

2017-18 Report



nebraskachildren
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

www.NebraskaChildren.com



PREVENTION WORK is vital to Nebraska's children

At Nebraska Children, when we talk about making positive change we mean permanent change in the lives of children and families.

Through our community well-being investments in Nebraska communities, we've learned that together we can:

- Prevent child abuse and neglect from happening.
- Strengthen families to avoid the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Fill critical gaps in each community's family services.
- Improve quality of life for the most vulnerable.

Our unique collaboration model works. Nebraska Children is moving the needle on child well-being indicators in the communities where we work. But we've just gotten started. We're currently working with 23 counties

in Nebraska. It's time to scale up the impact for children all over the state.

Growing our community investments.

We fund and build community collaborations. Nebraska Children works with all the critical players in a community – service providers, educators, health care professionals, law enforcement, businesses, government agencies, and most importantly, parents and youth. Together, the collaboration commits to common goals, measurements and practices, working as one toward the end goal of improving child well-being. By using a collective impact approach, we've been able to work with more communities, teaching them how to create permanent change for children. We help them identify gaps in services, develop research-backed plans, coor-

dinate activities and create remarkable outcomes for kids. The result is community-owned prevention systems that becomes self-sustaining, thanks to an increased and more focused investment of local dollars.

That's why community-based prevention is imperative.

In 2017, along with many state and federal partners, we launched Bring Up Nebraska to shine a light and renew focus on community-based prevention. We are working to sustain the current community collaboratives and expand to new communities. Complex issues need collaborative solutions. Bring Up Nebraska represents a long-term commitment to life-changing improvements for Nebraska children and families.

In 2017, Nebraska Children and other state and national partners, launched Bring Up Nebraska, a statewide prevention initiative designed to give local community partnerships the ability to develop long-term plans using the latest strategies and data to prevent life's challenges from becoming a crisis for many Nebraska families and children.

Complex issues need collaborative solutions. Bring Up Nebraska partners are working together to keep children safe while preventing life's challenges from becoming a crisis. Thriving families means thriving communities – a key part of our state's economic health. And with Bring Up Nebraska, we believe local communities are best positioned and most motivated to understand their own needs and strengths in identifying solutions to

- Reducing entry into the child welfare system and other higher systems of care and
- Increasing informal and formal community supports for children and families.

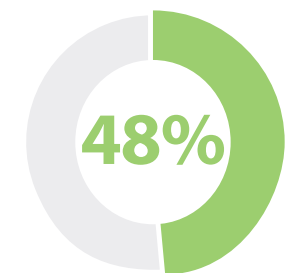
Preventing crises requires long-term plans that will:

- Identify and support solutions to remove barriers in community-based prevention efforts;
- Raise awareness of what is working and what is needed to promote a community-based model around prevention.
- Bring local, state, and national partners together to develop new strategies around prevention for Nebraska—including setting priority policies and practices; and
- Make sure that all communities in Nebraska have more support and opportunities for community-based prevention.

THE NEED

3,255

Nebraska children/youth were in out-of-home care on 6/30/2018¹



of Nebraska state wards ages 0-5 have at least one parent who was also a state ward²

Estimated annual cost of child maltreatment in Nebraska (2015)³

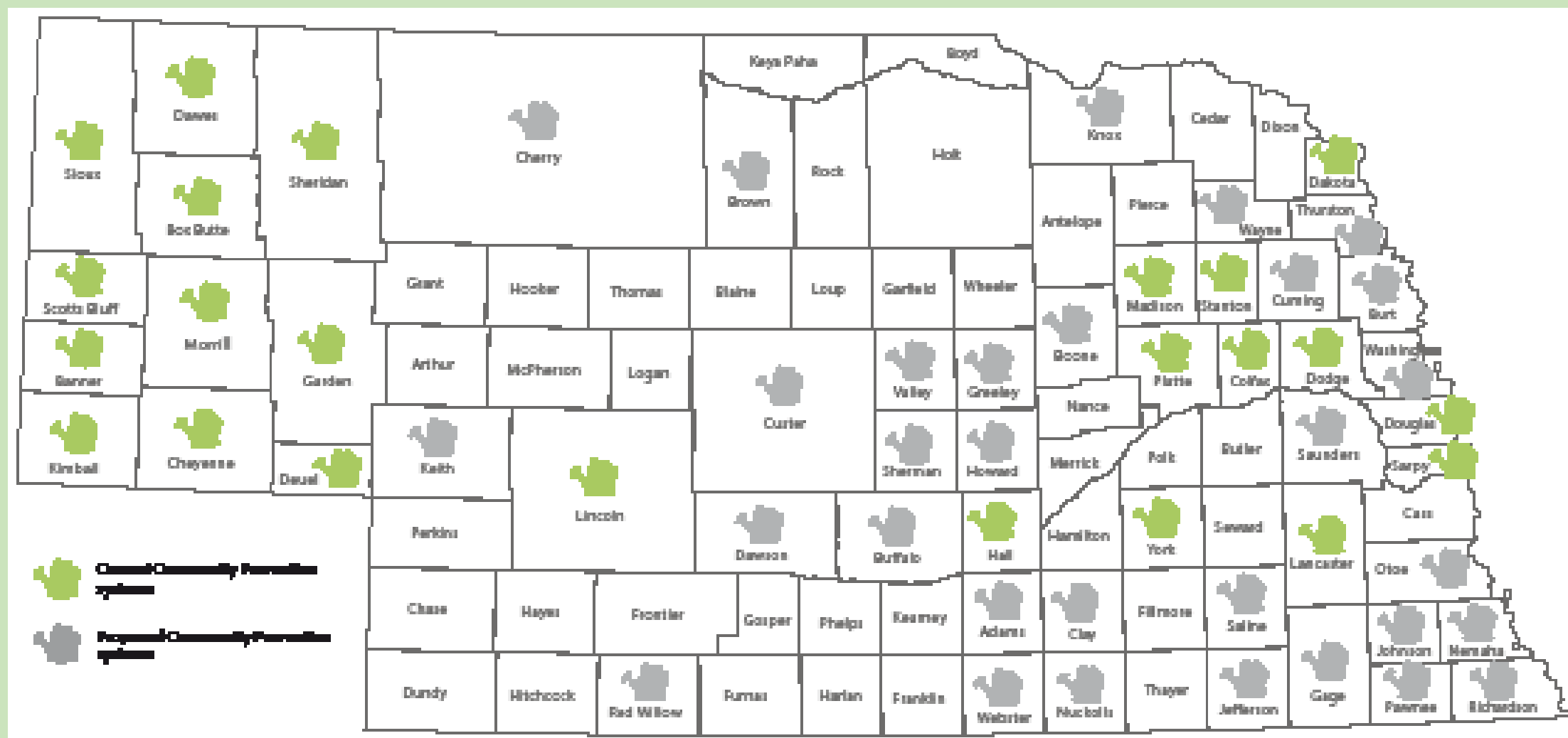
\$435,693,489

1. Foster Care Review Office. (December 1, 2017). *The Nebraska Foster Care Review Office Annual Report*. Total includes youth in DHHS and youth on probation.

2. DHHS CFS, based on data known to the department.

3. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2017). *Understanding Child Maltreatment 2015*.

Prevention System investments by 2020



Community-based prevention strategies currently reach **491,146 children** ages 0-24 across the state.

By 2020 community-based prevention strategies will reach **607,034 children** ages 0-24 across the state.

**Since implementation
of Nebraska Children's
prevention system,
we've seen:**

- Third grade reading scores increase from 67.5% in 2010 to 84% in 2016.
- Juvenile arrests decrease by more than one third, from 15,194 juvenile arrests in 2009 to 9,463 in 2016.
- Substantiated cases of child abuse drop, from 3,520 cases in 2009 to 2,174 cases in 2016.
- About 75% of Nebraska's total population lives in a Bring Up Nebraska community.



PREVENTION is working

Our work to establish collaborative community-based prevention efforts is keeping families out of governmental systems. Here are a few of those success stories:

Barb

Barb, a single mom, was being evicted. She was overwhelmed and didn't know where to turn. She was down on her luck but was, thankfully, referred to a local Community Response Navigator, a strategy of Bring Up Nebraska.

Community Response (CR) connects families to local supports and provides preventative funding for services so that families are strengthened and can avoid unnecessary involvement in governmental systems such as child welfare.

The CR navigator worked with Barb to create meaningful change in her life. They collaborated to establish a budget and sustainability plan. The CR team helped Barb contact her landlord, who granted her a flexible payment plan for her past due rent. Now, Barb and her children could stay in the home they loved. Soon, Barb was saving money and keeping up with her commitments. She felt empowered by

her new set of strengths and learned lasting skills.

If Bring Up Nebraska's Community Response prevention strategy had not been implemented, Barb would have been homeless, and her child could have been taken away. This new way of thinking saved heartache for Barb's family, and money for the child welfare system.

"If we don't go further upstream in our work with children and families who are at risk, we're constantly going to be in a situation of trying to pick up the pieces of things that have gone terribly wrong in the lives of children and families. Through Bring Up Nebraska – and this kind of commitment – we have a real opportunity to help families before things fall apart. And when we help families stay together and to thrive, we're helping the entire community."

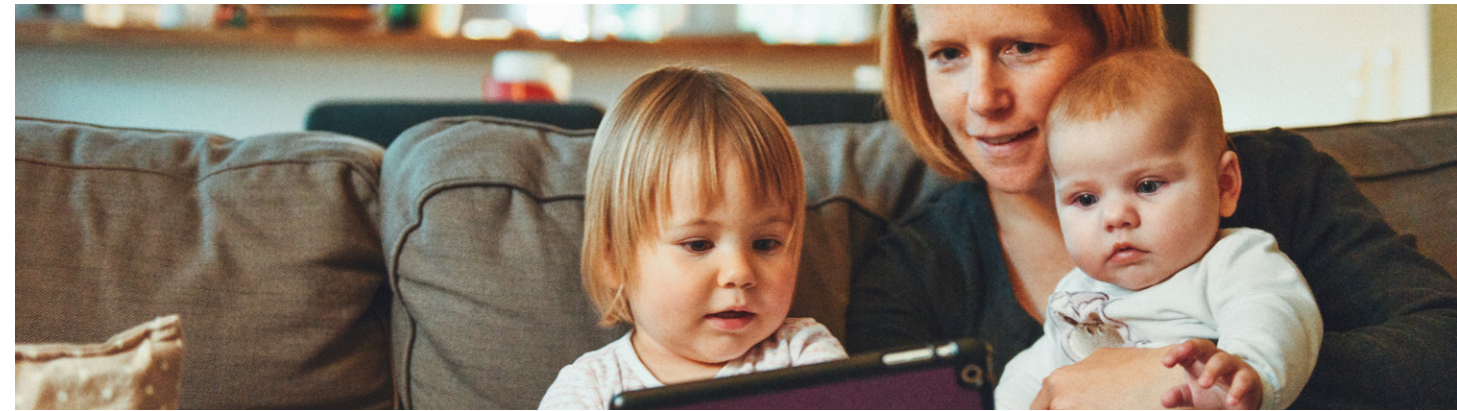
— Commissioner Jerry Milner,
Children's Bureau, An Office
of the Federal Administration for
Children & Families

Innovation through Collaboration: A role for businesses in community-based prevention

One critical event that can tip the scales into crisis for struggling families is having their power shut off. In Nebraska, once the electricity has been turned off, children can be removed from the home and the family spirals into crisis and chaos.

The Fremont Family Coalition, a Bring Up Nebraska collaborative, brought the local utility companies to the table. Together, they set up a fund that would pay utilities when families couldn't pay.

"When a family couldn't afford to pay their electric bill, it was like the canary in the coal mine," said Jenny Skala, Senior Vice President at Nebraska Children, "Thanks to a system strategy, the Fremont Family Coalition is now made aware of a family's status and can provide services to prevent them from entering the system, get them back on their feet, and make sure their kids have the resources they need to thrive. It's a revolutionary development toward the prevention work needed in Nebraska."



NEBRASKA CHILDREN Initiatives

Early Childhood

Sixpence Early Learning Fund

In 2017-18, Sixpence supported 34 school district grantees offering infant/toddler services to 1,797 children and 78 prenatal mothers. Forty percent of Sixpence programs were in rural communities.

Communities for Kids

Communities for Kids began in June 2017 and is now working in 17 communities, with more getting ready to begin - with the goal of helping those communities with the expansion or enhancement of childcare and services for children 0-8.

Rooted in Relationships

Currently supporting 10 communities in efforts to implement evidence-based practices that enhance the

social-emotional development of children, 0-8. In July 2019, one community to begin implementation and two others beginning planning process. Since Pyramid Model implementation began in 2014, 38 coaches have supported 309 center- and home-based child care providers in 113 programs impacting over 4,000 children. Of these children, 9% were English Language Learners and 22% qualified for child care subsidy.

Middle Childhood

Beyond School Bells

Beyond School Bells is working in 12 communities to support their Expanded Learning Opportunities: Norfolk, Schuyler, Chadron, Sidney, Fremont, Kearney, York, Columbus, North Platte,

Lexington, Lincoln, Crete, and Omaha. In 2018, 5 communities began an Expanded Learning Program Design Challenge through a Nebraska Department of Education Innovation Grant: Grand Island, Cairo, Albion, Auburn, and Beatrice.

The number of Think Make Create mobile maker labs are expanding rapidly. We are on our way to having 18 labs in Nebraska and have partnerships with two other states to replicate our TMC model.

System of Care

Nebraska Children's partnership around the behavioral health of young people and their families made several advancements in 2017-18 including the addition of Youth Mobile Crisis Response and more partnerships with schools for mental health services.



Older Youth

Connected Youth Initiative

In 2017-18, CYI worked in 54 counties and served 3,881 unconnected youth aged 14-26. CYI efforts revolve around achieving these goals for unconnected youth: permanency, educational success and economic security (including stable housing), pregnancy and parenting support.

In 2017, Nebraska Children partnered with CSSP to offer the first-ever combined train-the-trainer of Youth Thrive™ and Strengthening Families™ frameworks to communities to address the two-generational challenge facing pregnant and parenting older youth.

Cradle to Career

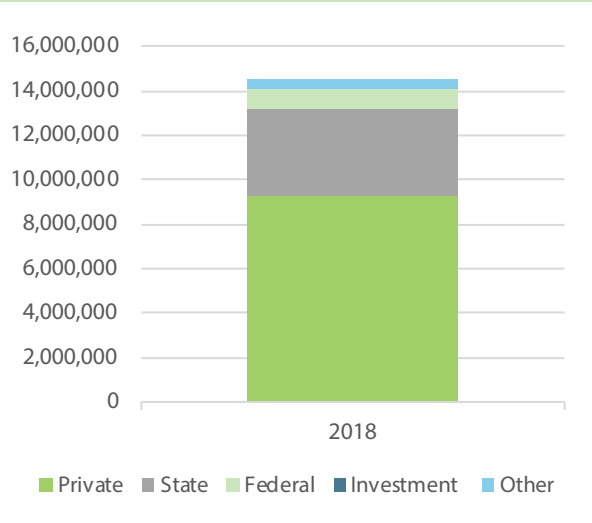
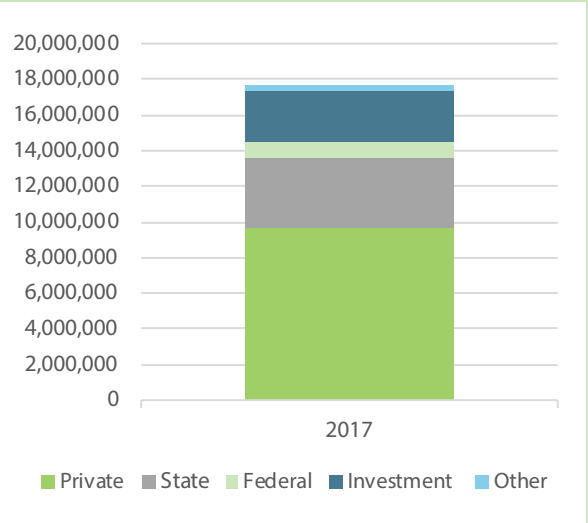
Community Response

In the 30 counties that are currently offering Community Response as part of their prevention system, 709 families and 1,621 children were served directly. Of those, 64.8% were considers at risk due to poverty.

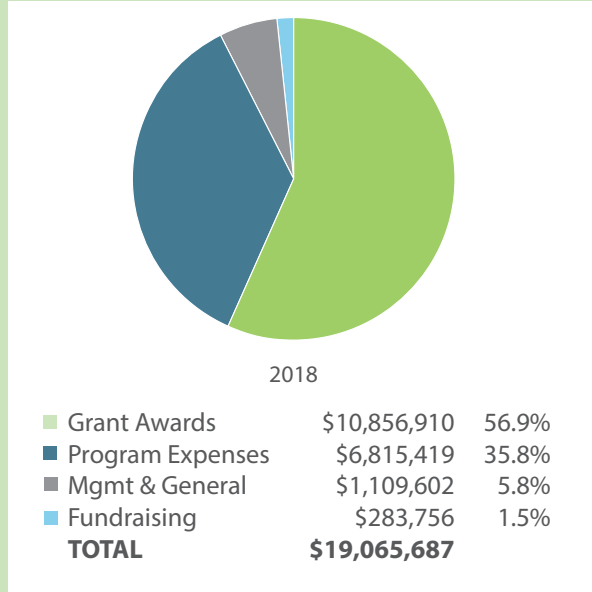
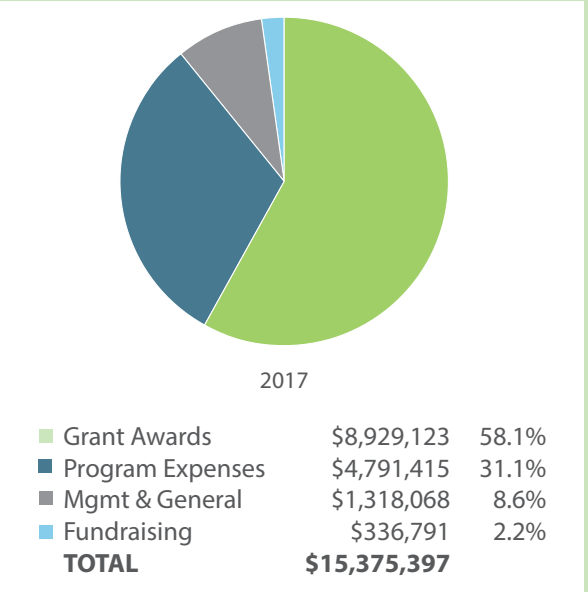
OVERALL

In 2018, more than 1,500 families and more than 10,000 children were served directly through Nebraska Children prevention strategies. More than three-quarters of those families were at risk due to poverty and approximately 40% identified as Hispanic, Black, or Native American. With the addition of community-wide strategies (community resource fairs, etc) an additional 3,200 families and 3,800 children were served “indirectly.”

Income



Functional Expenses





**Help Nebraska Children
and Families Foundation
sustain and expand change
in Nebraska**

It's a different way of doing business.
And it *works*. Please help us scale up
our impact and create custom
prevention systems for more Nebraska
communities.

Call Rebecca Langle at 402-752-0783
or email rlangle@nebraskachildren.org



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AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

Cultivating the good life for all of our children.
www.NebraskaChildren.com