

# Community Well-Being

2021-2022 Evaluation Report | October 2022



**Collaborate. Evaluate. Improve.**

Interdisciplinary Center for Program Evaluation

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# Introduction

## Nebraska Children’s Approach to Community-Based Prevention

Nebraska Children (NC) envisions a Nebraska where all people live in safe, supportive environments providing opportunities for everyone to reach their full potential and participate as valued community members. To accomplish this vision, Nebraska Children works in partnership with local communities to improve the health and well-being of children, young adults, and families. Specifically, Nebraska Children works with communities to build locally-based prevention systems. The underlying assumption is by building strong community collaborations, a local prevention system is strengthened, resulting in improved child and family protective factors. This collective approach is known statewide as "Community Well-Being." Community Well-Being partners in each community come together around local priorities, implementing specific targeted strategies to build the protective and promotive factors for all children, youth, and families.



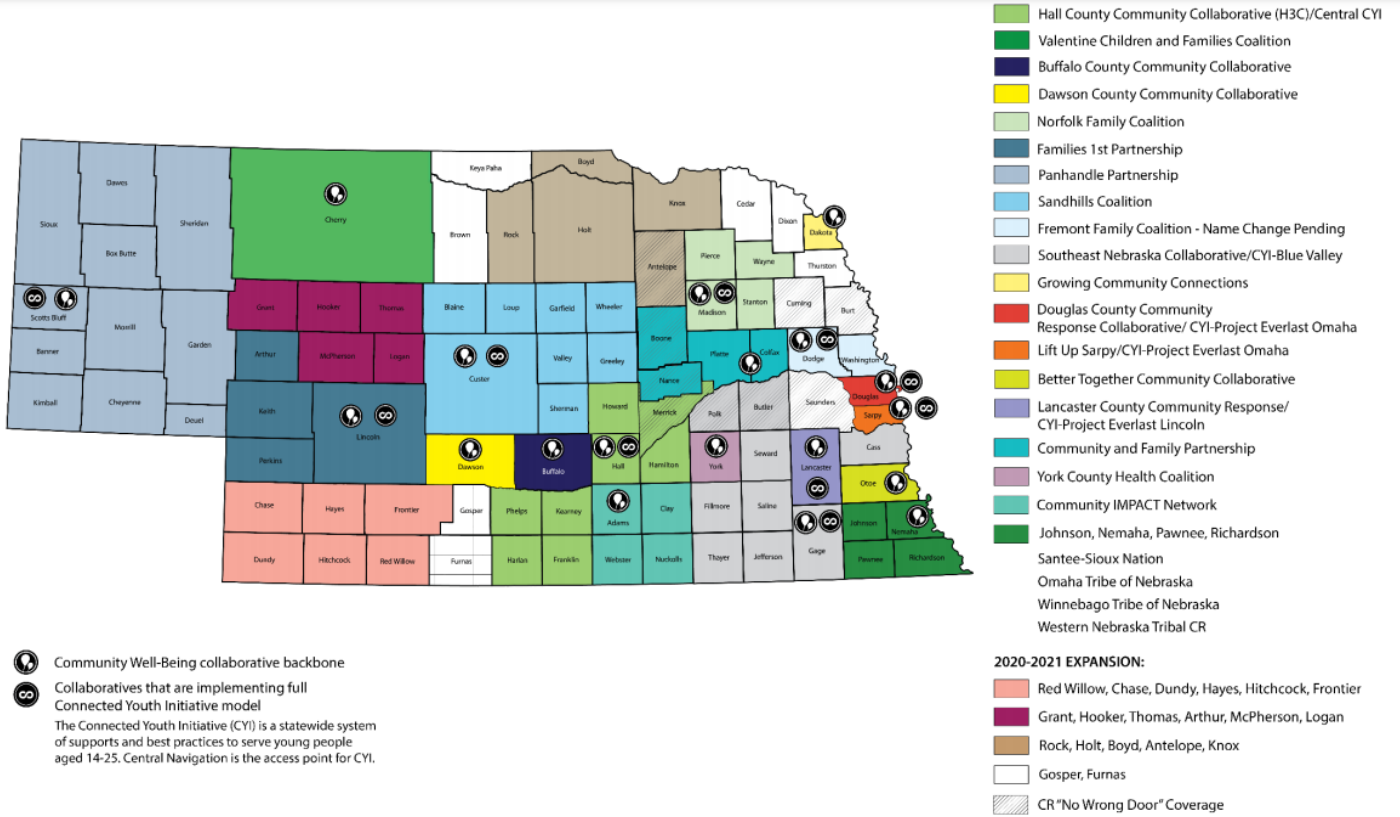
To accomplish this mission, blended funds are made available to promote integrated community prevention systems. Major funding sources include Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPFB), Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, John H. Chafee Funds, and private funding sources. Nebraska Children funds a range of strategies within each local prevention system, including those aimed at strengthening community systems themselves as well as those focused on individual and family level needs, with specific strategies implemented in each community according to community priorities and context. System-level strategies range from Collective Impact training to best practices to build inclusive communities, while individual and family-level programs and practices are adopted across the lifespan.

## Community Collaboratives

In the last year, Nebraska Children has provided funding and/or technical assistance to more than 22 developed or developing community collaboratives, including three Tribal nations as well as tribal affiliated families throughout Western NE. These community prevention collaboratives promote safety and well-being through various prevention programs and practices (see figure below). While each community is in its own stage of development, all have provided direct and/or indirect support (e.g. training, siblings of children receiving services) that benefit individuals in their community. The full reach of prevention collaboratives statewide is depicted in the map below. Not included in the map are Tribal prevention efforts within the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, the Santee-Sioux Nation, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and tribal affiliated people residing in the western Nebraska Panhandle. Additional neighboring counties may have been served through Community Response prevention systems, as these collaboratives operate a “no wrong door” approach to primary prevention. Youth and families are served, and community priorities are elevated, through an open way of partnering across community and county barriers. Several community collaboratives are also implementing the full Connected Youth Initiative model, which is described in greater detail in Appendix C.







Of the full list of community collaboratives, 17 fully participated in the statewide evaluation during the 2021-2022 evaluation year, as reflected throughout this report. The table below highlights these collaboratives and the counties they served during the 2021-2022 evaluation year.



## COMMUNITY WELL-BEING PREVENTION SYSTEMS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2021-2022 EVALUATION

Name	Counties Served
Better Together/ Partners for Otoe County	Otoe
Buffalo County Community Collaborative	Buffalo
Community & Family Partnership	Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte
Community Impact	Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster
Douglas County Community Response Collaborative and Project Everlast Omaha	Douglas
Families 1 <sup>st</sup> Partnership	Arthur, Keith, Lincoln, and Perkins
Fremont Family Coalition	Dodge and Washington
Growing Community Connections	Dakota
Hall County Community Collaborative	Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Merrick, Phelps
Lancaster County Coalition and Project Everlast Lincoln	Lancaster
Lift Up Sarpy	Sarpy
Norfolk Family Coalition	Madison, Pierce, Stanton, and Wayne
Panhandle Partnership	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scottsbluff, Sheridan, and Sioux
Sandhills Community Collaborative	Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler.
Santee-Sioux Nation Collaborative	Santee-Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Southeast Nebraska	Butler, Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, and Thayer
York County Health Coalition	York



## Evaluation Approach

This report focuses on both the work with communities to build locally-based prevention systems and the strategies associated with these systems, which exist at both the systems and individual level. Multiple partners working in coordination through community collaborations are implementing the strategies.

Evaluation of locally-based prevention systems incorporates both implementation and outcome data. Implementation data, for example, is used to answer such questions as, “How much and what type of service was provided?” “How well are strategies working for individuals?” and “To what extent are strategies adopted, and to what extent are strategies evidence-based?” Outcome data is used to answer questions such as, “To what extent did strategies improve participants’ well-being?”

Furthermore, for the evaluation of funded prevention strategies, Nebraska Children has adopted Results-Based Accountability (RBA) as a data-driven, decision-making process to help communities improve the performance of their adopted strategies and to ultimately improve the lives of people and their communities. Data is collected and reviewed as part of their decision-making and continuous improvement process. Additionally, Nebraska Children supports communities in developing their own community-specific learning agendas and builds their evaluation capacity through identifying a community-specific evaluation question to answer during the evaluation year (see appendix D).

## Scope of Report

This report covers all the work that the 17 collaboratives participating in the evaluation undertook over the past year to build their community-based prevention systems. It consists of an executive summary and several appendices that highlight different aspects of the community-based prevention work. This executive summary will highlight key findings from each appendix, including Systems-Level Evaluation Findings, Community Response, Core Strategies for Young Adults (Connected Youth Initiative), and Local Evaluation Capacity Building. The purpose of this executive summary is to highlight key findings from the more detailed report and synthesize aspects of Community Well-Being work overall.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 evaluation year, longitudinal data were included to begin examining how Community Well Being work has grown and evolved over the past several years. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the number of collaboratives participating in evaluation and methods for collecting data have differed across time, thus year-to-year comparisons should be made with caution. These caveats are noted in their respective data tables.

## Community Response

The Community Response model is the backbone support element of a community-based prevention system and encompasses all individual-level strategies implemented across the life span. Community Response coordinates existing resources within a community to help children, young adults, and families address immediate needs as well as increase Promotive and Protective Factors in the long-term.

## Results-Based Accountability Answers Three Basic Questions...

- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Is anyone better off?

# Executive Summary

## Nebraska Children’s Statewide Community Well Being Work

**Bring Up Nebraska** is a statewide infrastructure that works collaboratively with all the critical players in a community and the state – service providers, educators, health care professionals, law enforcement, businesses, government agencies, and most importantly, parents and youth. Together, the collaborations commit to common goals, measurements and practices, working as one toward the end goal of improving well-being. The infrastructure already in place with Bring Up Nebraska was the right mechanism for response to the COVID-19 crisis.

By using a collective impact approach, NC was able to work directly with communities and create permanent change for children and families whose lives have been upended by the economic turmoil created by COVID-19. In response to this time of crisis, NC was able to identify gaps in services, develop informed plans, coordinate activities, and respond quickly to the emergent needs of housing, food insecurity, child care and legal services of youth and families across the lifespan. The dollars leveraged this reporting year include public, private, and national and federal sources for a total of \$24,011,751.

Bring Up Nebraska promotes Nebraska Children’s proven framework to support locally-owned collaborations working to help all children in Nebraska thrive by building protective factors within the community context, across the community prevention system, and through strengthening families/parent-child interactions. This model and evaluation report includes:

- Shared outcomes/indicators and focus on increasing protective factors for prevention
- A community-organized prevention system (including infrastructure, staff, board, partnerships and processes, capacity building, workgroups / implementation of strategies)
- Prevention initiatives that support the lifespan of children and youth focus (ages 0 – 26)
- Community ownership and multisector collaborative support that changes the community context to support youth and families
- Collective impact functions (including data utilization, common agenda, agreed upon goals, continuous communication, etc.) and processes to leverage dollars and implement policies

### Common Indicators

The long-term goal of the Community Well-Being Collaboratives and System is to reduce entry into the child welfare, and juvenile/criminal justice systems, while increasing high school graduation rates of birth to 26-year-old children/youth (see Table below).

In 2019, Nebraska Children sought to further enhance the use and availability of data by developing its own [community opportunity map](#). The map enhances the foundation’s previous work by making data available on as-needed basis ultimately empowering people across the state to identify and address the needs in their own communities.. As such, it serves as a critical resource for the statewide [Bring Up Nebraska](#) project, an initiative dedicated to supporting families and communities through locally developed strategies using the promotive and [protective factors framework](#). In addition to data from the American Community Survey, the map includes state data from the [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\), Division of Children and Family Services; Nebraska DHHS,](#)





[Division of Public Health](#); [Nebraska Foster Care Review Office](#); [Nebraska Department of Education](#); [Nebraska Crime Commission](#); and the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#).

Indicators include:

Children and family well-being indicators (from Nebraska's state datasets)	Healthy community indicators and demographics (from American Community Survey)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work hours per week (earning minimum wage) to rent a two-bedroom home</li> <li>• Children in single parent households</li> <li>• Teen births</li> <li>• High school graduation rate</li> <li>• Juvenile arrests</li> <li>• Proficiency in English Language Arts</li> <li>• Children below poverty level</li> <li>• Children in out-of-home care</li> <li>• Child abuse/neglect reports</li> <li>• Infant deaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant housing</li> <li>• Housing cost burden</li> <li>• Resident turnover</li> <li>• Single mother families</li> <li>• Child to adult ratio</li> <li>• People 65 and over</li> <li>• Unemployment rate</li> <li>• Adults with high school diploma/GED</li> <li>• Poverty rate</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Racial/ethnic heterogeneity</li> </ul>

### Selected Community Well-Being Indicators

Indicators	2020	2019	2018
Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level	<b>14.0%</b>	16.3%	17.4%
Child Abuse & Neglect	<b>3.8 per 1,000</b>	4.0 per 1,000	4.1 per 1,000
Proficient English Language Arts (3 <sup>RD</sup> Grade)	<b>Not Available</b>	56%	52%
High School Graduation Rate	<b>88%</b>	88%	88%
Juvenile Arrests	<b>31.4 per 1,000</b>	42.0 per 1,000	42.5 per 1,000
Out-of-home Care	<b>7.9 per 1,000</b>	8.0 per 1,000	8.4 per 1,000
Generational involvement in Child Welfare System	<b>46.8%</b>	44.9%	46.8%



## To what extent are there reductions in generational involvement in the child welfare system?

At the population level, CYI aims to assess the extent to which there are reductions in generational involvement in the child welfare system, with the theory being if young adults with systems experience are better supported as they transition to adulthood it is less likely their children will be involved in higher end systems of care.

To this end, administrative data show the number and percentage of state wards 0-5 who have a parent who was also a state ward has had slight fluctuations over the past three years but has remained generally the same. It is important to note data reflect the same, single point-in-time for each year rather than a cumulative total for a given year.

## Leveraged Funds

One of the intermediate CWB outcomes is that the work of community collaboratives results in communities' increased ability to leverage and align funds. **Overall, collaboratives obtained over \$10 million in additional funding this past year, representing 35% of their total budgets.**

# Building Promotive and Protective Factors Through Prevention Programs and Services

## Community Response

The Community Response model is the backbone support element of a community-based prevention system and encompasses all individual-level strategies implemented across the life span. Community Response coordinates existing resources within a community to help children, young adults, and families address immediate needs as well as increase Promotive and Protective Factors in the long-term.

In the 2021-2022 evaluation year, Community Response served 13,521 participants and 8,924 children. The table below summarizes the various avenues of Community Response through which people were served. "Participants" represent the number of households who access a given program or service. A participant may be a family with multiple adults, a young person with or without children, or another household type. Children who are served via various programming and services are counted separately from other participants. Central Navigation is the component of Community Response through which parents, community members, and young adults are matched to services. Core strategies for parents include Circle of Security Parenting (COSPP), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI). Core Strategies for young adults include all activities related to the Connected Youth Initiative. Local prevention strategies are those implemented by individual collaboratives that are responsive to community-specific needs. Statewide prevention strategies include Camp Catch Up and Legal Services and Supports provided through the Social Services Block Grant.



## Overall Summary of Numbers Served July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

	Participants	Children
<b>Community Response (OVERALL)</b>	<b>13,521</b>	<b>8,924</b>
Central Navigation	3,797	6,095
Core Strategies for Parents (COSP, PCIT, PIWI)	359	826
Core Strategies for Young Adults (Connected Youth Initiative)*	2,289	0
Local Prevention Strategies	5,608	2,003
Statewide Prevention Strategies	1,468	0

\* Young adults age 14 to 25 accessing Central Navigation are included in the Central Navigation numbers and are thus not included in the Core Strategies for Young Adults line to avoid duplicated counts. See appendix C for numbers of young adults age 14 to 25 accessing Central Navigation.

Over \$2.1 million dollars in Support Service Funds were distributed through 4,395 requests. The number of requests in 2021-2022 represented a slight decrease in the number of requests compared to 2020-2021. Overwhelmingly, participants sought assistance for housing and utilities, which together represented over 75% of the requests for support service funds. It is worth noting that in this evaluation year, Nebraska was distributing federal Emergency Rental Assistance dollars, which may have impacted the number of requests for Support Service Funds. Community Collaboratives developed a close working relationship with Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), who was coordinating the distribution of these dollars. In doing so, Community Response became another avenue by which Nebraskans accessed this resource statewide and braided additional public funding into the local prevention systems.

## SUPPORT SERVICE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2021-2022

Priority Area	Number of Requests	All Dollars	Percent of Total	Average Dollars per Request
Daily Living	263	\$41,278.03	2.0%	\$156.95
Education	26	\$7,726.12	<1%	\$297.16
Employment	5	\$161.50	<1%	\$32.30
Housing	1,365	\$1,087,584.03	51.8%	\$796.76
Mental Health	185	\$54,257.35	2.6%	\$293.28
Other	374	\$140,682.73	6.7%	\$376.16
Parenting	80	\$37,248.63	1.8%	\$465.61
Physical/Dental Health	46	\$15,772.10	<1%	\$342.87

Transportation	667	\$229,143.14	10.9%	\$343.54
Utilities	1,384	\$486,472.02	23.2%	\$351.50
<b>2021-2022 Total</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>\$2,100,325.65</b>	--	<b>\$477.89</b>
<i>2020-2021 Total</i>	<i>5,006</i>	<i>\$2,585,460.72**</i>	--	<i>\$413.44</i>
<i>2019-2020 Total</i>	<i>2,079</i>	<i>\$702,333</i>	--	<i>\$338</i>

*\*\*This amount includes federal CARES Act funding that was distributed to communities in 2020-2021. Caution is required when comparing these funds to prior years.*

## Promotive and Protective Factors

Strengthening children, families, and young adults through strengthening Protective and Promotive Factors is key to successful prevention work. Research indicates that the cumulative burden of multiple risk factors is associated with the probability of poor outcomes, including developmental compromises and child abuse and neglect, while the cumulative buffer of multiple Protective and Promotive Factors is associated with the probability of positive outcomes in individuals, families, and communities. Protective Factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that mitigates or eliminates risks. Promotive Factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that actively enhance well-being. Protective and Promotive Factors are assets in individuals, families, and communities. For young adults, the Protective and Promotive Factors are associated with positive development and help young adults to overcome adversity (Fergus & Zimmerman, 2005). For both families and young adults, these factors increase the probability of positive, adaptive, and healthy outcomes across the developmental continuum. The following is a description of the Protective and Promotive Factors that Nebraska Children uses to guide its prevention work. The Promotive and Protective Factors are recognized by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and other state and national partners.

In addition, hope— a feeling of having goal-directed energy, combined with the feeling of being able to do the planning needed to meet these goals— was also identified as an important factor.



<b>Protective Factors Nebraska</b>	
<b>The Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors</b> <i>Parents are the focus</i>	<b>The Youth Thrive™ Protective and Promotive Factors</b> <i>Young adults are the focus</i>
<b><i>Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development</i></b>	<b><i>Knowledge of Adolescent Development</i></b>
<i>The ability to support nurturing attachments and have realistic expectations in order to effectively promote development in children and young adults</i>	
<b><i>Social-Emotional Competence in Children</i></b>	<b><i>Cognitive and Social-Emotional Competence in Young Adults</i></b>
<i>The ability to recognize and regulate emotions and behavior and communicate clearly in order to establish and maintain healthy relationships with family, peers, and others</i>	
<b><i>Parental Resilience</i></b>	<b><i>Young Adult Resilience</i></b>
<i>The ability to recover from difficult life experiences and often to be strengthened and even transformed by those experiences</i>	
<b><i>Social Connections</i></b>	
<i>The ability and opportunity to develop positive relationships that lessen stress and isolation and become a supportive network</i>	
<b><i>Concrete Supports</i></b>	
<i>The ability to access resources and services that help make children, young adults, and families stronger and more resourceful for themselves and others</i>	

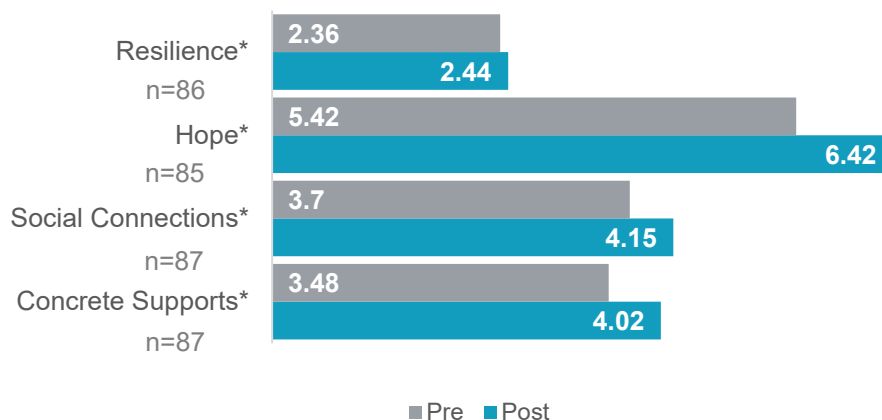
**Improvements in Promotive and Protective Factors**

One key component of Central Navigation is coaching. Coaching is voluntary and tailored to meet individual needs, whether it be help with creating a budget or improving relationships with children. For those participating in coaching, participants reported statistically significant improvements in Promotive and Protective Factors including Social Connections, Concrete Supports, Hope, and Resilience.





## Participants in Community Response coaching demonstrated significant improvements in Resilience, Hope, Social Connections, and Concrete Supports.



*\*Indicates statistically significant improvements over time. Social Connections and Concrete Supports are based on a 5-point Likert scale; Hope is based on an 8-point Likert scale and Resilience is based on a 4-point Likert Scale.*

## Statistically Significant Improvements in Protective Factors Across Time

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Concrete Supports	✓	✓
Social Connections	✓	
Hope	✓	✓
Resilience	✓	✓

## Core Strategies for Parents

Three evidence-based core strategies that are focused on parents were implemented during the 2021-2022 evaluation year: Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI), serving 359 parents and their children across the state. These core strategies for parents have demonstrated impact on improving parent-child relationships and interactions, reducing parent stress, and increasing parent efficacy - all of which are essential for preventing entry into higher systems of care for vulnerable children and families. While the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the number of parents who could participate in these strategies, there has been an increase in the numbers of parents participating in these strategies during the 2021-2022 evaluation year. The statistically significant improvements in outcomes for parents who were able to participate over the past year showcase the need to continue to support collaboratives in implementing these core strategies for parents.

## Local Prevention Strategies

Nine collaboratives also implemented 31 local prevention strategies during the 2021-2022 evaluation year, reaching over 87,900 participants across the state. These local prevention strategies represent the



community-driven aspect of collaborative work and are selected and implemented to meet the needs of individual communities. These local prevention strategies include multiple additional partnerships, and often involve building systems-level infrastructure to support all youth and families within communities. Many of these strategies are newly developed as a response to community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, or to address the growing need for mental health supports throughout the state.

Two other strategies: Camp Catch Up and Legal Services and Supports offered through the Social Services Block Grant/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (SSBG/TANF) were implemented at the statewide level. Camp Catch Up served 129 children aged 5 to 19 who had been separated from siblings by foster care, while 1,339 participants received legal services and supports through Legal Aid. Both strategies aim to improve promotive and protective factors for participants, particularly social connections for those served by Camp Catch Up, and concrete supports for those served by Legal Aid.

## Core Strategies for Young Adults (Connected Youth Initiative)

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) is a statewide Community Well-Being initiative to create and strengthen equitable outcomes for youth and young adults with experience in public systems and without permanent family and/or community support. CYI supports youth and young adults through both systemic and individual strategies including Central Navigation and Support Services Funds, Coaching, Youth Leadership efforts, and Financial Education through Opportunity Passport™ offered through Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative®. Overall, CYI served 3,725 youth and young adults in the 2021-2022 evaluation year. More than half were female and just over half identified as people of color.

**1,436 youth and young adults served through Central Navigation**

- 70% female
- 58% people of color

Mirroring trends seen for all CYI work, the majority of the 1,436 youth and young adults served through Central Navigation were female (70%) and people of color (58%). Just under half a million dollars in Support Service Funds were distributed through 1,120 requests; 59% of requests were allocated to housing and utilities assistance. Additional data points available from CYI work revealed that one third (35.9%) of those served through Central Navigation were between the ages of 22 to 25, and many self-report having some type of experience with either child welfare, juvenile justice or other experiences such as homelessness or human trafficking. These additional data highlight the absolute necessity to continue to support youth and young adults with systems involvement, particularly as youth transition into early adulthood.

**One-third (36%) of Central Navigation participants were between the ages of 22 to 25.**

CYI work around coaching, leadership, and financial education have been fundamental in supporting youth and young adults to increase personal agency and establish goals. Over 1,800 youth and young adults in CYI participated in goal-oriented and youth-driven CYI coaching during the 2021-2022 evaluation year. The majority of CYI coaching participants were over the age of 19, speaking to these young adults' desire and drive to successfully transition to adulthood. Two hundred seven youth and young adults participated in youth leadership activities and opportunities across the state, and 259 engaged in financial education through the Opportunity Passport™.



## Local Evaluation Capacity Building

Beginning with the 2020-2021 evaluation year, emergent efforts to build evaluation capacity at the local collaborative level were undertaken by NC and external evaluators with UNMC-MMI. The purpose of these efforts is to encourage collaboratives to take ownership and approach evaluation as a partnership between collaborative and evaluator. These efforts allowed collaboratives to identify and define their own evaluation question specific to their collaborative, exploring issues that were not captured in the statewide evaluation.

During the 2021-2022 evaluation year, nine of the 17 collaboratives identified a local evaluation question and worked with their local evaluation point of contact at UNMC-MMI to develop the data collection method, identify key respondents, and collect data. A variety of data and methods were employed, including qualitative data through focus groups and interviews, and quantitative data through surveys. Eighty-nine percent of local evaluation questions were focused on implementation, such as the resources available for specific populations and community perceptions of the collaboratives, and 11% were focused on outcomes, such as the effectiveness of local prevention strategies. Notably, 78% of local evaluation questions were focused at the systems-level, such as evaluating the inclusion of minority groups into collaborative processes and diversifying funding sources. The interest and willingness of collaboratives to explore their own processes and procedures at the systems-level speaks to collaboratives' investment in continuous improvement, which ultimately will improve service delivery and community context and infrastructure that supports all youth and families.

## Conclusion

In sum, the work undertaken by collaboratives during the 2021-2022 evaluation year to build community-based prevention systems has resulted in improvement in both individual and systems level outcomes for Nebraska's children and families. It is imperative to continue supporting the work of the Community Well Being collaboratives as they support children and families in their communities and respond to needs at the local level.

As Community Response and Connected Youth Initiative continue to grow and evolve, it will be imperative to continue to track key data outlined in this report, as well as broader indicators of well-being, in order to measure the growth and contributions of the Community Well-Being work.



# Appendix A: Community-Level Systems Evaluation Findings

Community Well-Being collaboratives are working to build their capacity to meet the needs of the children and families in their communities through a Collective Impact approach, Funding, Policy Support, Training Activities, and Community Events. The following is a summary of the community-based prevention system work that was undertaken over the past year by the 17 collaboratives participating in the statewide evaluation

## Funding

One of the intermediate CWB outcomes is that the work of community collaboratives results in communities' increased ability to leverage and align funds. The following is a summary of the total number of dollars leveraged in the collaboratives. Overall, collaboratives have been successful in leveraging additional funds. **Additional Funding obtained by partnering agencies and the Collaborative represent 35% of their total budgets.** It should be noted that the figure below captures all funding from Nebraska Children provided to counties covered by a community-prevention system, including but not limited to those funds flowing directly to the Collaborative.

CWB Collaboratives obtained over \$10 million in additional funds this past year.

## COLLABORATIVES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN LEVERAGING FUNDS FROM MULTIPLE FUNDING SOURCES

	Funding from Nebraska Children	New Grants/Funding Awarded Directly to Collaborative	TOTALS
2021-2022	\$18,869,281	\$10,137,237	\$29,006,518
2020-2021	\$22,841,361	\$695,365	\$23,536,726

*Data obtained from NC and CWB Collaboratives. Funding from the 2020-2021 year includes CARES Act funding that was distributed during the evaluation year. Expectations and requirements for reporting funding sources have varied over time, so longitudinal comparisons should be made with caution.*

## Policy Support

CWB communities were active in trying to shape policy at the local and state levels. Collaboratives reported on the policy-related activities they engaged in during the 12-month reporting period in their community reports. Those activities are summarized below.

### Policy Change

Policy changes include changes in statute, regulation, guidance, funding levels, court decisions, or executive orders and other policy vehicles that establish requirements directed at institutions,

professionals, and the public. For example, enacting new legislation, establishing statewide minimum training requirements, pilot funding for a new program or study, a new option that would expand available services, or a state executive memo requiring child welfare agencies to adhere to some new agency procedure.

During the 2021-2022 evaluation year, there were:

- **18 policy changes initiated across 9 CWB collaboratives**
- Examples include:
  - ✓ *ARPA roundtables discussions and redistricting through Legislative Group*
  - ✓ *Letters to state senators regarding ERA assistance*
  - ✓ *Support for bills regarding supplemental nutrition, food assistance, and economic development*

### Practice Change

Practice changes are systemic changes in operations of practitioners that are to be institutionalized that may or may not stem from any change or requirement in policy. For example, adopting a best practice that is implemented community (or state) wide, new practices to better engage youth in transition planning, improving community level collaboration through standard operating procedures, etc.

During the 2021-2022 evaluation year, there were:

- **18 practice changes initiated across 7 CWB collaboratives**
- Examples include:
  - ✓ *creating score cards to track and share high level goals of the collaborative*
  - ✓ *hosting youth advisory board meetings*
  - ✓ *implementing stipends or credits for families to receive for participation in parenting classes.*

### Community Engagement

Community engagement in policy and practice improvements include, but is not limited to community support or involvement in promoting improvements through educating key stakeholders (public, judges, agency officials, etc.), supporting engagement of families, community members or young people in developing/sharing recommendations, testifying, presenting, analyzing and/or disseminating data, mobilizing young people or community members and/or other key stakeholders, and engaging in various types of communications activities (e.g. news/social media). For example, engaging local elected officials in your community by inviting them to collaborative meetings and/or educating them about issues, submitting public comments at local/municipal meetings or state legislative public hearings, or providing input on administrative policies, rules and regulations (e.g., Medicaid Expansion).

During the 2021-2022 evaluation year, there were:

- **52 community engagement activities initiated across 12 CWB collaboratives**
- Examples include:
  - ✓ *inviting community members and members of legislature to collaborative meetings*





- ✓ *posting “Frontline” videos to social media to highlight the work of local agencies and organizations*
- ✓ *disseminating collaborative data to the community via presentations and online engagement*

### Citizen Review Panels

The Caregiver Citizen Review Panel (CRP) model is a localized approach to engage broad-based community stakeholders, youth, and families. Each community identifies their local priority and develops recommendations to DHHS on best practices, policy changes, and gaps in these priority areas. The CRP model is a short-term, approximately four-month activity that sets the foundation for long-term community, caregiver, and youth engagement in the collaborative infrastructure and process. The local CRPs have surfaced recommendations around how to approach broader prevention work regarding financial well-being and stable housing as well as additional economic assistance best practices.

This year’s recommendations from the Dakota County Community CRP included: streamlining the background check policy for approving familial childcare providers, review of the Title 20 process for reimbursement (recommending Iowa as a more efficient model); increase awareness of services available, especially for non-English speaking residents; and provide more supports for youth aging out of foster care in rural areas of Nebraska. Additional information on CRP work will be included in future reporting as this work grows and more communities implement the local CRP model.

## Training Activities

Over the past 12 months, community collaboratives carried out or participated in numerous professional and community trainings to enhance supported strategies. Fifteen of the 17 collaboratives reported a total of 270 trainings with 7,271 participants representing over 3,561 organizations engaged in training. Examples of the trainings offered were: Suicide Prevention, Youth/Adult Mental Health First Aid, Motivational Interviewing, Bridges Out of Poverty, Facilitating Attuned Interaction (FAN), Inclusive Communities, Your Money Your Goals, Safe with You, Youth and Families Thrive, and Trauma 101 and Recovery. A total of 240 trainings (71%) were held virtually or as a virtual/in-person hybrid model due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### COLLABORATIVES HOSTED TRAINING EVENTS TO ENHANCE SUPPORTED STRATEGIES

	2021-2022	2020-2021
<b>Number of Trainings Held</b>	<b>270</b>	337
<b>Number of Organizations</b>	<b>3,561</b>	2214
<b>Number of Individuals Trained</b>	<b>7,271</b>	6018

*Note. The numbers above do not represent an unduplicated count. 15 collaboratives reported trainings in 2021-2022.*

## Community Events

All 17 Community Well-Being collaboratives sponsored community and family events. The purpose of the events varied, including food distribution/deliveries (e.g., food boxes, pantries, backpacks, vouchers), distribution of diapers and school supplies, motherhood is sacred classes, and other community



engagement efforts such as: Toys for Tots, Community Baby Showers, Career Days, Children’s Fairs, Respite Caregiver Retreats, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and collaborative meetings. Events were available to all community members, and served the general public, parents, children, young adults, older adults, and agency and community members (e.g., childcare providers, coaches, other service providers). These 232 events served approximately 73,226 individuals, although it is important to note that this is an estimate since some events were large and difficult to track definitive number of attendees.

## COLLABORATIVES HOSTED EVENTS THAT EXTENDED OUTREACH EFFORTS TO CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

	2021-2022	2020-2021
<b>Number of Events Held</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Number of Individuals Engaged</b>	<b>73,226</b>	<b>17,100</b>
<b>Number of Communities hosting events</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>

*Note. Numbers reported for the current evaluation year are estimates and not unduplicated counts. All 17 collaboratives reported hosting events in 2021-2022.*

### Community Cafés

Community Cafés strengthen families and communities by sparking relationship and leadership to create more inclusive and equitable systems. The Cafés are a connected series of community conversations hosted by parents who live in the community with support from local organizations.

Three sites supported Community Cafés in the past year: Lincoln (multiple teams), Auburn, and Grand Island. Most Café teams focused on developing or rebuilding their capacity or hosted virtual Cafés in the first half of the year. Then a few teams were able to resume hosting onsite Cafés ranging in size from approximately one-dozen to over 50 participants. Some teams provided interpretation to include participants from multiple languages.

Continuing and new partnerships with many community organizations included, but were not limited to, schools, child care centers, churches, neighborhood organizations, locally owned food vendors, and city and civic organizations.

A cross-site Parent Workgroup with knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and diverse parents from several host teams and supported by Nebraska Children continued to develop. Five of these parents were actively engaged to set and work toward their goal of supporting sustainability, fidelity, and growth. These parents and three other parent hosts led the development and delivery of a four-part virtual Orientation in the fall with 84 participants.

Members of the Parent Workgroup also took leadership in:

- Leading several meetings to share elements of the Community Café approach with community learning centers (before and after school programs), the Lincoln CWB collaborative, and NDE.
- Making two presentations at the February Get Connected statewide After School conference.
- Assisting organizational partners in writing reports and grant applications
- Designing a summer orientation specifically for community partners
- Supporting Community Café start-up in Crete and a restart in Omaha, in partnership with Nebraska Children.



- Activities to improve social connections and help meet basic needs



My experience as a co-host and participant in Community Café activities has been all about cultivating meaningful relationships and creating a space where everyone's voice is heard and appreciated. Creating that space is possible by focusing on the strengths and perspectives each person brings to the table... (Cafés) level the playing field for everyone involved. Most impactful for me personally has been the genuine, authentic relationships I have formed with the other co-hosts, parents, the school administrators, teachers, and other community members.

-Parent Host



## Bring Up Nebraska – Pinwheels For Prevention Campaign Summary

Twenty community collaboratives and other partners participated in the Bring Up Nebraska-Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. This annual campaign focuses on April Child Abuse Prevention Month and other opportunities to promote strong families.



### Website

There were 36,792 visitors to the Bring Up Nebraska website during the main campaign timeframe (up 514% from the previous 11 weeks). There were 43,499 page views.

### Radio

A total of 255 radio spots ran from April through June and included a Spanish-language version. The spots reached 437,800 people an average of 3.8 times for 1,682,100 gross impressions.

### Paid Social Media

- Targeted digital display ads ran in English and Spanish.
- Facebook/Instagram ads: Impressions=584,870; Link Clicks=3,625
- Google display ads: Impressions = 5,839,394; Link Clicks: 48,143

### Resources for Collaboratives and Councils

Twenty Bring Up Nebraska Collaboratives and affiliated prevention councils and partners across the state ordered over 17,000 pinwheels. Another 6,871 campaign items were ordered from the Prevention Store to help engage and inform the public. The collaboratives also used the updated toolkit to download and use the press release template, social media copy, and share graphics, prevention articles and other items.



## Events

Events included a Pinwheel Garden planting at Governor's Residence on April 1 with First Lady Susanne Shore, CFS Director Stephanie Beasley and many DHHS and Nebraska Children staff; a Governor's proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month; a DHHS did media advisory/release about Prevention Month; and many local events sponsored by Bring Up Nebraska Collaboratives.

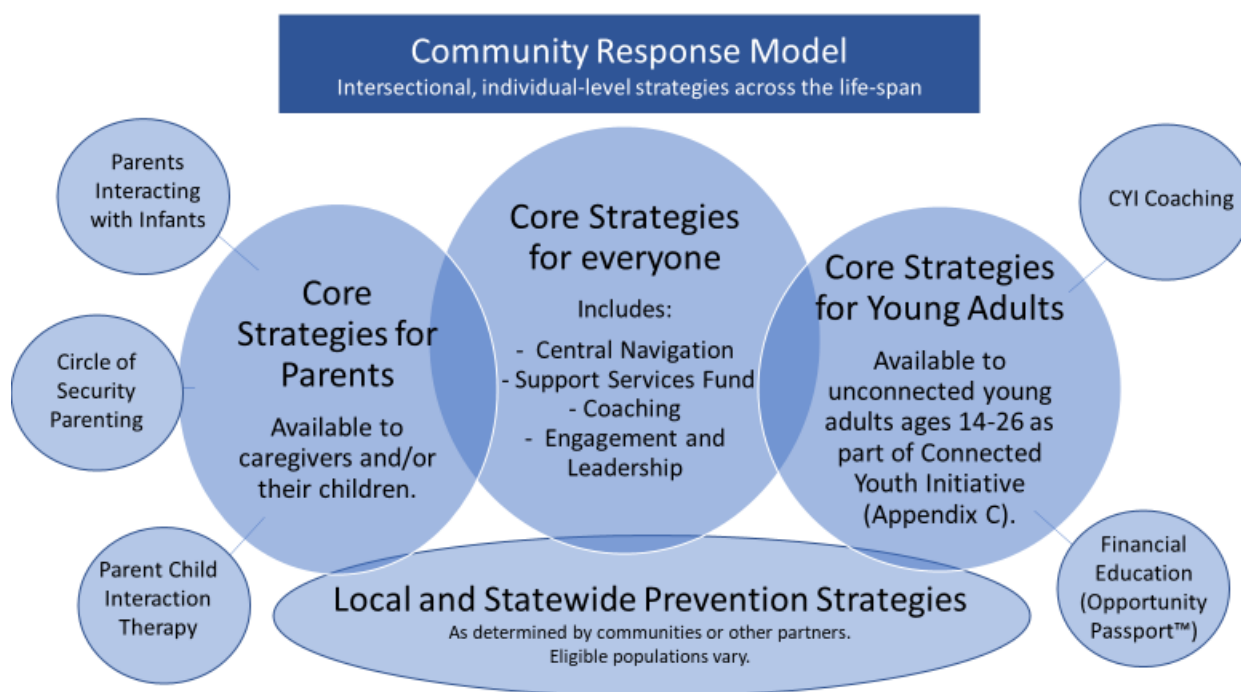


# Appendix B: Community Response Model: Programs and Practices

Community Response is the backbone support element of a community-based prevention system. It is designed to be the coordination and intersection point where children, young adults, families, and service providers work together—not only to serve participants directly, but also to identify and address larger, systemic issues that pose barriers to thriving people and thriving communities.

A fully developed Community Response system serves all community members from birth to death through the braiding of resources. A number of public funding sources specifically target support to families who may otherwise enter the higher level of child welfare services or experience significant challenges in areas such as: adequate housing, early childhood development, educational goals, meeting of basic needs, or in meeting a family crisis. These families include children who are 18 years or younger; however, when a community braids resources and involves multi-sector partners in a Community Response system, the focus can be on the lifespan (the full age spectrum of children, individuals, and partners).

A key goal of Community Response is to coordinate existing resources within the community to help children, young adults, and families, either by matching them with a resource to solve an immediate need or through developing a longer-term relationship. That longer-term relationship is meant to increase Protective Factors—particularly around concrete supports, social connections, and resilience—as well as to increase hope.





Historically, Community Response has consisted primarily of Central Navigation, Support Services Funding, and Coaching. Central Navigation is the component of Community Response through which parents, community members, and young adults are matched to services. Flexible and supportive funding called Support Service Funds is available through Central Navigation, when needed, that is intended to fill gaps for participants. Community Response Coaching is voluntary and tailored to individual needs and involves participants working with a coach on goals. Community Response includes the entire array of individual-level strategies that exist in a community-based prevention system, sharing the common goal of increasing protective and promotive factors for all who live in the community. This array of strategies can be organized into four categories: Core Strategies for Everyone, Core Strategies for Parents, Core Strategies for Young Adults, and Local and Statewide Prevention Strategies.

This appendix includes all categories except for Core Strategies for Young Adults (Connected Youth Initiative), which is a separate appendix (Appendix C). While Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) is part of Community Response, it focuses specifically on unconnected young adults and has several strategies that are implemented statewide.

### OVERALL SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL PREVENTION STRATEGIES (COMMUNITY RESPONSE)

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	13,521	13,531
Number of Children Served Directly	10,287	11,720
Number of Participating Staff	274	857
Number of Participating Organizations	350	592
Number of Communities in Statewide Evaluation	17	14



## RACE/ETHNICITY OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL PREVENTION STRATEGIES (COMMUNITY RESPONSE)

	2021-2022	2020-2021
American Indian or Alaska Native	475 (5.3%)	224 (3.3%)
Asian	45 (<1%)	23 (<1%)
Black or African American	1,742 (19.3%)	1,123 (16.5%)
Hispanic or Latino	1,515 (16.8%)	1,254 (18.5%)
Multiracial	535 (5.9%)	110 (1.6%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10 (<1%)	14 (<1%)
White	4,447 (49.3%)	3,789 (55.8%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	127 (1.4%)	270 (4.0%)
Prefer Not to Say	117 (1.3%)	22 (<1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,013</b>	<b>6,793</b>

*Note. For the 2021-2022 evaluation year, race/ethnicity data was not available for 4,508 participants, or 33.3% of those served through all Community Response.*

## Core Strategies for Everyone

Core Strategies for Everyone includes Central Navigation, Support Services Fund, Coaching, and Engagement and Leadership. The following section describes who participated in Central Navigation, Support Service Funds distributed, and outcomes of participants who engaged in Coaching.

### CENTRAL NAVIGATION

Ever evolving, Central Navigation is the component of Community Response through which parents, community members, and young adults are matched to services. Flexible and supportive funding (called Support Service Funds) is also available, when needed, through Central Navigation. People who engage with Central Navigation are referred to as 'participants' in the table below. Participants include families with children, as well as young adults and others who may not be a primary caregiver for a child or children.

## OVERALL SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH CENTRAL NAVIGATION

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	3,797	3,770
Number of Children Served Directly	6,095	6,573
Gender		
Male	863 (22.7%)	805 (21%)
Female	2,876 (75.7%)	2,899 (77%)
Other/Prefer not to say	47 (1.2%)	66 (1.8%)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	214 (5.6%)	156 (4.1%)
Asian	18 (<1%)	21 (<1%)
Black or African American	645 (17%)	545 (14.5%)
Hispanic or Latino	690 (18.2%)	801 (21.2%)
Multiracial	190 (5%)	110 (2.9%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7 (<1%)	14 (< 1%)
White	1,951 (51.4%)	2,067 (54.8%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	26 (<1%)	57 (1.5%)
Prefer Not to Say	38 (1%)	22 (<1%)
Not Reported/Missing	56 (1.5%)	--
Age		
Participants ages 14-18	372 (9.8%)	--
Participants ages 19-26	1,125 (29.6%)	--
Participants ages 27-40	1,183 (31.2%)	--
Participants ages 41-60	626 (16.5%)	--
Participants 61+	105 (2.8%)	--
Disabilities		
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	711 (18.7%)	540 (14%)
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	415 (6.8%)	462 (7%)
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	2,617 (68.9%)	2,678 (71%)
Number of Participating Staff	219	588
Number of Participating Organizations	280	361



## SUPPORT SERVICE FUNDS

Flexible and supportive funding (called Support Service Funds) is available through Central Navigation when needed. These funds are intended to “fill gaps” when other funding sources are not available or the participant doesn’t meet the criteria for other publicly available programs or resources.

### SUPPORT SERVICE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2021-2022

Priority Area	Number of Requests	All Dollars	Percent of Total	Average Dollars per Request
Daily Living	263	\$41,278.03	2.0%	\$156.95
Education	26	\$7,726.12	<1%	\$297.16
Employment	5	\$161.50	<1%	\$32.30
Housing	1,365	\$1,087,584.03	51.8%	\$796.76
Mental Health	185	\$54,257.35	2.6%	\$293.28
Other	374	\$140,682.73	6.7%	\$376.16
Parenting	80	\$37,248.63	1.8%	\$465.61
Physical/Dental Health	46	\$15,772.10	<1%	\$342.87
Transportation	667	\$229,143.14	10.9%	\$343.54
Utilities	1,384	\$486,472.02	23.2%	\$351.50
<b>2021-2022 Total</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>\$2,100,325.65</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$477.89</b>
<i>2020-2021 Total</i>	<i>5,006</i>	<i>\$2,585,460.72**</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$413.44</i>
<i>2019-2020 Total</i>	<i>2,079</i>	<i>\$702,333</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$338</i>

*\*\*This amount includes federal CARES Act funding that was distributed to communities in 2020-2021. Caution is required when comparing these funds to prior years.*

## COMMUNITY RESPONSE COACHING

A subset of the people who engage with the Central Navigation component of Community Response may also participate in coaching. This coaching is voluntary and tailored to individual needs.

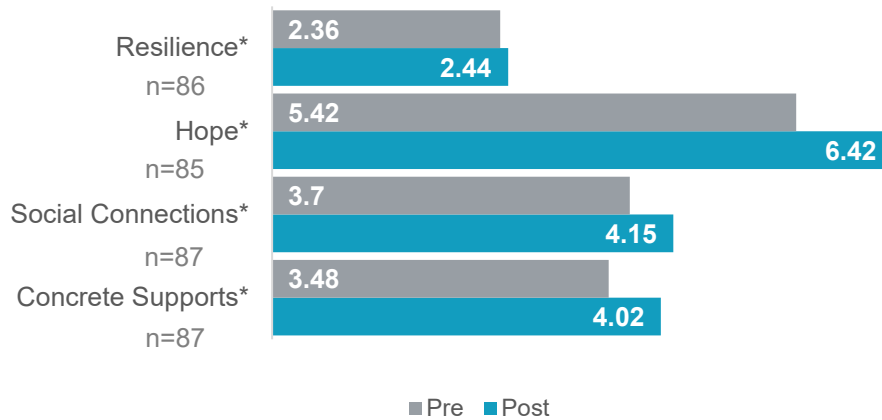
Several strategies were used to evaluate the efficacy of Community Response Coaching. At the time of the enrollment into Community Response, participants completed two subscales (i.e., Social Connections and Concrete Supports) of the FRIENDS Protective Factor Survey (PFS). For those families that were engaged in coaching, at completion of coaching (which was typically 30 to 90 days), families were asked to complete a post-test of the PFS and a retrospective pre/post assessment measure Hope and Resilience. A total of 87 participants completed both the pre and post surveys.

### Improvements in Promotive and Protective Factors

A paired-samples t-test analysis compared pre-post scores. The results found that participants made statistically significant improvements in the areas of Concrete Supports [ $t_{(86)} = -5.514, p < .001$ ], Social Connections [ $t_{(86)} = -4.158, p < .001$ ], Hope [ $t_{(84)} = -8.479, p < .001$ ], Resilience [ $t_{(85)} = -1.977, p = .026$ ]. These results suggest participants in Community Response Coaching improved both their Promotive and Protective Factors at the completion of services in all areas.



**Participants in Community Response coaching demonstrated significant improvements in Resilience, Hope, Social Connections, and Concrete Supports.**



*\*Indicates statistically significant improvements over time. Social Connections and Concrete Supports are based on a 5-point Likert scale; Hope is based on an 8-point Likert scale and Resilience is based on a 4-point Likert Scale.*

**Statistically Significant Improvements in Protective Factors Across Time**

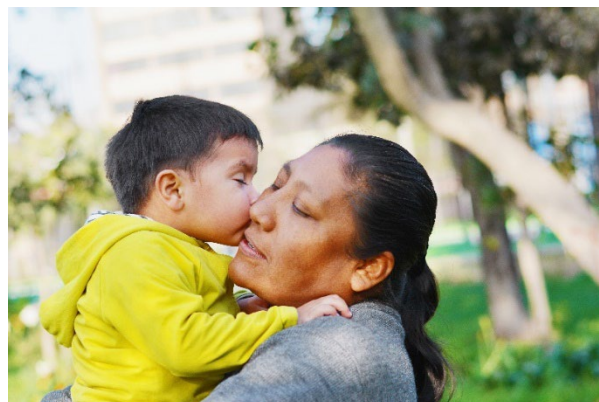
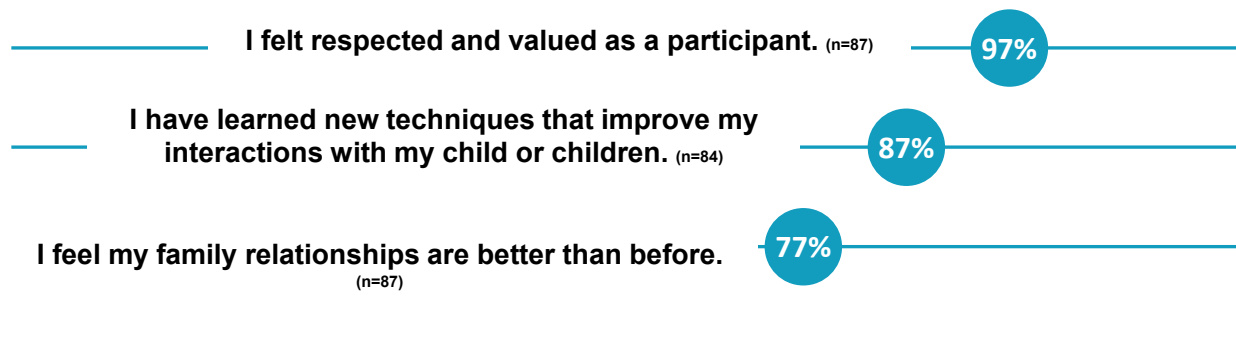
	2021-2022	2020-2021
<b>Concrete Supports</b>	✓	✓
<b>Social Connections</b>	✓	
<b>Hope</b>	✓	✓
<b>Resilience</b>	✓	✓

**Satisfaction with Community Response Coaching**

People who participated in Community Response Coaching also completed a satisfaction survey follow-up. Overall, those who participated in Community Response Coaching felt respected and valued as a participant and reported learning new techniques that improve interactions with children.



## Were participants satisfied with Community Response Coaching?



## Core Strategies for Parents

### CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING (COSP™)

COSP is a core strategy being implemented in multiple communities that has a focus on parents and caregivers' interaction with their child or children. Circle of Security Parenting is an 8-week parenting program based on research about how to build strong attachment relationships between parent and child. It is designed to help parents learn how to respond to their child's needs in a way that enhances the attachment between parent and child.

Research has confirmed that secure children exhibit increased empathy, greater self-esteem, better relationships with parents and peers, enhanced school readiness, and an increased capacity to handle emotions more effectively when compared with children who are not secure. Parent education groups are a primary means of delivery.

The following is a summary of the demographics of the children and families served by all CWB communities currently implementing COSP™. Due to the success that communities have had braiding funding to support COSP™, collaboratives utilize funding and support from multiple sources, which can include but is not limited to CWB efforts.



## OVERALL SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH COSP™

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	339	292
Number of Children Served Directly	806	811
Gender		
Male	86 (25.4%)	70 (24%)
Female	198 (58.4%)	210 (71.9%)
Missing/ Not Reported	55 (16.2%)	12 (4.1%)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	6 (1.8%)	9 (3%)
Asian	1 (<1%)	2 (< 1.0%)
Black or African American	18 (5.3%)	11 (3.8%)
Hispanic or Latino*	70 (20.6%)	13 (4.5%)
Multiracial	--	--
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	--	--
White	181 (53.4%)	229 (78.4%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	8 (2.4%)	16 (5.5%)
Missing/ Not Reported	55 (16.2%)	--
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	170 (50.1%)	135 (46.2%)
Number of Participating Staff	35	43
Number of Participating Organizations	37	50
Number of CWB Communities Offering COSP™	12	10

### Impact of COSP™ on Parents and Families

Participants were asked to rate a series of questions that were related to caregiver stress, their relationship with their children, and confidence in their parenting skills. These ratings were completed based on a 5-point Likert scale. Families who had overall ratings of 4 or 5 (high quality) were considered as reaching the program goal. 289 individuals completed the survey.

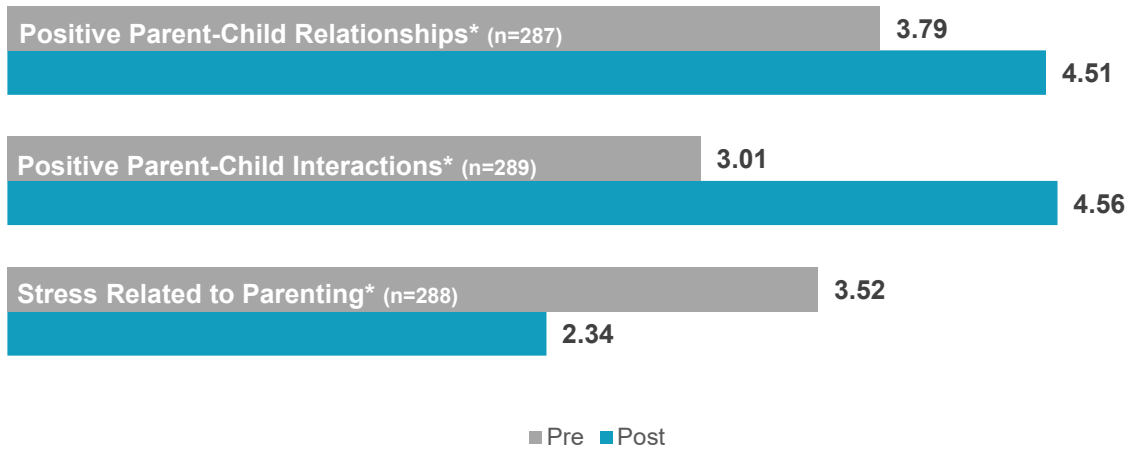
### Improvements in Parenting and Parent Stress

Paired samples t-tests were conducted to determine if there was a significant change in participants' perception by the end of the COSP™ series across the program identified outcomes. Participants reported significantly improved parent-child relationships [ $t_{(286)} = -13.368, p < .001$ ], parent-child interactions [ $t_{(288)} = -29.547, p < .001$ ], and significant reductions in parenting stress [ $t_{(287)} = 14.067, p < .001$ ] after participating in the COSP™ program.



**Parents reported statistically significant improvements in adopting positive parent-child interactions and positive parent-child relationships.**

More parents rated their stress level lower by the end of the session.



\*Indicates significant statistical change at post- test.

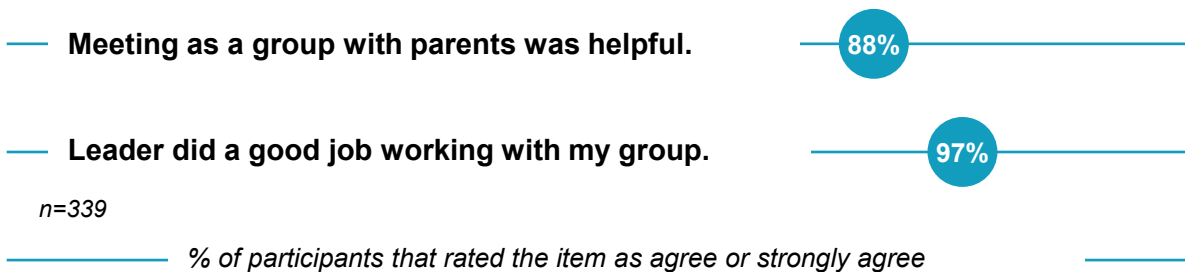
**Statistically Significant Changes in Parent Outcomes Across Time**

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Positive Parent-Child Relationships	✓	✓
Positive Parent-Child Interactions	✓	✓
Low Stress Related to Parenting	✓	✓

**Satisfaction with Circle of Security Parenting (COSP™)**

Overall, the majority of parents that were served by COSP™ reported that meeting with a group of parents was helpful (a rating of agree or strongly agree), and the leader did a good job working with the group of parents.

**Were parents satisfied with COSP™?**



## PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY (PCIT)

PCIT is a core strategy being implemented in multiple communities that has a focus on parents and caregivers' interaction with their child or children. PCIT is an empirically supported treatment for children ages two to seven that places emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns. One primary use is to treat clinically significant disruptive behaviors. In PCIT, parents are taught specific skills to establish a nurturing and secure relationship with their child while increasing their child's pro-social behavior and decreasing negative behavior. Outcome research has demonstrated statistically and clinically significant improvements in the conduct-disordered behavior of preschool age children. Parents report significant positive changes in psychopathology, personal distress, and parenting effectiveness.

PCIT was implemented in four Nebraska Community Well-Being communities (Growing Community Connections, Families First Partnership, Southeast Nebraska Collaborative, and York County Health Coalition). Therapists, trained and certified to carry out PCIT in these communities, submitted data for this report. A total of 17 families and 17 children participated in PCIT sessions during the past 12 months. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic likely impacted the numbers served during the 2021-2022 evaluation year compared to prior years.

### OVERALL SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH PCIT

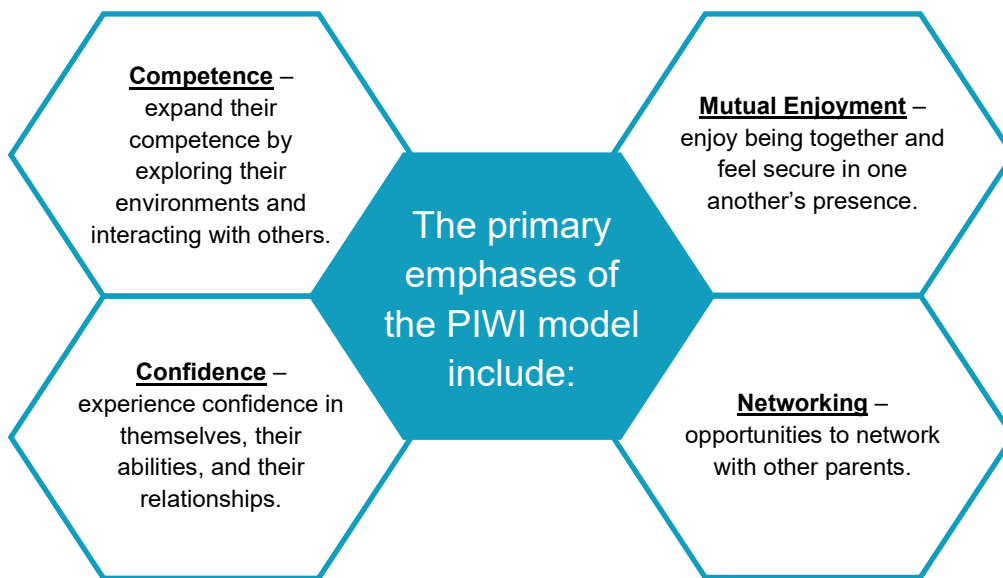
	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	17	21
Number of Children Served Directly	17	21
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	3 (20%)	--
Asian	--	--
Black or African American	1 (7%)	--
Hispanic or Latino	2 (13%)	--
White	9 (60%)	20 (100%)
Multiracial	--	--
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	--	--
Another Race/Ethnicity	--	--
Not Reported	2 (11.7%)	1 (4.8%)
Disability		
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	1 (7%)	2 (10%)
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	2 (13%)	1 (5%)
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	10 (67%)	12 (57%)
Number of Participating Staff	11	45
Number of Participating Organizations	14	30
Number of Communities Offering PCIT	4	4

Outcome data was not available for PCIT in the 2021-2022 evaluation year.



## PARENTS INTERACTING WITH INFANTS (PIWI)

PIWI is a core strategy being implemented in multiple communities that focuses on parents and caregivers' interaction with their child or children. The Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) model (McCollum, Gooler, Appl, & Yates, 2001) is based on a facilitated group structure that supports parents with young children from birth through age two. Parent participants often do not have the information or experience to know how to provide responsive, respectful interactions with their young children. PIWI increases parent confidence, competence, and mutually enjoyable relationships. PIWI is primarily conducted through facilitated groups but may be implemented as part of home visiting or other services. When delivered through groups, it also helps parents build informal peer support networks. PIWI is part of the Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL), which promotes social-emotional development and school readiness for young children and is funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau.



Similar to trends seen with other strategies, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic likely impacting the numbers of participants served through PIWI during the 2021-2022 evaluation year.



## OVERALL SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH PIWI

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	3	9
Number of Children Served Directly	3	9
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	--	--
Asian	--	--
Black or African American	1 (33%)	--
Hispanic or Latino	--	3 (33.3%)
Multiracial	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--
White	2 (67%)	6 (66.7%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	--	--
Gender		
Male	0	0
Female	3 (100%)	9 (100%)
Disability		
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	0	0
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	0	0
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	2 (67%)	7 (78%)
Number of Participating Staff	9	45
Number of Participating Organizations	19	24
Number of CWB Communities Offering PIWI*	2	2

\*Includes one Fund Board community (Saline/Jefferson).

### Improvement in Parent-Child Interactions

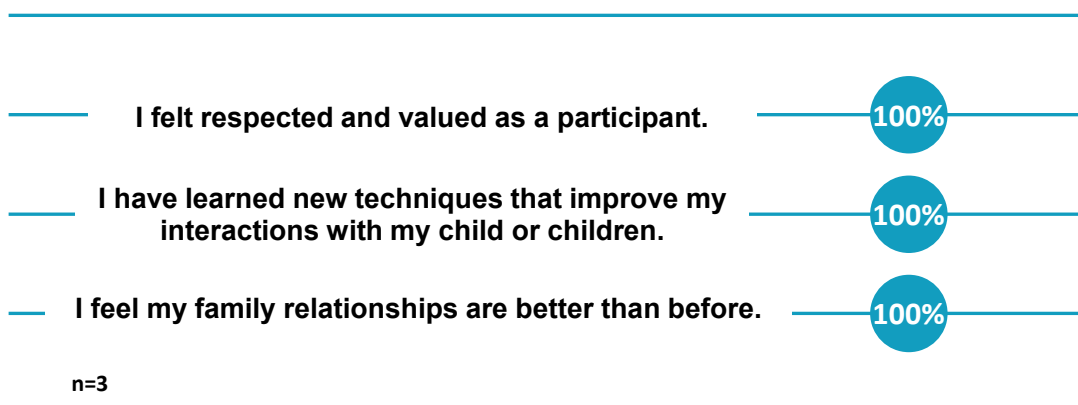
Statistical analyses were not performed for the 2021-2022 evaluation year due to insufficient data.

### Satisfaction with PIWI

A satisfaction survey was completed to obtain input from families of their participation in PIWI. Overall, the parents rated the program implementation very positively. All areas were rated highly with parents agreeing or strongly agreeing to each area rated.



## Were parents satisfied with Parents Interacting With Infants (PIWI) services?



## Local Prevention Strategies

In addition to the evidence-based individual-level strategies described above, communities also implemented a variety of locally-developed or locally-identified strategies. These local prevention strategies represent collaboratives' community-driven part of their prevention work and are selected and implemented to meet the individual needs of communities. The list below includes the local strategies that were implemented in each community during the evaluation year, followed by descriptions of each strategy and numbers served.

### Local Prevention Strategies

Collaborative	Strategy
Better Together	Mental Health Services in Schools
Buffalo County Community Collaborative	Buffalo County PhotoVoice Program
	Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board
	Lockboxes
	Mental Health Gift Certificates
	Parent Connectors
	Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP) and Double Up Food Buck Program
Community and Family Partnership	A Place at the Table
	Columbus Public Schools Attendance Monitor
Douglas County Community Response	Communication Campaign



	Food Delivery
	Maternity Match
	Transportation
	Aware
	Circle of Security Parenting™ Scholarship
	Cottonwood Days
Growing Community Connections	Family Night-In Baskets
	Full-Service Community Schools
	National Night Out
	Peer-Support Summer Camps
	Discovery Kids
Hall County Community Collaborative	Parent Connectors
	Ready Rosie
	Access to Education
	Car Match
Lift Up Sarpy	Maternity Match
	Mental Health
Sandhills Community Collaborative	Mental Health Outreach
	Digital Navigation: Connectivity
Southeast Nebraska Collaborative	Human Trafficking Awareness
	Opportunity Passport

## Mental Health in Schools (Better Together)

STRATEGY: MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	53
Number of Children Served Directly	53
Gender	
Male	40
Female	10
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	40



## Buffalo County PhotoVoice Program (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: BUFFALO COUNTY PHOTOVOICE PROGRAM	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	38
Community and Hanny Arram Participants	24
Migrant Education Program Participants	14

## Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: BUFFALO COUNTY YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	24
Gender	
Male	2
Female	22

## Lockboxes (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: LOCKBOXES	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly Through Receiving Lockboxes	106

## Mental Health Gift Certificates (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: MENTAL HEALTH GIFT CERTIFICATES	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	3
Individuals Effected by COVID	3
Existing Clients	1
New Clients	2

## Parent Connectors (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: PARENT CONNECTORS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	23
Number of Children Served Directly	13
Number of Families Served	9
Individuals that Identified as White (race)	67%
Individuals that Identified as Single (Relationship Status)	67%
Individuals that Identified as Married (Relationship Status)	11%

## Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP) and Double Up Food Bucks Program (Buffalo County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Visiting Farmers Markets	3,800
Number of Dollars Spent at Local Farmer's Markets (through SNAP)	\$1,200

## A Place at the Table (Community and Family Partnership)

STRATEGY: A PLACE AT THE TABLE	2021-2022
Number of Children Served Directly	262
Gender	
Male	119
Female	139
Disability	
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	51
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	262

## Columbus Public Schools Attendance Monitor (Community and Family Partnership)

STRATEGY: COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE MONITOR	2021-2022
Number of Children Served Directly*	434
Gender	
Male	208
Female	226
Disability	
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	77
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	0

\*May contain duplicate counts of students due to the nature of how the data is collected throughout the school year

## Communication Campaign (Douglas County Community Response)

STRATEGY: COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN	2021-2022
Number of Participants Reached	82,301

## Food Delivery (Douglas County Community Response)

STRATEGY: FOOD DELIVERY	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	45



## Maternity Match (Douglas County Community Response)

STRATEGY: MATERNITY MATCH	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	3

## Transportation (Douglas County Community Response)

STRATEGY: TRANSPORTATION	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	6

## Aware (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: AWARE	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	239
Number of Children Served Directly	239
Gender	
Male	120
Female	119
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	2
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	2
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	167

## Circle of Security Parenting™ Scholarship (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING™ SCHOLARSHIP	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	2
Number of Children Served Directly	2
Gender	
Male	0
Female	2

## Cottonwood Days (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: COTTONWOOD DAYS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	200
Number of Children Served Directly	200

## Family Night-In Baskets (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: FAMILY NIGHT-IN BASKETS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	45
Number of Children Served Directly	45

## Full-Service Community Schools (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	22
Number of Children Served Directly	225

## National Night Out (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	300
Number of Children Served Directly	300

## Peer-Support Summer Camps (Growing Community Connections)

STRATEGY: PEER-SUPPORT SUMMER CAMPS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	32
Number of Children Served Directly	32
Gender	
Male	8
Female	24
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	1
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	1

## Discovery Kids (Hall County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: DISCOVERY KIDS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	32
Number of Children Served Directly	32

## Parent Connectors (Hall County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY:	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	8

## Ready Rosie (Hall County Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: READY ROSIE	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	354
Number of Children Served Directly	128



## Access to Education (Lift Up Sarpy)

STRATEGY: ACCESS TO EDUCATION	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	12
Number of Children Served Directly	12
Gender	
Male	5
Female	7
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	0
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	1
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	12

## Car Match (Lift Up Sarpy)

STRATEGY: CAR MATCH	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	37
Gender	
Male	8
Female	29
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	37

## Maternity Match (Lift Up Sarpy)

STRATEGY: MATERNITY MATCH	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	6
Number of Children Served Directly	10
Gender	
Male	0
Female	6
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	1
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	1
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	6

## Mental Health (Lift Up Sarpy)

STRATEGY: MENTAL HEALTH	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	22
Gender	
Male	4
Female	18
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	4
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	2



### Mental Health Outreach (Sandhills Community Collaborative)

STRATEGY: MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	14
Number of Children Served Directly	3
Gender	
Male	2
Female	12

### Digital Navigation: Connectivity (Southeast Nebraska Collaborative)

STRATEGY: DIGITAL NAVIGATION: CONNECTIVITY	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	56
Gender	
Male	7
Female	49
Disability	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	8
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	22

### Human Trafficking Awareness (Southeast Nebraska Collaborative)

STRATEGY: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS	2021-2022
Number of Participants Served Directly	63

## Statewide Prevention Strategies

### CAMP CATCH UP

Camp Catch Up (CCU) reunites siblings through events geared towards fun, adventure, and connection. CCU hosts several multi-day, sleepaway camps as well as single overnight and day events across Nebraska each year. Campers are generally between 8-19 and must have at least one biological sibling with a separate foster care placement. Campers do not pay to attend any CCU event and are provided any necessary items to be successful at camp events such as sleeping bags, pillows, camp t-shirts, water bottles, sling bags, masks and other activity items.

As part of Community Response, community collaboratives and Connected Youth Initiative local youth leadership chapters promote CCU events and help siblings access them. Additionally, collaboratives and local youth leadership chapters encourage young people who access CYI programming and services to apply as camp staff and promote the CCU Leaders-in-Training youth development program as another youth leadership opportunity.

During CCU events campers are given the opportunity to participate in healthy risks and are encouraged to cheer each other on and make new friends. Connection is a primary goal of CCU, providing opportunities for campers to gather in genuine ways that are not part of a case plan. Additionally, CCU aims to create opportunities for campers and staff alike around skill and leadership development through camp and training activities. Favorite camper activities include the zipline, pool and gaga ball.



Camp Catch-Up would not be successful without the many dedicated and trained staff at each event, and camp staff are required to attend training prior to camp. Most staff are volunteers that are compensated with a small stipend. Staff are supported to connect with each other and with campers in ways that make each camp event special. This past year, three former campers returned as Leaders-in-Training to support staff and other campers in a leadership role. Leaders-in-Training facilitated the camp store, assisted in the art room, supported the camp photographer, and helped with other duties during camp.

CCU hosted several events across the state during the past evaluation year including:

- Camp Halsey-4H, Halsey NE: July 8-11, 2021
- Omaha Zoo Event, Omaha, NE: July 28-29, 2021
- Camp Solaris, Firth NE: Sept 24-26, 2021
- Camp Fontenelle, Bellevue, NE: June 2-5, 2022

In the past evaluation year, 129 children from 40 different families participated in camp events, and some campers may have participated in multiple events. Campers were evenly split between in terms of gender, and youth from a variety of racial/ethnic groups participated in camp, with youth identifying as Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino each comprising about 25% of campers, respectively. This year, over half of campers were elementary-school/pre-teen aged (ages 7-12), and most continue to access camp in the Eastern part of the state. CCU uses many tools to gather information from campers, staff, and the teams responsible for the well-being of the campers. Evaluations are collected at the end of every camp event and the information gathered is used to inform CCU improvements.

## SUMMARY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH CAMP CATCH UP

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants/Youth Served Directly	<b>129</b>	110
Number of Families Served Indirectly	<b>40</b>	39
Race		
American Indian or Alaska Native	<b>7 (5.4%)</b>	12 (10.9%)
Black or African American	<b>30 (23.3%)</b>	21 (19.1%)
Hispanic or Latino	<b>34 (26.4%)</b>	21 (19.1%)
White	<b>53 (41.1%)</b>	56 (50.9%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	<b>5 (3.9%)</b>	
Gender		
Male	<b>64 (49.6%)</b>	55 (50%)
Female	<b>64 (49.6%)</b>	55 (50%)
Another Gender	<b>1 (&lt;1%)</b>	
Age		
Participants ages 5-6	<b>0</b>	8 (7.3%)
Participants ages 7-12	<b>73 (56.6%)</b>	50 (45.5%)
Participants ages 13-19	<b>56 (43.4%)</b>	52 (47.3%)
Geographic Area		



Number of Youth from Western NE	<b>5 (3.9%)</b>	4 (3.6%)
Number of Youth from Central NE	<b>15 (11.6%)</b>	12 (10.9%)
Number of Youth from Eastern NE	<b>109 (84.5%)</b>	94 (85.5%)

## LEGAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Access to quality legal services has been a reported gap and priority in local communities for some time. Social Services Block Grant/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (SSBG/TANF) is public funding that has provided the opportunity to enter into a relationship with Legal Aid of Nebraska (LAN) to improve access to legal supports. At a local level, Community Response prevention systems can access these services from the statewide organization. The specific referral pathways and implementation are evolving in each area, and this work began in March 2021. During 2022, preventive legal services were provided in Lancaster County through many connections including the local DHHS office, local area agencies, the County Attorney's Office. These preventive legal services will be provided in Scotts Bluff County, Platte / Colfax Counties and the Winnebago Reservation in the coming months.

Between October 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, Legal Aid received requests for assistance from 2,133 unique clients for 2,633 legal issues across the state. When stratified by Legal Aid priority area, most RFAs were received for children and family-related legal issues (52%) followed by income and benefits-related legal issues (21%), housing-related legal issues (19%), and debt and finance-related legal issues (8%).

### SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH LEGAL AID

	<b>2021-2022</b> (10/1/21-3/31/22) *	<b>2020-2021</b> (3/1/21 – 6/30/21) *
Number of Participants Served Directly	<b>1,339</b>	752
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	<b>71 (5%)</b>	34 (4.5%)
Black or African American	<b>309 (23%)</b>	159 (21.1%)
Hispanic or Latino	<b>171 (13%)</b>	99 (13.2%)
White	<b>630 (47%)</b>	388 (51.6%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	<b>49 (4%)</b>	72 (9.6%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	<b>254 (19%)</b>	139 (18.5%)
Female	<b>1,067 (80%)</b>	613 (81.5%)
<b>Age</b>		
Participants ages 0-29	<b>418 (31%)</b>	221 (29.4%)
Participants ages 30-49	<b>796 (60%)</b>	468 (62.2%)
Participants ages 50+	<b>125 (9%)</b>	62 (8.2%)
Participant age unknown/not reported	<b>3 (&lt;1%)</b>	1 (<1%)
Number of Children served Indirectly	<b>3,664</b>	1,865

*\*Due to the timing of reporting, data in the table above only include six months of information from the current evaluation year (October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022). The prior year only includes three months of information (March 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021). Therefore, year to year comparisons should not be made.*



During the reporting period, 1,339 unique client households were provided some level of assistance on 1,674 legal issues, including 908 children and family-related legal issues, 113 debt and finance-related legal issues, 295 housing-related legal issues, and 358 income and benefits-related legal issues.

Approximately 5,910 total people were part of households that received some level of service of which about 62% were children and 38% were adults. Most clients served during this period were between the ages of 20 and 49 years old (89%) with about 37% between the ages of 30 and 39 years old. A majority of clients served were female (80%), about 37% were people of color, and nearly all had incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty line with over a third living in deep poverty with incomes at or below 50% or below of the federal poverty line.

During the reporting period, LAN achieved about a 91% case outcome success rate. LAN successfully realized about \$5.9 million in total economic impact on behalf of clients, including \$2.6 million in increased assets and income and over \$3.2 million in decreased debt during the reporting period. About 61% of the total economic impact achieved came from debt and finance-related cases.



# Appendix C: Core Strategies for Young Adults (Connected Youth Initiative)

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) is a statewide Community Well-Being initiative to create and strengthen equitable outcomes for youth and young adults with experience in public systems and without permanent family and/or community support. At the population level, this is achieved through a collective impact approach that brings together policymakers, community leaders, providers, and young people that co-create an environment that values, prioritizes, and actively supports intervention and prevention. At the individual level, Connected Youth Initiative includes evidence-supported services and best practices, implemented in the community, aimed to increase youth and young adult's protective and promotive factors so that they have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their child(ren) to thrive.

While CYI is part of Nebraska Children's broader Community Well-Being work, several of its strategies occur at a statewide level, and it is focused specifically on youth and young adults. This section of the report provides a bounded description of individual-level strategies implemented through CYI. There are some individual-level and community-level strategies implemented as part of CYI that are reflected elsewhere in this report (i.e., central navigation, support services funding), where data on young adults are included as part of a subset of the broader population. This section of the report only summarizes young adults accessing these strategies. Additionally, there are several strategies for which only young adults are eligible and are included exclusively within this section of the report. Systems-level strategies implemented via CYI are integrated, aligned, or in coordination with Community Well-Being work though there are additional systems-level strategies that occur at the statewide level that are not currently covered within the scope of this report.

Similar to the evaluation approach of the broader Community Well-Being work, CYI uses Results Based Accountability approaches to understand and improve work, finding reasonable and meaningful ways to answer the following three main questions: 1) How much did we do? 2) How well did we do it? 3) Is anyone better off? To this end, CYI has continued to build its capacity to answer these types of questions over the past year in two main ways. First, it replicated its approach last year in collecting and aggregating quantitative output data statewide, allowing CYI to begin to identify trends in how many young adults access certain CYI programming and services (i.e., deeper understanding of "how much"). Second, CYI has started collecting more in-depth outcome data around its coaching component which allows it to better understand the extent to which a portion of young adults with more intensive involvement in CYI experience increases in well-being over time (i.e., deeper understanding of "better off"). See the CYI Coaching subsection of this report for more details.

## Who are the young people that participated in Connected Youth Initiative?

Overall, 3,725 youth and young adults accessed programming and services across all CYI strategies, including those that are available to all individuals as part of the broader Community Well-Being work. This represents an 11.2% increase in the number of young adults accessing programming and services relative to the prior evaluation year. It is important to note that young adults are encouraged to access multiple programming and services according to their own needs, so these data are duplicated.



## OVERALL SUMMARY OF YOUNG ADULTS SERVED THROUGH ALL CYI WORK

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	<b>3,725</b>	3,348
Number of Children Served Directly	<b>1,363*</b>	1,285*
Gender		
Male	<b>1,112 (29.9%)</b>	1,028 (33.1%)
Female	<b>2,344 (62.9%)</b>	2,078 (66.9%)
Another Gender	<b>55 (1.5%)</b>	--
Not Reported	<b>214 (5.7%)</b>	242 (7.2%)
Race/Ethnicity**		
American Indian or Alaska Native	<b>174 (4.7%)</b>	60 (1.9%)
Asian	<b>26 (&lt;1%)</b>	2 (< 1%)
Black or African American	<b>738 (19.8%)</b>	674 (21.5%)
Hispanic or Latino	<b>548 (14.7%)</b>	557 (17.8%)
Multiracial	<b>345 (9.3%)</b>	87 (2.8%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<b>3 (&lt;1%)</b>	4 (< 1%)
White	<b>1,621 (43.5%)</b>	1,607 (51.3%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	<b>39 (1.0%)</b>	131 (4.2%)**
Prefer Not to Say	<b>24 (&lt;1%)</b>	12 (< 1%)
Not Reported	<b>207 (5.6%)</b>	207 (6.3%)
Age		
14-18	<b>888 (23.8%)</b>	734 (24.5%)
19-21	<b>1,124 (30.2%)</b>	1,151 (38.4%)
22+	<b>1,148 (30.8%)</b>	1,114 (37.1%)
Not Reported	<b>565 (15.1%)</b>	349 (10.4%)
Disability		
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	<b>175 (4.7%)</b>	--
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	<b>33 (2.4%)</b>	--

\*The number of children served directly in this table is only based on those served through Central Navigation. Thus, the number of children served is likely a low estimate and may not reflect all children served through other CYI strategies.

\*\*In the 2020-2021 evaluation year, some participants who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Multiracial, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander may be included in the 'Another Race/Ethnicity' category.

## Central Navigation

Ever evolving, Central Navigation is the component of Community Response through which youth and young adults are matched to services. Flexible and supportive funding (called Support Service Funds) are also available when needed, through Central Navigation. Youth and young adults who engage with Central Navigation are referred to as 'participants' in the table below. Participants include youth and young adults with children, as well as young adults and others who may not be a primary caregiver for a child or children. There was a 12.7% increase in the number of young adults served through Central Navigation from the prior year.





## SUMMARY OF YOUNG ADULTS (AGE 25 AND YOUNGER) SERVED THROUGH CENTRAL NAVIGATION

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	<b>1,436</b>	1,274
Number of Children Served Directly	<b>1,363</b>	1,285
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	<b>45 (3.1%)</b>	47 (3.7%)
Asian	<b>12 (&lt;1%)</b>	2 (<1%)
Black or African American	<b>391 (27.2%)</b>	287 (22.6%)
Hispanic or Latino	<b>199 (13.9%)</b>	240 (18.8%)
Multiracial	<b>149 (10.4%)</b>	87 (6.8%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<b>3 (&lt;1%)</b>	4 (<1%)
White	<b>595 (41.4%)</b>	584 (45.8%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	<b>18 (1.3%)</b>	8 (<1%)
Prefer Not to Say	<b>12 (&lt;1%)</b>	12 (<1%)
Not Reported	<b>12 (&lt;1%)</b>	3 (<1%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	<b>383 (26.7%)</b>	344 (27.6%)
Female	<b>1,010 (70.3%)</b>	903 (72.4%)
Another Gender	<b>36 (2.5%)</b>	
Not Reported	<b>7 (&lt;1%)</b>	27 (2.1%)
<b>Age</b>		
14-18	<b>122 (7.8%)</b>	238 (20.9%)
19-21	<b>441 (30.7%)</b>	376 (33.0%)
22+	<b>515 (35.9%)</b>	524 (46.0%)
Not Reported	<b>358 (24.9%)</b>	136 (10.7%)
<b>Disability</b>		
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	<b>175 (12.2%)</b>	--
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	<b>33 (2.4%)</b>	--
<b>Systems Experience*</b>		
Child Welfare	<b>681 (47.4%)</b>	570 (44.7%)
Justice system	<b>186 (13%)</b>	143 (11.2%)
Other (homelessness and/or human trafficking)	<b>375 (26.1%)</b>	364 (28.6%)

\*Systems experience is based on self-report data from young people. Some young adults may have systems experience and not be aware of it or not know it by its formal name. Young adults may also be involved in multiple systems. Therefore, totals may not sum to 100%. Many young adults access other CYI programs and services listed in this report directly, and all young adults (100%) who access these programs and services have systems experience.



## Support Services Funding

Flexible and supportive funding (called Support Service Funds) are available through Central Navigation when needed. These funds are intended to “fill gaps” when other funding sources are not available, or the participant doesn’t meet the criteria for other publicly available programs or resources. There was an 8.6% decrease in the number of requests in the 2021-2022 evaluation year compared to the previous year. There were also slightly fewer funds distributed overall.

### SUPPORT SERVICE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO YOUNG ADULTS: AGE 25 AND YOUNGER

Priority Area	Number of Requests	All Dollars	Percent of Total	Average Dollars per Request
Daily Living	72	\$8,844.08	1.8%	\$122.83
Education	16	\$4,184.93	<1%	\$261.56
Employment	5	\$161.50	<1%	\$32.30
Housing	427	\$283,724.84	58.9%	\$664.46
Mental Health	24	\$10,933.31	2.3%	\$455.55
Other	121	\$35,064.51	7.3%	\$289.79
Parenting	31	\$9,921.72	2.1%	\$320.06
Physical/Dental Health	6	\$965.00	<1%	\$160.83
Transportation	168	\$57,334.01	11.9%	\$341.27
Utilities	250	\$70,919.48	14.7%	\$283.68
<b>2021-2022 Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>\$482,053.38</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$430.40</b>
<i>2020-2021 Total</i>	<i>1,225</i>	<i>\$528,946.68</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$269.43</i>

## Youth Leadership

Aligned with Community Well-Being efforts around Family and Young Adult Engagement, the CYI component of Youth Leadership includes opportunities for young people to engage in leadership and advocacy which is community-led and youth-driven via local youth chapters (e.g., Project Everlast). There are also opportunities for statewide and national leadership such as Legislative Days, LEAD the Summer, Opportunity Youth United (OYA) Community Action Teams, Nebraska Citizen Review Panels, State and National Youth Advisory Boards, national Fellowships, and policy advocacy. The goal of young adult leadership and engagement is to provide youth and young adults with opportunities to build social connections, develop leadership skills and competencies, and advocate for systems change. This is achieved through local Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) youth chapters that serve as a resource for systems-involved youth and young adults to build community. CYI chapters - in partnership with the local CWB Collaborative - help young people find their place in their own community through networking and connections. There are currently nine (9) local youth chapters operating across the state, with one additional chapter being added within the past evaluation year. Youth Advisors within the CWB Collaboratives help young people develop skills to become thriving members of their own community. In return, the community benefits from having a safe place where people gather and find acceptance. Young people receive support and training to find and use their voice. Young people also build their own leadership and advocacy skills to make an impact not only in their community and neighborhood, but also



at a state and national level through various opportunities for advocacy. People gather and find acceptance. Young people receive support and training to find and use their voice. Young people also build their own leadership and advocacy skills to make an impact not only in their community and neighborhood, but also at a state and national level through various opportunities for advocacy.

In the past evaluation year, 207 youth and young adults accessed youth leadership opportunities, with over three-quarters of young adults accessing opportunities through their local chapter. It is important to note that the total number of young adults involved in all activities may contain duplicates as young adults who accessed opportunities at the state level may have accessed opportunities at the local level and vice versa. Additionally, 199 different young leadership activities were offered in the past year, with the vast majority occurring at the local chapter level. In general, the number of young adults accessing activities and the number of activities offered remained relatively the same compared to the past evaluation year, with a slight increase in the number of young adults involved in community-based activities, and a slight decrease in the number of community-based activities offered.

Examples of activities include, but are not limited to:

- Inclusive holiday events for local youth members at nearly all of the CYI chapter locations
- The CommUNITY Connection program in Southeast Nebraska, a youth-led and initiated CYI chapter, helped collect old computers for Motherboard to rebuild for youth and seniors in the community and hosted a pillow drive for the local Through the Eyes of the Child Coalition,
- Young people in Buffalo County are participated in a PhotoVoice project to document their own stories for the community to create change
- A group of young parents from across Nebraska developed and facilitated presentations to other young parents in residential treatment centers about how to access supports and make social connections in their own community.

## SUMMARY OF YOUNG ADULTS SERVED THROUGH YOUTH LEADERSHIP

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Total Number of Young Adults Involved in All Activities (Duplicated)	207	211
Number of Young Adults Involved in Statewide Activities	48	72
Number of Young Adults Involved in Community-Based Leadership Activities	159	139
Total Number of Youth Leadership Activities Offered	199	224
Number of Statewide Youth Leadership Activities Offered	4	4
Number of Community-Based Youth Leadership Activities Offered	195	220

## Financial Education

Opportunity Passport™ (OP), a program developed by the [Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative](https://www.aecf.org/work/child-welfare/jim-casey-youth-opportunities-initiative)<sup>1</sup>, is currently the primary strategy implemented around Financial Education. OP connects young people in Connected Youth Initiative with essential financial opportunities as they transition into adults, equipping young people with tools for planning for the future and saving money for important expenses; while

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aecf.org/work/child-welfare/jim-casey-youth-opportunities-initiative>



learning critical financial skills. OP offers a matched savings (up to 4:1) account to use toward purchasing an asset that gives young people a critical chance to manage finances, interact with mainstream banking systems, and set aside money for purchase assets. Opportunity Passport™ participants in Nebraska have met their savings goals and made asset purchases such as vehicles, mortgage/housing, college tuition, credit repair and reduction, investment, business start-up, and entrepreneurship.

Since CYI began implementing Opportunity Passport™ in 2007, 2,462 young adults have accessed the program. In the past evaluation year alone, 259 young adults enrolled in OP, which is a nearly 50% increase in enrollments compared to the previous year.

Representation across racial/ethnic backgrounds remained relatively similar over the past two years, with a slight increase in young adults who identify as Hispanic or Latino and a slight decrease in young adults who identify as Black or African American when comparing enrollees this year to last year. Similar to other CYI strategies, most young adults participating in OP continue to identify as female (62%). Ages of enrollees also remained relatively stable when comparing to last year, with a little over half of young adults participating in OP in the younger, 14-18 age range for CYI (53%).

As mentioned previously, many young adults access multiple programs and services through CYI. While there often aren't sufficient mechanisms to understand which young adults access multiple programming and services, it is possible to approximate how many young adults co-enroll in Opportunity Passport and are specifically pursuing postsecondary goals through CYI Coaching. Roughly 32% of young adults accessing this specific type of CYI Coaching are also enrolled in Opportunity Passport.



Of the 2,462 young adults who have ever been involved in Opportunity Passport, 44% have successfully made an asset purchase, with many young adults purchasing multiple assets. Vehicles continue to be the most popular asset purchase, making up 43% of all asset purchases since the inception of OP. Participant specific asset purchases are also common, with participant specific asset purchases being the most common type of asset purchase during the past evaluation year alone. Not depicted explicitly in the cumulative table below is that there were 85 participant specific asset purchases in the past year compared to 56 vehicle purchases. Participant specific asset purchases are smaller and less costly on average and are often what keeps young adult participants financially stable and on track for larger savings goals as they navigate short term challenges such as help with paying bills. Thus, participant specific purchases are often an important and necessary part of the program. Nonetheless, Nebraska Children continues to explore ways it can better support young adults as they make more substantial asset purchases. For example, starting in the fall of 2022, OP will now match for vehicle purchases on a 4:1 basis.

Overall, the monetary investment by both young adults and funding partners is substantial, with young adults collectively contributing over \$2.3 million towards asset purchases in the past 15 years. It is important to note that these dollars do not include what young adults who have not yet purchased an



asset have saved. Combined with match dollars from funding partners, the total cumulative investment towards asset purchases since the inception of OP in Nebraska is nearly \$8 million.

## SUMMARY OF YOUNG ADULTS SERVED THROUGH FINANCIAL EDUCATION

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	<b>259</b>	175
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	<b>16 (6.2%)</b>	10 (5.7%)
Black or African American	<b>51 (19.7%)</b>	42 (24%)
Hispanic or Latino	<b>49 (18.9%)</b>	23 (13.1%)
White	<b>123 (47.5%)</b>	83 (47.4%)
Another Race/Ethnicity, including Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, another race/ethnicity, and prefer not to say	<b>20 (7.7%)</b>	17 (9.7%)
Gender		
Male	<b>94 (36.3%)</b>	67 (38.3%)
Female	<b>161 (62.2%)</b>	108 (61.7%)
Another Gender	<b>4 (1.5%)</b>	
Age		
Age 14-18	<b>136 (52.5%)</b>	93 (53.7%)
Age 19-21	<b>87 (33.6%)</b>	55 (31.7%)
Age 22+	<b>36 (13.9%)</b>	25 (14.5%)

## SUMMARY OF ASSET PURCHASES MADE THROUGH OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT™ SINCE 2007

Asset Purchase Category	*Number of Participants	Number of Assets Purchased	Young Adult Contributions	Funding Partner Contributions	Total All Matches
Credit Building	208	388	\$211,391.75	\$408,181.86	\$619,573.61
Education and Training	53	73	\$45,606.62	\$91,783.19	\$137,389.81
Health	15	22	\$10,157.43	\$19,949.36	\$30,106.79
Housing	199	278	\$152,669.80	\$297,673.64	\$450,343.44
Investments	46	59	\$66,925.46	\$145,778.92	\$212,704.38
Microenterprise	2	3	\$2,900.00	\$5,800.00	\$8,700.00
Participant Specific	393	1078	\$410,778.83	\$418,075.42	\$828,854.25
Vehicle	713	750	\$1,421,866.53	\$4,281,426.16	\$5,703,292.69
<b>2007-2022 Total</b>	<b>*1629</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>\$2,322,296.42</b>	<b>\$5,668,668.55</b>	<b>\$7,990,964.97</b>

Unduplicated Number of Participants who made asset purchase: **1092**

% of Participants with Asset Purchased: **44.35%**

\* This total includes the unduplicated Number of Participants for Each Asset Purchase Category. Participants can have multiple Asset Purchase Categories.





## CYI Coaching

CYI Coaching, different from coaching through Community Response, is a goal-oriented, strengths-based and youth-driven case management approach offered in partnership with young people so that they can develop skills and competencies in key domain areas, get connected to supportive services, build socio-emotional competencies, build social connections, and enhance overall protective and promotive factors. Young people are truly in the driver's seat. They determine how often and how much to engage with their coach and coaching is not tied to any specific program. Coaching is available to young people up to age 26 and they can enter/exit as needed throughout their transition to adulthood.

The Connected Youth Initiative coaching component was developed by stacking multiple best practices and services as the foundational framework of the CYI model. Nebraska Children invests in CYI coaches, available across the state, that are cross trained in these best practices that can be tools for coaches to assist young people in whatever goals they develop. Coaches also participate in ongoing technical assistance to maintain fidelity to the CYI coaching model. The CYI coaching model and other CYI components and best practices are used in partnership and in concert with many programmatic strands and strategies within Nebraska's older youth system. For example, coaches are trained to utilize Jobs for the Future's Back on Track™ framework to support young people working towards postsecondary and career outcomes. These coaching data will reflect young people's involvement in coaching in these older youth partnership strategies.



During the past year, CYI adapted its approach in how it evaluates outcomes for young adults who access its programming and services, and CYI Coaching is a vital part of this framework. Rather than understand the general experiences of young adults who may be involved in a multitude of CYI programming and services, CYI opted to assess tailored, more nuanced experiences of young adults who are specifically involved in coaching. Because young adults are typically involved in coaching for sustained periods of time and because there are many best practices that make up the CYI Coaching model, a focus on this group of young adults allows CYI to understand the effectiveness of many CYI practices and how their implementation is experienced through the perspectives of young people while also increasing the likelihood of obtaining information on young adults' experiences over longer periods of time. Therefore, questions of who participated in coaching in addition to questions of coaching quality and the extent to which young adults are experiencing increases in well-being are *all* included within this section. The two latter questions are assessed through the CYI Coaching Survey, which has its own subsection below.

### Who Participated in CYI Coaching?



In the past evaluation year, 1,823 unique individuals accessed CYI Coaching across the state through three contracted coaching providers: Central Plains Center for Services, Child Saving Institute, and Omaha Home for Boys. This represents a slight increase from the previous evaluation year. Additionally, there was a slight increase in the percentage of young adults who are pregnant and/or parenting accessing coaching, and young adults accessed coaching at a slightly younger age—there was an increase of over 50% in the number of young adults ages 14-18 accessing coaching relative to last year. While it is not possible to make direct racial/ethnic comparisons across years due to changes in how these data are collected, CYI Coaching continues to engage young adults with a wide variety of racial and ethnic identities. For example, during the past year young adults identifying as Black/African American and Hispanic or Latino each comprise about 16% of the coaching population, respectively, and young adults identifying as multiracial comprise about 10% of the coaching population. Additionally, CYI Coaching engaged 113 young adults who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native within the past year, or about 6% of the total coaching population.

## SUMMARY OF YOUNG ADULTS SERVED THROUGH CYI COACHING

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Participants Served Directly	1,823	1,688
Number of Participants who are Parents	414 (22.7%)	258 (15.3%)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	113 (6.2%)	
Asian	14 (<1%)	
Black or African American	296 (16.2%)	345 (20.4%)
Hispanic or Latino	300 (16.5%)	294 (17.4%)
Multiracial	196 (10.8%)	
White	903 (49.5%)	940 (55.9%)
Another Race/Ethnicity**	1 (<1%)	109 (6.5%)
Gender		
Male	635 (34.8%)	617 (36.6%)
Female	1,173 (64.3%)	1,067 (63.2%)
Another Gender*	15 (<1%)	+
Age		
Age 14-18	630 (34.6%)	403 (23.9%)
Age 19-21	596 (32.7%)	720 (42.7%)
Age 22+	597 (32.7%)	565 (33.5%)

\* Includes trans woman or man, non-binary, and prefer not to say

+Number masked to protect confidentiality due to low numbers.

\*\*Prior to the 2021-2022 evaluation year, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Multiracial, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander were included in the "Another Race" category. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander is still included in "another race/ethnicity" for the 2021-22 evaluation year.

### CYI Coaching Survey Overview

As mentioned above, CYI started a new approach to assess how young adults experience success when involved in coaching specifically. In early 2021, Nebraska Children began co-designing the CYI Coaching Survey in partnership with providers and young adults, and this survey is currently the main instrument CYI currently uses to understand young adult outcomes. More specifically, it is primarily used to assess





the extent to which young adults accessing CYI Coaching, a core component of CYI, experience increases in well-being over time. Before detailing some of the initial results CYI has gathered via this instrument in subsequent sections, this section will describe the components of the instrument itself and some of the ways in which it operationalizes success and well-being.

Well-being has been defined in many ways, and the CYI Coaching Survey deliberately includes constructs that illuminate the extent to which young adults are better able to navigate life’s challenges, understand what they are going through during adolescence, experience healing, and how they have made progress toward their own definition of success. For example, rather than understanding whether a young adult has stable housing at a given point in time or knows how to pay rent, the CYI Coaching Survey assesses whether young adults can persist and find solutions to problems they may face (such as housing challenges), and how much progress a young adult has made towards their own housing goals according to their current, unique situation. A detailed description of all the constructs measured on the CYI Coaching Survey is included in the following table:

### CONSTRUCTS INCLUDED IN CYI COACHING SURVEY

Survey Construct	Description
Youth Thrive™ Protective and Promotive Factors	Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, measures presence, strength and growth of the following factors that advance healthy development and well-being and mitigate the impacts of trauma and negative life experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Resilience</li> <li>○ Social Connections</li> <li>○ Knowledge of Adolescent Development</li> <li>○ Concrete Supports in Times of Need</li> <li>○ Cognitive and Social-Emotional Competence</li> </ul>
Hope	Developed by C.R. Snyder, measures current state of hope according to both agency thinking and pathway thinking
Coaching Relationship	Questions self-designed by NCFE, provider partners, and young adults, intended to assess the quality of the relationship between a young adult and their CYI coach defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presence of trust and mutual respect</li> <li>○ Youth-led</li> <li>○ Comfortable and affirming of young adult’s identity</li> </ul>
Life Milestones	Questions self-designed by NCFE, provider partners, and young adults, intended to assess young adults’ self-perceived progress and comfortability seeking help from a variety of sources in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Housing</i></li> <li>○ <i>Transportation</i></li> <li>○ <i>Employment</i></li> <li>○ <i>Education</i></li> <li>○ <i>Health and Wellness</i></li> <li>○ <i>Social Support</i></li> <li>○ <i>Parenting and Family Planning</i></li> <li>○ <i>Financial Well-Being</i></li> <li>○ <i>Advocating for and Supporting Peers</i></li> </ul>
Achievements, Advice, and Additional Help	Open-ended questions self-designed by NCFE, provider partners, and young adults that allow young adults to share their perspective in own words and provide detailed examples of other survey constructs

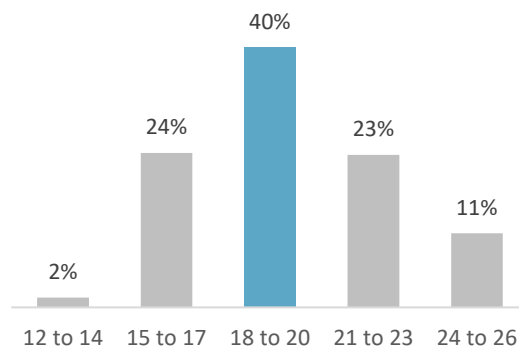
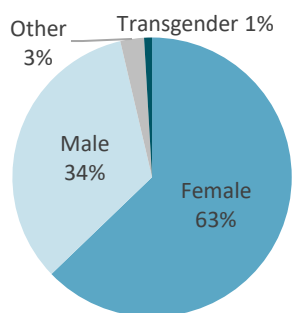
Currently, young adults accessing coaching take a survey when they first begin coaching (i.e., a baseline survey) and then take follow-up surveys during set administration periods in April and October of each year thereafter. To date, there have been two administrations of the CYI Coaching Survey: a pilot administration in October 2021 and a follow-up administration in April 2022. Young adults first accessing coaching also began taking baseline surveys in April 2022 and are doing so on an ongoing basis. The sections that follow include select results from young adults who responded to the April 2022 administration only, and/or results for a smaller subset of young adults who responded to both the October 2021 pilot administration and the April 2022 administration. The latter represents the initial longitudinal results from the survey that CYI has to date. It is important to note that these longitudinal results are limited in that they compare changes in young adult experiences during a time period where they had consistent access to coaching both before and during the time young adults took a survey. In other words, the October 2021 pilot administration does not represent a “true baseline” where young adults responding to the survey had little to no coaching experience. While this impacts the ability to conclude the extent to which coaching may have contributed to any observed changes, it nonetheless provides a glimpse into how young adults’ experiences may have changed over a six-month period.

### Who Participated in the CYI Coaching Survey?

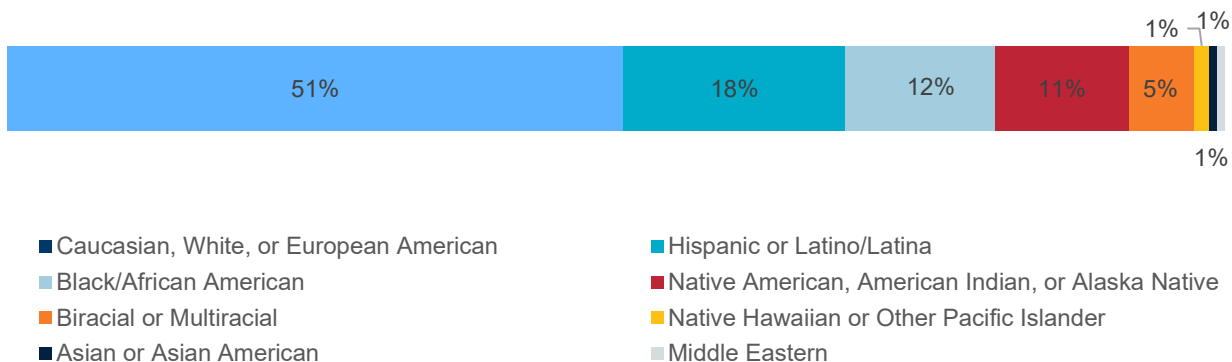
Young adults involved in coaching at Central Plains Center for Services, Child Saving Institute, and Omaha Home for Boys were eligible to take a CYI Coaching Survey during the October 2021 and April 2022 administrations. The demographic characteristics of everyone who participated in the CYI Coaching Survey administration during April 2022 are included below. Though it is not possible to make direct comparisons due to differences in how demographics are collected and who is eligible to take a survey in a given time period, it appears survey respondents for the April 2022 administration seem generally representative of the young adults accessing CYI Coaching in terms of race/ethnicity, gender, and age. The overall response rate for the April 2022 survey administration is approximately 59%. Young adults eligible to take a survey during April and October follow-up periods include any young adult who had an active coaching case in the six months preceding the survey administration, and who has an active case for at least two months by the time a survey is taken and/or whatever each organization chooses as an indicator that services have been established.

### Demographic Characteristics of Young Adults who responded to April 2022 Coaching Survey

Nearly two-thirds of respondents identify as **Female (n=328)**. **40% of respondents were 18-20 (n=333)**.



## Young adults of color represented about half of all survey respondents (n=318)

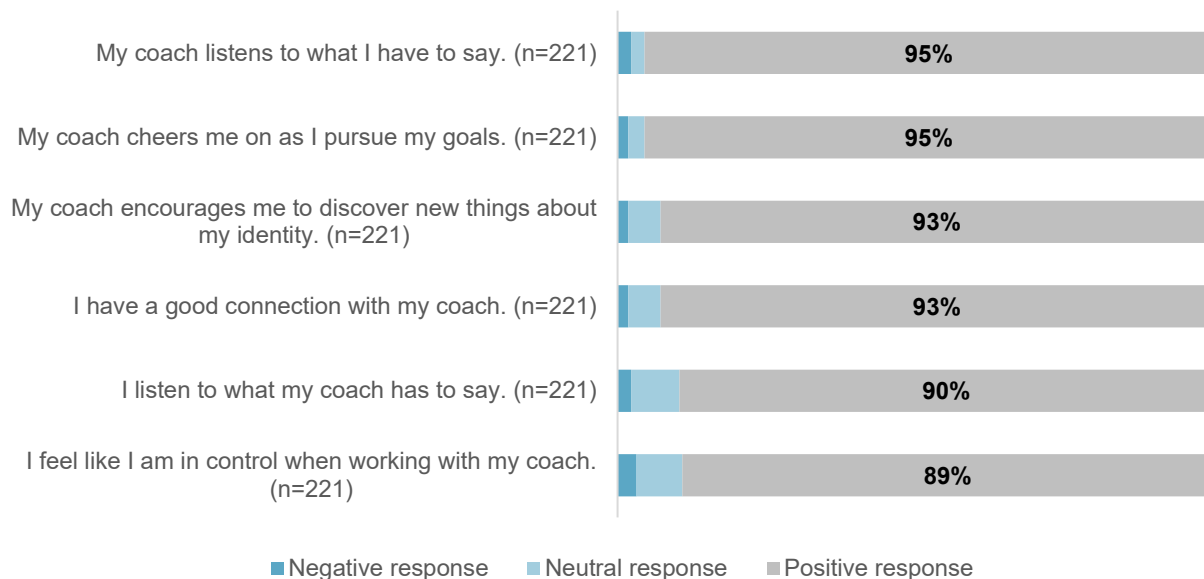


## What is the Quality of the CYI Coaching Relationship?

Young adults, provider partners, and Nebraska Children agreed that the relationship between a coach and young adult is one of the most salient factors in understanding the quality of the CYI Coaching experience. While specific goals and challenges that young adults navigate with their coach will likely evolve, there was agreement that the coaching relationship should have several enduring characteristics including the presence of mutual trust and respect, youth leading the coaching process, and the relationship being comfortable an affirming of a young adult’s identities. Six questions on the CYI Coaching Survey are an operationalization of these characteristics, and the most current results of all young adults who took an April 2022 survey are included below.

Overall, survey respondents gave positive responses to all coaching relationship questions, with nearly or over 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with each statement. These findings suggest that coaching relationships are mostly of high quality as defined by the characteristics mentioned in the paragraph above.

## Most respondents gave positive responses\* to the coaching relationship questions.



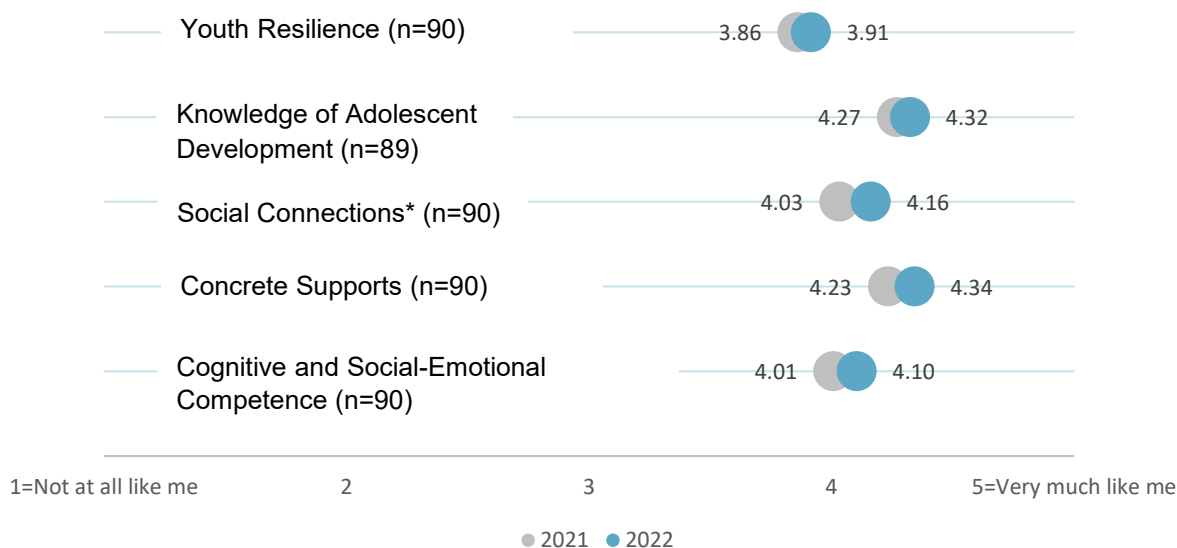
\*A “Positive Response” includes young adults who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement on a five-point Likert scale

## To What Extent do Young Adults Involved in CYI Coaching Experience Increased Well-Being?

### Protective and Promotive Factors

Aligning with broader Community Well-Being work, the presence of protective and promotive factors (PPF) is a vital way CYI understands the well-being of young adults. Sufficient data were available to assess whether young adults who responded to both the October 2021 pilot administration and the April 2022 administration of the CYI Coaching Survey reported increases in PPFs over time. In general, respondents had a high presence of all PPFs across both surveys. More specifically, between the 2021 and 2022 survey administrations, mean scores increased for all PPF scales with a *statistically significant* increase for the Social Connections protective and promotive factor. These findings suggest a relatively strong presence of PPFs among survey respondents overall, with the likelihood that there was a meaningful increase over the six-month time period in Social Connections in particular. In reflecting upon these initial results with provider partners, they underscored the importance of the increase in Social Connections, given it is an area of priority for coaching.

**Young adults reported increases across all promotive and protective factors between surveys, with a statistically significant in Social Connections.**



\*denotes statistical significance where  $p < .05$ .

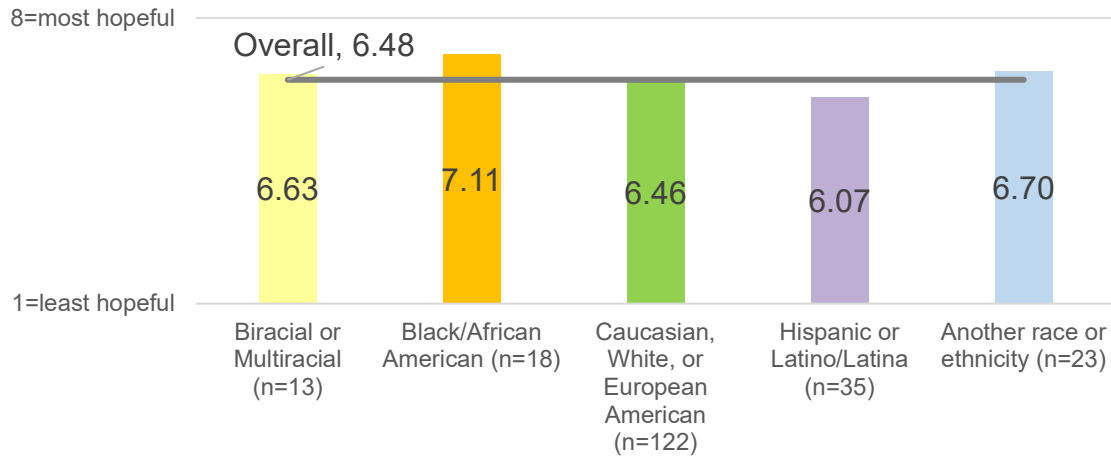
### Other Initial Results (April 2022 Survey Administration Only)

In addition to protective and promotive factors, responses to other questions on the CYI Coaching Survey suggest young adults involved in coaching are generally doing well. The following results include all young adults who responded to the April 2022 survey administration and begin to demonstrate the breadth of information CYI will begin to monitor and use as more survey responses are gathered over time. Results are disaggregated by various demographic subgroups of young adults to also get a sense of how experiences of CYI and CYI Coaching might differ among young adults. There were several *statistically significant* results between subgroups of young adults, which are notated below accordingly.



## Hope

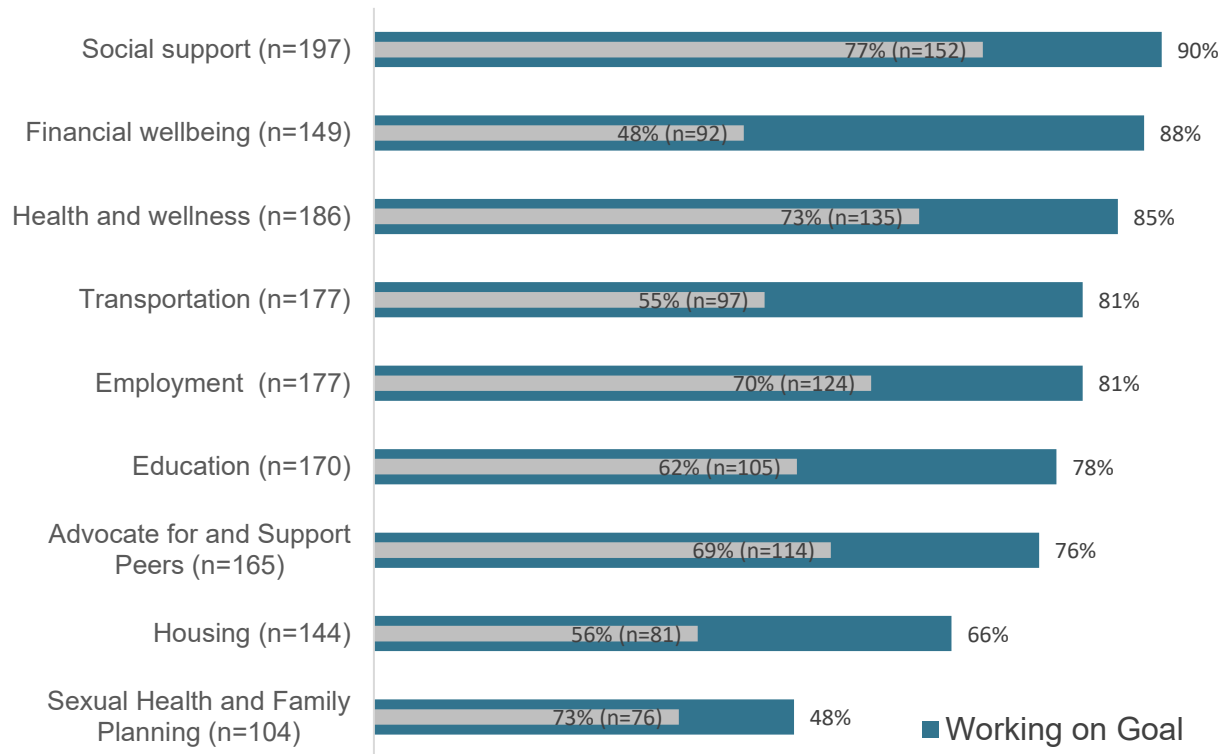
Respondents to the April 2022 CYI Coaching Survey were generally hopeful, with no statistically significant differences between racial and ethnic groups.



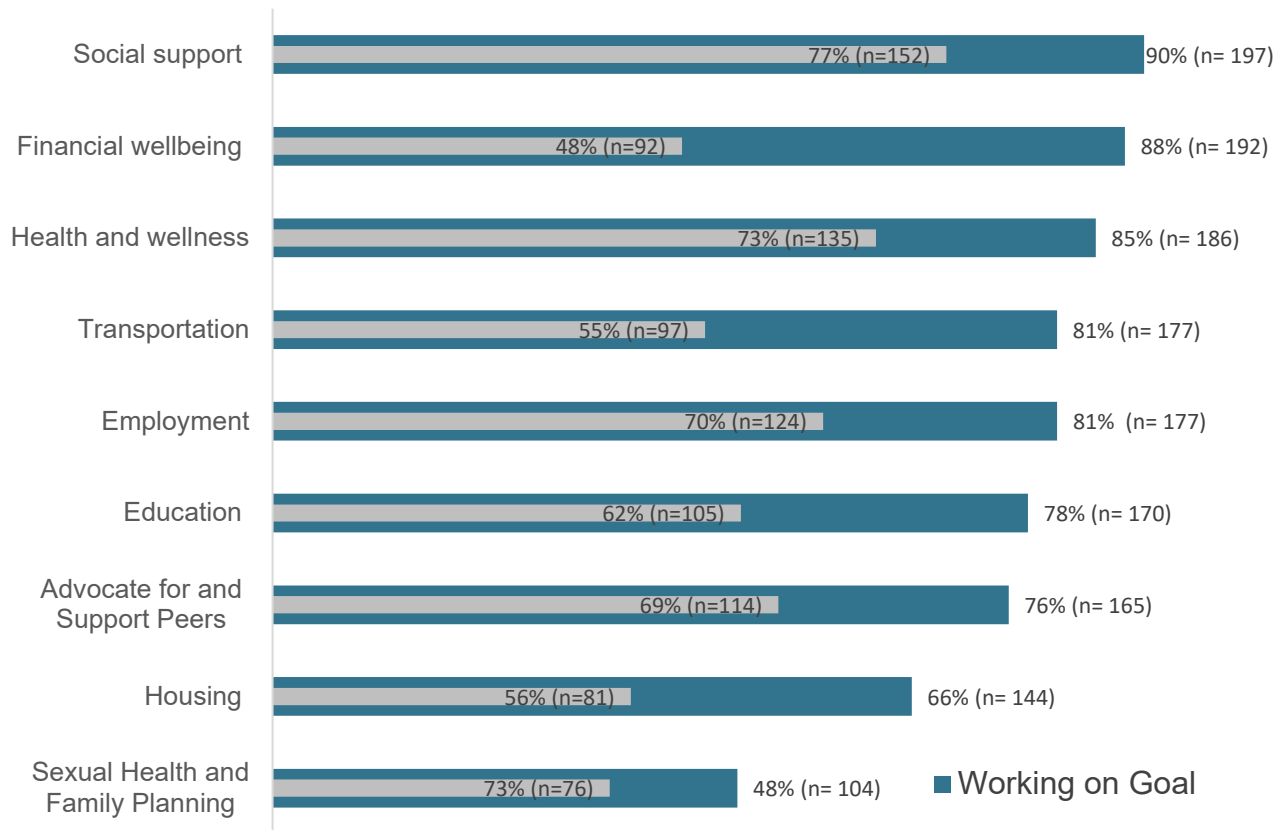
## Life Milestones

Among the 218 respondents who completed this portion of the April 2022 survey, social support, financial well being, and health & wellness were the life milestone areas where the most young adults indicated they were working on a goal (at least 85% of respondents). While financial well-being was an area where most young adults indicated they were working on a goal, only 48% of respondents indicated they ROCKED IT/are making great progress in this area. In contrast, while sexual health and family planning is one of the areas where the fewest young adults indicated they had a goal they were working on, most young adults working on a goal in this area gave themselves a high assessment of progress (73%).

90% of participants indicated working on a **Social Support Goal** - 77% of whom **Rocked it!**

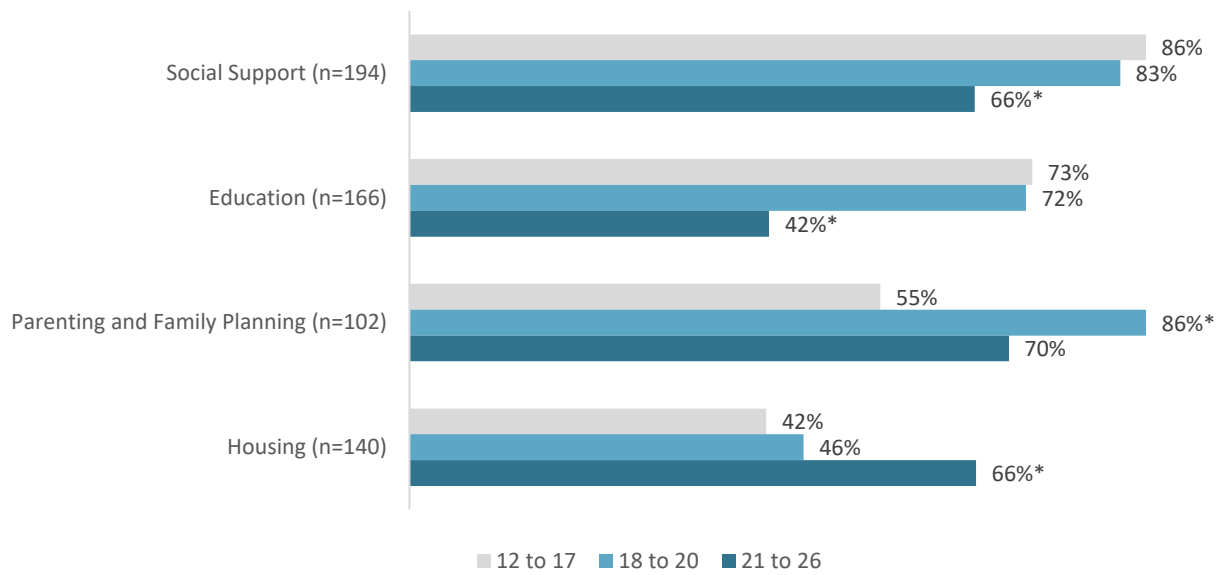


90% of participants indicated working on a **Social Support Goal** - 77% of whom Rocked it!



Among survey respondents who said they were working on the milestones depicted below, younger age groups (12 to 17 and 18-20) were *significantly* more likely to say they've "ROCKED IT"/made great progress within the social support and education milestones while the 21 to 26 age group was *significantly* more likely to say they've "ROCKED IT"/made great progress within the housing milestone. More respondents within the 18-20 age group said they've "ROCKED IT"/made great progress within the parenting and family planning milestone compared to the two other age groups.





\*denotes statistical significance where  $p < .05$ . Statistical significance means that there is a high level of confidence that results did not occur due to chance.

Among those working on the housing milestone, females were *significantly* more likely compared to males to say they've “ROCKED IT”/made great progress compared to their male peers. †

### Percentage of survey respondents who indicated they “ROCKED IT”/made great progress in the area of Housing by Gender



\*denotes statistical significance where  $p < .05$ . Statistical significance means that there is a high level of confidence that results did not occur due to chance.

†Individuals who selected transgender, gender fluid, prefer not to answer, or other for their gender were not included in the subgroup analysis of milestone progress due to small sample size (n=5).

### Accomplishments and Advice

In addition to standardized survey questions, young adults, provider partners, and Nebraska Children agreed it was important for survey respondents to be able to express their successes and experiences with coaching in their own words. The remainder of this section briefly summarizes results from open-ended survey questions from the April 2022 administration. A total of 191 young adults who completed the April 2022 administration of the CYI Coaching Survey provided a response to the open-ended question asking them to



share what they are most proud of. Although responses could be categorized into many different themes, **nearly one-third of responses were related to education.**

Theme	% responses (n=191)	Examples of responses – “I’m most proud of...”
Success related to school or education	31%	<i>“Being the first in my family to go to college.”</i>
		<i>“My education and good grades.”</i>
Family or parenting-related	15%	<i>“Taking care of my family.”</i>
		<i>“Raising my baby.”</i>
Securing or keeping employment	14%	<i>“I got a job and am working on saving money.”</i>
		<i>“Being able to keep my job.”</i>

A total of 175 young adults who completed the April 2022 administration of the CYI Coaching Survey provided a response to the open-ended question asking them to share any advice they would give to other young people who are working with a coach. Although responses could be categorized into several different themes, **the most common themes were: listen to/trust your coach, utilize your coach for help, assurance that coaches are available to help.**

Theme	% responses (n=175)	Examples of advice given:
Listen to your coach; trust them and/or the process	30%	<i>“Trust your coach! They care and have the resources you need.”</i>
		<i>“Listen to your coach and take their advice!”</i>
Utilize your coach (e.g., ask them for help, ask them questions)	18%	<i>“Ask your coach if you have any questions. They are there to help you be successful and help you achieve your goals.”</i>
		<i>“Take every opportunity your coach presents to you.”</i>
Assurance that coaches are there to help	16%	<i>“Your coach is always trying to help.”</i>
		<i>“Your coach is always there to help you, give you advice, and help you find programs you might need. They care about you.”</i>

## Connected Youth Initiative Conclusion

The previous sections highlight both areas for celebration and areas for growth. This section summarizes some of these findings across strategies and provides other areas for future consideration based on these findings.

From an output perspective, there were slight increases in the number of young adults accessing various CYI programming and services compared to the previous evaluation year, or numbers remained relatively stable overall. Young adults accessing Opportunity Passport had the greatest percentage increase at about 50% whereas any other increases were around 10% or lower. The increase in Opportunity Passport enrollees may be due to previous pandemic-related pauses in enrollment. Otherwise, given there were no specific strategies

aimed at expanding access to any of these programming and services, the relative stability in the number of young adults involved in CYI is unsurprising

Demographic subgroups of young adults accessing CYI strategies had some slight fluctuations, but also remained relatively stable compared to the previous evaluation year. CYI continues to provide access to programming and services to young adults from a variety of racial/ethnic backgrounds, with people of color from multiple backgrounds comprising at least half of young adults accessing programming and services for which these data are tracked. A couple areas where there appear to be larger increases in demographic subgroups relative to last year are young adults who are parents accessing coaching, and those younger in age (14-18 years) accessing coaching.

The gender of those who access CYI continues to skew female, with this subgroup comprising around two-thirds of participants in any given programming or service. Thus, finding ways to engage more male-identifying young adults in CYI continues to be a call to action. Moreover, it is also recommended that CYI further investigate the intersectionality between gender and racial/ethnic identities of their participants to highlight additional gaps around who is and who is not gaining access to CYI.

One area where there were slightly fewer young adults accessing a program or service relative to the previous evaluation year is Support Services Funding. There was an 8.6% decrease in funding requests made during the most recent evaluation year compared to the previous year. It is possible this decrease may be partially due to the availability of other pandemic-related support funding for young people. For example, during this past evaluation year CYI made over 300 direct cash payments to young people via the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Digging into this area further and understanding how and under what circumstances young adults meet financial needs may be worth further inquiry. For instance, what other factors may influence the number of Support Services Fund requests young adults are making? Is there a relationship between the number of alternative funding sources available and the number of requests being made? Are there access challenges that need to be addressed, or are young adults engaging in strategies to address needs in other ways besides utilizing funding resources? How might all these factors contribute to young adults' conceptualizations of success around financial well-being?



From an outcome perspective, the initial CYI Coaching Survey results show early signs of positive achievements that are worth celebrating. In general, quantitative findings revealed positive ratings or progress, even if there are occasionally slight differences between subgroups. In particular, young adults positively rating their relationship with their coach with consistency is especially worth highlighting, given the importance of this relationship relative to coaching outcomes. Furthermore, many young adults chose to



include their open-ended responses through the survey, especially regarding progress that makes them proud. This provides lots of unique voices that illustrates the richness of what young adults have achieved.

However, it is important to remember that CYI Coaching Survey results to date are still nascent in nature. Current longitudinal data provides only a six-month snapshot, and only includes a smaller group of young adults who were involved in coaching both times they completed a survey. Additional analyses are needed to determine if and how the positive changes observed hold over time, and what changes might exist from a “true baseline.” Furthermore, while a 59% response rate is generally considered fair, there are many young adults whose voices are not currently being heard, and it may be that these missing perspectives have different experiences from those who responded to the survey.

Overall, the findings outlined above provide many areas for further consideration. Besides some of the considerations above, CYI has identified several additional related questions it would also like to pursue further:

- How does CYI define “saturation” in terms of engaging a sufficient number of young adults in all its strategies, and what might equitable saturation look like?
- How do the demographics of CYI Coaching Survey respondents change (or not change) as young adults take multiple surveys? How do survey results differ between subgroups of young people over time? What might these findings mean for both evaluation and practice?
- How might young adults define what “better off” looks like in other areas of CYI and what can and should CYI measure in partnership with young adults to support ongoing learning and improvement?
- How does CYI set all aspects of its individual-level strategies in the greater context of CYI system-level strategies (e.g., broader policy and practice changes, changing power dynamics amongst partners, adjusting flows of financial and informational resources, etc.)? How might CYI better understand the extent to which CYI and partners are effectively influencing change and the relationship between these changes and individual-level outcomes?

As CYI considers how it might begin to investigate the questions above, it will continue its commitment to do so alongside with young people and partners, with the ultimate goal of continuing to shape and improve CYI so that all young adults have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their child(ren) to thrive.



# Appendix D: Local Evaluation Capacity Building

Each year, collaboratives work with their local evaluation point of contact at UNMC MMI to build local evaluation capacity by identifying a unique local evaluation question related to their individual collaborative. These local questions ranged from evaluating the effectiveness of a local strategy (such as the Community Connections program in the Southeast Nebraska Collaborative) to assessing readiness of the collaborative to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (as in the Panhandle Partnership). Nine of the 17 collaboratives identified a local question and executed the evaluation in partnership with UNMC MMI.

The table below summarizes these community-identified questions, and provides details on the evaluation approach (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed), whether the question(s) were implementation or outcome related, which implementation strategy the question(s) were related to, and the level at which the majority of outcomes are focused (individual or systems).

**Community-Identified Evaluation Questions Summary Table**

Community Collaborative	Evaluation Question	Evaluation Approach/Design and Methods	Type of Evaluation Question	Implementation Strategy	Level at Which Majority of Outcomes are Focused
<b>Community and Family Partnership</b>	What is the impact of the Attendance Monitoring Program in the Columbus Public School system?	Quantitative: Attendance data analysis	Outcome	Local Prevention Strategies	Individual
<b>DCCR</b>	In order to gain a better understanding of all the evaluation-related activities currently in progress in Douglas County, a landscape of all the evaluation-related activities was completed.	Quantitative: Process Evaluation	Implementation	Local Prevention Strategies	Systems
<b>Families 1<sup>st</sup> Partnership</b>	How do community partners view Families 1 <sup>st</sup> Partnership?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems
<b>Growing Community Connections (Dakota County)</b>	How are foreign-born community members engaged in the process of identifying needs	Qualitative: Process Evaluation	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems



	and developing solutions?				
<b>Lancaster County</b>	If you had five million dollars to invest in our community every year, what programs or resources would you enhance or develop to really make a difference in the lives of children and families in an effort to reduce or prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems
<b>Lift Up Sarpy</b>	What resources are available to senior citizens in Sarpy county, and what are the current needs/gaps in services for this population?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Central Navigation	Individual
<b>Panhandle Partnership</b>	What trainings would providers like to see offered in the partnership?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems
<b>Southeast Nebraska Collaborative</b>	What is the community's understanding of the purpose/role of the Southeast Nebraska Collaborative and its partnerships?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems
<b>York County Health Coalition</b>	Is there interest from private funders in York County to diversify funding and provide more opportunities to residents?	Qualitative: Survey	Implementation	Systems Building	Systems



# Appendix E: Evidence-Based Ratings for Select Programs and Practices

## Purpose

The following appendix outlines the evidence criteria and methodology used to assign evidence ratings to programs and practices typically included within the 12-month Annual Community Well-Being Report. The purpose in providing evidence ratings is to recognize the research and evaluation efforts employed by programs to improve practice and outcomes. Nebraska Children’s Research and Evaluation Team engaged Joyce Schmeekle, PhD, with Schmeekle Research to collaborative on the identification of evidence-based ratings for select programs and practices.

It is important to keep in mind that the goal is not for programs and practices to ‘advance’ in their evidence rating as this is neither appropriate nor possible for less traditional program models. Receiving a lower evidence rating is not a reflection of the value that a program or practice provides to a community.

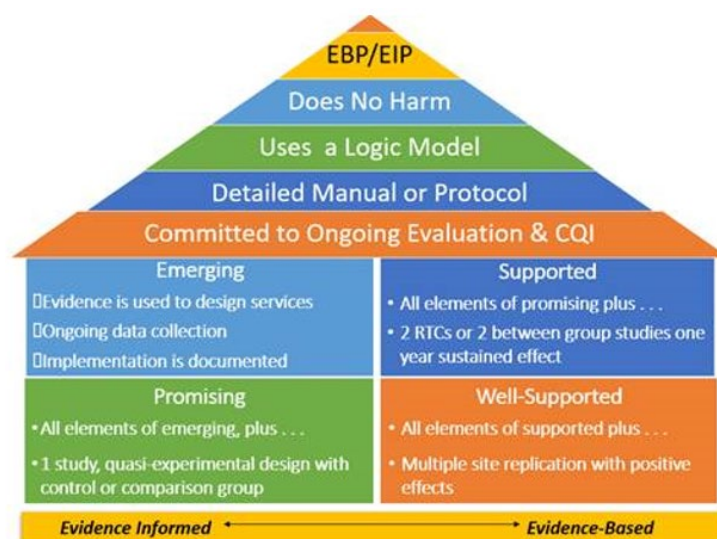
## Evidence Rating Criteria

The criteria used to determine the evidence ratings was developed by the Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service (FRIENDS) on behalf of the National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), a federally mandated Training and Technical Assistance Provider for CBCAP lead agencies. <sup>1</sup> Nebraska Children chose FRIENDS’ CBCAP “House of Evidence” criteria (see Figure 1, right) to guide the evidence rating process due to receiving CBCAP funding and FRIENDS’ technical assistance, along with the mission alignment between CBCAP and Nebraska Children.

## Key Terms

Throughout this appendix, ‘programs’ and ‘practices’ are used interchangeably. As defined by FRIENDS, practices are individualized interventions, assessments, services, or resources that can be implemented on their own. A program is defined as a set of practices or a curriculum that is grouped as a whole. The term ‘initiative’, commonly used across Nebraska Children, most closely resembles the broader definition of ‘program’ used by FRIENDS.

**Figure 1.** FRIENDS’ CBCAP House of Evidence Rating Levels <sup>1</sup>





## Evidence-Based Ratings

Using the evidence criteria outlined in Figure 1, the evaluation efforts of programs and practices were identified and used to determine the evidence ratings in Table 1 below. Each evidence rating level builds upon the previous level or levels. In addition, all programs and practices have the following four prerequisite standards: 1) does no harm, 2) uses a logic model, 3) has a detailed manual or protocol, and 4) is committed to ongoing evaluation and CQI.

The programs and practices included in Table 1 are those that are implemented by multiple community collaboratives or at the statewide level. This list does not include those programs and practices implemented by a single community collaborative to meet community-specific needs.

Community Response, which has been included in the evidence-based ratings tables of previous reports, has evolved to be understood as all the programs and practices making up the prevention system in a community. The core programs and practices of Community Response, including Central Navigation, Support Services Funds, and Coaching, have been identified individually below to ensure all components of Community Response are captured. These components are available to the general population through Nebraska Children’s Community Well-Being work and have also been tailored to focus on youth and young adults through the Connected Youth Initiative (CYI).

The components that make up CYI, Nebraska Children’s older youth portfolio of work, have been grouped in Table 1 rather than separated out into the initiative’s core programs and practices. CYI has remained grouped to be able to recognize the quasi-experimental study that evaluated CYI as a whole and assign an evidence rating based on all the evaluation efforts employed by CYI. Additionally, the evaluation of CYI was specific to the youth and young adult population and findings cannot be generalized to similar programs and practices that target a broader population.

Some components of Nebraska Children programs and practices, such as case management or collaborative goal setting, may be supported by national studies. While Nebraska Children may have used such studies to inform the development of programs and practices, only the evaluation activities that assess programs or practices in their *entirety* are considered when determining evidence ratings. National evidence is considered for those programs or practices implemented with fidelity to a standardized program model.

## Community Well-Being Evidence-Based Ratings for Select Programs and Practices

Programs and Practices	Evidence Rating Level	Community(ies) Implementing the Program or Practice	Additional Source(s) of Supporting Evidence
Central Navigation	Level I: Emerging	All CWB Communities	
Support Services Funds	Level I: Emerging	All CWB Communities	
Coaching	Level I: Emerging	All CWB Communities	
Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI)	Level I: Emerging	Community & Family Partnership, Fremont Family Coalition, Growing Community Connections, Norfolk Family Coalition	Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse. (2021). Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) Model. <a href="https://eiclearinghouse.org/piwi/model/">https://eiclearinghouse.org/piwi/model/</a>

<p>*Connected Youth Initiative (CYI), which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Navigation</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Support Services Funds</li> <li>• Opportunity Passport</li> <li>• Youth Leadership and Engagement</li> </ul>	<p>Level II: Promising</p>	<p>All CWB Communities</p>	<p>WestEd. (2020). Evaluation of the Connected Youth Initiative: Final Report. <a href="https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CYI_Final_Report_FINAL-1.pdf">https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CYI_Final_Report_FINAL-1.pdf</a></p> <p>The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse. (2018). Opportunity Passport. <a href="https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/opportunity-passport-sup-tm-sup/">https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/opportunity-passport-sup-tm-sup/</a></p>
<p>Circle of Security Parenting (COSP)</p>	<p>Level II: Promising</p>	<p>Families 1<sup>st</sup> Partnership, Growing Community Connections, Hall County Community Collaborative, Panhandle Partnership</p>	<p><a href="https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/circle-of-security-parenting/">The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse</a>. (2018). Circle of Security Parenting (COS-P). <a href="https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/circle-of-security-parenting/">https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/circle-of-security-parenting/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/circle-of-security-model/research/">Circle of Security International</a>. (2021). Research. <a href="https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/circle-of-security-model/research/">https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/circle-of-security-model/research/</a></p>
<p>Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)</p>	<p>Level IV: Well-Supported</p>	<p>Community &amp; Family Partnership, Families 1<sup>st</sup> Partnership, Fremont Family Coalition, Growing Community Connections, Norfolk Family Coalition</p>	<p><a href="https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/parent-child-interaction-therapy/">The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse</a>. (2021). Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). <a href="https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/parent-child-interaction-therapy/">https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/parent-child-interaction-therapy/</a></p>

*\*The components of CYI have remained grouped to be able to recognize all the evaluation efforts employed by CYI in the determination of an evidence rating. This includes the [evaluation by WestEd](#), which evaluated CYI as a whole using a quasi-experimental design with comparison group. Additionally, CYI received a moderate evidence rating from the Corporation for National and Community Service based on a different set of evidence criteria than those found in FRIENDS' CBCAP "House of Evidence".*



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