



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

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

## Grants

The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF Board) administers grants for research-based strategies to promote safe and healthy children. In the past year, the NCAPF Board provided funding for strategies that targeted universal populations, high-risk populations and high-need individuals. Three primary strategies were implemented: Parents Interacting with Infants (universal), 3-5-7 Permanency Quest (high-risk), and Parent Child Interaction Therapy (high-need individual). All strategies were implemented by community collaborations working toward a common goal of increasing protective factors that have been shown to reduce child abuse and neglect: parental resilience, concrete supports, social connections, knowledge of child development, nurturing and attachment, and children's social-emotional competence. Combined, the strategies reached children from the ages of infancy through youth. A total of 359 children in 301 families participated in multiple sessions of these strategies.

## Key Finding

Parents who participated in PIWI with their children made significant improvements in parental resilience and concrete supports and also made smaller improvements in all other areas measured by the Protective Factors Survey.

## Strategy for Universal Populations – parents with infants and young children ages 0-2

### Parents Interacting With Infants – PIWI

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

Four community collaborations to promote child well-being in Greater Nebraska are supporting PIWI implementation

- Dakota County Connections: based in South Sioux City;
- Zero2Eight in Platte and Colfax counties, based in Columbus;
- West Central Partnership-Children and Families Alliance, North Platte; and
- Fremont Family Coalition, Fremont.

237 children in 301 families participated in PIWI groups or home-based services for an average of eight weeks.

## Strategy for High-Risk Populations—children ages 5-17 that have experienced trauma and family disruption

### 3-5-7 Permanency Quest

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

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

Twenty-seven children in 21 families participated in 3-5-7.

### Key Finding

Parent stress was significantly reduced after six months of services as measured by the Parenting Stress Index.

Parents who participated in 3-5-7 made improvements in resilience and nurturing and attachment as measured by the Protective Factors Survey.

## Key Finding

Parents who participated in PCIT made significant improvements in resilience and knowledge of child development. Nurturing and attachment and social connections were also improved as measured by the Protective Factors Survey.

Parents improved specific parenting skills 82 to 96 percent according to the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory and Dyadic Parenting Interaction Coding System.

## Strategy for High-Need Individuals – parents and children ages 2-7 with challenging behaviors

### Parent Child Interaction Therapy – PCIT

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

Over 20 therapists have been trained to provide Parent Child Interaction Therapy in Greater Nebraska through the support of the NCAPF board.

Four Child Well-Being collaborations in Greater Nebraska are supporting PCIT implementation:

- Dakota County Connections: based in South Sioux City;
- Zero2Eight in Platte and Colfax counties, based in Columbus;
- West Central Partnership-Children and Families Alliance, North Platte; and
- Fremont Family Coalition, Fremont.

Seventy-two children in 72 families participated in PCIT for an average of 10 weeks.

Child behavior problems decreased by 46 percent and parent concerns about their child's conduct decreased by 35 percent in an average of eight Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) sessions, according to the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory.

## Parent Engagement and Leadership

Community Cafés are an evidence-informed approach to parent engagement. The approach fosters the development of parents' ability to strengthen their own families and to improve their community's practices and policies.

Community Cafés are designed, planned, and implemented by parents working with community partners. The Cafés utilize the research-based Protective Factors that all families need to thrive. Local organizations or collaborations support parents in hosting meaningful Cafés and help develop additional channels for parent engagement.

Four communities—Dodge County, Grand Island, Lancaster County, and Omaha—began training and implementation of Community Cafés in the past year. Using the approach developed in Washington state, a total of 24 cafés with 308 participants were held in these communities. Café themes included: safe neighborhoods, knowledge of child development, concrete supports, social connections, family challenges, summer activities, bullying, and school readiness.

## Public Awareness and Local Child Abuse Prevention Councils

BringUpNebraska.org was launched in 2015 as part of a new public awareness initiative coordinated with the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign and the Protective Factors.

Local child abuse prevention councils across the state distributed and/or displayed over 13,000 public awareness and education resources and 17,000 pinwheels through a prevention store for Bring Up Nebraska. This store was awarded the 2015 Prism Award by the Lincoln Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

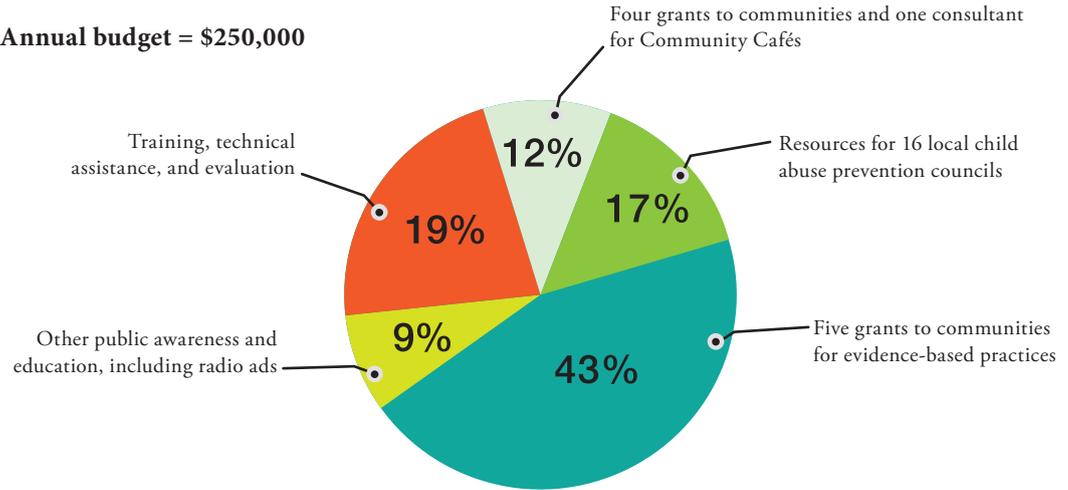
Statewide radio messaging included child abuse prevention spots 12 times per week, each week in April, at about 38 locally based rural radio stations through the Nebraska Radio Network. NET (statewide) and KIOS (Omaha) sponsored live-read messages for Bring Up Nebraska. During the summer, the Nebraska Broadcasters Association ran 30-second messages from Governor Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore that emphasized helping Nebraska grow through community support for strong families.

An April Child Abuse Prevention Month event included radio and TV coverage and was held in Lincoln on April 25th. Over 300 parents and children participated. Speakers at the event included Courtney Phillips, newly appointed CEO of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and Brandon Verzal, NCAPF Board Chair. Omaha also hosted an April event on the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge.



## Financials

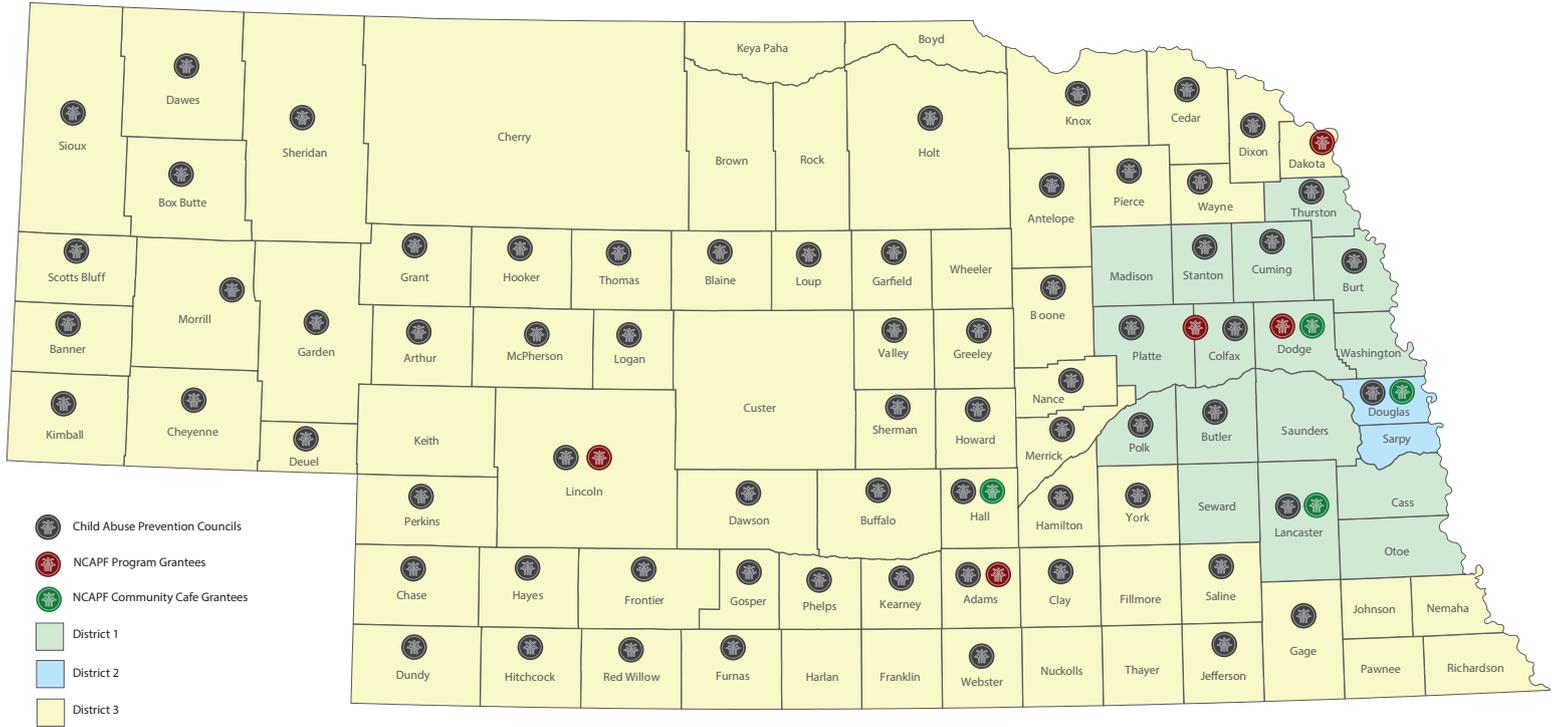
**Annual budget = \$250,000**



## Training and Technical Assistance

Representatives from the four NCAPF Board grantees involved in Collective Impact participated in two peer learning sessions with other Nebraska communities before the Prevention Summit in November 2014. Community grantees also participated in monthly technical assistance and peer learning calls sponsored by Nebraska Children.

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



# Board of Directors 2014-2015

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

## District I

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

## District II

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

## District III

Dr. Todd Bartee, Kearney  
Trisha Crandall, Burwell

## Member-At-Large

Dr. Mary Fran Flood, Lincoln

## Personnel Required by Statute

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

Report prepared by Nebraska Children