

December 2025

LHA Today

Resident Advisory Board completes annual plan review

Twice in November, the Lincoln Housing Authority's Resident Advisory Board met to review the administrative and occupancy plan, as well as discuss Moving to Work initiatives.

Moving to Work is part of LHA's participation in a U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) demonstration program that allows LHA to redesign certain elements of its housing assistance programs to promote self-sufficiency, enhance administrative efficiency and expand housing choices.

Appointed by the LHA Board of

Commissioners, Resident Advisory Board members represent all housing programs and serve one-year terms from October through September. Their input is reviewed by management and the Board of Commissioners prior to the annual plan's approval each January.

Reading Matters gives books at Trunk or Treat

The Arnold Community Learning Center (CLC) held its annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24, drawing families from across the school community for an evening of costumes, candy and fall fun.

As part of the festivities, Lincoln Housing Authority's Reading Matters distributed 165 free books to students, helping promote literacy and a love of reading while children enjoyed the celebration. Dayna, LHA's Arnold CLC coordinator, organized the Trunk or Treat, and Carrie K.,

Family Self-Sufficiency coordinator, and Tara, Mahoney Manor resident services specialist, distributed books. Other community partners involved included Krayon Campus, Air Park Community Center, Nebraska State Crime Lab, Arnold Heights Neighborhood Association and the Williams Branch Lincoln City Library along with a couple of neighborhood residents.

The event was a highlight of the Arnold PTO Fall Festival, which featured various activities designed to bring families together.





Event honors seniors' commitment to nutrition and well-being

Residents from LHA's senior living properties — Burke Plaza, Crossroads House and Mahoney Manor — came together in November for a Thanksgiving-themed feast hosted by Nebraska Extension's Nutrition Education Program. The event served as a warm gathering for participants who regularly attend monthly nutrition classes at each location.

The celebration was designed to honor their dedication to healthier living. During the meal, residents reflected on the practical skills they've gained — from reading nutrition labels and lowering sodium intake to preparing balanced meals for one or two.



Josh was promoted in July to Lincoln Housing Authority housing manager, Properties and Leasing, after joining LHA in February 2024 in the Planning and Development department. In his new role, he oversees the application process, tenant issues and leasing policies for all LHA-owned properties.

Josh reviews, approves and denies applications for LHA-owned units and handles questions or requests for review when applicants seek reconsideration of a decision.

Beyond the application process, he addresses tenant issues that escalate beyond leasing agents and supervisors. His work includes issuing formal lease violation notices, conducting investigations, and determining whether a lease should be terminated or an eviction pursued.

As part of the Leasing department, Josh also helps manage and enforce policies to ensure consistency across LHA properties.

New year, new goals

FSS helps you get ahead

Looking for ways to get ahead in the new year? If your resolutions include building financial stability, advancing your career, or planning for the future, LHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program can help you get started.

FSS is a voluntary, no-cost program for LHA tenants. With support from dedicated caseworkers, participants take meaningful steps toward their personal goals — whether that's creating an emergency fund, paying off debt, preparing for homeownership, earning a degree, or completing job training.

The program lasts up to five years, and individuals won't lose housing assistance by participating. Typically, when you or someone in your household earns more money, rent goes up. That can make it difficult; but with FSS, your rent increase is deposited into an

escrow savings account instead. Over time, the savings amount increases while you receive one-on-one support and coaching. Once you graduate, you can use your savings however you want. During the last fiscal year, 125 participants were served by the FSS program, 17 participants graduated from the program, collectively receiving nearly \$115,500 in escrow savings.

For more information about FSS and to see a video explaining the program, newsletters and more, visit www.l-housing.com/FamilySelfSufficiency.html. LHA also has a Facebook page, which can be found by searching "Lincoln Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency," with resources and more information.

To apply for FSS, contact Carrie K. at Carrie@L-housing.com, 402-434-5529, or Amy at AWagner@L-housing.com, 402-434-5527.

2026

**Minimum
wage
change may
affect rent
percentages**

Nebraska's minimum wage will increase from \$13.50 to \$15 per hour on Jan. 1, 2026.

LHA uses Minimum Earned Income (MEI) to calculate rent portions for work-able adults based on potential earnings as if they were working. This does not apply to children under 18, elderly individuals, people with disabilities, or others who qualify for exemptions.

If you are a work-able tenant who is not currently employed, this change may increase your rent portion at your next annual review.

**MINIMUM
WAGE
INCREASE
AHEAD**

Free tax preparation services offered

As the April 15, 2026, tax deadline approaches, consider taking advantage of the Lincoln EITC Coalition's free community tax preparation services offered through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA offers no-cost federal and state-tax preparation and filing for low- to moderate-income households. VITA sites operate in various Lincoln area locations from February to April.

For more information, call 211 or visit vita.unl.edu. To make an appointment, go to vita.unl.edu/signup beginning Jan. 15.

Note: The IRS determines what types of tax returns can be prepared at a VITA site. If your return falls "out of scope," VITA volunteers will not be able to complete it.

Please bring the following to any tax preparation site:

- Photo ID for all tax return signers. Both spouses must sign if filing jointly.
- Social Security numbers and birth dates for all dependents.
- W-2s from employer, W-2Gs for gambling income, and 1099 forms for miscellaneous income, including interest, dividends, unemployment, pension, 401(k) distribution and other income.
- Banking information for deposit/debit, routing and account numbers.
- Tax identification numbers, name, address and phone number for any and all day care providers.
- If filer is a college student, bring 1098T and student account information showing payment of tuition and qualified fees.
- 1095-A forms if you purchased insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace (exchange).
- 1098-E form for student loan interest.

FREE Community Tax Preparation 2025 Federal and Nebraska State Returns

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site Schedule

Must have an appointment.

Schedule an appointment at <https://vita.unl.edu/signup/> OR scan the QR code beginning Jan. 15.

When scheduling your tax preparation appointment, please choose a site location, date, and time.

All sites listed below will be face-to-face and require an appointment.

Facilitated self-assistance (FSA) Self-Prepared, is available.

Can't make it to an in-person appointment? Sign up for our virtual tax preparation.



Schedule an appointment today by scanning the QR Code:



VITA follows Lincoln Public Schools and/or UNL bad weather closures. Please refer to your confirmation email/text to reschedule your appointment during these events. When in doubt, check our social media or call/email our office.

If you have questions, contact Lincoln VITA (Tax Credit Alliance of Nebraska).

Visit us at vita@unl.edu or 402-472-0857

Site Name	Address	Hours	Dates Available
Monday			
American Job Center	1330 N St., Suite A	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Feb. 2-April 13
Tuesday			
Asian Community & Cultural Center	144 N 44th St., Ste A	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Feb. 3-April 7
Southeast Community College	8800 O St., T-102	1-4 p.m.	Feb. 10-April 7
Victor E. Anderson Branch Library	3635 Touzalin Ave.	4-6 p.m.	Feb. 3-April 7
Wednesday			
Loren C. Eiseley Branch Library	1530 Superior St.	1-6 p.m.	Feb. 4-April 8
Southeast Community College	8800 O St., T-102	2-5 p.m.	Feb. 4-April 8
Thursday			
Air Park Community Center	4900 Mike Scholl St.	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Feb. 5-April 9
Saturday			
Nebraska East Union	1705 Arbor Drive	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Jan. 31-April 4
Sunday			
Bennett Martin Public Library	136 S 14th St.	1-3 p.m.	Feb. 1-March 29
Good Neighbor Community Center	2617 Y St.	1-3 p.m.	Feb. 15-March 22

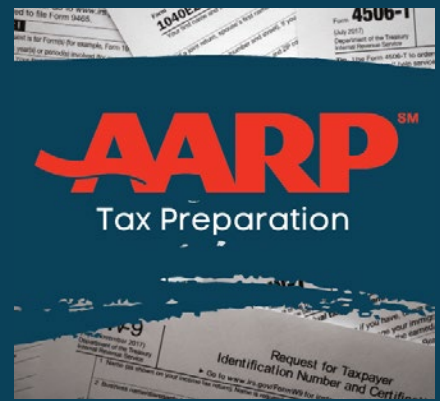


AARP can help file taxes

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. The AARP Tax-Aide service runs from Feb. 1 to April 15, and is the largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program in the U.S.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Assistance types vary by location and are subject to change. AARP membership is not required.

For more information and to find sites, go to https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide.



Reading Matters: free books for kids



The Reading Matters Committee is hosting a Holiday Book Giveaway this year on Dec. 16 from 4-6 p.m. at the Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center, 4621 NW 48th St.

Any participating LHA families can bring in their children to get a book or use this as a way to get a book as a gift for upcoming holidays.

Source of income protections still in effect

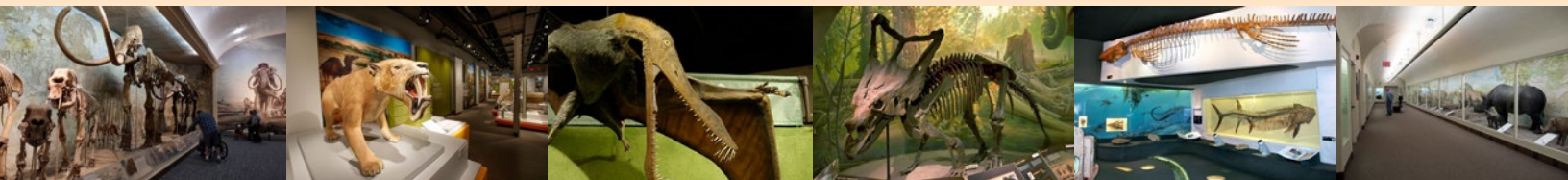
In May, City of Lincoln adopted new source-of-income protections, ensuring residents cannot be denied housing solely based on how they lawfully pay their rent. These protections remain in effect, even as a lawsuit filed by several property management companies moves through the courts.

Source-of-income discrimination occurs when a landlord refuses to rent to someone because their lawful income comes from sources such as Social Security, disability or veterans benefits, child support, foster care subsidies, pensions, annuities, alimony, Housing

Choice (Section 8) Vouchers, other government or nonprofit assistance.

If you believe you have experienced this type of discrimination, contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624 or complete a form online at lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/City-Attorneys-Office/LCHR. After you submit your information, a civil rights investigator will follow up, explain the process, determine whether the complaint falls within their jurisdiction, answer questions, and help you file an official complaint if you choose to proceed.





Morrill Hall offers free admission to SNAP, WIC households



Families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits can now explore the

University of Nebraska's Morrill Hall for free through the national Museums for All initiative. To receive complimentary entry, visitors simply

present their SNAP or WIC card along with a photo ID at the admission desk.

Museums for All is a nationwide program designed to make museum experiences more accessible. While participating museums traditionally offer a \$1 admission rate, Morrill Hall has taken its commitment a step further — waiving the fee entirely, until further notice, as a way to give back to the community.

Morrill Hall joined the program in early 2020 through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which partners with science and children's museums across the country to offer reduced-cost access for families using food assistance benefits. Participation at Morrill Hall has grown steadily each year, highlighting the community's interest in accessible educational experiences.

For more information about Morrill Hall, visit museum.unl.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
STATE MUSEUM
Morrill Hall

From getting by to Getting Ahead: new workshops start in January

Getting Ahead

Food Bank of Lincoln

Do you feel like most of life has been spent just trying to get by? That the idea of truly getting ahead feels out of reach? Even if your story includes

barriers, missed opportunities, or setbacks — the next chapter can be different.

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a free, 13-week workshop offered through the Food Bank of Lincoln. Participants — called Investigators — take a close look at their lives, their community and the kinds of changes that can lead to greater stability.

Each week covers topics such as understanding the realities of life in the community and how they affect us, learning the “hidden rules” for getting ahead, and building skills, confidence and connection. Workshops include a meal and opportunities for meaningful conversation.

Investigators can earn up to \$350 for completing the experience and sharing their insights.

Scan to register



Multiple workshops begin each January and July. Orientation for the January workshop closes Dec. 14 — sign up today! Scan the QR code to register or learn more: <https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/getting-ahead-in-a-just-gettin-by-world/>.

Questions? Call or text Georgann at 402-819-6481, or email groth@lincolnfoodbank.org

Lutheran Family Services offers free support for refugees and immigrants



Lutheran Family Services (LFS) offers a wide range of free services to help refugees and immigrants build stability, confidence and independence as they adjust to life in the United States. LFS at 2301 O St. in Lincoln provides support through job assistance, education and case management.

The Refugee and Immigrant Support Services program includes free help with job searches, career guidance, résumé development, English classes and a women's driving class. Caseworkers also help individuals and families navigate local systems and connect them with the resources needed for long-term success.

Eligibility includes individuals age 16 and older who have legally entered the country, including refugees with a green card, EAD employment authorization card or a letter of authorization.

For more information or to enroll, contact Kamil Rasool at kamil.rasool@onelfs.org or call 402-838-6927. You may also visit the LFS front desk at 2301 O St.

"Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free."

Job and bid opportunities

Under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Lincoln Housing Authority is required to publicly post employment and bid opportunities. To learn about employment with LHA, visit www.L-housing.com/Employment.html.

LHA regularly issues public bid notices and request for proposals (RFPs) for ongoing repair, renovation and new construction projects. Review a list of current bid opportunities at www.L-housing.com/Vendors.html.

CAREERS

GENERAL HELP WANTED
Seeking experienced generalists for the following positions: generalist, community relations, and housing management. Please send resume to: hr@lha.org

BY OWNER

The seller is seeking a high-quality, well-maintained home in a desirable neighborhood. Call for more information.

Food Resources Map

Use the Health Department's new, searchable map that brings together most local resources in one place, including:

- Food Bank of Lincoln sites
- FoodNet pantries
- Free meal locations
- Little Free Pantries
- And more!

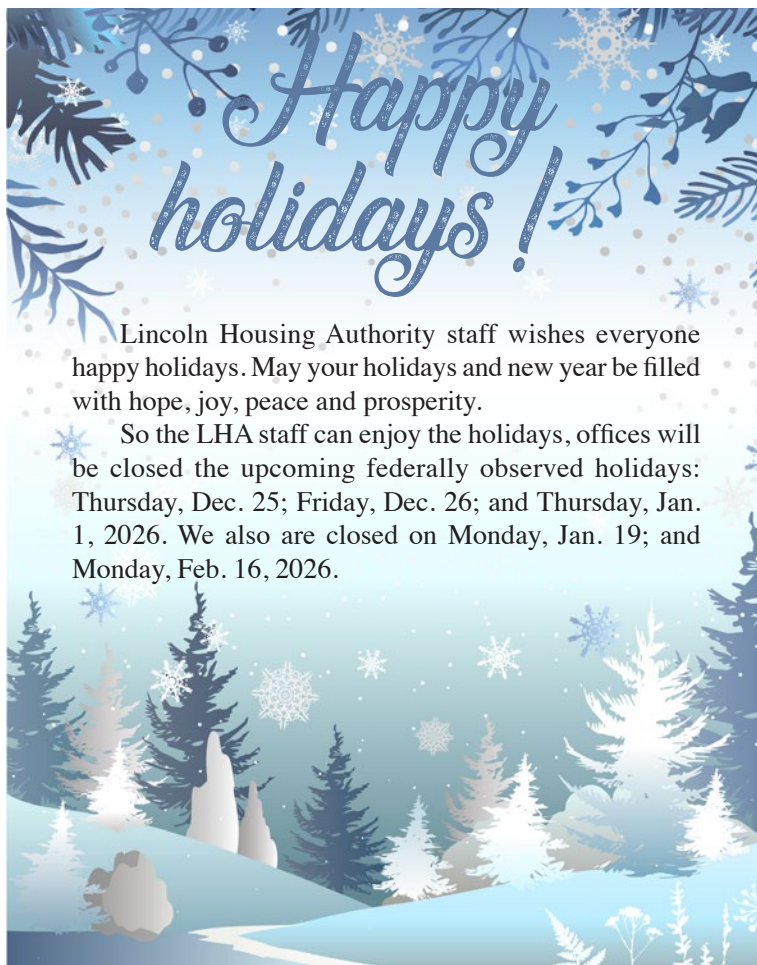
Each listing includes location, hours and days of operation so you can easily find what's closest to you.



Find food resources
near you!



lincoln.ne.gov/health



Lincoln Housing Authority staff wishes everyone happy holidays. May your holidays and new year be filled with hope, joy, peace and prosperity.

So the LHA staff can enjoy the holidays, offices will be closed the upcoming federally observed holidays: Thursday, Dec. 25; Friday, Dec. 26; and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. We also are closed on Monday, Jan. 19; and Monday, Feb. 16, 2026.