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**Nebraska Community Opportunity Map releases a new version with more data and
new features; interactive map puts vital community data at users’ fingertips**

*The Nebraska Community Opportunity Map gives policymakers, media, and other leaders
access to community data associated with strong families and communities*

**LINCOLN, NE** — The [Nebraska Community Opportunity Map](https://caimaps.info/caseyfamilynebraska/?state=Nebraska&tab=nebraska), launched in 2018, has just released a new version with new features, multiple years of data (2016-2019) and an enhanced map interface.

Among the new features of the map include:

* Capability to search data by Nebraska State Legislative Districts
* Multi-year data display and data download providing 2016-2019 data (for most data points) to demonstrate trends over time
* Enhanced map interface including updated data panel and demographic layers

The Nebraska Community Opportunity Map is a tool to ensure that policymakers and other stakeholders have centralized, easy-to-navigate access to data vital to their work. Specifically, this free resource is designed to increase access to information about communities, especially data relevant to the well-being of Nebraska’s children and families. The ultimate goal is to give policymakers and other stakeholders another tool for making data-informed decisions about resource allocation, service delivery, emergency planning, city planning, and other vital functions.

“Nebraska’s Community Opportunity Map has been a great example of state and national partners coming together to increase access to timely, relevant, high-quality data,” said Catherine Brown, Associate Vice President of Research and Evaluation at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. “All of the partners are committed to increasing the amount of data and functionality of the site to make it a valuable tool. We encourage everyone to use and share it.”

The Nebraska Community Opportunity Map leverages and augments the national [Community Opportunity Map (COM)](https://www.casey.org/community-opportunity-map/), developed by Community Attributes Inc. and customized for Casey Family Programs. As such, Casey Family Programs and Community Attributes, Inc. have also played a critical role in realizing the concept envisioned by the Nebraska-based collaborative workgroup. The national Community Opportunity Map is an interactive mapping platform that displays publicly available community data in user-specified geographic areas across the United States. Nebraska expanded its data set beyond data from the United States Census Bureau. It added additional functionalities, such as the ability to view multiple years of data and for Nebraska-specific administrative regions, geographic regions, and county-level well-being and community health indicators.

You can search the Nebraska Community Opportunity Map by these geographic regions:

* Nebraska County (can search by more than one county at once)
* DHHS Behavioral Health Regions
* DHHS Children and Family Service Areas
* District Court
* County Court
* State Legislative Districts
* Custom areas to look at specific neighborhoods

You can find these county-level well-being indicators on the site:

* Work Hours/Week to Rent a 2-Bedroom Home
* Children in Single Parent Households
* High School Graduation Rate
* Proficient in English Language Arts (3rd grade)
* Juvenile Arrests
* Children Below Poverty Level
* Children in Out of Home Care
* Child Abuse/Neglect Substantiated Reports
* Teen Births
* Infant Deaths

You can also search these healthy community indicators/demographics (from U.S. Census Bureau data)

* Vacant Housing
* Housing Cost Burden
* Resident Turnover
* Single Mother Families
* Child to Adult Ratio
* People 65 and Over
* Unemployment Rate
* Adults with High School Diploma/GED
* Poverty Rate
* Population count
* Racial/Ethnic Distribution
* Percentage of Population Foreign Born

The Nebraska Community Opportunity Map resulted from a focused, collaborative effort among data experts representing multiple Nebraska state agencies, multiple Nebraska-based nonprofit organizations, and the University of Nebraska’s Center for Public Affairs Research. Organizational contributors to the collaboration are listed below, in alphabetical order. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and Schmeeckle Research respectively served as the convener and facilitator for the work.

* Boys Town
* Nebraska Foster Care Review Office
* Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
* Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
* Nebraska Court Improvement Project
* Nebraska Department of Education
* Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
* Schmeeckle Research (Consultant/Facilitator)
* University of Nebraska, Center for Public Affairs Research
* Voices for Children in Nebraska

**About Casey Family Programs**

Casey Family Programs is the nation’s largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children and families across America. Our mission is to provide and improve — and ultimately prevent the need for — foster care. We work in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and two territories and with more than a dozen tribal nations to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live. Learn more at <https://www.casey.org>

**About Community Attributes Inc.**[Community Attributes Inc. (CAI)](http://www.communityattributes.com/) consultants help clients make informed decisions and evaluate results utilizing demographics, economic and financial data, geographic information systems (GIS), and other evidence-based methods. Personal attention, a collaborative approach, and clear communication distinguishes CAI’s consultancy practice. They’re passionate about delivering viable analysis and products to improve the quality of life within their clients’ communities.  CAI’s proprietary data mapping platform helps stakeholders and decision-makers engage with data to understand the system interactions that shape outcomes of equality, opportunity, and economic resilience. CAI seeks to connect stakeholders, residents, the private sector, and the government through awareness of regional economic trends, market opportunities, and community desires.

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