority).
    - <https://centerpointe.org/housing.html>
  - **Youth Emergency Services** — provides TLP-Transitional Living Program that provides long-term services to runaway/homeless youth ages 16-21. (28 month max) Works closely with case managers to set and accomplish goals.
    - <https://www.yesomaha.org/transitional-living-program>
  - **All Doors Lead Home** — Homeless Services for Youth outside Lincoln and Omaha.
    - <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/coordinated-entry>

## Case Management

- **Connected Youth Initiative** — provides voluntary coaching (case management) for all youth with foster care experience in Nebraska up to age 26.
  - [https://www.nebraskachildren.org/file\\_download/ecaacec3-afe1-4737-8219-7c3e359d8906](https://www.nebraskachildren.org/file_download/ecaacec3-afe1-4737-8219-7c3e359d8906)

**The best way to share and access resources on this benchcard.**

Most of the resources on this card are long, complicated links to webpages. You can access the E-Benchcard which has clickable links for each webpage item.

You, or a young person who needs these resources, can access the E-Benchcard by scanning the QR code below with their smartphone.

