

2024

# IMPACT REPORT



voices for  
**children**  
IN NEBRASKA

# A letter from the executive director



Reflecting on 2024, one word rises to the top: *partnership*.

This past year, Voices for Children in Nebraska has grown, evolved, and deepened our impact—not alone, but in close collaboration with others who share our vision of a Nebraska where every child can thrive. Our work has always been rooted in community, but in the past year, we leaned into partnership more intentionally than ever.

We strengthened relationships across the state, working side by side to elevate local voices and ensure that policy solutions reflect the lived experiences of Nebraska’s children and families. It’s why we took our first statewide road trip since the pandemic, connecting in person from Scottsbluff to Santee. It’s also why we expanded our youth engagement efforts, creating more opportunities for young people to lead, advocate, and partner in shaping the systems that affect their lives. Their courage and clarity inspire and guide our work.

Partnership also shows up in our generous supporters—new and longtime—who believe in our mission and invest in our future. Your generosity fuels our ability to act boldly and sustainably.

These partnerships have expanded our reach and made our work more responsive, inclusive, and powerful. Together, we have advanced policies protecting and uplifting children, produced and shared trusted data and research through our annual Kids Count in Nebraska Report, and remained a steadfast, nonpartisan voice for what’s right for kids.

Looking ahead, we are energized and emboldened by what is possible when we work together. We know that lasting change doesn’t happen in isolation but in partnership, allowing us to meet the moment with purpose and integrity.

We are so grateful to be in this work with you. Thank you for standing with us, advocating for all Nebraska kids.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juliet Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Juliet Summers, J.D.

# Vision

We envision a Nebraska with strong communities, where every child has all they need to lead a healthy, secure, and fulfilling life.

# Mission

We advocate for equitable opportunities for children in Nebraska through research, policy, and community engagement.

# Values

We keep children at the heart of everything we do and follow a core set of values that serve as a guide for our words and actions.

## Integrity

We serve as an independent and non-partisan voice to drive systems change.

## Information

We use research, data, and community input to inform our direction and guide our actions.

## Equity

We intentionally center diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in all we do.

## Courage

We fight against the status quo when necessary to amplify youth's voices and transform systems.

## Collaboration

We listen and partner in order to support children and families according to their needs.

# 2024 Board of Directors

## **President & Acting Treasurer**

Michael Beverly, Jr., PhD

## **Vice President**

Jill Batter, Esq.

## **Secretary**

Tim Hron, LIMHP

## **Members at Large**

Daniel Gutman, J.D.

Angie Jones

Christina Kahler

Keegan Korf

Emily Mwaja

Shawntal Mallory, J.D.

Juan Padilla

Patty Pansing Brooks, J.D.

Kelley Peterson

Kate Noble Weitz



# Youth and community engagement



**130+**

students engaged through advocacy cohorts, youth rallies, and leadership councils



**29+**

community events facilitated or attended across the state



**Even one person can make a change, no matter how small.**  
-Jacqueline E., Youth Policy Fellow

**“ I have a voice and it needs to be heard. ”**  
- Lakira T., Youth Policy Fellow



**1,100+**

Kids Count in Nebraska Reports distributed statewide



**42+**

media mentions including interviews with staff and data points shared



**15+**

presentations delivered to organizations, churches, and youth groups



# Pro-kid policy

Grounded in research, data, and proven best practices, our priorities focus on real solutions that improve child well-being. We recognize how factors like race, socioeconomic status, and geography impact opportunity, and we're committed to removing barriers so that every child has the chance to grow up happy, healthy, and successful.



Health



Economic Stability



Child Welfare



Juvenile Justice



38

pieces of legislation weighed in on across two unicameral sessions



10+

infants per year protected through extension of the Safe Haven Act



121,000+

children fed through the adoption of Summer EBT



73,000+

73,000 students protected from prosecution for excused mental health absences from school

\*A full list of this year's policy priorities can be found on the 2024 Policy Agenda page on our website.



Voices for Children supported **Ballot Initiative 436, Paid Sick Leave for Nebraskans**, which voters approved to benefit an estimated 250,000+ families.

## Legislative highlight

We played a key role in the passage of **LB 233** to address child support for families on the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program. Policy coordinator Katie Nungesser brought technical expertise and prior lived experience as a single mom on ADC, to highlight the bill's critical importance for about 1,000 Nebraska children. The law now allows low-income families participating in the program to keep part of their court-ordered child support, leaving more money in the family budget to support their children's basic needs.

# Our supporters

Voices for Children in Nebraska thanks the following individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses for supporting the work we do each day to advocate for a Nebraska where every child can thrive.

## **\$250,000+**

Sherwood Foundation

## **\$100,000 - \$249,999**

Annie E. Casey Foundation

## **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Edward & Sally Malashock  
Family Foundation

Lozier Foundation

Weitz Family Foundation

William & Ruth Scott  
Family Foundation

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Charles & Lynn Schusterman  
Family Philanthropies  
Lutheran Service Corps

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Countryside Community Church  
Kate & Roger Weitz  
Presbyterian Church of the Cross

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Bruce Meyers

Don Perry

Dr. Thomas F. Tonniges

Family Trust

Elizabeth Summers

Heider Family Foundation

John A. Scott

Mutual of Omaha

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Boys Town

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Craig & Kathy Moore

Glenn Summers & Denise Miller-Dolan

Nan Summers

UNMC College of Public Health

# Supporters continued

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Absolutely Fresh Seafood

West, LLC

Al Davis

Ali Khan, PhD

American National Bank

Arbor Bank

Curt Field

FNBO

Fred & Sally Bekins Foundation

Jill & Nick Batter

Jeffrey Couch

Lorraine Chang & Eric Pearson

Liz Orrick

Lutz

Omaha Public Schools Foundation

Patti Koraleski

Robert C. Townsend

Security National Bank

Shamrock Development, Inc.

Thomas D. Stalnaker

Union Bank & Trust

## **\$500 - \$999**

Adam & Sarah Yale

Amy Christensen

Bob J. Bleicher

Dean & Jessie Rasmussen

Emily Tonniges

Great Plains Annual Conference

of the United Methodist Church

John & Kay Lynn Goldner

John & Wende Kotouc

John Tully

John V. Morey

Jon Meyers

Keegan & Justin Korf

Kelley Peterson

Lawrence B. Thomas

Lincoln Industries

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Murray & Sharee Newman

Russell & Janette Burton

Sally Kaplan

Shucks Downtown, LLC

Shucks Legacy, LLC

Tim Hron

## **\$250 - \$499**

Alima Nickerson

Aubrey & Matthew Mancuso

Daniel & Nancy Pridal

David & Laura Wilwerding

Delynn & Esther Hay

Michael Meyers

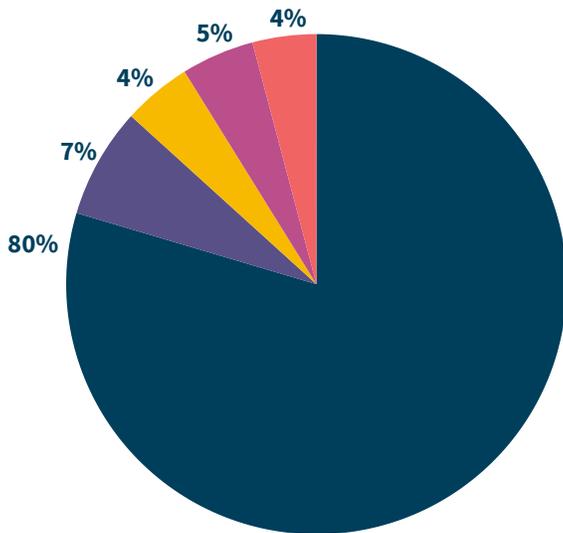
Rick Holdcroft

Rick & Carol Russell

Tim Fickenscher

Traci Bruckner

# Financials

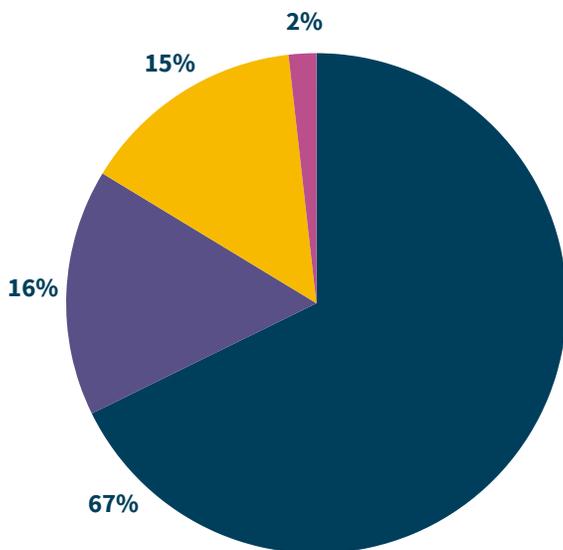


## Revenue

■ Grants*	\$718,700
■ Special Events	\$ 64,418
■ Individual Contributions	\$ 40,060
■ Organization Contributions	\$ 42,530
■ Other	\$ 37,227

**Total** **\$902,935**

\*Grant Revenue reporting reflects the FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-08. We report pledges in the year they are made.



## Expenses

■ Research, Education, & Community Engagement	\$512,696
■ Management & Administration	\$120,710
■ Fundraising	\$110,003
■ Lobbying	\$ 13,490

**Total** **\$756,899**



319 S. 17th Street, Suite 212

Omaha, NE 68102

402.597.3100

[www.voicesforchildren.com](http://www.voicesforchildren.com)

