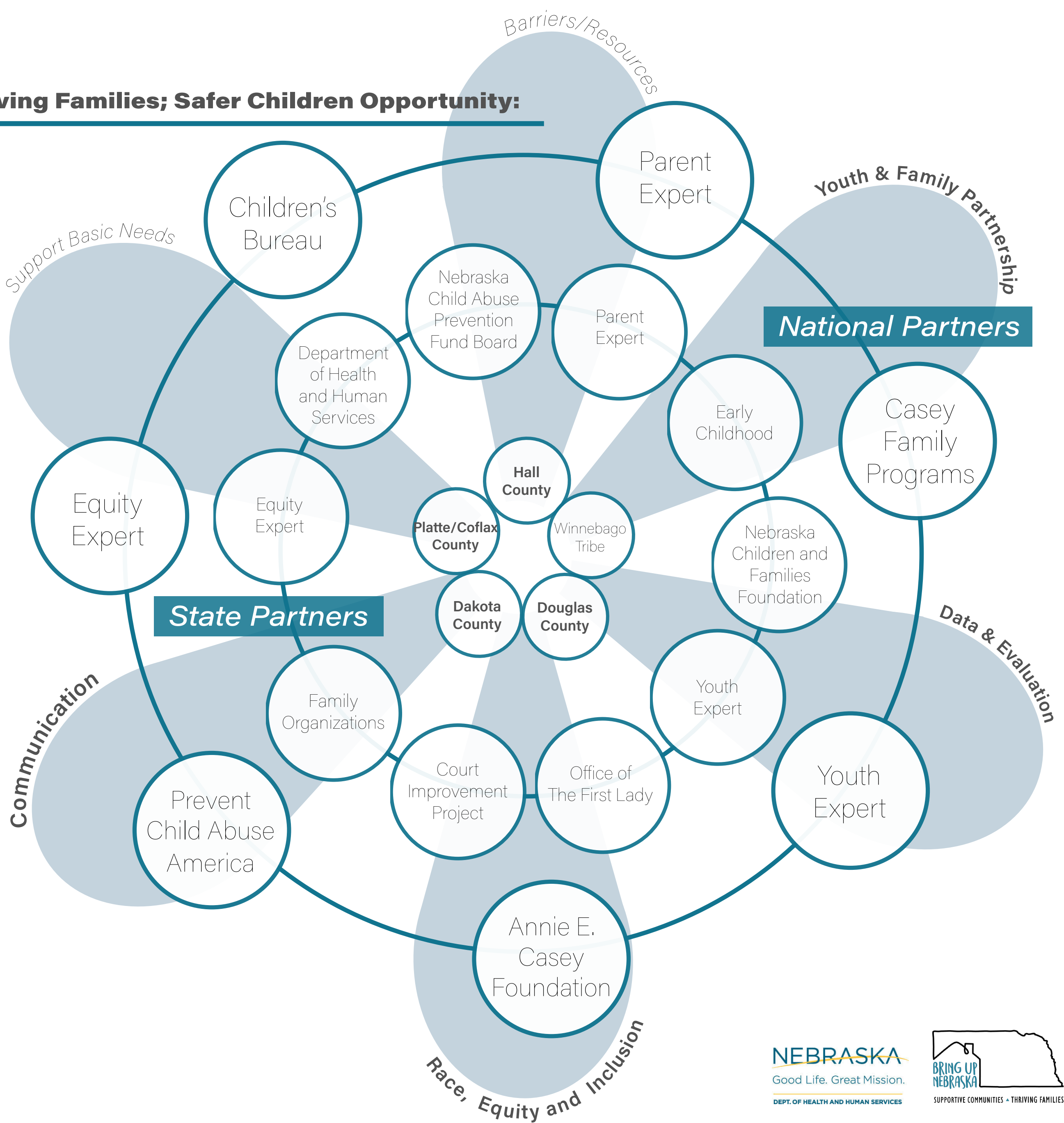


# Thriving Families; Safer Children Opportunity:



**National Partners**

**State Partners**

# Thriving Families; Safer Children Opportunity:

## ***Vision:***

Every community across Nebraska will have the availability of critical supports and services to reduce unnecessary government system involvement and opportunities for all children, youth and families to thrive.

## ***Mission:***

By bringing together state and local agencies, leaders and citizens, Bring Up Nebraska supports the resources, partnerships, infrastructure and coordination for a robust community based well-being system

## ***The Bring Up Nebraska partners and initiative with the Thriving Families Opportunity will focus on:***

- Equality in opportunities and outcomes for every child in the State of Nebraska, regardless of race, ethnicity or economics, and elimination of disproportionality of children, youth, and families involved in the child welfare and justice systems.
- Reshaping the current child welfare system to better support the Community Well Being (CWB) Model by collaborating with other partners and providing aligned funding, supports, and services.
- Ingraining of the CWB model within the state government and local communities so it continues as the operational norm regardless of political or administrative leadership changes over time.
- Inclusion of families, youth, and other community members with lived experience in the leadership and decision-making process at both state-wide and community levels.

## ***Outcomes:***

- By November 2020, Nebraska Partners will focus on the most ready and the communities' with the most disparate wellbeing outcomes and service gaps. (Dakota, Platte/Colfax, Hall, Tribal Communities and Douglas)
- By 2020 and ongoing – lift up individual and specific barriers in communities to be addressed and changed by state and federal partners.
- By end of 2020, use data to understand the disparities and disproportionality in the current prevention and higher end systems to understand the access and opportunity gaps. Collect community based social determinants of health
- By end of 2021, state system partners change the way business is done so that young adults and families are valued, lifted up and leading efforts so that they are able to dream and create a well- being system that work in their communities.
- By end of 2021, utilize the 2Gen approach to address the gaps in the current prevention/well-being system/pre-system involvement services and support in a community
- By 2025, State and federal partners support and impact the recommendations for practice and policy changes from the communities so that a community based well-being system in Nebraska is in place.
- By 2025, an increase of Children, youth and families are supported in their communities and are not involved in higher end systems of care and decrease the disproportionality in current systems (e.g. CFS, Behavioral Health, Juvenile and Adult probation, etc.)

## ***Intentional alignment and work with other statewide initiatives for a robust community based well being model:***

- Families First Prevention Services Act
- Prenatal to Three Coalition
- Children's Impact Collective System of Care/Society of Care
- Plans of Safe Care
- Connected Youth Initiative
- Full Community School Model
- Court Improvement Project and Petition Legal Representation
- Strategic Transformation of the Child Welfare System



# Thriving Families Work Groups:

## *Lived Experience*

We know local communities are the foundation of this work. They are best situated to provide services and supports which build protective factors and resilience to future challenges, and because decision-making about what works to protect and promote well-being lies within communities and homes of our families, whose lived experiences are the true drivers of transformation. Therefore, a critical component of the Thriving Families movement is to intentionally partner with individuals with lived experience to co-create and co-design solutions that will lead to transformation.

This team is composed of members from the communities, including individuals who have lived experience, who are committed to co-creating and codesigning a system that partners with young people, parents, caregivers, and individuals with lived experience to be the leaders in strengthening systems at the community, state and national level.

- **Support community efforts through a community of practice for sharing ideas and generating solutions to barriers.**
- **Shift the power dynamics at the community, state and national level to 50% of workgroup memberships include individuals who have lived experience at the community, state and national level to co-create and co-design system solutions.**

*For more information please contact Alyson Goedken at [agoedken@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:agoedken@nebraskachildren.org)*

# Thriving Families Work Groups:

## *Race, Equity, and Inclusion*

This team is composed of representatives of community-level Thriving Families, Safer Children team members. This team was created to support each community-level coalition regarding race, equity, and inclusion. The team is co-chaired by JaQuala Yarbrow and Josie Rodriguez and supported by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation staff.

We are not striving for equitable access to inequity. We know that equity within a broken system is simply not sufficient. We seek the transformation of a system that traumatizes families and continues a legacy of discrimination. We are committing to create something new together that is designed without systemic and structural racism that values all families, recognizes strength and resilience and promotes child and family well-being.

- **We will utilize data to guide our structural and systemic responses.**
- **We will examine how discriminatory design, algorithms, technology solutions and the “datafication of injustice” are barriers to health and well-being (Ruha Benjamin, 2019).**
- **We will employ community opportunity mapping, social determinants of health, and neighborhood level data as necessary tools for revealing inequity.**

*For more information please contact Nathan Busch at*  
[nbusch@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:nbusch@nebraskachildren.org)

# Thriving Families Work Groups:

## *Data & Evaluation*

Working from the assumptions that race is a—if not THE—key factor in disparities how families experience interactions with public, private, and nonprofit organizations, the Thriving Families Data Workgroup’s mission is to responsibly and effectively use qualitative and quantitative data to lift up successes, challenges, and changes over time in making such interactions more equitable, inclusive, family-driven, and effective. This mission statement is open to revision as this workgroup develops.

### **Workgroup will determine:**

- **Baseline Measures**
- **Benchmarks**
- **Promotive and Protective Factors and other Thriving Indicators**
- **Logic Model**
- **Outcomes**
- **Research Design**

*For more information please contact Jennifer Skala at  
[jskala@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jskala@nebraskachildren.org)*

# Thriving Families Work Groups:

## *Communication*

Workgroup focuses on a public awareness campaign based on the research of the Aspen 2 Gen Initiative and the Frameworks Institute, which is a part of the Thriving Families Opportunities. The Advertising Agency, Firespring, will carry out and develop content for this campaign. The campaign will include community videos, updating the Bring Up Nebraska website, paid digital ads, and various media strategies.

The campaign will be created using this workgroup's creative brief and guidance moving forward. The creative brief specifies various aspects of the campaign, including the target audience, objectives, the problem the campaign is addressing, and messages to include.

*For more information please contact Kenzie Rouw at*  
[krouw@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:krouw@nebraskachildren.org)

# Thriving Families Communities

## *Dakota County Summary:*

**For more information visit <https://www.growingcommunityconnections.com/>**

**To contact JoAnn Gieselman, Director of GCC, call (712)-223-9614 or email [jgieselman@siouxlandship.org](mailto:jgieselman@siouxlandship.org).**

*The Growing Community Connections collaborative (GCC) is full of proven concepts and eager partners, all operating in a community where the social determinants of health are our constant adversary. We are primed to evolve to the next level as a Round One community with the technical support to scale and sustain these programs beyond a single school or childcare to the entire community, state, and nation. With engagement from those we need to serve, expertise from within and outside of our community, and funding to sustain the effort, the Siouxland Community can put in place solid protective and preventative measures that will continually improve the well-being of our diverse and vibrant community.*

### **Goals through Thriving Families; Safer Families Opportunity:**

The Siouxland Community will continue to build on the strength of the Growing Community Connections collaboration by supporting initiatives that strengthen the health, safety, education, economic stability, and quality of life of children and families, and are capable of being scaled throughout the community and beyond. In addition to GCC's growing collaboration of partners, this effort will support and value the growth of existing and additional parent-led councils and parent-informed initiatives.

We envision a community that understands and integrates the Two-Generation Approach where:

- Parents recognize and embrace their role as their children's first and most important teacher. Caregivers, grandparents, neighbors and others recognize they, too, play an important role in the early development and lives of children and also embrace this model.
- A community of economically stable families are employed to their full potential and have economic opportunities to succeed. This transformation requires supporting the educational endeavors of individuals, pushing regional economic development councils to intensify efforts to diversify workforce opportunities and development, and ensuring quality, affordable childcare is available.
- Mental health and well-being services are accessible and culturally appropriate for all ages and backgrounds. Virtual and in-person services, site-based programming at schools and employers, and supportive programs for families are available and accessible.
- Those intended to be served by these efforts are meaningfully engaged in the planning, implementation, feedback, and leadership of the programs and community efforts. Outcomes include programs in which community members are vested and engaged since they helped to create them and growing social capital among members whose voices are often overlooked.

We envision strengthening our community collaborative's protective and prevention factors through a community resource center that pulls together the many resources a family needs on one accessible campus. Siouxlanders of all backgrounds, incomes, and personal needs will have a place to enter, call, or connect with virtually to get the support they need to improve their health, safety, education, economic stability, or general quality of life.

# Thriving Families Communities

## *Douglas County Summary:*

For more information visit <https://douglascountycr.org/>

To contact the DCCR Collaborative Coordinator, Deborah Dancer, email [ddancer@nchs.org](mailto:ddancer@nchs.org)

We have been working since Feb. 2015 to inspire and mobilize a community response prevention system where children in Douglas County have a safe, quality family and community environment(s). Douglas County Community Collaborative (DCCR) works across systems and community collaborations to promote child well-being and provide a coordinated prevention system of services.

### **Goals through Thriving Families; Safer Children Opportunity:**

As a part of the Thriving Families opportunity, we hope to gain a child well-being system that: is based on the promotive, protective factors; that continually promotes young adult/family power and equity; has in place the supports necessary for maintenance and growth beyond the five years of this initiative. The system will include some of the following factors:

#### **Prevention System**

- Families will have access to supports and services to promote the protective and promotive factors
- Families will feel safe in reaching out for help should they need that help
- Services and support systems will have the flexibility to adapt to the individual needs of families-not forcing families to adapt to programs
- Organizations concerned about a child's well-being would have strategies to engage families and services available outside the child welfare system
- All the players involved in providing safety and protection (HHS, law enforcement, courts) will be able to adopt prevention in ways that address their needs
- New support needs- such as home visiting- will be identified and developed
- Recognizing the time needed for change, mechanisms to support change will be in place to continue the work beyond the five years of this opportunity
- Data will be shared and used for quality improvement and to identify gaps
- Shared vision, agenda, and principles will be adopted by those involved in the prevention system
- All service personnel, administrators, boards of directors, and funders will understand a "strengths-based" approach, including language and practice

#### **Equity**

- Each agency, organization, and entity in the prevention system will be actively working toward equity
- Data used to continue to highlight gains and barriers to moving toward equity
- Our community will understand their importance in supporting all families
- Service providers will respect and involve those trusted by families
- Our community will have mechanisms in place to deal with issues in policy or practice which interfere with equity
- We will be working to increase the diversity of the professionals involved in the mental health and other service systems
- Issues that interfere with equity, such as bias, access issues etc., will be identified and addressed

#### **Family/Youth-driven**

- Family members and youth with lived experience will be involved in policy development, policy implementation, and service delivery decisions
- A variety of strategies to implement family/youth-driven will be identified and implemented
- Families will choose the "support team they prefer, should parenting concerns arise
- Organizations and professionals will be given opportunities to examine their practices which may be counter to their support of family-driven
- Funders will understand the importance of family-driven



# Thriving Families Communities

## *Hall County Summary:*

*For more information visit <https://www.h3cne.org/>*

*To contact Julie Nash, Executive Director, call (308) 930-9038 or email [executivedirector@h3cne.org](mailto:executivedirector@h3cne.org).*

Hall County Community Collaborative's (H3C) current structure that includes membership and four active subcommittees have proven to be able to explore issues, find solutions and respond to the needs of the community, each having areas of expertise represented. This was especially true during COVID-19 when the community was severely impacted.

Julie Nash, our strong Executive Director, has organizational, government, non-profit, strategic planning and leadership skills that will help facilitate this process in partnership with the community.

Hall County understands collective impact and the importance of the shared vision, mission and understanding for change; braiding resources and partnerships to solve community issues. H3C currently provides opportunities for local agencies, representatives, and individuals to come together to learn leadership skills, support programs serving children and families, develop and sustain supportive services, build personal and professional relationships, create, and strengthen partnerships, and network. Members have an active voice and key partners are already at the table and have expressed an interest in moving forward, knowing this will increase demands on their time but they understand how this could grow, lessen gaps, and positively transform the child welfare and juvenile justice

### **Goals through Thriving Families; Safer Families Opportunity:**

- **Youth & Family Leadership**-We will strive to include authentic youth and family leadership being welcomed and encouraged at all levels of decision making and discussion, not just a box to be checked. We will seek innovative, proactive solutions and alternatives for youth and families instead of juvenile detention. Additionally, we will strive to get parents engaged earlier (when their children are younger) and find better avenues and welcoming resources in their native languages.
- **Two Generation Approach** –We will strive to include multi-generation support in each of the overlying principles, plus identify and strengthen systems to bridge gaps and maximize the overlap in each of the principles. This includes equal access in all areas for all community members.
- **Race/Ethnicity Equity and Inclusion** – We will strive for our community to be fully inclusive of minorities in all aspects, including a voice in the process, services, and communication. We will become more inclusive by delivering messages and services in native languages and promote and encourage minority leadership.
- **Promotive and Protective Factors** – We will strive to offer, promote, and connect families with services while preventing involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.
- **Primary Prevention Principles** – We will strive to reduce stigma related to seeking and accessing services. This will entail significant education and a paradigm shift in community members' understanding of prevention. We also hope to find solutions around transportation barriers for individuals in the area.
- **Community Ownership** – We will strive to include community ownership at all levels from lived experience to business partnerships in the development of local solutions to community issues.

# Thriving Families Communities

## *Platte/Colfax County Summary:*

**For more information visit <https://www.communityandfamilypartnership.org/>**

**To contact Roberta Miksch, Collective Impact Director, email [rmiksch@columbusunitedway.com](mailto:rmiksch@columbusunitedway.com)**

Platte/Colfax Community Collaborative, our functioning community collaborative since 2011, has been chosen as a Round One community for the Thriving Families; Safer Children opportunity. There have been changes within our focus throughout the years, but one thing has remained constant: our communities have been able to come together over a common agenda and move progress forward with challenges we have been faced with (2019 flooding, pandemic, etc.). There are passionate people in our communities that truly believe in cultivating healthy experiences for our children, youth, and families will create a more robust future and opportunities for our upcoming generations. We have been able to bring together resources for the betterment of our communities, it is now time to bring all the pieces together to create systemic change within our community wellbeing system locally, in our state, and in our nation for generations to come.

### **Goals through Thriving Families; Safer Children Opportunity:**

The Platte/Colfax Community Collaborative would like to create an inclusive system that puts the community voice within the hands and minds of lived experience. So often, community service providers relay stories and experiences of those that they have worked with, but many times the family or youth that experienced it is not at the table when making systemic changes in programming or policy. We also want to create a space for our non-Caucasian population to have a voice and be empowered within their cultures. We want to make sure there are streamlined services and resources that can practice cultural humility within educational materials and translation services for youth and families. We would also to create a system of walking “with” youth and families instead of creating a punitive or reactive system. We want to create a culture of prevention within all systems in our communities, not only in the services that are marketed as such. All in all, we want to create a system of empowerment that families can overcome (at what might seem like a mountain) any obstacle that may come their way and they have a system of prevention to walk “with” through the way.

We reflect these principles by trying to focus on the family as a whole (not just the youth, not just the parent but both) and the environment they live in through programs like Community Response and family support agencies. We try to look at how macro systems effect their micro systems and what interventions we can put in place to give the family sustainable and healthy options for the long term. We provide coaching/family support services to walk with the family in navigating their goals and put them in the driver’s seat. We empower and educate families to reach their goals, be resilient, and to navigate community supports. We engage with youth and families through frameworks like PIWI, Circle of Security, PCIT, family coaching, job coaching, and mental health community marketing supports to name a few. We also focus on equity and inclusion to work to get translation services for our families and youth in our communities. We will get there by utilizing the collective impact model. Creating or maintaining community workgroups as well as a common agenda and shared measurement centered around prevention strategies for children, youth, and families.