



Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board  
**Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2015-2016



## Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board

The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board was created in 1986 by the Nebraska Legislature to provide prevention information, education and resources to parents, professionals and the public. The board comprises nine members that are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature.

The board's plan for 2015-2016 included the following priorities:

- Directing grant funds to support evidence-informed approaches to child abuse prevention in Nebraska communities.
- Administering a statewide public awareness campaign through child abuse prevention councils and coalitions.
- Providing training and technical assistance on research-based prevention strategies to community grantees, local child abuse prevention councils and other audiences.



## Grants

*The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF Board) provides grants to support research-based strategies to help children thrive.*

As in past years, the NCAPF Board continued to provide funding for strategies that targeted universal populations, high-risk populations and high-need individuals. Three primary strategies were implemented: Parents Interacting with Infants (universal), 3-5-7 Permanency Quest (high risk), and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (high-need individual).

All strategies were implemented by community coalitions working toward a common goal of increasing protective factors that have been shown to reduce child abuse and neglect: parental resilience, concrete supports, social connections, knowledge of child development, nurturing and attachment, and children's social-emotional competence.

Combined, the strategies reached children from the ages of infancy through youth. A total of 269 children in 238 families participated in multiple sessions of these strategies.





**Parents participating in Parents Interacting With Infants** with their young children made significant improvements in nurturing and attachment and knowledge of child development as measured by the Protective Factors Survey.

## Strategy for Universal Populations

*Parents with infants and young children ages 0-2*

### Parents Interacting With Infants – PIWI

PIWI is an evidence-informed strategy of the Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. PIWI brings parents of very young children together in small groups to increase their confidence, competence, and joy in parenting. The developmental topics of each PIWI session increase mutually enjoyable and beneficial interactions between parents and their young children. PIWI sessions also help to make it normal and positive to ask questions about parenting even before problems occur.

Four community coalitions in Greater Nebraska conducted PIWI sessions this past year:

- Dakota County Connections, based in South Sioux City
- Zero2Eight in Platte and Colfax counties, based in Columbus
- Families 1st Partnership, based in North Platte
- Fremont Family Coalition, based in Fremont

One hundred and thirty-one children in 125 families participated in PIWI groups or home-based services for an average of eight weeks.



## Strategy for High-Risk Populations

*Children ages 5-17 who have experienced trauma and family disruption*

### 3-5-7 Permanency Quest

3-5-7 Permanency Quest is an evidence-informed strategy to facilitate successful permanent placements or independence for children ages 5-17 who have been in the child welfare system.

Community partners in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties supported 3-5-7 through CASA of South Central Nebraska.

Fifty-two children in 27 families participated in 3-5-7.

#### KEY FINDING

**Parents participating in 3-5-7** demonstrated improvements in areas such as concrete supports and social connections.

Youth met program goals in interpersonal skills, housekeeping, job maintenance, health and personal appearance, according to the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment.



## Strategy for High-Need Individuals

*Parents and children ages 2-7 with challenging behaviors*

### Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – PCIT

PCIT is an evidence-based strategy that improves the quality of the parent-child relationships and changes parent-child interaction patterns. PCIT helps parents learn specific skills to establish a nurturing and secure relationship with their child while decreasing their child’s negative behaviors. Parents report significant reduction in personal distress and improved parenting competence.

More than 20 therapists have been trained to provide Parent-Child Interaction Therapy in Greater Nebraska through NCAFP support since 2012. Four Child Well-Being collaborations in Greater Nebraska supported PCIT implementation:

- Dakota County Connections, based in South Sioux City
- Zero2Eight in Platte and Colfax counties, based in Columbus
- Families 1st Partnership, based in North Platte
- Fremont Family Coalition, based in Fremont

Eighty-six children in 86 families participated in PCIT for an average of eight sessions.



## KEY FINDING

**Parents participating in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy** made significant improvements in nurturing and attachment. Areas such as knowledge of child development and concrete supports also improved as measured by the Protective Factors Survey.

Children's problem behaviors decreased significantly, per the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory.

Parents made the most improvements in skills such as:

83%

DECREASED NEGATIVE TALK

72%

IMPROVED POSITIVE PARENTING

SUCH AS LABELED PRAISE PER THE DYADIC PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION CODING SYSTEM





## Parent Engagement and Leadership

Community Cafés are connected series of conversations among parents and other community members. Parents choose conversation questions and host the Cafés with the support of local organizations. Harvests from the Café conversations identify actions for positive changes in families, neighborhoods, and the community.

The Community Café model began in Washington State and is being successfully implemented in 17 states. Four Nebraska communities conducted 47 Cafés with 640 participants in the past year. One community has conducted Cafés in Spanish. Café participants reported increased access to resources for families, improvements in schools, and increased safety in neighborhoods.

Our group went from having conversations, to building relationships and completing community outreach projects.

*-Community Café Parent Host*

I feel the group has really empowered me to stand up and be heard, and use the power I never knew I had, to enable others to do the same.

*-Community Café Parent Host*





## Public Awareness and Local Child Abuse Prevention Councils

Bring Up Nebraska entered its second year as a public awareness campaign promoting the protective factors for families in coordination with the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

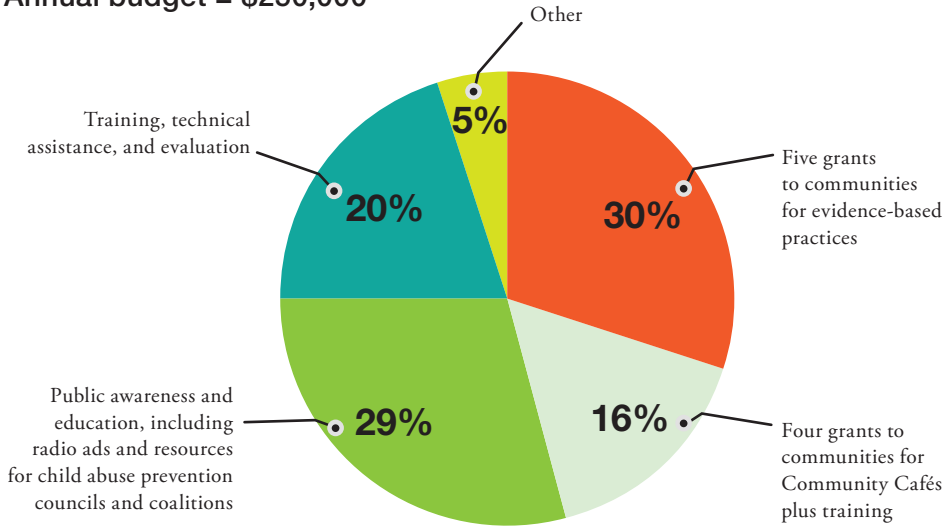
An April Child Abuse Prevention Month event in Lincoln included Nebraska's First Lady, Susanne Shore, and Doug Weinberg and Courtney Phillips from DHHS. Downtown Lincoln's Deputy Director was the emcee, and local members of Bikers Against Child Abuse also participated. Parents and children enjoyed food, activities, and music by the Mighty Magic Pants. The event was featured on KFRX radio and Channels 10-11. In Omaha, events included a ceremony at the Bob Kerrey pedestrian bridge, a 5K run, and an interview on the Morning Blend television program.

Nebraska's 16 prevention councils displayed more than 13,800 pinwheels as part of the Pinwheels for Prevention and Bring Up Nebraska activities in communities across the state. The prevention councils also distributed more than 12,000 other promotional items as part of community activities for child abuse prevention awareness and education.

Nebraska Radio Networks, KIOS, and NET ran 145 radio spots for Bring Up Nebraska in April for a total of 1,957 local messages. Bus ads were sponsored in Lincoln and Omaha.

# Financials

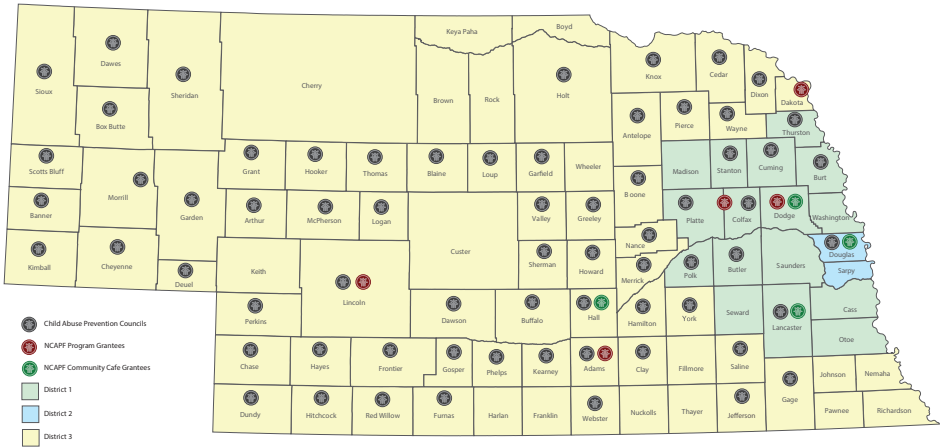
Annual budget = \$250,000



## Training and Technical Assistance

All grantees received support for initial training, implementation and evaluation in NCAPF supported strategies, including PIWI, 3-5-7 Permanency Quest, PCIT, and Community Cafés.

Additional support was provided for continued development of community systems to support and use these strategies, including but not limited to, Community Response and Alternative Response. This support was provided through on-site training and technical assistance, regional meetings, several peer learning calls and other means.



# Board of Directors 2015-2016

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

## District I

Brandon Verzal (Chair), Lincoln  
 Dr. Lisa Knoche, Lincoln

## District II

Denise Pecha (Vice-Chair), Omaha  
 Mary Beth Hanus, Omaha

## District III

Dr. Todd Bartee, Kearney  
 Trisha Crandall, Burwell

## Member-At-Large

Dr. Mary Fran Flood, Lincoln

## Personnel Required by Statute

Emily Kluver and Paula Eurek represented the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Divisions of Children and Family Services and Public Health, respectively.

*Report prepared by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*



