



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Try Ne211.org *Quick Search* to Look for Utility Assistance**

LINCOLN, Neb. (July 15, 2009) – Cooling costs rise along with summer temperatures, making it hard for some Nebraskans to pay their utility bills. Information about programs offering help with utility bill payments can be found 24 hours a day, seven days a week on [www.ne211.org](http://www.ne211.org), a statewide, online human services directory. A “Utility Assistance” *Quick Search* link on the Ne211.org home page gives Nebraskans an easy way to search for utility bill relief.

Ne211.org also includes information on programs that provide services such as *food banks, homeless shelters, counseling, support groups, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial assistance, job training, respite care, senior centers, child care, recreation programs, and disaster relief*. Users can target their search results to a specific geographic area by entering a ZIP Code and miles to search.

The Ne211.org online directory is the web-based sister to 2-1-1, the three-digit phone service that connects callers looking for human services information to a certified information and referral specialist. Information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in 39 Nebraska counties and eight counties in southwest Iowa, simply by dialing 2-1-1. Callers outside these areas, or those using a cell phone, can reach the call center by dialing (402) 444-6666. Interpretation assistance for more than 150 languages is available to those calling 2-1-1. Both the Web site and call center are confidential and free.

“2-1-1 gives Nebraskans two easy ways to look for utility bill payment assistance – searching online at [www.ne211.org](http://www.ne211.org) or dialing 2-1-1 to speak with a specialist,” said Nancy Shank, the associate director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

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