



Center
for
People
in
Need

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Contact: Beatty Brasch, Executive Director
402-476-4357 ext. 103
bbrasch@centerforpeopleinneed.org

Unemployment Insurance and COBRA Benefits to Expire for Millions

The Center for People in Need Gears Up to Help

LINCOLN, Neb. (March 2, 2010) – The Center for People in Need is reaching out to those affected by the U.S. Senate's decision not to extend unemployment benefits.

The U.S. Senate passed a jobs bill but failed to extend the unemployment insurance and COBRA benefits to 1.2 million workers. As of Feb. 28, workers are no longer able to file for the emergency unemployment benefit extension. Without action by Congress, extended benefits will start expiring today for those who received them beginning 13 weeks ago.

By June, the number will swell to nearly five million unemployed workers in the U.S. left without emergency unemployment benefits. The National Employment Law Project estimates this will affect nearly 4,500 Nebraskans by the end of March and more than 20,000 by the end of June, 2010.

"This is the type of situation we prepare for, but wish would never happen," says Beatty Brasch, the Center's executive director. "We're used to providing stopgap measures when things fall apart."

One of those stopgaps is the Neighborhood FOOD program, which distributes free food weekly at five neighborhood sites, in partnership with the Food Bank of Lincoln. The Neighborhood FOOD sites are the F Street Community Center, the Malone Community Center, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Oak Lake Evangelical Free Church, and the Center for People in Need. There are more food programs throughout Lincoln, listed in the Center's Resource Handbook for Free or Low Cost Food.

This is one in a series of Resource Handbooks available from the Center. The Resource Handbooks cover free and low-cost resources for food, medical services, children's services, miscellaneous services (utilities, rent assistance, furniture), transportation, and homeless and near homeless. Unemployed workers and others in need may get free copies of these Resource Handbooks at the Center for People in Need, 3901 N. 27th St.

The Center can help in other ways too. It hosts Clinic with a Heart, a free medical clinic, on Tuesdays from 5:30–7:00 p.m. The Center also has a computer lab available to those affected by the loss of emergency unemployment benefits. They can work on resume preparation and job search at the computer lab. Call the lab at 476-4357, extension 140 to schedule time.

The Center for People in Need, 3901 N. 27th St., Unit 1, provides comprehensive services and opportunities to support low-income, high needs families and individuals as they strive to lift themselves out of poverty and achieve economic self-sufficiency. More information on the Center's programs is available at centerforpeopleinneed.org.

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