



Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's Connected Youth Initiative works to create partnerships with local communities, state level partners, philanthropic funders, and national partners to improve outcomes and opportunities for older youth who have experienced foster care, juvenile justice involvement and/or are at risk of homelessness. The model helps to build strong collaborations between service providers, funders and decision-makers to connect vital resources in the community.

## PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

In 2007, a public private partnership was formed in Omaha titled Project Everlast. Project Everlast focused on age and developmentally appropriate services and supports to help youth aging out of foster care achieve better outcomes. In partnership with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Project Everlast became the urban framework for Nebraska Children's older youth work in Omaha and Lincoln.

In 2009, the Supportive Services for Rural Homeless Youth (SSRHY) initiative, a national demonstration project with Families and Youth

Services Bureau, enhanced the Project Everlast model by expanding to a broader population, including homeless youth in Western Nebraska. SSRHY provided the first rural community based collective impact model for older youth work in Nebraska.

The combination of these two models created a statewide Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) that will serve more than 50 counties and most major population centers. The initiative attracted further national attention and has been able to leverage additional national resources to support and serve vulnerable youth in Nebraska.

## OUR NATIONAL PARTNERS

- **John H. Chafee Funds** – DHHS directs Chafee funds to CYI to help create a public/private partnership to serve aging out foster youth.
- **Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS)** – CYI is a recipient of the CNCS Social Innovation Fund for \$1M federal matched by \$1M private and \$800,000 local funds annually.
- **Center for Social Study and Policy (CSSP)** – CYI was invited to join the national Youth Thrive learning community funded by CSSP.
- **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)** – CYI is working with CFPB to develop financial coaching and financial case management services for vulnerable youth focused on credit repair/establishment, low interest loans and options to avoid predatory lending practices.
- **Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (JCYOI) at Annie E. Casey Foundation** – Nebraska Children was the first co-investment site of the JCYOI and has received funding and support to change policies and practices to improve outcomes for young people.
- **Annie E. Casey Foundation** – CYI is the recipient of Annie E. Casey Foundation's SIF grant to create post-secondary supports for vulnerable youth in the Omaha and Lincoln area.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's evaluates the landscape of issues facing vulnerable children and families based on key risk indicators, including:

- Juvenile arrests
  - Poverty
- Graduation rate
  - Infant deaths
- Number of state wards
- Child abuse and neglect
  - Births to teen parents
- English as a second language

With this data in hand, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation scans the state for the areas of greatest need, where the community is ready to engage in a collaborative initiative and where outside support and investments will maximize the difference made to the community's children. From there, we review and determine what investments should be leveraged for the greatest benefit.

To learn more visit: [nebraskachildren.org](http://nebraskachildren.org)

## FAST FACTS



### Social change

Nebraska Children's Project Everlast, in partnership with JYCOI and DHHS, helped design and pass laws for Bridge to Independence, the extension of foster care supports in the state of Nebraska, and the Strengthening Families Act that will provide normalcy for children and youth in foster care.



### Total private investment

\$4,350,000

### Total public investment

\$4,013,000

### Annual investment

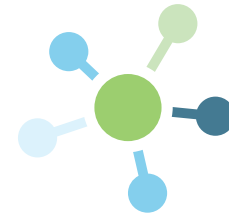
Chafee (2015-2016) = \$1,013,000

SIF - \$1,000,000 federal,  
\$1,000,000 private match and  
\$800,000 local match = \$3,813,000



### Focus area

Youth Development, financial services, voluntary case management services, central navigation services, and evidence based evaluation process



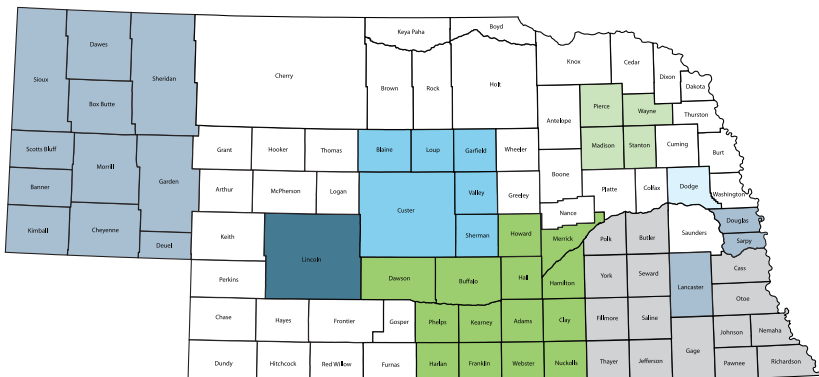
### Outcome categories

Education, career, daily needs, transportation, health (mental, physical and dental), housing, permanency and financial stability



### Targeted beneficiaries

Youth ages 14-24 who have experienced foster care, juvenile justice involvement and/or homelessness



- Hall County Community Collaborative
- Norfolk Area United Way
- Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation
- Central Plains Center for Service
- Fremont Area United Way
- Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
- Existing Connected Youth Initiative Counties