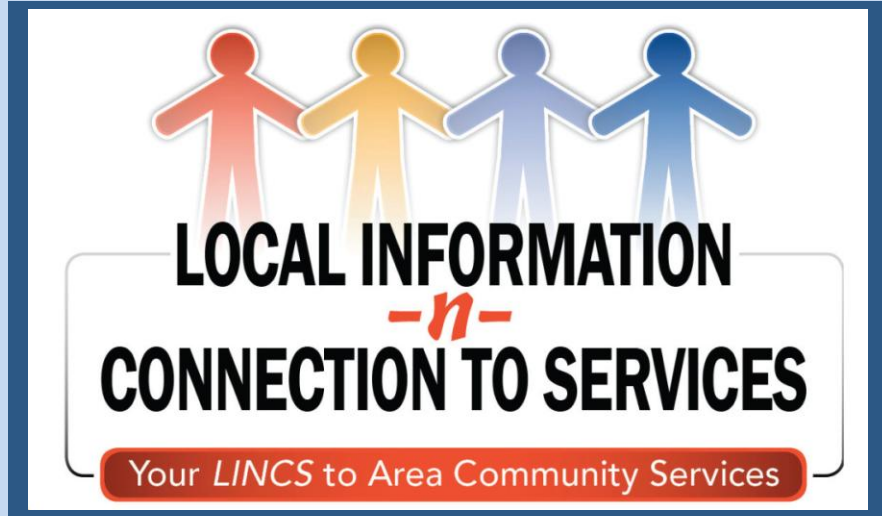


LINCS January Newsletter



Welcome to the LINCS newsletter!

The purpose of the LINCS newsletter is to help keep you updated on changes that are happening with agencies and programs throughout Muscatine.

We hope that this will allow all of you to stay better connected and to be more efficient since you won't have to spend your valuable time tracking down this information yourselves.

Of course, the only way that this information will make it into the newsletter is

if we know about it. So if you have changes going on in your own office send us an email and let us know. That way we can include them in the next newsletter! Also contact us with any suggestions for layout or content.

To contact LINCS

by phone at 563-263-5963 or

by email at:

lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org

Program Spotlight: Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County

One area agency has a new name, but still provides great service to families with young children in the area. Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County (formerly Muscatine Regional Empowerment) sponsors the Early Learning Scholarship Program.

This program provides up to \$200 per month for full-time child care or \$100 per month for part-time care. The program can also cover up to \$50 per month for two or more days per week of preschool for qualifying families.

To qualify, parents must be residents of

Muscatine County. The children must be 0-5 years of age. For Child Care Assistance, the parents must work or attend school an average of 28 hours per week. For Preschool Assistance, the children must be ages 3-5. Applicants cannot be eligible for other child care/preschool assistance programs. Parents can choose their provider as long as they are licensed or registered.

There are income requirements as well, but they are generally higher than the guidelines for DHS assistance.

Please call 563-263-8476 with questions.

2011 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

United Way of Muscatine is proud to announce our grants to the following agencies for 2011:

American Red Cross

Boy Scouts

Family Resources

Flickinger Learning Center

Girls Scouts

Lutheran Services in Iowa

MCSA

Mississippi Valley Child
Protection Center

Muscatine Community Y

Muscatine Legal Services

The Salvation Army

Senior Resources

Trinity Muscatine Public Health

To learn more about our investment in these agencies, click [here!](#)

Upcoming Events

There will be a **Child Dental Health workshop** at the **Muscatine Community Y** on **Thursday, January 19th from 6:30-8pm**. Muscatine dentist Dr. Nathan Olson will discuss and answer questions from parents on common dental issues with children, the importance of regular checkups and other child dental health issues. The **workshop is free** and **free childcare** is provided for children 8 and under.

The **Public Housing Department** of the **City of Muscatine** has announced that they are opening the **Section 8 waiting list** for qualifying families. Families with children or elderly or disabled families earning **below 30% of median income** are eligible. The waiting list will be open from **8am on January 23rd til 5pm on February 3rd**. There will be a lottery of eligible applicants to determine who gets the voucher. Applications may be picked up at **Muscatine City Hall**.

The **Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency** is providing **free homeownership classes** on **January 23rd** and **February 3rd** at the **Sunset Park Learning Center** that teach you how to become a homeowner. In addition, those who complete the classes could qualify for **\$1000 in down-payment assistance** if they are buying a home in Muscatine County and are below 80% of the median income. Call **Chad Yocom at 264-0667** to reserve a spot.

The **Muscatine Community Y** will be closed to members on **Sunday, January 29th** for their **18th Annual Try Melon Tri Indoor Triathlon**. Spectators are welcome to come to watch, but no facilities will be open for use. The heats will be **every 30 minutes from 11am to 4:30pm**. Awards will be presented following the event. Registration is limited, so please contact **Mel at 263-9996** for more information.

Jessica Faye's Closet is open again at a new location. They are open **10am-Noon Monday through Friday** at **506 Mulberry Ave**.

Muscatine Statistics (as of publication)

Free/ Reduced Lunch Rate: 50.81%

Unemployment Rate (Musc. Co.): 5.7%

Households Receiving Food Assistance: 3355

Coat Connections

The Coat Connections program has teamed up with the AEA's Coats for Kids program to make sure that no child goes without a coat in Muscatine. Coat Connections is still accepting donations of coats, mittens, gloves or hats. The distribution points will be The Salvation Army and Community Action of Eastern Iowa.

Drop-off Boxes are located at:

Community Action - inside Muscatine Mall
Taco Johns - 506 Grandview Ave
The Salvation Army - 1000 Oregon Street
United Way of Muscatine - Pearl Plaza, 2nd floor

Love Your Community 2/1 – 2/14

As part of our mission to connect volunteers with volunteer opportunities in the Muscatine community, Volunteer Solutions of United Way is excited to host a series of events over the two-week Love Your Community period.

February 1st

Open House at United Way of Muscatine
208 W. 2nd Street, 4:00-5:30pm

February 2nd

Lunch and Learn– Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers
United Way of Muscatine, Noon-12:45pm

February 7th

Volunteer Fair
Muscatine Community College – Student Center
3:00-6:00pm

February 8th

Business Volunteer Council Breakfast
MCSA, 7:30-8:30am

February 9th

Lunch and Learn – Establishing a Working
Relationship with Volunteers
United Way of Muscatine – Noon-12:45pm

The hope is that this newsletter will provide you with valuable information on the changes that are taking place in agencies and programs throughout Muscatine. Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might find it useful. To be added to the mailing list, please contact lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org with your email address and contact information.