



nebraskachildren

CONNECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE



Cultivating the good life for **all** of our children.

Connected Youth Initiative: Social Innovation Funding

This initiative and funding opportunity is made possible through:

- Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to Nebraska Children
- Matching grant support from:
 - The Sherwood Foundation
 - William and Ruth Scott
 - Local Match



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Connected Youth Initiative: Social Innovation Funding

General Information and Key Dates

- RFP is available on the Nebraska Children website <http://www.nebraskachildren.org/connectedyouth.html>
- Full proposals due through our online application process by 5:00 p.m. CST on November 20, 2015



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Connected Youth Initiative:

Population Definition

Unconnected youth are defined as:

- young adults ages 14 -24 in rural Nebraska who find themselves disconnected from a positive life course due to child welfare, juvenile justice system involvement (including diversion or young adults transitioning out of Probation), and/or
- who have experienced homelessness, and are lacking the services and supports they need to make successful transitions to adulthood.
(RFP pg. 3)

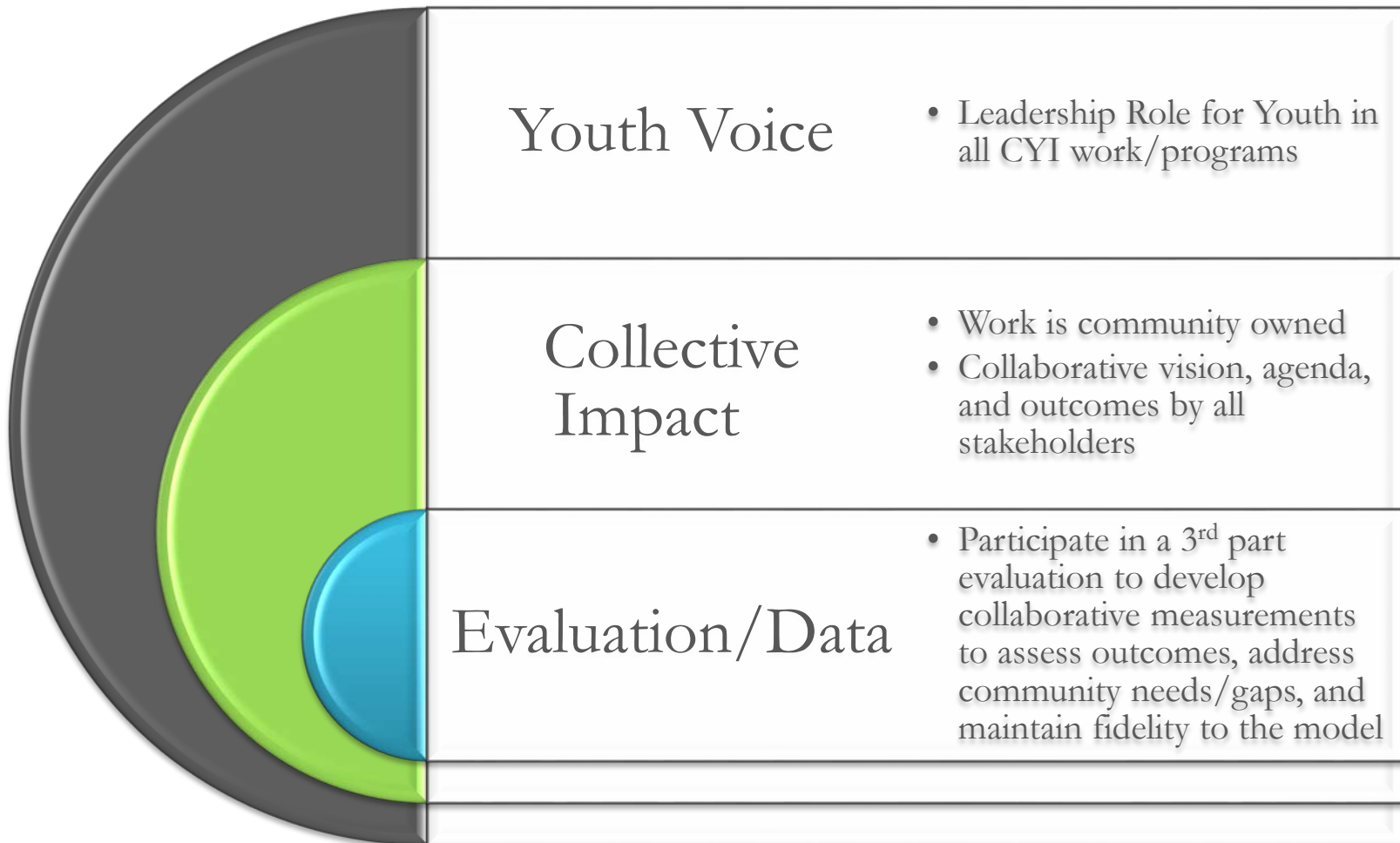


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Core Principles Connected Youth Initiatives



Funding a System:



Traditional funding:

Funding is designed to address particular project, population, or social problem. Grants are provided by a single funder and have specific accountability measures.

Connected Youth Initiatives:

Funding is both private and public. Provides flexibility and only requires specific components to maintain the model. How these components are integrated into the local communities is decided by a collective impact approach and shared decision making – complementary to other community funds.



Connected Youth Initiatives role and responsibilities

The Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) will:

- Partner with local communities to secure additional funding (local match) and create sustainability for collective impact work in each community
- Provide oversight and quality insurance for the Federal SIF dollars for 7-10 sub-grantees of CYI
- Offer technical assistance and support with such programs as Youth Leadership, Nebraska Youth IDA's, Central Access or referral systems, and other Connected Youth Initiative services
- Maintain and Manage a consistent statewide system of support across all sub-grantees to ensure fidelity to the CYI model
- Develop in partnership with local communities, 3rd party evaluator, CYI, and CNCS to develop an evaluation approach in order to validate the CYI model
- Develop and access advanced trainings and best practice models
- Work to integrate all state level policy makers and departments in order to remove barriers to local community work, develop and align further services and supports, and work to create long term sustainability options for local communities.

Connected Youth Initiative System

For Unconnected Youth (Youth involved in Juvenile Justice System (not currently on probation), Foster Care System and/or is experiencing homelessness)

Core Principles

Broad Based Collaborative with Collective Impact Backbone and Functions which supports:

- Community Ownership
- Alignment of resources and ability to fill gaps in services and supports to focus on the

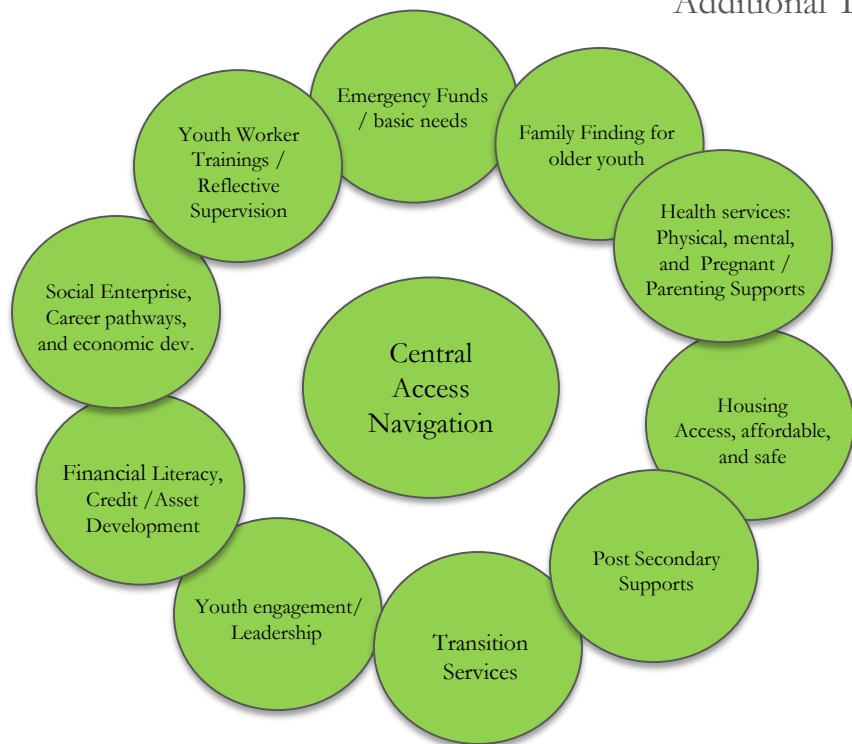
Components

Youth Engagement, Leadership

Central Access Navigation/Common Referral process

Fiscal Readiness/IDA programs

Additional Transitional Services



Results in Improved Outcomes for Young People:

- Personal and Community Engagement
- Education
- Employment
- Daily Living/Housing and Transportation Physical and Mental Health
- Permanence
- Economic Stability

Central Access

Purpose: Connected Youth Initiative “Central Access” is designed to insure youth who have or currently are involved in system care (DHHS or Probation) have access to needed supports and services in an effective and timely manner through a systematic approach of collaborative partnerships intended to promote a continuum of care.

Tools: Central Access provides communities, providers, and government agencies with:

- ✓ Common referral form: helps to reduce trauma on youth by capturing essential information for further assessment and planning at initial interview. Additional questions can be asked per specified need of agency or organization.
- ✓ Track population data: Central Access tracks referral networks at the local level to identify population and community trends in order to develop local best practices, gather and warehouse community data, and identify areas of gaps within the community continuum of care.
- ✓ Flex funding: Funding available through the central access to fill gaps where program and agency supports are limited due to funding criteria and limitations. Flex funding could be used by agencies to elevate the young person’s ability to reach personal goals. This could include funding to support stabilization and basic needs but may also include, but not limited to, driver’s license, school supplies, work clothes, transportation, child care, and other barrier reducing assets.

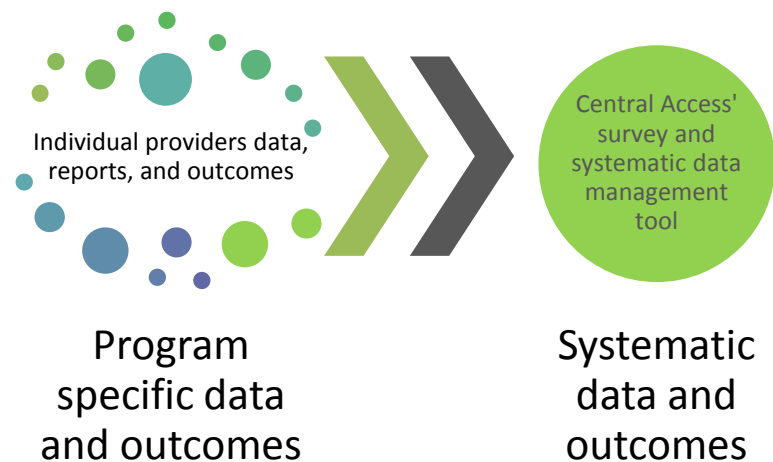


Central Access (continued)

Systematic indicators and Measurements:

Central Access will work with Corporation National Community Service, community collaboratives, and community agencies to develop systematic data management tools. Connected Youth Initiative will have the responsibility to ensure youth are provided a systematic approach to an array of programs and services that provide them with best outcomes. Data will be collected to be able to show trends in demographics, needs of unconnected youth, services being referred to, and outcomes gathered to present locally, regionally, and statewide.

The central access service has an already developed common referral form and a survey that will be provided to youth every six months to track outcomes. It will also be the services that tracks both high and low touch interventions



high touch and **low touch** interventions to a minimum of 200 young people per grantee.

- High touch participation is defined as an individual who participates in one or more CYI services, including case management or supports (youth leadership) for duration of at least 3 months, and is available and participates in the evaluation process and should encompass at least 20% of the total youth served.
- Low Touch participation is defined as an individual that is involved in less intensive services or one time interventions to include but not limited to; rental assistance, utility payments, food or other daily needs.

CYI Youth Leadership/Advocacy

Connected Youth Leadership

- Positive Youth Development Trainings and techniques
- Access to statewide conventions and legislative policy work
- Develop Nebraska best practices for youth leadership and involvement in community collaborative and change

New CYI Communities

- Identify or develop local youth leaders to be involved in community planning
- Participate in Positive Youth Development trainings
- Develop or maintain youth leadership opportunities at a local level
- Participate in statewide youth advocacy and leadership to address policy change

Current NC Youth Councils

- Continue Local Councils
- Provide technical assistance to new communities on best practices
- Continue to participate in legislative and policy change
- Take part in regional and statewide leadership opportunities



Nebraska Youth IDA and financial case management

Nebraska Youth Individual Development Accounts

A matched savings account, which could be personal bank account or an Individual Development Account (IDA), designed to help an individual establish a pattern of regular savings and accumulate assets. An “asset” is something of value that is likely to return substantial long-term benefits to its owner—benefits like security, stability, and opportunities for more income.

- Nebraska Youth IDA will provide financial literacy curriculum to increase youth knowledge around financial matters
- Help youth identify their credit score and financially coach the youth through a process of establishing, repairing, or maintaining their credit scores

Interventions of Nebraska Youth IDA:

Matched savings - You'll open an Individual Development Account (IDA) where you will save for key assets.

Personal Bank Account – Youth will be introduced to local banking opportunities and assisted in opening bank accounts. If youth already has a bank account then this will work to make asset purchases.

Youth will also be offered – Basic Financial education, on-going financial training opportunities, Credit focused practices to help establish/maintain/repair credit, community connections and volunteer opportunities



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CYI: Extended Supports and Services

Extended Supports and Services:

CYI will also require a partnership between each local collaborative, youth, and Nebraska Children after award of the grant on Jan. 15, 2016, to create and develop community plans to address the essential components (Youth Leadership, Central Access, and Nebraska IDA) and to identify an additional service gaps that would lead to improved outcomes for unconnected youth.

This proposal will need to address the following:

- a) identify supports and services currently available in and around the surrounding communities,
- b) design an implementation plan for the essential components,
- c) work with the CYI evaluation team to develop a local evaluation plan,
- d) to identify gaps in services,
- e) to begin plans for collaborative work to create a youth-driven, community-based infrastructure that establish connections to vital services and lifelong relationships.

The proposal will need to address 7 outcome areas of sustainability and best practice:

- 1) Daily Living: Housing, Basic Needs, Transportation
- 2) Permanence
- 3) Education
- 4) Employment
- 5) Health Care & Mental Health
- 6) Policy and Training
- 7) Economic Stability



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Social Innovation Funding and Implications on current or new Connected Youth Initiatives (CYI):

Initial Process: Identification and Community Readiness assessment of the

4 Components of CYI:

Youth Leadership
And Advocacy supports

Central Access/Referral
Coordination and data

Youth IDA and
Financial supports

Extended Supports
And services

Current CYI: These are communities with current Project Everlast councils, Central Access, or other youth services

Current Council: Expand to new populations (JJ and Homeless)

Central Access: Expand to new populations

Youth IDA: Develop or expand IDA supports to Populations of the community

Supports/Services: Align current community Resources and expand for population

New SIF funded CYI: These are communities Applying for SIF grant but currently do not A Nebraska Children funded CYI components

Youth Leadership/Advocacy: Expand or develop youth leadership and advocacy opportunities

Central Access: Expand or develop current referral processes and data tracking

Youth IDA: Expand or develop youth IDA opportunities

Extended Supports: Expand, align, or develop community supports for Edu., Employment, etc.



Questions

- Questions can be directed to:
Jason Feldhaus at jfeldhaus@nebraskachildren.org or
Troy Gagner at tgagner@nebraskachildren.org
- FAQ
<http://www.nebraskachildren.org/connectedyouth.html>



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