



# Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund



Fiscal Year 2011-2012





## Purpose

The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF) was created in 1986 by the State Legislature. NCAPF is dedicated to the following objectives:

- Directing grant funds to support research-based primary prevention through community collaborations
- Supporting a statewide network of local child abuse prevention councils that conduct public awareness and education activities for parents, professionals, and communities
- Providing training and technical assistance best practices for prevention to community grantees, local child abuse prevention councils, and other audiences

## Philosophy

Over recent decades, the long-term economic and social benefits of child abuse prevention have become clearer and more compelling. In that time, our research and experience have also improved our understanding of the most effective and sustainable ways to reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect. Now, we have the right strategies, and can implement programs and policies to improve the lives of children and families at risk of abuse and neglect in our communities.

One understanding we've developed is that there is no single action or program that will prevent child abuse and neglect. What works is a coordinated combination of approaches. Think of this combination as a portfolio of investments that will produce measurable improvements in the safety, stability and nurturing of our children.





## Promoting Best Practices for Prevention

Since 2006, NCAFP has been part of the Nebraska Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. This partnership works toward its shared goals of preventing child abuse and neglect across the state. Together, these three organizations created a statewide prevention plan which continued to guide the work this year. The work included best practices for prevention through:

- Grants for early childhood social/emotional development
- Grants to promote permanency and relationships for older youth
- Technical assistance for grantees
- Public education and awareness

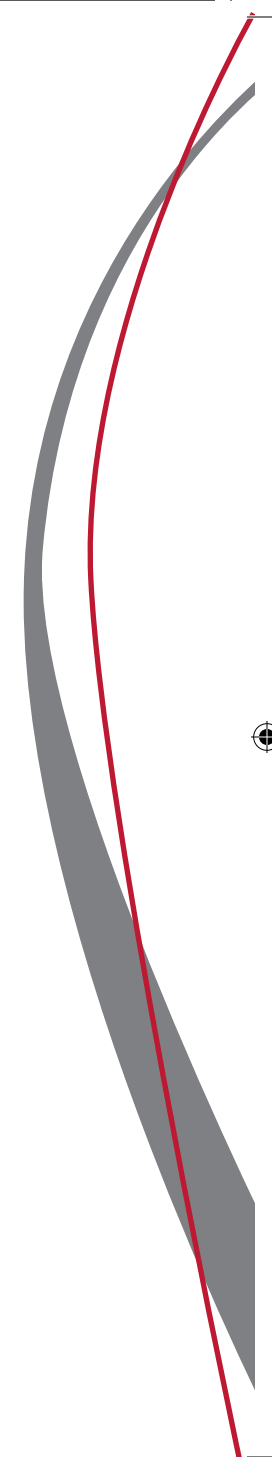
### **Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development**

New grants were awarded to four Nebraska community collaborations. These included the collaborations in the counties of Dakota, Platte-Colfax, Lincoln, and Dodge. Each of these counties had a high percentage of children and families with poor safety, permanency and child well-being outcomes. They also had a promising community capacity to develop systems and services to improve

these outcomes. Coordinators and local evaluators in each community help connect local progress with a state team of staff, consultants and evaluators, led by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

Each of the four grantees implemented two main strategies:

1. **Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)** – This evidence-based strategy has been proven highly effective in improving child behaviors in home and school settings. PCIT is primarily used with children ages 2-7 with emotional and behavioral disorders. It emphasizes improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns.
2. **Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI)** – This approach is research based and designed to strengthen the attachment between parents and their infants from birth to age 2. PIWI uses structured developmental observation topics with guided activities that can be used in a variety of settings. It is part of the work developed and supported by the national Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning.



## Permanency and Relationships for Older Youth

One new grant was awarded to a community collaboration for Adams, Clay, Webster and Nuckolls Counties. This grant will address trauma and increase social supports and permanency for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The collaboration is successfully implementing a national model designed to meet these goals for young people ages 5-17.

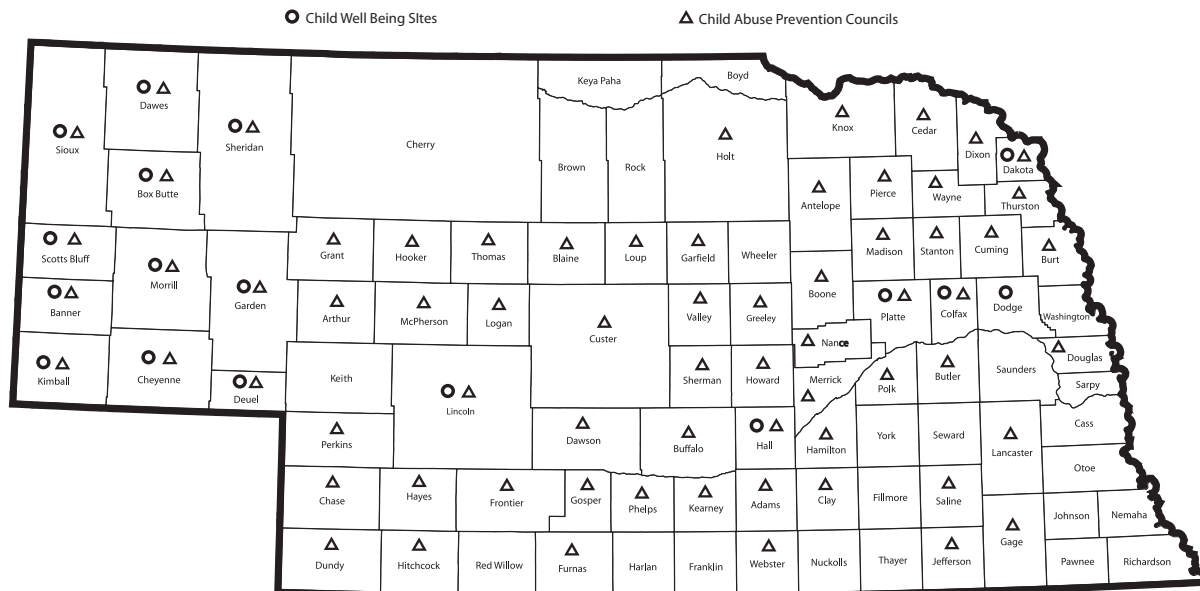
## Grant Awards

Each of the five grantee community collaborations received first year funding of \$30,000. Funding support will be available for up to five years, with step-down amounts in the fourth and fifth years. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is providing complementary funds to each community collaboration.

Data on improvements for children and families served by these new grants will be available by fall 2013. Results were not available for this report as the grant period began in the second half of the year.

## Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board Investments

Direct Resources, Technical Assistance, Training



## Training and Technical Assistance for Grantees

- In February, NCAFP and NCFE brought in Dr. Tweety Yates of the University of Illinois and the Center for the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning to lead a introductory training on Parents Interacting with Infants. Grantee communities sent teams including 29 members from early childhood and other organizations to participate. Following the training, participants began to infuse PIWI principles into existing services and one site piloted a multiple week parent group at a public library.



- Fourteen therapists from four grantee communities participated in an initial week-long PCIT training and began offering services to parents and children. Communities chose to consolidate PCIT services in one or two locations and three co-located PCIT services in facilities that offered other resources for early care and education, child welfare, domestic violence, homelessness and mental health.
- In preparation for the Permanency grant, Darla Henry of Family Design Resources in Pennsylvania conducted a two-day training to support work addressing issues of separation and loss, identity formation, attachment and relationship building for permanency. The training was designed to help participants foster a sense of belonging among children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services. Approximately 40 participants attended, including representatives from child welfare, juvenile justice, schools and CASA.

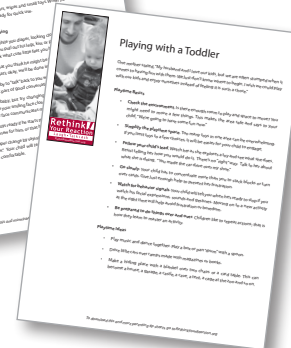
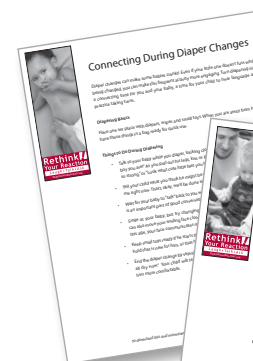
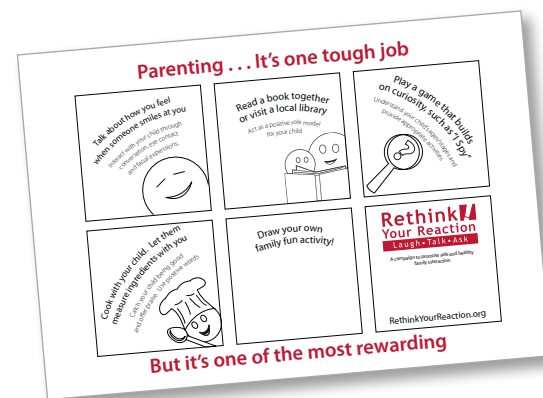


## Public Awareness and Education

Fifteen child abuse prevention councils across the state conducted public awareness and education activities. The majority of these councils conduct campaigns that cover multiple county areas and reach a variety of audiences, including parents and service providers. The NCAFP Board provides mini-grant funds of up to \$1,500 per council along with two no-cost campaign product lines and toolkits.

### Rethink Your Reaction

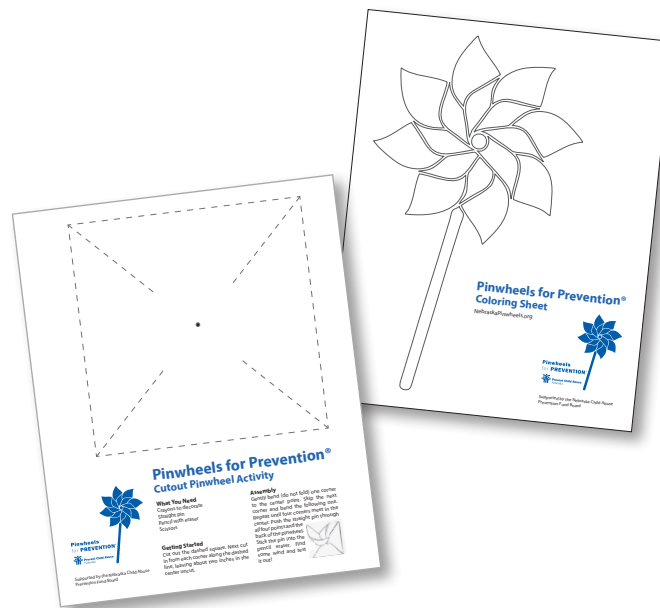
This campaign promotes safe and healthy family interaction. Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Councils utilized parent tip sheets, resource magnets, brochures and a variety of other materials from the toolkit in Spring 2012. Learn more at [rethinkyourreaction.org](http://rethinkyourreaction.org).





## Pinwheels for Prevention

This campaign is a national child abuse prevention initiative from Prevent Child Abuse America. Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Councils and partners displayed more than 10,000 blue pinwheels in offices, malls, service provider lawns and other locations in April 2012, Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheels drew attention to positive ways to support children and families. More information is available at [nebraskapinwheels.org](http://nebraskapinwheels.org).





# Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board

NCAPF is administered by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System and is governed by a nine-member Board, nominated by the Governor and approved by the State Legislature

## **2011-2012 Members**

### **District I**

Rev. Dr. Rebecca McNeil (Lincoln)

Brandon Verzal (Lincoln)

### **District II**

Martha Parker (Omaha)

Denise Pecha (Omaha)

### **District III**

Joni Kuzma (Grand Island)

Camille Ohri (O'Neill)

### **Member-At-Large**

Dr. Mary Fran Flood (Lincoln)

### **Health and Human Services Personnel (as required by statute)**

Thomas Pristow, Director - Division of Children and Families

Dr. Joann Schaefer, Chief Medical Officer - Division of Public Health

### **Staff Support**

Shirley Pickens White, DHHS

Kathy Stokes, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

*Report prepared by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*