

Extending the Tent: NCRAN's Focus on Aging in the 2020s

Founded in 2016, the North Central Region Aging Network (NCRAN.org) is a collaborative of Extension professionals dedicated to improving the health and well-being of adults in later life through science-based strategies. Recently, with funding from NCRCRD, NCRAN members held a conference and invited representatives from tribal colleges and historically Black universities in the region to develop friendships, learn from each other, and explore possible collaborations. This webinar will describe our past, present, and future efforts to bring aging-related programming to the region and to Extension nationally.



WEBINAR

JANUARY 25, 2023 2:00PM - 3:30PM ET



**NORTH CENTRAL
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FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Broadband Tools and Resources in the NCR

Broadband availability and access continue to be a problem in the United States, especially among rural and tribal communities. Researchers at Michigan State University created a tract-level web application of provision levels in Census tracts across the contiguous United States over a period of several years. Researchers from the Purdue Center for Regional Development will explain the Digital Divide Index (DDI), which is a descriptive tool at the Census tract level (and counties, too) to help community stakeholders better understand their digital divide landscape. Both resources can help users better understand local broadband data.

WEBINAR

February 27, 2023 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET



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Extending the Tent: NCRAN's Focus on Aging in the 2020s

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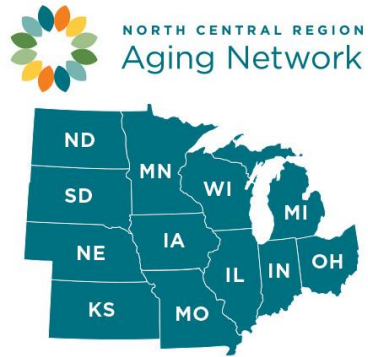
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NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Aging Network

Founded in 2016



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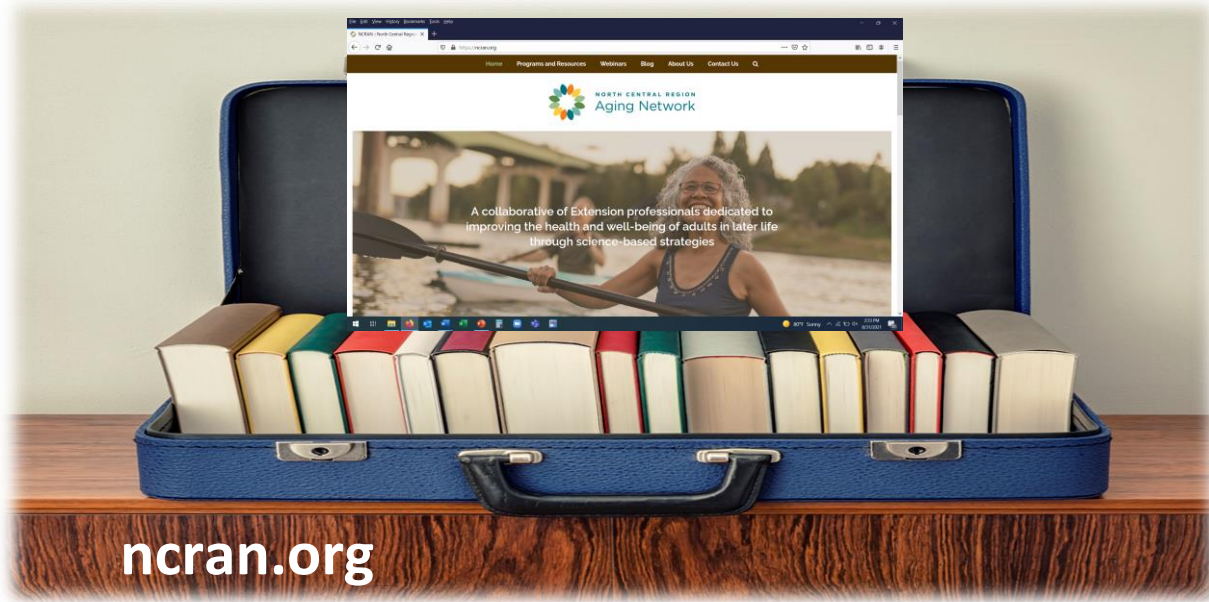
Two Goals



Needs Assessment



Virtual Toolkit



ncran.org



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NCRAN IMPACTS



Received \$24,655 in grant funding from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development to support the development of the NCRAN website and a toolkit of aging-related programs in the North Central Region

Collected needs assessment data from 1,028 Extension educators in the North Central Region to identify the status of aging-related Extension programming and perceived current and future community-based needs



Facilitated 26 multi-state collaborative projects related to development and dissemination of research, curriculum development and delivery, and capacity building of Extension professionals

Collaborative efforts have included:

- 7 articles published in scholarly journals
- 9 presentations at professional conferences
- 4 published products, including an infographic on supporting social connection during COVID-19
- 2 curriculum development initiatives



In 2018, NCRAN ranked third nationally for the Award for Excellence in Multi-State Collaboration from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)

Spring 2021

NCRAN.org
Web Reach

Developed the NCRAN website to serve as a hub for Extension programs and aging-related resources that have cross-state value

Hosted 44 professional development webinars for Extension professionals on a variety of aging-related topics



Published 32
blog posts



More than 1,900
professionals reached

Webinar Topics



97% of webinar participants agreed that they learned new information and planned to use it in their professional role

Based on open-ended comments, webinar participants report leaving with a clear plan for concrete actions they will take as a result of what they've learned from NCRAN webinars

NCRAN's 5-Year Strategic Plan to Enhance Impact and Sustainability

- Continue to expand professional reach through webinars, blogs, and curricula
- Enhance collaborative efforts in scholarship and programming
- Establish strategic efforts to continue improving aging-related Extension initiatives across the region

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N EXTENSION
PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

NDSU EXTENSION

SDSU
Extension
K-STATE
Research and Extension


UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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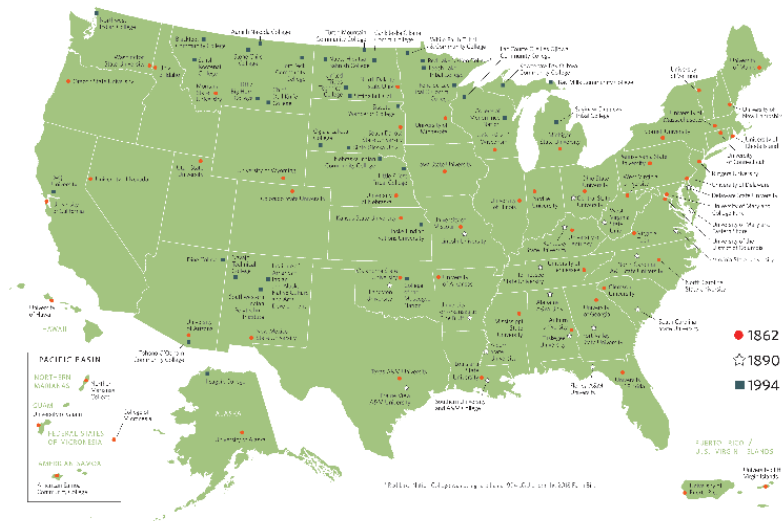
Extending the Tent


 United States
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National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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NIFA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



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The Gathering

» NCRCRD Small Grant 2022

- **Purpose:** To hold a conference in the center of the region and invite at least one person from each college/university who works in aging, Extension, or the human sciences.
- Funds covered lodging, food, travel, and conference materials for all participants.
- **Conference Goal:** Do activities that help us seek understanding, develop friendships, and have opportunities to promote health and wellness.



Activities

1. **May 2022** – Virtual meeting for Extension professionals from all land-grant colleges and universities in the NCR
2. **October 2022** – The Gathering: Brainstorming. Bridging. Building.
3. **February 2023** – Virtual follow-up meeting



Future

- » 2023 – Marketing campaign
- » 2023 – Region-wide needs/interests assessment of aging-related needs
- » 2023-2024 – Webinars addressing gaps, needs, interests identified at conference
- » Continue to invite and include Extension professionals from Historically Black Universities and Tribal colleges in the NCR

Subscribe to our webinars!



go.illinois.edu/ncran23



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Join us for our upcoming webinars!

Visit ncran.org/learn

- Extension and the Nutrition and Aging Resource Center - The Two Best Kept Secrets in Aging | [February 3rd](#)
- Increasing Social Connection in Wisconsin Through Programming and Partnership | [March 3rd](#)



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