

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 31, 2024

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund (NCAPF) Annual Report

Dear Governor Pillen and Mr. Metzler:

The following information is provided as required by Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-1905(3) regarding an annual report of receipts and disbursements of funds, including the recipients, the nature of the program funded, the dollar amount awarded, and the percentage of the total annually available funds the grant represents. The NCAPF Board is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, with technical assistance and support provided by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation/Prevention Child Abuse Nebraska Chapter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alyssa L. Bish".

Alyssa Bish, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Children and Family Services

Attachment

Division of Children and Family Services

Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund (NCAPF) Annual Report

December 2024

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-1905

Summary

Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-1905 requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to report annually to the Legislature information regarding the expenditures and programs funded by the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (Board). This report covers State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 expenditures.

The Board was created in 1986 by the Nebraska Legislature to provide prevention information, education, and resources to parents, professionals, and the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. The Board is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Receipts and Disbursements

Nebraska birth certificate fees support the Board as revenue, as well as investment income and state general funds. The Board also has carryover funds that are invested and partially allocated during each SFY in addition to the annual revenue amount. Due to the variable nature of the revenue and investments, the Board also maintains a 10-year financial projection and an annual funding plan with consideration of multi-year investments and prior-year carryover. Generally, the Board allocates between \$350,000 and \$500,000 each year depending on proposals and budget allowed. Each year, the 10-year projection is reviewed by the Board and DHHS finance staff to make any necessary adjustments. If necessary, the Board may decrease future allocations to ensure resources are not depleted.

During the SFY 2024, a total of \$472,593.83 was allocated of the available funds. Due to several factors, there were unspent funds in this SFY. During this period, grantees reported barriers with staffing levels and delays in the creation of infrastructure within new programming that impacted their ability to provide services as planned and within the timeframe allotted. Quarterly monitoring of spending levels continues as well as outreach and technical assistance to the grantees to ensure funds can be liquidated or repurposed. Proportionate to the total allocation, fewer funds were left unspent this SFY than prior year. Of the \$472,593.83 allocated, \$86,550.62 remains unspent as of the end of this fiscal year's liquidation dates. Unspent funds will be carried over to the next year and reallocated.

Program Details and Allocations

The table on page four provides information on the recipients, the nature of the program funded, the dollar amount awarded, the percentage of the allocated funds the grant represents, and unspent dollars from the allotted amount. Details regarding specific programs are provided below.

Program Summaries

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

PCIT is an empirically supported treatment for children ages two to seven and their parents that focuses on improving the parent-child relationship. It is often used to treat clinically significant disruptive behaviors in children. In PCIT, parents learn specific skills to establish a nurturing and secure relationship with their child while increasing their child's pro-social behavior and decreasing negative behavior.

Circle of Security Parenting (COSP)

COSP is an eight-week program that builds strong relationships between parent and child. It helps parents learn how to respond to their child's needs in a way that reduces their stress and enhances healthy attachment. Families participating in COSP have often experienced trauma or other factors that can disrupt attachment security.

Community Response Expansion

Community Response is a system of supportive services for children and families to prevent unnecessary entry into the child welfare system or other high-end systems of care. Participating communities develop and coordinate an array of local resources to determine eligibility criteria, identify families, administer, and share screening and assessments, and provide short-term support to qualified families. Typically, communities develop a Community Response Team with designated point persons that may be called Connectors or Navigators.

Community Cafes

Community Cafes are a series of connected conversations hosted by parents working in partnership with local organizations. Cafes strengthen families and promote parent leadership to create more equitable and mutually informed systems. In recent years, parent hosts have created new virtual approaches in place of in-person gatherings. Parent hosts from many Cafe teams participated in virtual sessions for shared learning and support while addressing the handling of difficult topics.

Training and Technical Assistance

All grantees received support for initial training, implementation, and evaluation in NCAPF-supported strategies, including COSP, PCIT, and Community Cafes. Additional support was provided for the development of community systems to support and use these strategies, including, but not limited to, Community Well-Being and Community Response. An annual evaluation is required that includes the outcomes of all funded projects.

Prenatal Plans of Safe Care (POSC)

Plans of Safe Care are required under the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to identify and provide a plan of care for infants who are affected by substance abuse during pregnancy. Nebraska has moved this effort further into a prevention scope through a few pilot sites that are focused on this work during the prenatal period to engage mothers and their medical/treatment providers prior to the birth of the baby. The goal is to address the substance use earlier and develop plans proactively that can be in place rather than waiting until the birth of the baby. The Prenatal Plans of Safe Care work focuses on engaging community partners, treatment, and medical providers in a coordinated effort to support the mother and family.

Mental Health/Interpreter Training

Training is provided to interpreters who work within the child welfare, mental health, and substance abuse field. This training provides awareness, skills, and trauma-informed responses to support interpreters in providing quality services in crisis-oriented situations.

Program Allocations for SFY 2024

Program/Service	Grantee Community/Name	Amount of Allocation	Dates of Contract	% of Total Allocation	Amount Unspent
<i>Community-based Prevention Programs and Services</i>					
Youth and Families Thrive Training	Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition	\$23,100	July – June	5%	\$10,939.52
Circle of Security Parenting (COSP)	NEAEYC (multiple sites)	\$60,000	July – June	13%	\$934.19
Community Response Expansion (CR)	Columbus Area United Way	\$25,000	July – June	5%	\$7,686.26
Community Response Expansion (CR)	Norfolk Family Coalition	\$25,000	July – June	5%	\$5.18
Community Response Expansion (CR)	Fremont Family Coalition	\$60,000	October – June	13%	\$140.86
Prenatal Plans of Safe Care	United Way of South-Central Nebraska	\$29,990.69	July – June	6%	\$16,149.55

Program/Service	Grantee Community/Name	Amount of Allocation	Dates of Contract	% of Total Allocation	Amount Unspent
Prenatal Plans of Safe Care	Families 1 st Partnership	\$17,000	July – June	4%	\$9,213.82
Mental Health/ Interpreter Training	Project Harmony (statewide)	\$4,341.98	October – June	1%	\$2,392.98
Totals of Community-based Prevention Programs		\$244,432.67			\$47,462.36
<i>Public Awareness</i>					
Radio and social media ads	Learfield (statewide)	\$40,000	October - June	8%	\$0
Prevention Store	Abante (statewide)	\$42,000	October – June	9%	\$1,057.04
Totals of Public Awareness		\$82,000			\$1,057.04
<i>Parent and Youth Engagement and Leadership for Prevention</i>					
Community Cafes	-Auburn Public School	\$11,142.41	July – June	2%	\$2,291.07
	-Grand Island Public School	\$11,098.75	July – June	2%	\$5,600.25
	-Crete Public School	\$12,000	July – June	3%	\$3,497.94
	-The BRIDGE	\$26,920	Oct – June	5%	\$21,350.54
Totals of Parent/Youth Engagement Programming		\$61,161.16			\$32,739.80
<i>Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation</i>					
Administrative Support	Nebraska Children & Families Foundation	\$85,000	July – June	18%	\$5,291.42
Total		\$472,593.83			\$86,550.62