

A LOOK BACK ON STEPS FORWARD FOR NEBRASKA KIDS



2022 IMPACT REPORT

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

As we reflect on the past year, 2022 brought new challenges for children and families in Nebraska.

We continued to see rising needs for food and housing assistance, disruptions in education, and ongoing disparities in health outcomes, particularly for communities of color. The political climate has felt ever more polarized. Last year also was one of internal transition for Voices for Children in Nebraska, as we brought on a new executive director and team of advocates.

Though last year was fraught with challenges, we have emerged a strong as ever and remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for equitable opportunities for all children in our state. Our vision for Nebraska is one where every child has all they need to lead a healthy, secure and fulfilling life.

To achieve this vision, we must prioritize the needs of our communities and rely on the values that guide us — integrity, information, equity, courage and collaboration.

In 2022, through rigorous research, policy analysis and community engagement, we continued to identify solutions and partner with students, parents and allies to push for change.

None of this would have been possible without your support.

From attending events, reaching out to you legislator, sharing messages on social media and contributing financially, you played an essential role in making a real difference for



kids in Nebraska.

We couldn't do this work without this community of supporters, who share our vision of a Nebraska where every child has what they need to thrive.

We are deeply grateful for your trust and investment in this important work. ***We want to assure you that every "like" and every dollar makes a difference!***

As we look to the future, we know that the work of Voices for Children will only become more vital. There is much work to be done to ensure that every child in our state has a chance to succeed, regardless of their zip code or family background.

Children's health, well-being and safety aren't political footballs; no matter the hot-button fight of the moment, we will be there to keep these needs at the forefront of Nebraska policy.

With your continued support, we will remain an independent voice for kids and a trusted resource for families and communities across the state. Thank you again for your support as we navigated new challenges in 2022.

Together, we will continue to make real progress toward a brighter future for all Nebraska's children.

I look forward to partnering with you in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Juliet Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Juliet Summers
Executive Director

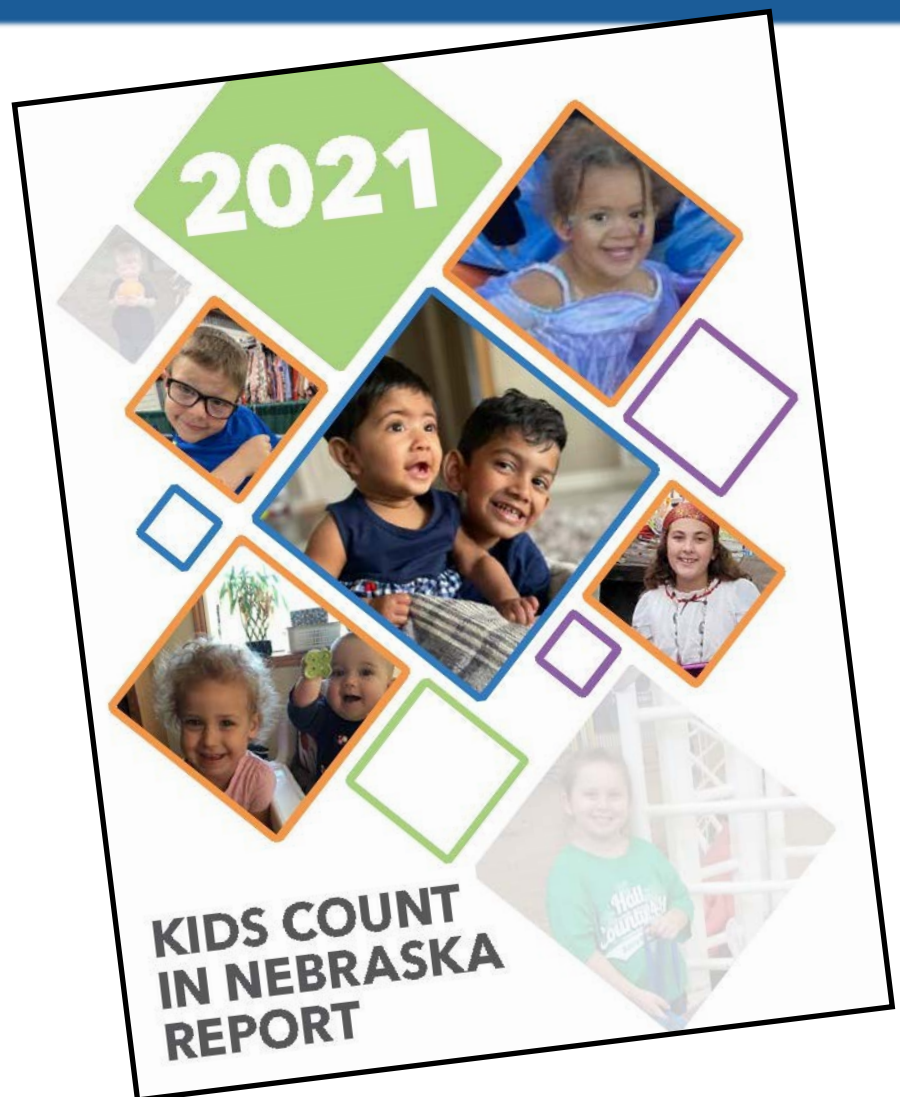
RESEARCH

IN 2022, we published the 2021 Kids Count in Nebraska Report — the 29th annual edition.

This publication serves as a trusted resource for Nebraska lawmakers, researchers, service providers, educators, and community leaders, and provides pertinent information on the well-being of all Nebraska children in the areas of health, child welfare, education, economic stability and juvenile justice.

All the data contained in the hard copy of Kids Count is also available on **NEteractive** — a searchable, easy-to-navigate online tool optimized for use on the go.

You can explore NEteractive at www.kidscountnebraska.com.



Our commentary focused on raising the minimum wage:

- In 2020, 78.1% of children in Nebraska had all available parents in the workforce. Unfortunately, having high labor force participation does not always translate into family economic stability.
- The Covid-19 pandemic and resulting economic fallout caused **significant hardship for families in Nebraska**. The economic recovery was complicated by record-setting inflation and significant escalation in the cost of living. As a result, Nebraska families continue to struggle to make ends meet.
- In November, Nebraskans voted to raise the state minimum wage. This stepped increase will benefit workers in low-wage and essential jobs across the state. This is especially true for women, and particularly women of color, who are concentrated in jobs that pay at or just above the minimum wage.

POLICY VICTORIES

Economic Stability

In 2022, Voices for Children leveraged the results of our texting campaign to identify priority issues in communities of color, including supporting legislative efforts promoting equitable distribution of American Rescue Plan recovery funds. We participated in the successful Raise the Wage ballot initiative to support low wage families in meeting kids' needs.



Youth Justice

Voices for Children successfully opposed a measure that would have infringed on children's right to due process and record privacy. We also supported measures that provider rate increases for providers offering behavioral health services, a vital network for Nebraska youth and families in crisis.

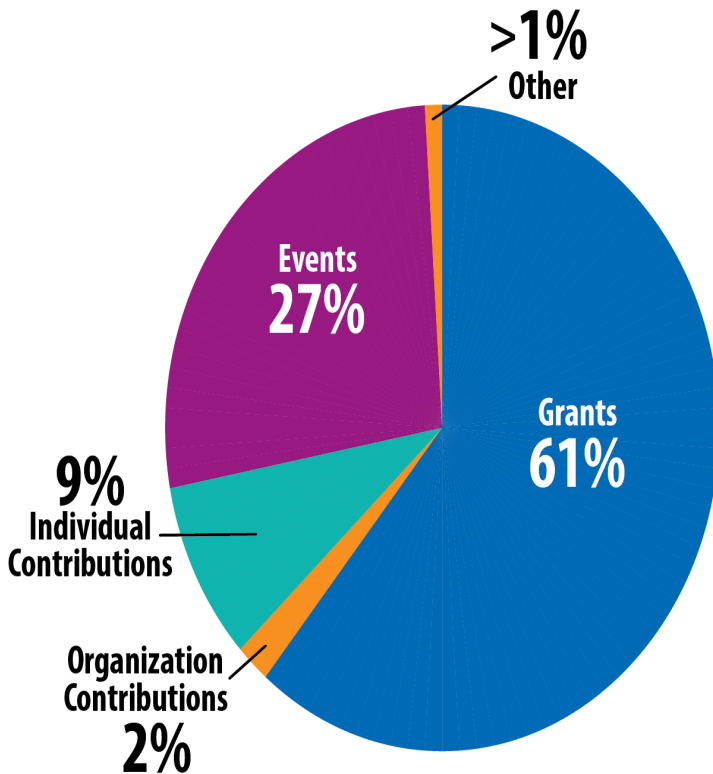
Early Childhood

Voices for Children fought for expanded access to childcare assistance. Eligibility for childcare assistance in Nebraska was temporarily increased from 130% of the federal poverty level to 185%, with transitional eligibility to 200%. This change supports families in entering and remaining in the workforce and providers in keeping their doors open.



Please continue to follow us via email, Facebook and Twitter for opportunities to advocate on behalf of kids this year!

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Revenue

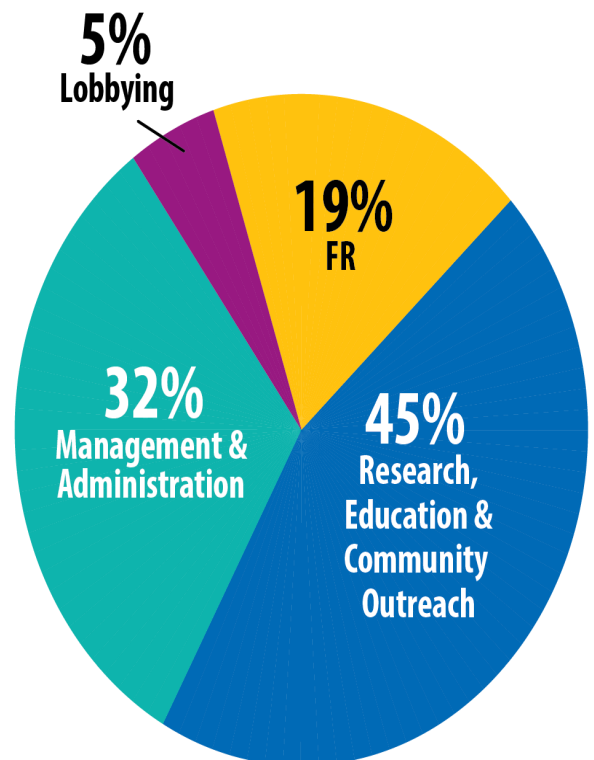
Grants*	\$246,940
Special Events	\$109,821
Organization Contributions	\$9,986
Individual Donations	\$35,847
Other	\$2,781

Total Revenue **\$405,375**

*Grant Revenue reporting has been updated to reflect the FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-08

Expenses

Research, Education & Community Engagement	\$218,461
Management & Administration	\$154,861
Fundraising	\$91,247
Lobbying	\$23,774
Total Expenses	\$488,343



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Voices for Children in Nebraska thanks these individuals, foundations, organizations and businesses for supporting the work we do each day to advocate on behalf of children and families in Nebraska.

A. Jill Batter
Abram Morris
Absolutely Fresh Seafood
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Adam Yale
Al Davis
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Amanda Felton
Amy Behnke
Amy Boesen
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Kathryn Moscrey
Kathy Bigsby Moore
Katie Weitz

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