**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**Brenda Weyers, VP Marketing  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation  
bweyers@nebraskachildren.org

**Nebraska Children and partners launch  
new resources website for young adults**

Comprehensive support at [www.NEConnectedYouth.org](http://www.NEConnectedYouth.org)

(Lincoln, NE) – Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s Connected Youth Initiative has launched a new resources website at [www.NEConnectedYouth.org](http://www.NEConnectedYouth.org) in partnership with other youth-serving agencies. The website was created to give unconnected young adults one place to learn about programs and trainings just for them. The site grew out of feedback from young people who found themselves facing heightened challenges during the pandemic, especially around housing, food security, and mental health.

Nebraska has many young adults who are “unconnected”—those who are aged 14-26 without permanent and supportive family ties and who have firsthand experience in either foster care, juvenile justice/probation, homelessness, or trafficking. Additionally, many are often pregnant or already a parent. These young adults face challenges that their peers with family support do not and these struggles worsened during the pandemic.

Based on feedback from youth, partners, and other stakeholders, [www.NEConnectedYouth.org](http://www.NEConnectedYouth.org) was created. This website is youth-focused and includes statewide information and resources such as:

* central navigation (entry point to services and programs in their own community)
* support services funds
* coaching
* Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)
* housing vouchers
* driver’s education
* scholarships
* parenting resources
* COVID-19 resources and support
* youth leadership/advocacy education
* training opportunities
* youth voice section including artwork, stories and poetry submitted by young people

“Just like every other Nebraskan, these young adults want to find supportive relationships, fulfilling careers, safe and affordable housing, financial stability, and to be healthy—both physically and mentally,” said Sara Riffel, Vice President of Connected Youth Initiative. “This website is one small way we could show that we are listening to the needs of these young people and find ways to get them connected to resources to meet their well-being goals.”

**ABOUT CONNECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE:**

Connected Youth Initiative, a program of [Nebraska Children and Families Foundation](http://www.nebraskachildren.org/), is a statewide system change network to improve outcomes for unconnected young adults in Nebraska. At the macro level, this is achieved through a collective impact approach that brings together policymakers, community leaders, providers, and young people that co-create an environment that values, prioritizes, and actively supports intervention and prevention. At the individual level, Connected Youth Initiative also includes evidence-supported services and best practices aimed to increase young adult’s protective and promotive factors so that they have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their child(ren) to thrive.

###