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**Heartland Counseling Services**

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**CARES Grant Recipient, Heartland Counseling Services, Gives Back to the Community**

As a nonprofit organization committed to the Siouxland community, Heartland Counseling Services is pleased to announce that they secured a grant to help individuals in Nebraska impacted by COVID-19. The grant award of just over $400,000 allows for the hiring of six new staff members, filled blessings cabinets for 15 Nebraska schools, plus $140,000 in Emergency Financial Assistance, smart phones, and tablets for those in need. The project was supported by funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities Ace (CARES Act) from the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA Number 21.019.

Individuals that have been impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for Emergency Financial Assistance. State and Federal regulations of the grant require that the applicant must be a Nebraska resident, a US citizen or qualified resident alien, and be financially impacted by COVID-19. The financial assistance can help with rent, mortgage, or hotel costs; utility bills; food, housing, or personal hygiene needs; or prescription and medical expenses. Smart phones or tablets may also be requested by Nebraska residents needing technology to access therapy, school, or work. Applications and further instructions are available at [www.heartlandcounselingservices.com/CARES.html](http://www.heartlandcounselingservices.com/CARES.html).

The six new positions funded by this grant include two Youth Peer Support Specialists (one serving Eastern Nebraska and one serving Western Nebraska), a School-based Therapist, a Spanish Speaking Therapist, and a Human Resources Director. The Youth Peer Support Specialist position in Western Nebraska has been filled by Kathy Carr. The School-based Therapist position has been filled by Jamie Mackling, LIMHP. Heartland Counseling is still accepting applications for the remaining four positions. More information is available on the careers page of Heartland’s website.

“Heartland remains committed to our motto of ‘Changing lives. Healing hearts. One day at a time!’” stated Executive Director Jennifer Jackson. “We are thankful to have this opportunity to access CARES funding to serve the community and help those in need beyond our primary services of mental health and substance abuse counseling.”

For more information on Heartland Counseling Services, how you can access assistance, or how you can donate to help others in their journey to positive mental health, visit [www.heartlandcounselingservices.com](http://www.heartlandcounselingservices.com) or call 402-494-3337.

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