

A Look Back on

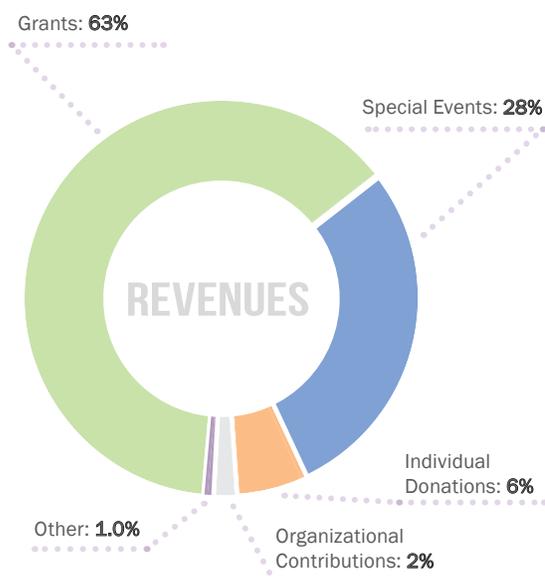
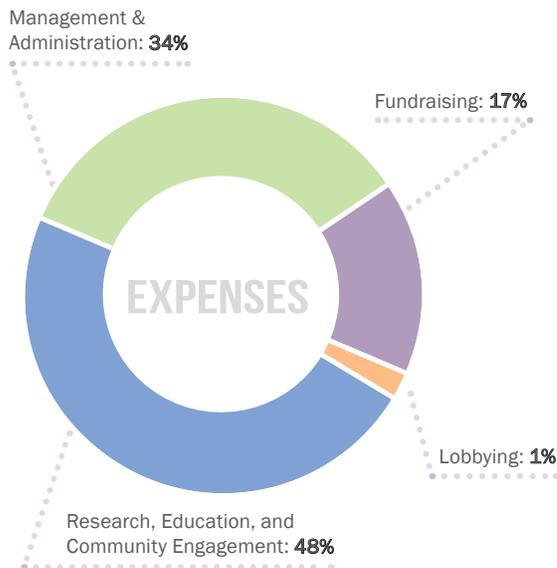
STEPS FORWARD

for Nebraska Kids

2017 IMPACT REPORT



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

EXPENSES

Research, Education, & Community Engagement.....	\$241,069
Management & Administration.....	\$173,100
Fundraising.....	\$83,380
Lobbying.....	\$7,130
Total.....	\$504,679

REVENUES

Grants.....	\$403,000
Special Events.....	\$180,918
Individual Donations.....	\$37,121
Organizational Contributions	\$13,831
Other.....	\$1,843
Total.....	\$636,713

RESEARCH

The year 2017 marked a turning point for how we share our data with stakeholders and the public. In January, we launched the *Kids Count NInteractive* data site along with the 24th annual *Kids Count in Nebraska Report*. All the data contained in the hard copy of *Kids Count* is now also available on NInteractive in a searchable, easy to navigate tool optimized for use on the go. NInteractive would not have been possible without generous support from The Cooper Foundation and Woods Charitable Fund. This year's commentary focused on the challenges and opportunities for Nebraska's emerging adults.

We also published six issue briefs on child welfare and juvenile justice issues affecting Nebraska children and families. One issue brief, *Left Behind by Justice: Children of Incarcerated Parents in Nebraska*, highlights the devastating impact parental incarceration has on children and families. The report includes findings from a number of community conversations held in Nebraska with formerly incarcerated parents and their loved ones to better understand the ripple effects of our justice system on kids.

All issue briefs are available online at www.voicesforchildren.com/issue-briefs.

ADVOCACY

We successfully supported and opposed several policies impacting Nebraska kids at the Legislature this year:

- Supported the extension of the Alternative Response pilot project in the child welfare system, aimed at keeping families together, which allows lower risk families to receive services outside of the traditional system.
- Helped pass a new law allowing more schools and nonprofits to access grant funds to expand access to food in low-income areas through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
- Supported successful juvenile justice reforms which established predictable rewards and consequences for youth on probation and expedited the process for appealing cases when transferred from juvenile to adult court.
- Supported the establishment of clear policies for pregnant and parenting teens who are working to complete their education.
- Helped successfully oppose harmful legislation that would have permitted more regressive school discipline practices like physical restraint.

Visit our website, www.voicesforchildren.com, for the latest legislative updates as well as our Pro-Kid Policy Plan and State Policy Agenda, updated annually.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We co-hosted two film screenings and panel discussions addressing criminal justice issues. We showed *Echoes of Incarceration*, a documentary produced by youth who have experienced parental incarceration, and *They Call Us Monsters*, a film that follows incarcerated youth. Both films were followed by panel discussions with Voices for Children staff, local experts, and advocates.

In September, we celebrated our 30th birthday with allies, friends, and supporters. The 30th Birthday Gala included live entertainment, silent and live auctions, and a moving tribute to our 30-year history. Thanks to the Dodge Family and our friends, we raised almost \$180,000 to support our work on behalf of kids.

In 2017, we held our second Nebraska Youth Justice Fellowship Program with young leaders at Boys Town. The bi-weekly, semester-long program helps youth currently or recently involved in the Nebraska juvenile justice system learn how to use their experience and voice to inform stakeholders about how to better serve young people with similar backgrounds. The fellows discussed major issues in juvenile justice and learned about policy advocacy and how personal experience can drive systems change. The program was capped off with a final event where fellows presented proposals for policy change to peers, mentors, and community leaders. Most young adults with challenging backgrounds cannot afford to work for free, so we offer this opportunity to explore a potential career path while also providing a modest stipend for participants.