

Nebraska's Connected Youth Initiative (CYI)

A \$10M+ public-private partnership of evidence-based **services** for youth and statewide **systems support** to strengthen Nebraska's system for older youth and young adults.

CYI uses collective impact to serve young people through the following core services:

- 1. Central Navigation**
- 2. Support Services Funding**
- 3. Youth Leadership**
- 4. Coaching** (*e.g., voluntary case management*)
- 5. Opportunity Passport™ and Financial Education**
- 6. System Support** (*e.g., funding, training, advocacy, technical assistance*)

Guiding Principles:

- ✓ Collective Impact
- ✓ Youth Voice
- ✓ 2Gen
- ✓ Race, Equity, Inclusion



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Who are unconnected youth and young adults?

Young people, aged 14 to 26, without permanent family connections;

and

Have any of the following lived/system experience:

- Child Welfare / Foster Care
- Juvenile Justice / Probation
- Are homeless or near homeless (e.g., “coach surfing”) or at-risk of homelessness
- Runaway
- Are pregnant and/or parenting
- Survivors of human trafficking/exploitation or at-risk of being trafficked/exploited



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Theory of Change: *What is the goal?*

At the individual level: Nebraska's young people increase their protective factors so that they have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their child(ren) to thrive.

At the population level: Nebraska policy makers, state agencies, community leaders, practitioners, and young people co-create and strengthen an older youth system that values and actively supports prevention and upward mobility for all young people.



CONNECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE
INVESTMENT

PUBLIC

\$4,393,458

PRIVATE

\$5,788,682

**TOTAL ANNUAL INVESTMENT
TO SERVE OLDER YOUTH
IN NEBRASKA**

\$10,182,140

CYI Services Available for Young People in Nebraska

Central Navigation: coordinated approach that ensures young people have access to services to avoid duplication of efforts and maintain connection to community

Support Services Funding: emergency funding accessible to young people via central navigation, to address basic and emergency needs (*e.g., rent, utilities, technology, food, transportation, education, etc.*)

Youth Leadership: empowering opportunities for leadership and advocacy which is community-led and youth-driven (*Project Everlast & other area Youth Chapters*)

Opportunity Passport™ : coaching program (*offered by Jim Casey*) that promotes financial literacy, credit repair, wealth creation, and asset-building. (*e.g., car purchase, education, mortgage, credit reduction*)

Coaching: voluntary case management services, not tied to any specific program, that provide goal-orientated, youth-driven 1:1 support to help young people set goals, access services, and enhance their protective and promotive factors. **CYI**

CYI Coaching services the following (public-private partnerships):

- Nebraska Chafee and ETV programs
- LEAP postsecondary ed and training pathways
- 2Gen support for pregnant and parenting youth / TANF
- Opportunity Passport program
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) in Greater NE (and coming soon to Lincoln)
- Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers
- Improving Outcomes for Youth Survivors of Human Trafficking / PAVE screening tool

CYI Policy & Practice Change: *Systems Impact*

State & National Work Groups:

older youth system partners participate in various state and national work groups:

- Bring Up Nebraska / Thriving Families Priority Work Groups
- Fostering Achievement in Nebraska
- Financial Education & Poverty Prevention Work Group
- Youth Leadership Advisory Committee
- CYI Statewide Task Force
- Central Navigation Partners
- Nebraska State Trafficking Action Team
- Youth Policy Consortium
- Fostering Academic Achievement Nationwide

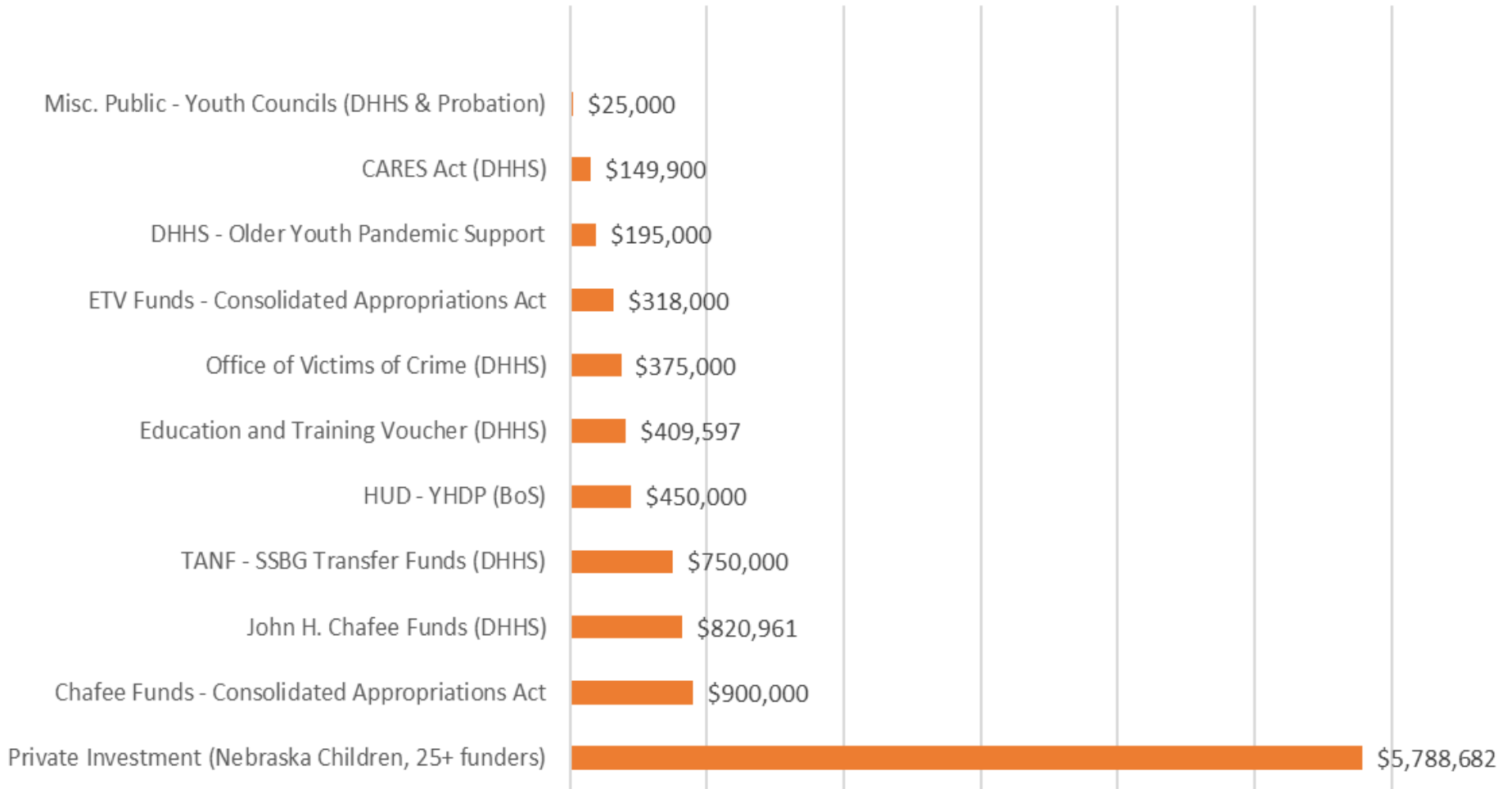
Training: CYI supports and invests in training and technical assistance for system partners in the following best practices:

- Center for the Study of Social Policy's **Youth Thrive™** and Nebraska's **Families Thrive**
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's **Your Money, Your Goals**
- Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg's **Reaching Teens©**
- Jobs for the Future's **Back on Track to College™**
- **Askable Adults Matter®**
- Building **Inclusive Communities**
- **Positive Youth Development**
- **Speaker's Bureau**

State & National Leadership: young people participate in state and national leadership opportunities such as:

- Legislative Days
- CYI Youth Advisory Board
- Pregnant/Parenting Emerging Leaders Advisory Board
- Caregiver and Youth Citizen Review Panels
- Speaker's Bureau town halls & panels
- Camp Catch-Up
- Youth Policy Consortium – various internships and fellowships
- Various state and national Young Fellows leadership opportunities

CYI Annual Investment by Source

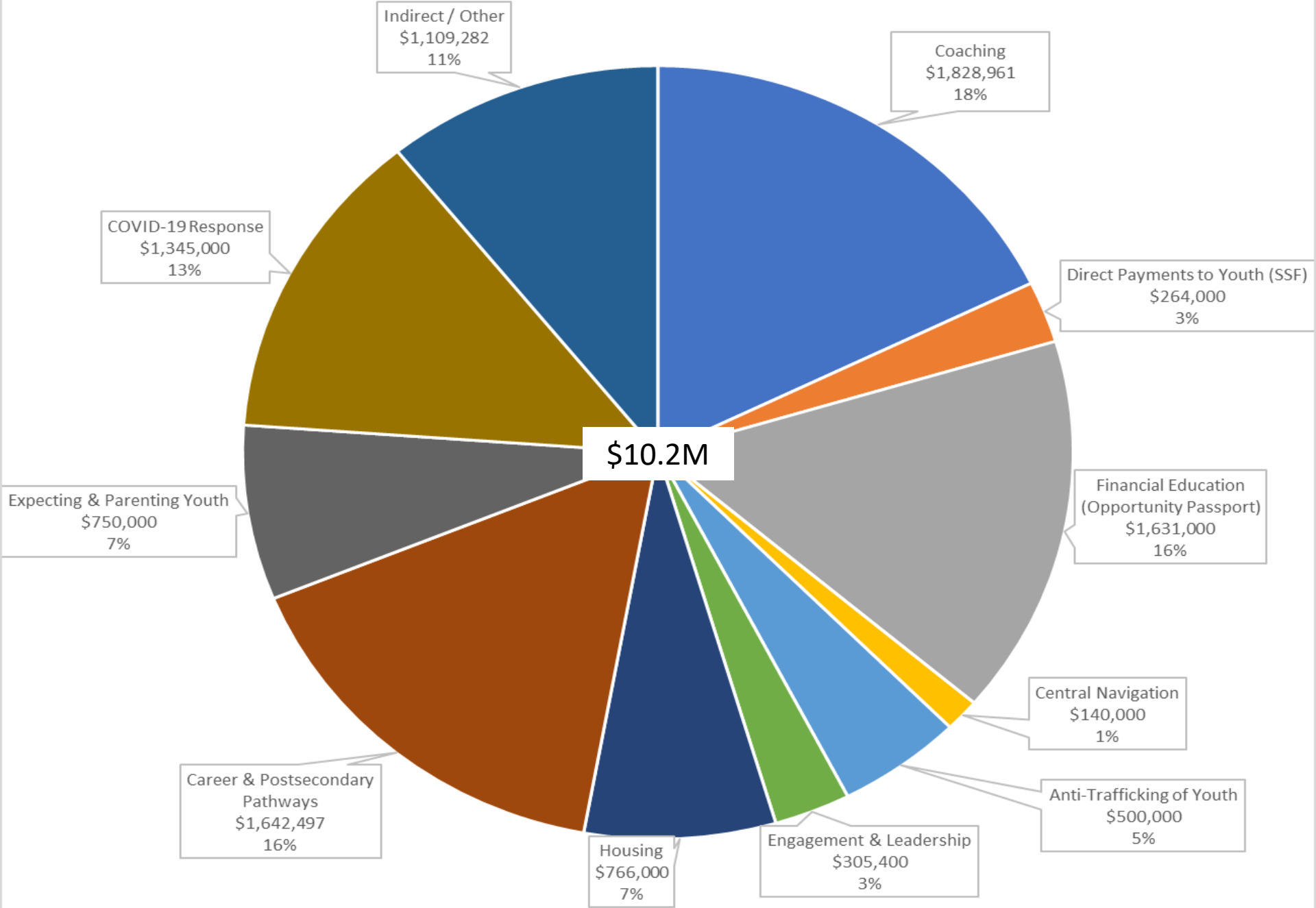


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2021 Approximate %/\$ of CYI Investment by Result Area



Why?

Evidence shows that CYI participants in Nebraska have...



3.8x greater odds of having a **safe & stable living situation**



1.8x greater odds of having **enough funds for expenses**
4x greater odds of having a **savings account**



13% improvement in **perceived hope**



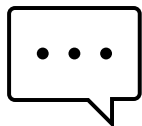
71% lower odds of multiple **ER visits**

The impact study design and findings met ***moderate*** evidence standards set by Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in 2020.



How to Connect to CYI Services?

- Via central navigation using the Participant Information Form (common referral form)
 - Central Navigator issues Supports Services Funds
 - Central Navigator connects youth to service providers/partners for Coaching, Opportunity Passport™, and Youth Leadership
- Youth self-refer to central navigation or to any CYI provider
- Youth ask for help by accessing CYI support directly through Central Plains Center for Services, DHHS, or any Central Navigator or CYI provider (no wrong door)
- DHHS refers to central navigation or to Central Plains Center for Services
- Texting the NEHelpChat central navigation chatbot at:



308-280-8383

402-226-5842



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Questions?

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