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**Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Awarded $60,000 Primary Prevention Grant by
Prevent Child Abuse America to Support Abuse and Neglect Prevention Strategies
as Part of *Thriving Families, Safer Children***

LINCOLN, NE — Nebraska Children and Families Foundation announced today a $60,000 Primary Prevention grant awarded by [Prevent Child Abuse America](https://preventchildabuse.org/)® (PCA America), with funding from the [W. K. Kellogg Foundation](https://www.wkkf.org/), to support the organization’s work to transform child welfare policy and systems, focused on building sustainable, long-term partnerships and pathways between primary and downstream child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. A total of $500,000 will be awarded over a two-year grant period to nine Prevent Child Abuse America state chapters selected for funding.

“Nebraska is on its way towards building a statewide community well-being system, but we have a lot of work left to do. Grants like this, and the entire *Thriving Families, Safer Children* effort, help Nebraska build capacity for community-based prevention,” said Kathy Stokes, Associate VP of Child Abuse Prevention at Nebraska Children and staff lead of Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska. “We believe that all individuals and families face challenges and that providing support early, before challenges turn to crises, improves outcomes for children, adults, and communities.”

*Thriving Families, Safer Children* is a first-of-its-kind effort of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, Casey Family Programs, the Casey Foundation, and Prevent Child Abuse America. The partnership is working in 22 sites from coast to coast and a sovereign tribal nation. The *Thriving Families* effort seeks to demonstrate that intentional, coordinated investments in a full continuum of prevention, along with community-based networks of support, will promote overall child and family well-being, equity and other positive outcomes for children and families.

The goals of the Primary Prevention grant include:

* Expand the capacity of the *Thriving Families* movement to develop and maintain more equitable working relationships and authentic partnerships between the child protection and family serving systems and communities.
* Develop intentional cross-systems partnerships and the integration of the core components of public health approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect
* Strengthen, support, and connect youth, parents, and community members with real life experiences as they emerge in leadership roles within the *Thriving Families* movement.

“Preventing childhood adversity is critical to building more healthy and prosperous communities – and prevention can only happen in partnership. The chapters that were selected for this *Thriving Families, Safer Children* grant are committed to working across sectors to develop equitable systems that benefit all children and families and break harmful intergenerational cycles of trauma and poverty,” said Dr. Melissa Merrick, president & CEO of PCA America. “At a time when all families and systems are experiencing some level of strain, these grantees are working to reframe the approach to family support away from reactive child welfare systems to a proactive, holistic method that emphasizes cross-sectoral collaboration to support the well-being of children and families.”

A complete list of grantees, totaling $500,000 in grants, includes:

* Families Forward Virginia
* Familywise
* Idaho Children’s Trust Fund
* Illuminate Colorado
* Nebraska Children
* Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
* Prevent Child Abuse Indiana
* Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
* The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida

Nebraska Children and its Bring Up Nebraska partners will conduct a participatory action research study focusing on people with lived experience from groups overrepresented in the child welfare system.  These lived experience experts will help inform root causes of inequity and how prevention systems can be improved to meet all family’s critical needs. They will be engaged an interactive process with researchers in the collection and review of data and co-creation of answers to research questions. They will have a core role in the development of shared findings and recommendations and will become active leaders in their local prevention collaboratives.

**About Nebraska Children and Families Foundation**Nebraska Children and Families Foundation partners with communities to create a well-being system that strengthens families, supports unconnected young people, creates learning opportunities for Nebraska’s future workforce, and empowers parents to raise healthy children. To learn more about our work, visit [www.NebraskaChildren.org](http://www.NebraskaChildren.org).

**About Prevent Child Abuse America**
Commemorating its 50th year in 2022, Prevent Child Abuse America is a leading champion for all children in the United States. Founded in 1972 and headquartered in Chicago, we are the nation’s oldest and largest organization dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, working to actively prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect before they occur. Our success is founded on a nationwide network of state chapters and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visiting sites, which directly provide parents and caregivers a wide variety of services and resources that help children grow up to be productive, contributing members of their communities and society. Our comprehensive approach is informed by science—we translate and disseminate innovative research to promote proven solutions that our vast network then puts into action. And we raise public awareness and advocate for family friendly policies at the national, state and local levels to support transformative programs and promote the conditions and contexts that help children, families and communities across the country thrive. Visit [**preventchildabuse.org**](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/) to learn more.

**About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation**
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

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