

Annual Report

Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Purpose of the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board

The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF) was created in 1986 by the Nebraska Legislature to provide prevention information, education, and resources to parents, professionals, and the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. The Board is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The board's plan for 2023-2024 included the following priorities:

- **Supporting evidence-informed programs and resources** for community grantees focused on families with children from infancy through adolescence
- Promoting **parent engagement and leadership**
- Administering a **statewide public awareness campaign** with local child abuse prevention collaboratives
- Providing **training and technical assistance on evidence-informed child abuse prevention strategies** to community collaboratives and other partners



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Evidence-Informed Programs and Resources



Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP)

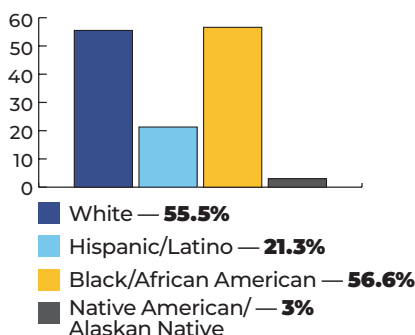
Circle of Security Parenting™ is an Evidence-Based strategy that focuses on parents and caregivers interaction with their children. It has an 8-week, small group format based on research about building strong attachments and relationships between parents and children. Parents learn how to respond to their child's needs in a way that enhances attachment.

The NCAPF Board awarded funding to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NEAEYC) to support 27 COSP classes across the state, which included 23 virtual and four in-person classes. The in-person classes were held in Grand Island, Ord/North Loupe, Alliance, and Falls City.

Facilitators must complete a four-day training by Circle of Security International before offering the program. NCCF supports COSP by offering additional training, reflective consultation, and fidelity coaching to facilitators, as well as supporting evaluation, marketing, and the statewide website.

Overall, COSP served 494 families in 2023-2024 through a variety of funding sources.

Participants by ethnicity:



The most recent evaluation reported improvements in positive parent-child relationships, positive parent-child interactions, and reduced parenting-related stress.



Plans of Safe Care

Plans of Safe Care builds on the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and extends the work to include working with moms prenatally. Plans of Safe Care is designed for pregnant women or caretakers who are affected by (legal and illegal) substance abuse disorders, including co-occurring mental health disorders, and the needs of their infants and families. The overall goal is to improve community identification and response to provide effective support to families to help keep their children safely with them.

Through technical assistance provided through the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare and many state partners, two Community Collaboratives based in Hastings and North Platte piloted this approach.

Community Response

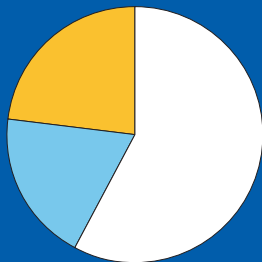
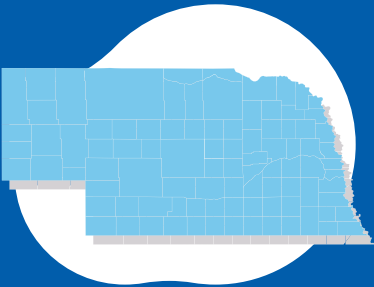
Community Response coordinates existing resources within a community to help children, young adults, and families address immediate needs before they become crises and higher end systems of care are involved. Core elements of Community Response include Central Navigation, Support Service Funds, and Coaching.

Central Navigation is the means through which participants are matched to services and the connection among community partners to meet needs and address barriers such as lack of affordable housing.

Central Navigation Coaching is tailored to meet individual and family needs, and may include help with creating a budget or improving relationships with children for longer term well-being.

Flexible supportive funding is available when other funding sources are not available or when participants don't meet the criteria for other programs or resources.

Across the state, Central Navigation directly served 14,280 participants with 11,815 children in 2023-2024.



■ Housing — **58%**
■ Utilities — **19%**
■ Other supports — **23%**

Most support service funds were provided for housing (58%). The second highest amount of support funds were provided for utilities (19%). Other support funds were provided for transportation, mental health, and additional needs.

Participants in Coaching demonstrated increases in Concrete Supports and Social Connections. A small number participated in a pre-post survey that demonstrated increases in Resilience and Hope.

Mental Health Provider-Interpreter Training

This training addresses interpretation concerns within a mental health setting. It includes practice for providers and interpreters to work through language barriers, and work with interpreters on foundational terminology, therapeutic modalities, and issues that are unique to mental health services. This training also focuses on the importance of developing trust between providers and interpreters, particularly if they are going to provide services that require multiple visits. Over two dozen participants participated in a virtual training with very positive responses.



Youth and Families Thrive Training

Youth and Families Thrive Nebraska is a comprehensive brain-based, family systems and multi generation, healing centered engagement framework to strengthen protective factors in children, youth, families, and communities. Work to adapt the Youth and Families Thrive Curriculum to be more culturally competent for tribal communities was completed this year and will be part of trainings for tribal communities in the future.

Parent and Community Engagement and Leadership

Community Cafés

Community Cafés are an evidence-informed approach to facilitate the engagement and leadership of parents and community members working in partnership for positive change. The Cafés foster relationships needed for better-informed, compassionate, and equitable practices and policies. Local teams work with the coaches to build readiness, form planning teams, and host series of six-connected Cafés. Results include improvements in individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. There were two urban and two rural sites this past two years.

The four local teams reported:

Hosting thirty-eight Community Cafés with attendance ranging from approximately one dozen to sixty participants at each Café.	Adding new supports to develop parent and other participant's leadership for all sites and developing better communication processes and connections between parents and other community members with schools, city leaders, and other local partners.	Gaining opportunities for additional leadership and system building through The National Center for Families Learning for one team.	Positive changes in participating individuals, families, schools, and communities.
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Nebraska Children and Families Foundation evaluators conducted a thematic analysis of interviews with Community Café leaders from four teams over the past two years. Five themes emerged: Community Engagement and Support, Relationships and Connections, Inclusivity and Accessibility for All, Leadership Development, and Generativity and Positive Change.

Public Awareness and Education

Resources for Community Collaboratives and Councils

Twenty-two Community Collaboratives/Prevention Councils, several DHHS sites, and other partners used the campaign toolkit and products to host local events and activities across the state. These included mayoral proclamations, Wear Blue Day, and pinwheels plantings with local media coverage and social media promotions. Over 5,000 pinwheels were ordered, and, through the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board, more than 6,600 campaign products were ordered to promote awareness and education of Bring Up Nebraska, the Protective and Promotive Factors all families need to thrive, and what help is available through the Community Collaboratives.



Events

Governor Pillen proclaimed April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and the DHHS Director of Children and Family Services made remarks. DHHS also issued a media release about Prevention Month.



The Bring Up Nebraska website realized a 737% increase in visitors from the previous 12 weeks with 10,484 visitors. There were 14,927 page views; the Community Collaboratives page was the most visited page with 11,483 page views.



Radio ads in English and Spanish reached 400,800 people across the state with 1,381,000 gross impressions (the number of times ads are heard or seen).



Targeted digital display ads ran in English and Spanish

Facebook/Instagram ads: Impressions = **881,140**

Google display ads: Impressions = **532,263**

Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation

Training, Technical Assistance, and Assessment for all strategies is provided through Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Grantees received support as appropriate for initial training, implementation, and evaluation of strategies supported by the NCAPF Board. Additional support was provided for the development of community systems to support and use the strategies funded by the NCAPF Board, including, but not limited to, Community Well-Being and Community Response. An annual evaluation is required that includes the outcomes of all funded projects.

NCAPF Board Allocation Plan 2023-2024

EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP)	NEAAYC (multiple sites)	\$60,000	July - June
Plan of Safe Care (POSC)	United Way of South Central NE (for Community Impact Network)	\$29,990.69	July – June
Plan of Safe Care (POSC)	Families 1st Partnership	\$17,000	July – June
Community Response Expansion (CR)	Columbus Area United Way (for Community & Family Partnership)	\$25,000	July – June
Community Response Expansion (CR)	Norfolk Family Coalition	\$25,000	July – June
Mental Health/Interpreter Training	Project Harmony (statewide)	\$4,341.98	October – June
Youth & Families Thrive Training	Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition (NICWC)	\$23,100	July – June
Community Response Expansion Pilot	Fremont Family Coalition	\$60,000	October – June

\$244,432.67

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PREVENTION

Community Cafés	Auburn Public Schools, Grand	\$11,142.41	July – June
	Island Public Schools, Crete	\$11,098.75	July – June
	Public Schools, The	\$12,000	July – June
	BRIDGE Omaha	\$26,920	October – June
\$61,161.16			

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Prevention Store	Abante (statewide)	\$42,000	October – June
Radio, social media, digital ads	Learfield	\$40,000	October – June
\$82,000			

Total direct programming \$387,593.83

TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION

Administrative Support	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	\$85,000	July – June
\$85,000			

Total allocations \$472,593.83

Board of Directors



**Jillian Chance,
District I**



**Georgie Scurfield
District I (Chair)**



**Dcn. Donald Blackbird,
District III**



**Claire Bazata,
District III**



**Dr. David Hansen,
At Large**



**Camas Holder,
Personnel Required
by Statute**



**Sara Morgan,
Personnel Required
by Statute**

*Camas Holder
and Sara Morgan
represented the
Nebraska Department
of Health and Human
Services, Divisions of
Children and Family
Services and Public
Health, respectively.*