**Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative**

**SIF Community Data Collection**

At the time that the SIF RFP was issued Nebraska Children had not fully clarified the internal roles in developing components of data collection process and tools that are to be used in all Connected Youth Initiative, including the SIF CYI communities. The SIF RFP required communities to obligate some funds to “evaluation” but the evaluation content was not determined. The intent however was for program and community data collection as would normally be required by Nebraska Children for any grant, and were not intended to hire a level of evaluation expertise. In addition it was envisioned to enhance the use of such data through a facilitated CQI process.

As the statewide CYI work has taken form the requirements for this local data collection have developed. As is standard practice for statewide projects, Nebraska Children will contract with an evaluator to develop each component of program data and the tools that will be used to collect this. This work will be done in conjunction with the communities. The evaluator will then provide training and technical assistance to each community on the tools to be used. As the data is collected the contract evaluator will work with communities on the quality of the data and the use of data in a CQI process.

The components of this work will be completed in conjunction with the training and implementation of the four core areas of CYI. Each training process will include a community capacity assessment, implementation planning, protocols, process and practice documentation, tools and data collection training. In addition each community will have ongoing collective impact and community context training and surveys. The dates for implementation include the start date for data collection in each core area:

1. Central Navigation start date: July 1, 2016
2. Services and Supports Utilization start date: July 1, 2016
3. Youth Leadership start date: October 1, 2016
4. Opportunity Passport start date: January 1, 2017

In order for communities to allocate the time and resources to this work Nebraska Children recommends the reallocation of the designated “evaluation” funds into each contracted position responsible for the above core areas. The SIF CYI Director will communicate with each community to plan for this reallocation. Communities have not been informed of this plan. This will occur by June 20, 2016.

Communities are also aware of the evaluation for Collective Impact. Many of the communities already participate in this process through other Nebraska Children grants. One of the six communities is at the very early stages of learning about collective impact and does not have a diverse steering group. A July 31 target has been set internally to try to have this group formed.