

January 2025

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER



# **POLICY**TALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

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## Featured News

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### **Nebraska Strong Recovery Project Aids Nebraskans Impacted by Disaster**



Earlier this month, Public Policy Center staff helped facilitate a Nebraska Strong Recovery Project training with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare. DHHS, in collaboration with our Behavioral Health Region partners offers mental health resources to Nebraskans affected by severe weather through the Nebraska Strong Recovery Project. This initiative is in response to the severe weather, straight-line winds, and tornados that passed through the state in April 2024.

The Region 6 Nebraska Strong Recovery team serves anyone in Douglas and Washington Counties. Call 402-444-6573 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and ask to talk with someone from Nebraska Strong. If you need immediate assistance, call/text 988 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information about the Nebraska Strong Recovery Project and information about accessing resources across the state, visit: [nebraskastrongrecoveryproject.nebraska.edu](https://nebraskastrongrecoveryproject.nebraska.edu).

Services are funded through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

## Center Marks Ninth Year of Offering Continuing Education Trainings for Psychologists

Since 2017, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has been approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education credits (CEs) for psychologists. Over the past three years, we have seen tremendous growth in this program and the trainings offered. We recently received approval for five more years. In the past three years alone, this program has provided 252 trainings and issued 10,263 certificates to mental health professionals and practitioners and peer support specialists.

**August 2022-July 2023** - 66 sessions; 2,703 total certificates

**August 2023- July 2024** - 118 sessions; 5,090 total certificates

**August 2024- July 2025** (As of January 2025) - 68 sessions; 2,470 certificates

[Learn More](#)

## Events

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### **Violence Risk Assessment Workshop**

**Dr. Mario Scalora**

**Virtual: Via Zoom**

February 18, 2025

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

This free workshop will enhance and promote statewide clinical expertise in violence risk and threat assessment in

Nebraska and help practitioners address risk assessment and management issues in their clinical activity. [Learn More.](#)

**Register  
Today**

### **Improving Access to Justice: Data-Driven Innovation Using Emerging Technologies Symposium**

**Ashley Votruba, Ryan Sullivan, Leen-Kiat Soh, Ashok Samal, Lisa PytlikZillig, & Deepti Joshi**

**In person and on Zoom**

February 7, 2025

8:30 AM - 3:15 PM (CT)

University of Nebraska College of Law 1875 N. 42nd Street Lincoln, NE 68503

A panel of experts will examine how to use data to better understand gaps in our understanding of justice needs. They will discuss how technological innovations can remove barriers and promote access. [Learn More.](#)

**Register  
Today**



### **Risky Substance Use Among People with Intellectual, Developmental &**

## Other Cognitive Disabilities

Drs. Sharon Reif, Rachel Sayko Adams,  
and Joanne Nicholson

### Virtual: Via Zoom

February 13, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

This free training will discuss substance use, addiction, among people with intellectual and development disabilities, as well as prevention and treatment. **Learn more.**

*This training is approved for 2.75 continuing education (CE) credits for psychologists, \* 2.75 CE credits for Nebraska LMHP/LIMHP and LADCs, and 2.75 CE credits for Peer Support Specialists. Credits will be awarded to participants who attend the entire training.*

**Register  
Today**



## Center News

### Call for Focus Group Participants



As part of a collaboration between the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Nebraska Indian Community College, and the University of Nebraska, we are seeking to engage both women and Native American farm and ranch producers, and others concerned with climate resilience to understand community needs and explore interest in developing a community of learning around climate resilience and climate-related challenges.

As part of the research, we will be holding community discussions, asking participants to share stories about the impact of climate on their communities and to explore the possibility of developing connections and collaborations between communities to strengthen climate resiliency. These stories will be shared during an online virtual focus group that will last approximately 90 minutes. Contact **Kurt Mantonya** (kmantonya3@unl.edu) or **Learn More.**

## Congratulations to Our Staffers



In December, we had two staffers complete their degrees at the University of Nebraska. Center research specialist, **Aiden Quinn**, graduated with their doctoral degree in public health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Our grants coordinator, **Liz Green**, earned her master's in public administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

### University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

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