**Collective Community Fundraising and Sustainability Model**

Lincoln Connected Youth Collaborative (LCYC) members have regularly identified funding limitations throughout the older youth system in the Lincoln community. In addition, team members have created, implemented, and recognized programming methods that require little to no funding in order to adapt to the funding climate. In the midst of these difficulties pure partnerships have been formed to facilitate these adaptations and best serve older youth, and open communication has taken place regarding competition for funding and identifying true community needs. In light of all of this, the older youth system in is made Lincoln is made up of partners that may be ready for a formal collective community approach as a part of their fund development plans. This is the catalyst for the creation of this model.

**Missions of the model:**

* Bridge top-level funding conversations (funders, administration), middle-level funding conversations (grant writers, fund development), and bottom-level funding conversations (direct service and program staff) to facilitate clear communication on needs in the community and direct progress towards sustainability of programming.
* Pursue fundraising opportunities outside of traditional grant-seeking efforts
* Connect the Transition Team’s efforts to pursue efficiency in programming/systems to efficient means of evaluation and fundraising
* Advocate and raise awareness regarding the needs of unconnected youth in Lincoln.

**5 Core Components**

1. **Community fundraising/awareness**

* Collective planning of LCYC fundraising/awareness events and additional targeted fundraising events per areas of specialization
* Collective reward through funds raised at events and ongoing donation solicitation; to be managed as a LCYC Fund housed at a neutral location such as the Lincoln Community Foundation.
* Creation of awareness materials
* Work with Friends of Nebraska Children-Lincoln chapter being started by Sen. Morfeld.

1. **Sustainability Workgroup**
   * Program staff and other agency representatives, grant writers, and fund development
   * Funding availability research/sharing
   * Identify opportunities to partner on proposals/new programming
   * Strategize programming methods/adaptations to reduce funding needs
2. **Evaluation Workgroup**
   * Program staff and other agency representatives, data and evaluation staff
   * Evaluation methods research/sharing; and identification of strengths and gaps in current evaluation procedures
   * Team member training as needed on evidence-based practice, connecting evaluation to sustainability/funding, etc.
3. **Advocacy Workgroup**

* Advocacy on continuous shortages and policy/system changes needed
* Connect to broader community structures such as Prosper Lincoln and Community Response
* Connection to Funders Group, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.

1. **Data/Mapping Workgroup**

* Fund mapping-mapping of financial resources for older youth work in Lincoln
  + Access models for fund mapping and/or hire consultant
* Annual Needs Statement including fund mapping and program data