Community Well-Being Addendum: Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board Grants

The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF Board) provides direct grant funds to support research-based prevention strategies through community collaborations. Funding also supports training and technical assistance to community grantees. In this past year, the NCAPF Board funded strategies focused on children across the age ranges of infancy through adolescence, and on parent engagement and leadership. The funded strategies reflect a continuum of prevention that range from systems-level approaches to child abuse prevention to core strategies for parents and youth. All strategies are being implemented by multiple partners working in coordination through community collaborations.

Community Context

Community Prevention System

Parent-Child Interactions

The purpose of this addendum is to provide additional information specific to investments across the state made by the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. Statewide information on specific strategies is provided in detail in the Community Well-Being 2020-2021 Annual Evaluation Report and is referenced below as appropriate.

Systems-Level Approaches to Child Abuse Prevention

Public Awareness: Bring Up Nebraska

Eighteen community collaboratives and other partners participated in the Bring Up Nebraska-Pinwheels For Prevention Campaign, which included a new Bring Up Nebraska website, radio and paid social media ads, resources for collaboratives and local prevention councils, and community events. Additional information on the Pinwheels For Prevention Campaign can be found on pp. 23-24 in the Community Well-Being 2020-2021 Annual Evaluation Report.

Core Strategies for Parents

Circle of Security Parenting (COSPTM)

COSPTM is a core strategy being implemented in multiple communities that has a focus on parents and caregivers’ interaction with their child(ren). The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC) facilitated 23 COSPTM classes across the state (seven in-person, 16 virtual) through support from the NCAPF Board. Statewide information on numbers served, demographics, and impacts on families can be found on pp. 31-35 in the Community Well-Being 2020-2021 Annual Evaluation Report.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

PCIT is an empirically supported treatment for children ages two to seven and their parents that focuses on improving the parent-child relationship and is often used to treat clinically significant disruptive behaviors in children. The NCAPF Board supported delivery of PCIT in five collaboratives or communities: Public Health Solutions (Saline and Jefferson counties), York County Health Coalition (York county), CASA of South Central Nebraska (Adams county), Norfolk Area United Way (Madison County), and the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (Lancaster county). Statewide information on those served and demographics can be found on pp. 35-36 in the Community Well-Being 2020-2021 Annual Evaluation Report.

Community Cafes

Teams in Lincoln (Lancaster county) and Auburn (Nemaha county) worked towards rebuilding and sustaining Community Café teams during the past year, oftentimes implementing virtual café formats due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-person gatherings. Parents leaders took increased responsibility to support their own and other Café teams and led a variety of community activities related to the Cafés. Details on the Community Cafes can be found on pp. 22-23 in the Community Well-Being 2020-2021 Annual Evaluation Report.

Core Strategies for Youth

Reaching Teens

Reaching Teens integrates a trauma-sensitive model with the core belief that identifying, reinforcing, and building on inherent strengths can facilitate positive youth development. NCAPF Board funds supported a 3-hour webinar with author Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg and site licenses for ten communities: the Sandhills, Nebraska City, Buffalo County, Auburn, the Siouxland area, Fremont, Panhandle, and Hall County, Valentine, and one additional community to be identified. The licenses provide access to over 400 videos, 95 book chapters, group learning and discussion opportunities, and tailored resources for audiences in education, juvenile justice, foster care, and human trafficking.

Think Make Create Labs

The construction and delivery of ten mobile Think Make Create labs were funded to provide extended learning opportunities and positive development for youth in community areas with limited resources. Labs were delivered to Norfolk, Madison county, Crete, Ogallala, O’Neill, Broken Bow, Columbus, Fremont, Valentine, and Plattsmouth. The labs were stocked with a wide variety of supplies such as electronics, textiles, paints, and STEM manipulatives. Guides were included to help jump-start activities.

Conclusion

At the systems-level, investments by the NCAPF Board contributed to increasing public awareness through the Bring Up Nebraska-Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. This campaign was successful in reaching and engaging significantly more Nebraskans than in previous years.

Investments in Core Strategies for Parents, including COSPTM, PCIT, and Community Cafés improved parent and child well-being for those who participated. The COVID-19 pandemic presented both challenges and opportunities associated with these strategies. For example, the number of parents and children participating in PCIT was lower than in previous years, likely due to the inability to meet in person for therapy sessions. However, numbers of those participating in COSPTM more than doubled the past year compared to the year before, likely due to the opportunity to provide virtual classes. Indeed, almost 70% of the COSPTM classes supported by the NCAPF Board were offered virtually.

NCAPF Board investments in Core Strategies for Youth included Think Make Create Labs and Reaching Teens resources. The Think Make Create labs that were delivered to ten communities across the state provided underserved youth with valuable hands-on extended learning opportunities. The Reaching Teens investment provided expert training and technical assistance as well as ongoing access to online resources for ten communities. These trainings, technical assistance and other resources are particularly valuable for youth who live in rural areas of Nebraska without other access.

Taken together, prevention work throughout the state that is supported by the NCAPF Board is actively working towards strengthening children, families, and young adults through the promotion of Protective and Promotive Factors. These factors increase the probability of positive, adaptive, and healthy outcomes across the developmental continuum, and are key to building effective community-based prevention systems.