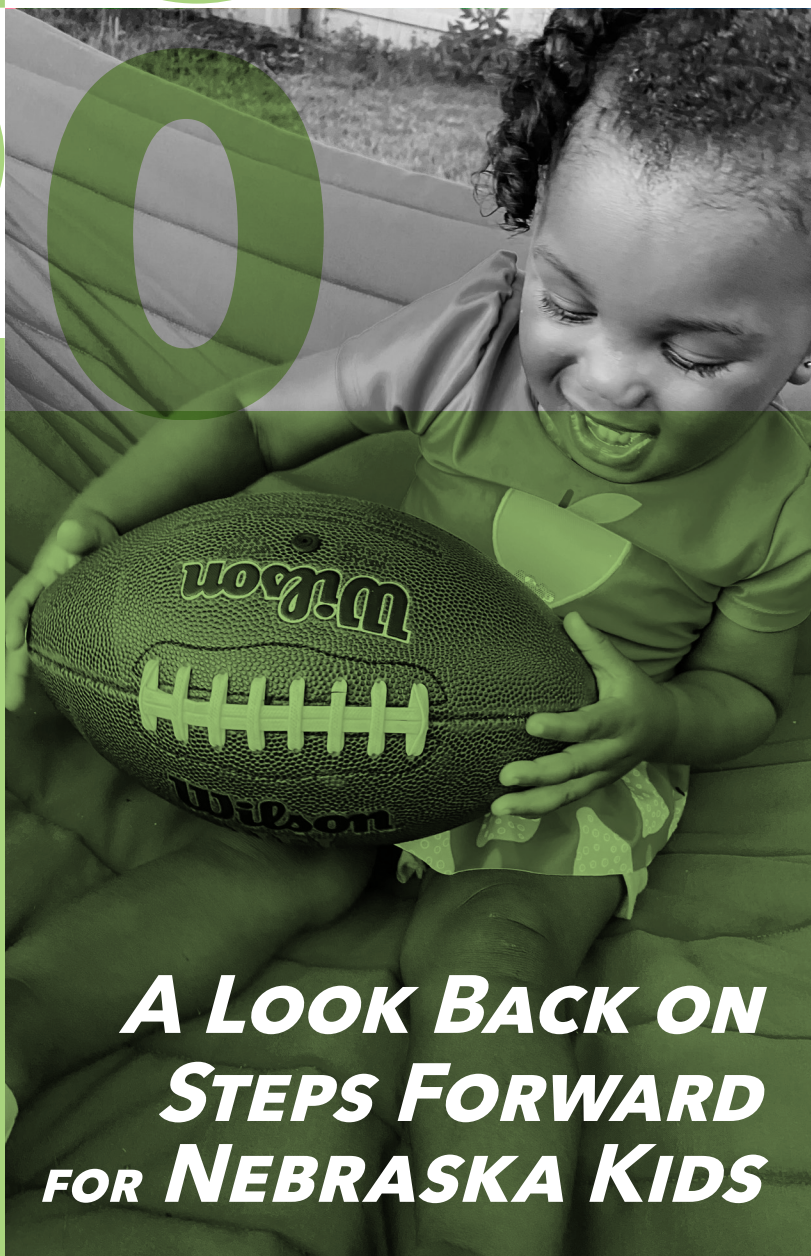


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VOICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEBRASKA
IMPACT REPORT



***A LOOK BACK ON
STEPS FORWARD
FOR NEBRASKA KIDS***

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN:

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

To state that 2020 was a challenging year is an understatement. As we dealt with a devastating global pandemic, inequities were brought to the surface. Families and communities across the state faced a range of challenges like increased job, food and housing insecurity. Schools and businesses closed as parents struggled to support online education. The summer saw increased attention to racial inequities after the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police. All of these things changed us as individuals, communities and organizations. As we start to emerge from the ongoing pandemic, we are reflecting on what was accomplished in spite of these challenges and on how to strengthen our work on behalf of kids with the lessons of a tumultuous year in mind.

We are so thankful for all of you who continued to support our work and support children throughout this challenging time. Because of that ongoing support, we are able to continue working to address the needs of kids and families in spite of these challenges.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we know that not all our kids are ok. The kids and families who were struggling prior to the pandemic will continue to face challenges. We remain committed to working to ensure that the needs of kids and families are being prioritized by our state's leaders. We will continue reflecting on racial inequities and our place in a system that continues to disadvantage kids and families of color.

We hope that you and your loved ones are finding your own way forward and that you will continue to join us in creating a better and more equitable future for Nebraska kids.

Best regards,

Aubrey Mancuso

Aubrey Mancuso, MSW
Executive Director



RESEARCH

In 2020, we published the 27th annual Kids Count in Nebraska Report. This publication serves as a trusted resource for Nebraska researchers, service providers, and educators and provides pertinent information on the well-being of all Nebraska children in areas of health, child welfare, education, economic stability, and juvenile justice. A special commentary highlighted early data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child well-being.

In addition, we created the COVID-19 data hub on our website to look at how child and family well-being was being impacted by the pandemic on an ongoing basis. You can view the data hub here: <https://voicesforchildren.com/datahub/>

Finally, we released several reports during the pandemic showing how Nebraska could better use federal funds to meet the growing needs of kids and families across the state.

All the data contained in the hard copy of Kids Count is also available on NERactive - a searchable, easy to navigate online tool optimized for use on the go. You can explore NERactive by visiting www.kidscountnebraska.com.

64 FAMILIES CHANGED TRACK FROM ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE TO TRADITIONAL RESPONSE AFTER AN AVERAGE 26 DAYS OF INVOLVEMENT.

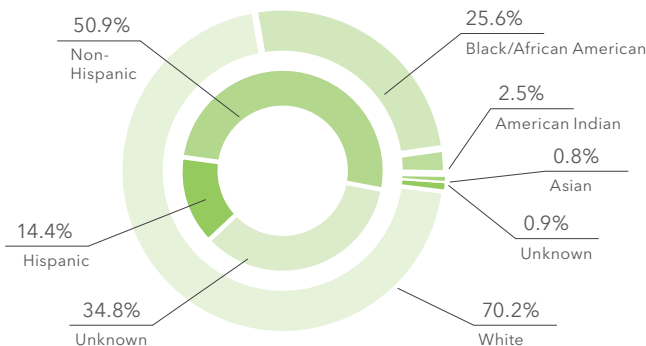
66.9% OF THOSE ENROLLED IN MEDICAID/CHIP ARE CHILDREN, BUT CHILDREN ONLY MAKE UP 27% OF MEDICAID COSTS.

APPROXIMATELY 84,348 HOUSEHOLDS IN NEBRASKA WERE FOOD-INSECURE IN 2019, A DECREASE FROM 88,350 IN 2018.



21.8% OF NEBRASKANS WERE OF COLOR IN 2019. THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 38% BY 2050.

YOUTH ARRESTS BY RACE (2019)



POLICY VICTORIES

Thank you to all who stood with us to urge our policymakers to put Nebraska kids first. Here's a recap of some of our pro-kid victories in 2020:



JUVENILE JUSTICE:

New limits on the use of solitary confinement for youth in our justice system

Years of research have demonstrated the damaging impact that solitary confinement has on a young person whose brain is still developing. We worked to help advocate for new limits on the use of this damaging practice for young people.

ECONOMIC STABILITY:

An end to predatory payday lending

For years, we heard about the damaging impact that predatory payday loans have had on the financial stability of families and communities. We were proud to help lead a coalition that advanced a ballot initiative to cap rates on predatory payday loans at 36%. This measure was overwhelmingly adopted by voters and will save Nebraska families \$28 million annually in fees alone.

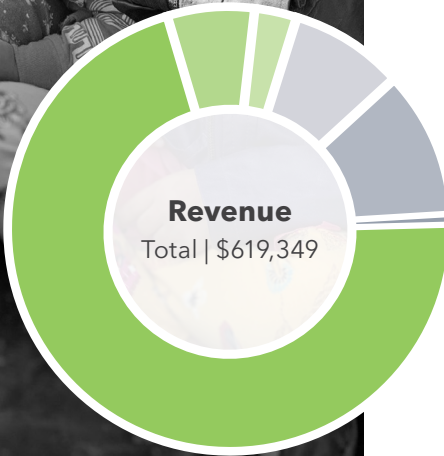


EDUCATION:

Continued to successfully oppose harmful changes to school discipline policies

We know that the impact of harsh and exclusionary school disproportionately impact educational opportunities for kids of color and kids with disabilities. In 2020, we continued working to ensure that more of this harmful approach was not adopted under Nebraska law.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

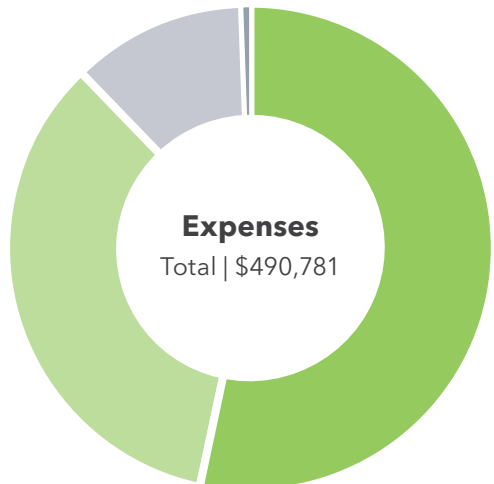


REVENUE

Grants	\$439,000.00
Special Events	\$40,692.00
Organization Contributions	\$17,814.00
Individual Donations	\$52,425.00
PPP loan	\$67,600.00
Other	\$1,818.00
<hr/>	
Total Revenue	\$619,349.00

EXPENSES

Research, Education, & Community Engagement	\$262,336.54
Management & Administration	\$169,111.93
Fundraising	\$56,712.84
Lobbying	\$2,619.68
<hr/>	
Total Revenue	\$490,780.99



*Not included in chart.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THIS YEAR'S EVENTS

This year we welcomed Samantha Chavez Jurado as our Community Engagement Specialist. In spite of the pandemic that made connecting with community members more difficult, Samantha hosted Coffee and Conversation events to ensure we are as accessible and transparent in our efforts to the community. These virtual events highlighted topics relating to racial justice, data and research, policy, and Voices' pro kid policy plan.

Over the summer Voices for Children also had the opportunity to hear directly from community members in a safe, and meaningful way. Through the racial justice campaign, Voices for Children was able to connect with approximately 8,000 community members in less than three months. The purpose of the Racial Justice Text campaign is to learn more about the issues community members care most about and connect with them to find out how Voices can support the advocacy of community members.

Going forward, we plan to continue to build on our community engagement efforts to ensure that our laws and policies align with the needs and priorities of communities.





MENT



VOTE KIDS

In the 2020 election, we reformatted our “Vote Kids” project to be more youth-led. Vote Kids is intended to encourage individuals running for office to think about the needs of children and educate voters on how candidates plan to work on behalf of kids if elected. Young people helped develop the questions for the candidate questionnaire to ask about the issues they care about that will impact their futures.

STAY CONNECTED



@voicesNE



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The *advoKID alert* is an email newsletter that contains updates about legislative action, news, and analysis from Voices for Children.