

## **2024 Annual Collaborative Progress Report**

## Community & Family Partnership

County Served: Platte, Colfax, Nance, Boone

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

## Purpose

Nebraska's Community Collaboratives participate in two data collections annually as a part of the evaluation of the state's community-based prevention system. The Collaborative Annual Progress Report serves several purposes: 1) provides a series of questions for all Community Well-Being Collaboratives to provide quantitative and qualitative data about their work during the past 12 months (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), 2) ensures necessary data for state, federal, and private funders is available, and 3) supports a process of ongoing reflection and improvement for community collaboratives.

## Scope

This report includes activities supported through the Prevention Infrastructure Contracts between Nebraska Children and Community Collaboratives. The first section of the report includes updates from the collaborative including growth, challenges, and needs experienced during the reporting period. In the second section, collaboratives shared stories of success or opportunity at both the individual and collaborative levels. In the third section, collaboratives shared information about their participation in the LB 1173 community conversations and partnerships started as a result. Lastly, the fourth section of the report includes information about the collaboratives work with older youth.

Nebraska Children utilizes the following funding sources to support this work: Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF), Strengthening Family Funds, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, Sherwood Foundation, and any additional private funds.

## Collaborative Update

In this section, coordinators were invited to reflect on their collaborative's growth, success, challenges, and needs they experienced over the previous year (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024). The questions and their corresponding answers are displayed below.

Looking back on the work of the collaborative for the past year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024), what successes and growth resonate with you and collaborative members the most? What would you especially want to share back with your specific community and Nebraska Children? Successes may include new or expanded partnerships, increased community awareness of the collaborative's work, engagement with other statewide initiatives, etc.

#### Mental Health Vouchers Tops List of Successes

The Community and Family Partnership (CFP) Steering Committee was provided this question in which several responses are included below. Overall, CFP's commitment to mental health access and affordability was the top success mentioned by CDP's Steering Committee. Our community has seen an increased utilization of vouchers throughout the four-county service area. Mental health vouchers continue to be a well utilized resource for young people in our communities. The request for vouchers has been increasing over the last six-eight months so much that we have decreased the number of vouchers available per youth from ten to eight to be fiscally responsible and continue services.

#### **Collective Impact Work**

The collective impact work in Platte County grows while the expanded work of continuing to reach into Colfax County as well as our newest counties to the collaborative, Nance and Boone, growth is worth denoting. Progress has been made with relationship building in Nance and Boone Counties, two rural counties who have quite limited resources. The panel discussions taken to schools in the four-county area as well as the round table conversations held in May about the DHHS funding coming to collaboratives helped to further validify these relationships. Attending these conversations or panels included key representatives such as health care, behavioral health, law enforcement, school staff and more. Engagement with other statewide initiatives has grown since the statewide plan has come forth. Additionally, an increased community awareness of the collaborative's work through panel presentations and engagement of other sectors of our communities has led to a growing awareness of our work.

#### **Central Navigation/Community Response**

Another success is the commitment to serve children and families through the strategy of Community Response. As this report period ended, our first ever Community Response Director and an additional Bilingual Coach were to be onboarded or hired. This signifies the growth of the strategy and our commitment to expand in the four-county region.

Success in Schuyler Community Mobilized for Equitable Early Care and Education The dedicated work in equitable early care and education in the Platte and Colfax Communities through Rooted in Relationships and CAUW Impact Grant funding for continued Communities for Kids+ work in Schuyler is energizing, and impactful for the providers and elevates the profession while educating the public. Several activities have been provided to engage the public, especially in Schuyler, with early care and education. Popular events such as Cookies with Cops, Tots on the Turf, Week of the Young Child activities, Nebraska Growing Readers/Community Book Garden and Touch a Truck have engaged the young and young at heart. Community anchor institutions like the public library, banks, as well as law enforcement and others are engaged advocates with these efforts. In addition, there is a monthly group that meets for two hours to progress the work of closing the childcare gap in Schuyler. This group of steadfast and committed community members are mobilized to combat the quality childcare gap issue. In Schuyler alone during the time of January – June 2024, \$13,935 of in-kind dollars were contributed to early care activities or meetings. These in-kind hours break out as follows:

Tots on the Turf = \$240 Cookie With Cops = \$3,650 NE Growing Readers (new in April) = \$66 Schuyler Community Childcare meetings = \$5,224 Touch a Truck = \$4,755

#### **CAUW and CFP Relationship**

While mental health vouchers are the most reported success followed by Community Response, the relationship between CFP and its backbone agency of the Columbus Area United Way (CAUW) is the next success identified by the CFP Steering Committee. Together, the CAUW and CFP are instrumental in the lives of many and truly work in tandem when dealing with social determinants of health such as food access, housing, transportation, etc. We work diligently to address the needs or gaps in services seen in our service area. There is a concerted effort to listen to the voices of lived experiences and to draw on that knowledge to expand resources and services. This relationship between the CAUW and CFP has widened our collaborative net tremendously with engagement in transportation, mental health, and direct service provision to families. The collaboration with law enforcement, early childhood and mental health advocates has been "unmatched" as reported by our Steering Committee. Having CFP under the umbrella of the CAUW has been a true asset. The CAUW has researched and applied for grants for CFP to help sustain and supplement costs for Community Response staffing, mental health, food access, and language services.

#### Person with Lived Expertise Joins CFP Steering Committee

The CFP Steering Committee added it first person with lived experience to the team. This person has previously been involved in our lived experience meetings, is a mental health therapist who when approached about her interest in being a voice for those with lived experience, agreed to be considered for it. We welcomed her to the CFP Steering Committee in January.

#### **Law Enforcement Relationship**

The relationship with those in law enforcement is one in which they bring societal concerns around children and families to our local Thriving Families Safer Children team. As an example, the Schuyler Police Chief and County Attorney brought forth data on the

alarming increasing rate of driving under the influence (DUI's) with children in the vehicle occurring within Schuyler and between Colfax and Platte County on the highway connecting these two counties. Our local team is working on pulling in public health, Region IV and others into the conversation as we look to implement evidence-based strategies to combat this issue.

#### In-Kind Contributions Speak to Commitment of Collective Impact Work

The number of in-kind contributions is surprising when calculated out. Keep in mind the in-kind dollars represented below are for January – June 2024 rather than the 12 month annual report snapshot. Thus, the dollar value of in-kind from the lens of the 12 month report related to CFP meetings is much more than what is represented below.

#### In-kind from collaborative meetings alone:

CFP Bimonthly meetings = \$5,090 (Feb, April, June 2024 only)

CFP Elevated & Equitable Early Care & Education meetings = \$2,578 (Nov 2023 – Jun 2024 only)

CFP Embracing & Empowering Voices of Lived Experience meetings = \$2,009 (Jan – June 2024 only)

CFP Thriving Families, Safer Children = \$2,234 (Jan – June 2024 only)

CFP Steering Committee =\$1,641 (Jan - June 2024 only)

Total in-kind for above meetings = \$17,845

#### **Direct Private Funding**

Funding from multiple private sources equated to \$125,905 during this reporting period.

The breakdown of those dollars are detailed below:

\$15,000 (Colfax County Juven. Services for Community Response staffing)

\$6,000 (Elks Board for Transitional Housing)

\$15,000 (NE Presbyterian Foundation)

\$47,555 (Juvenile Services Commission Grant for Community Response)

\$4,750 for Central Navigation from CAUW Agency Allocation Funds

\$17,100 for Communities for Kids Continuation – Schuyler -from CAUW Agency Allocation Funds

\$15,000 for Community Response from CAUW Agency Allocation Funds

\$4,500 for Circle of Security from CAUW Agency Allocation Funds

\$1,000 NorAm for continued C4K work

#### **Indirect Private Funding**

Funds for this category equated to \$20,500 and included the following sources: \$15,000 for Transitional Housing from Columbus Area United Way Impact Grant \$1,000 from East Central District Health Department for mental health campaign \$2,000 from CAUW for Mental Health Awareness PSA \$2,500 from CAUW for Bridges out of Poverty Training

#### **ERA2 Funding**

Twenty-nine tenants and four landlords were helped in some capacity with their on-line

ERA2 applications. Not only did this funding allow us to assist tenants and landlords, it provided for a diversified funding stream for CFP.

# What have been the challenges you've encountered over the past year in building your community's prevention system? What did you do to address those challenges, or what do you need to address those challenges?

What have been the challenges you've encountered over the past year in building your community's prevention system?

Challenges encountered over the past year in building the community's prevention system included being engaged in the 2,200 square mile four-county area and being a resource for each county's need. It is difficult to reach all corners of the area with the CFP and Bring Up Nebraska (BUN) mission. Other challenges include the work of collective impact in general; engaging the community, agencies, and people into the priority areas and keeping them engaged; mental health needs as seen by increased voucher usage; housing; reluctance or hesitation of buying into the system; and reluctance to change. Additional challenges were a lack of consistent engagement of partners who fully understand the mission, purpose and benefits and are committed to growing the efforts of CFP. Finally, the way incremental funding provided to the collaboratives posed its own struggles and challenges. Evaluation of our work is a challenge in that we need to strengthen it. An example of this is that we did not have an evaluation to provide to those who heard the panel we've presented over and over again. This is a huge, missed opportunity for CFP.

What did you do to address these challenges?

To shed some light onto current needs and what is on people's minds in terms of gaps in resources/services, round table discussions were held in each county pertaining to the funding DHHS was contributing to Community Response. We received feedback from people attending these meetings regarding the location of where a coach might be best located, how to engage people with Central Navigation, and more.

Since each county, each community is different, it is figuring out the specific role to serve in that community and how to have the greatest impact possible to meet the county's/community's needs.

The work of collective impact is challenging and impactful work. If it were easy work, we'd have many societal issues resolved. We believe the April CFP collaborative meeting where statewide partners joined us was very positive. For those that are reluctant to buy into the system and/or change, we aim to meet them with patience and perseverance as we continue to educate about collective impact and the 'why' behind it. Along with this, continued communication with service area and providers is key. The bi-monthly newsletter continues to be utilized as a method of communication.

At times, we have reached out to other collaboratives to address what was addressed as needs by our partners. We've asked stakeholders to be a part of this discussion as well for

transparency.

To overcome the evaluation challenge, we intend to work closely with the NCFF evaluation team and/or the UNMC MMI team.

What do you need to address those challenges?

A broader net for us to use to continually expand vital prevention partnerships to include childcare providers, schools, business, the judicial system, elected officials and other partners.

A presence within schools and/or communities for coaching would be ideal; this is on our minds as we look to expand Community Response with staff and proposed funding that will come in 2025–2026.

Continued patience and perseverance are needed as we continue to educate about collective impact and prevention work with the goal to attain support from major partners such as businesses, medical, elected officials and other sectors.

## Systems-Level Information

In this section, coordinators compiled the training opportunities, events, and policy support activities the collaborative participated in, supported, facilitated, or paid for during the year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). When reporting, coordinators were provided a list of examples that are commonly used and completed a table for training opportunities, events, and policy support activities to present the specific details of each occurrence. The results are below.

#### **Training Opportunities**

	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of Trainings that
	Trainings Held	Organizations	Individuals Trained	align with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts
July 1, 2023 -	7	56	632	1
June 30, 2024				

Note: The numbers above represent a duplicated count.

How trainings strengthen the community's prevention system:

- Provided our staff with becoming facilitators to begin taking this training (Bridges Out of Poverty) out to our communities
- Provided people with CPR skills
- Provided Spanish speakers with CPR skills
- Provided school staff with information on HHS, Child Welfare System, 2-1-1, law enforcement's role in child safety, CAUW resources and Child Advocacy Center's role.
- With disclosures of child abuse and neglect it is crucial professionals know how to respond appropriately, ask open-ended questions and work collaboratively with authorities investigating abuse and neglect.
- Networking opportunity for health & human services providers & those who work closely with children & families to network & learn more about local programs.
- Provided insight on the realities of economic diversity and the causes of generational poverty.

#### **Events**

	Number of Events	Number of Attendees
July 1, 2023 - June, 30. 2024	12	219,113

Note: Numbers reported for the evaluation year are estimates and are duplicated counts.

How events impact the community prevention system:

- Schuyler community is in process of being mobilized to determine need for childcare center
- With the diverse community of Schuyler, a bilingual person is needed
- Assisting to prevent food insecurity in collaboration with partner agencies

- Keeping partners up to date with community resources, identifying gaps in services and brainstorming solutions to improve processes or close gaps
- Community members reached via social media 192,448 (duplicated) Community members who clicked on targeted links, videos, & toolkit to access information 23,831 Community members provided presentation and outreach material through collaborative mental health group 90 Increased awareness that everyone has mental health; effect to decrease stigma of mental health
- The formation of a 501c3 and board of directors along with having two landlords willing to work with the model presented to them indicates this will be an avenue for women/women and children who are trying to get stability in their lives.
- Increasing awareness of child abuse and prevention of it.
- The intent of this free 2-hour event was to have children and adults meet local law enforcement in a fun environment and to form non-punitive relationships with them. Agencies provided information as to how they can assist families, such as Head Start, CAUW/CFP, CHI, Nebraska State Patrol and NE Game and Parks Commission.
- A free event created intentionally for the diverse community Schuyler to come to one location and see, touch and sit in 25 different kinds of vehicles such as law enforcement, fire department, electric company vehicle, boat, ATV, cement truck, farm implements, jet ski, camper, hearse, and many more. The primary purpose of this event was to give families of all cultures something fun to do and to build community. Lots of horn honking and sirens could be heard! This was a collaborative effort with partners being Schuyler Chamber of Commerce, Heartland Workers Center, Schuyler Community Schools, Schuyler Public Library, Communities for Kids+ Schuyler, and CAUW/CFP.
- Provide parents and children with learning opportunities to develop early language and literacy skills, encourage health and physical development, and support social and emotional development.
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- Early Childcare Education specific to Schuyler Tots on the Turf

#### **Policy Engagement and Support**

Type of Policy Support (Policy Change, Practice Change,	Number of Activities
or Community Engagement	
Policy Change	6
Practice Change	2
Community Engagement	9

## Prevention System Infrastructure, Programs, and Practices

Community Response provides the infrastructure to local community prevention systems. Communities reported on the number of staff and organizations that they partner with to deliver the Components of Community Response.

Component of Community Response	Number of	Number of Participating	
	Participating Staff	Organizations	
Central Navigation	108	49	
Coaching	84	36	
Youth and Parent Engagement and	NA	NA	
Youth Councils Leadership Activities			
or Opportunities			

Component of Community Response	Number of	Number of Participating	
	Participating Staff	Organizations	
Circle of Security Parenting (COSP)	1	6 parents	
Parents Interacting with Infants	2	9 parents and 1 social	
(PIWI)		worker	

#### **Local Prevention Strategies**

The tables below show the count and demographics of participants served in additional local prevention strategies. The demographics are estimates and reported by the collaborative.

This community did not report any additional local prevention strategies utilized during this reporting period.

## Community-Level Partnerships

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation aimed to learn more about each collaborative's partnerships with different people, agencies, and entities in their communities. In this collection, collaboratives were provided a list of organizations and individuals and then rated each entity's involvement in the collaborative's work. Some partners may bring multiple perspectives and an organization or entity may be represented in multiple areas.

Lived Experience is defined as: someone who has lived, currently living, or at risk of living with the issues the community is focusing on and who has valued insight to contribute about the system as it is experienced by consumers.

	Actively Involved: Attends regular meetings and participates in making important decisions	Involved: Attends regular meetings but does not influence decision making	Connected: Attends meetings sporadically and is connected to the collaborative through their work, but not involved in decision making	No Partnership: We do not have a current partnership with anyone in this category	To my knowledge, this doesn't exist in our community
Parents and caregivers with lived experience	0	0	0	•	0
Youth with lived experience	0	0	0		0
Interested community members (a community member that doesn't have lived experience in the specific areas you are prioritizing but is still interested in the well- being of the community)	0	0	•	0	0
Human services/service providers (Basic needs assistance, education, housing assistance Veterans, cultural and linguistically responsive services, substance abuse support, etc.)	•	0	0 0		0
Volunteer organizations (e.g., Parent organization, neighborhood watch, neighborhood revitalization groups, civic groups etc.)	0	0	0	•	0
Local elected officials	•	0	0	0	0
Department of Health and Human Services	<b>O</b>	0	0	$\circ$	0
	Actively Involved: Attends regular meetings and participates in making important decisions	Involved: Attends regular meetings but does not influence decision making	Connected: Attends meetings sporadically and is connected to the collaborative through their work, but not involved in decision making	No Partnership: We do not have a current partnership with anyone in this category	To my knowledge, this doesn't exist in our community
Local Crime Commission Representative	0	0	0	•	0
Local Representative from the Public Health	0		0	0	0
Health care providers	0	0	0	•	0
Other state agencies (e.g., NDE, Department of Labor)	0	0	•	0	0
City/county agencies (City administration, County Board of Supervisors)	0	0	•	0	0
Tribal agencies	0	0	0	0	
Behavioral/mental health	•	0	0	0	0

	Actively Involved: Attends regular meetings and participates in making important decisions	Involved: Attends regular meetings but does not influence decision making	Connected: Attends meetings sporadically and is connected to the collaborative through their work, but not involved in decision making	No Partnership: We do not have a current partnership with anyone in this category	To my knowledge, this doesn't exist in our community
Juvenile justice	0		0	0	0
Local law enforcement	•	0	0	0	0
Local Court System (Judges, County Attorneys, Public Defenders)	•	0	0	0	0
1184 Team (monitors and coordinates investigations when abuse or neglect is reported)	•	0	0	0	0
Birth-12 education (public, private, or home-based)	•	0	0	0	0
Educational Service Unit (provide core services identified and requested by members school districts)	0	•	0	0	0
Colleges/universities	0	0		0	0
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Recreation/fitness centers	0	0	0		0
Business community	0	0	0		0
Faith community	0		0	0	0
Child and youth serving organizations	0		0	0	0
Child advocacy centers		0	0	0	0
Committees/boards (housing board, economic development board, workforce investment board, behavioral health board etc.)	0	0	•	0	0
Media (statewide or local)	0	0	0		0

#### Connections to Nebraska Children Initiatives

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation has developed several initiatives to address specific areas where a community may see a need for improvement. Initiatives can be plugged into each community prevention system to address specific issues along the cradle to career spectrum. Collaboratives were asked to indicate how integrated each initiative is in their community. This information helps Nebraska Children to align internal processes and identify future opportunities for communities they support.

	Very Integrated	Somewhat Integrated	This initiative in present in my community but is not integrated into the collaborative	To my knowledge, this initiative is not in our community
Beyond School Bells	0	•	0	0
Communities for Kids	<b>O</b>	0	0	0
Connected Youth Initiative	<b>O</b>	0	0	0
Full Service Community Schools	0	0	0	
Nebraska Growing Readers	0		0	0
Rooted in Relationships	<b>O</b>	0	0	0
Sixpence	0	•	0	0
Society of Care	0	0	0	
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	0	0	0	•

For the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation initiatives you indicated are part of your community, how would you describe the integration of or connections between them? Please share what is working well across the initiatives or possible areas of improvement.

Communities for Kids+ is strong due to the funding we've had in the past and due to the lead contract staff being involved in one of CFP's committees. Many community sectors are actively involved in the planning for closing the quality childcare gap that exists in Schuyler.

Rooted in Relationships (RIR) has been in Platte County for several years. Collaborative coordinator works directly with contract RIR person to ensure all the providers in RIR are receiving newsletter and are aware of the collaborative.

Connected Youth Initiative – Central Navigator refers young people to CYI as needed.

Nebraska Growing Readers is a very new relationship but already moving in the right direction with the writer's workshop coming up in Schuyler and the Community Book Gardens located at five sites soon to begin.

Sixpence as well as Beyond School Bells (BSB) staff in the school systems of Columbus and Schuyler typically take part in collaborative meetings during the year. Possible areas of improvement this year included inviting collaborative coordinators to the BSB conference in the spring. This helped to bridge the gap between BSB and how collaboratives are both involved in their prevention work and to consider how they can partner more.

# Summary of Participants Served Through Central Navigation

This table shows the count and demographic information for all participants who accessed Central Navigation during the evaluation year (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).

	Jul 23 – Jun 24
Number of Participants	128
Number of Children	283
Gender	
Male	19 (14.8%)
Female	107 (83.6%)
Other/Prefer not to say	2 (1.6%)
Race/Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	68 (53.1%)
White	52 (40.6%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	8 (6.3%)
Age	
Participants ages 14-18	2 (1.6%)
Participants ages 19-26	16 (12.5%)
Participants ages 27-40	78 (60.9%)
Participants ages 41-60	30 (23.4%)
Participants 61+	1 (0.8%)
Disabilities	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	8 (6.3%)
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	26 (9.2%)
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	65 (50.8%)
*Race/Ethnicities with less than 10 participants were merged in	to Another
Race/ethnicity category.	

# Support Service Funds Distributed

This table shows the amount of support service funds that have been distributed by category during the evaluation year (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).

Priority Area	Number of Requests	All Dollars		Percent of Total	Average Dollars per Request	
Daily Living	15	\$	1,105.96	1.4%	\$	73.73
Education	3	\$	375.00	0.5%	\$	125.00
Employment						
Housing	33	\$	17,982.34	22.9%	\$	544.92
Mental Health	163	\$	44,755.97	57.0%	\$	274.58
Parenting	16	\$	1,188.52	1.5%	\$	74.28
Physical/Dental Health	8	\$	3,108.67	4.0%	\$	388.58
Transportation	20	\$	4,323.12	5.5%	\$	216.16
Utilities	18	\$	4,033.54	5.1%	\$	224.09
Other	10	\$	1,647.33	2.1%	\$	164.73
Total	286	\$	78,520.45		\$	274.55