



NEBRASKA APPLESEED

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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25 YEARS OF PROGRESS



REBECCA GOULD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For 25 years, Nebraska Appleseed and our community of supporters have been unafraid to dream big. It's because of people like you and your heart, dedication, and passion that the dreams of an equitable and more just Nebraska continue to become more real.

I never felt this sense of community more than in 2020 after a once-in-a-century pandemic fully brought to light the issues long ignored by those in power, and the burdens felt by those among us who have been made the most vulnerable became even heavier.

This inspired our work like never before, and fueled us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of Nebraskans.

After years of consistent advocacy, Nebraskans can now access life-saving care thanks to Medicaid expansion. Now, we're leveraging our legal expertise to break down the barriers keeping essential services from those who need them most.

When livelihoods became threatened by COVID-19, we stepped up to ensure that every Nebraskan had equitable access to the nutritious food they and their loved ones need, and stood with meatpacking workers to advocate for essential health and safety protections.

On the November 2020 ballot, we won a landslide victory when 83% of Nebraska voters voted to protect Nebraskans from predatory payday lending practices.

We won big legislative victories to strengthen Nebraska's child welfare system and expand access to the supports and services that help all youth live a full life, including tribal youth and those transitioning into adulthood.

We reaffirmed that Black Lives Matter, and elevated the stories of those who are too often ignored. With a diverse network of grassroots community leaders, we invested in the power of participation, and reached out to thousands of voters to ensure every voice can shape our communities.

This is the kind of progress possible when we uplift community members' experiences, boldly call for meaningful change, hold the line against harmful attacks, and believe in the exciting possibilities that every part of our community offers.

But our work is only getting started. Whatever the next 25 years hold, we're ready to continue marching together with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Gould".

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

MEDICAID EXPANSION IS SAVING LIVES

For the more than 90,000 Nebraskans who have been living in the health insurance coverage gap, Medicaid expansion is finally here—and a better life is in sight.

By the end of 2020, nearly 25,000 Nebraskans had already enrolled in expansion coverage! It's a long-fought victory won by big-hearted Nebraskans who for years continued to advocate and move us closer to a vision of quality, affordable health care for all. This moment marks what's possible when we act together, call for change, and elevate the courageous stories of those made most vulnerable by the coverage gap.

But we've remained vigilant, working to ensure the Medicaid expansion is being administered fairly and every Nebraskan has equitable access to the health care they need.

So when the State of Nebraska implemented an unlawful tiered benefits program that locked critical services behind burdensome requirements, we filed a lawsuit with our partner the National Health Law Program against the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to break down these barriers keeping Nebraskans from the care they voted for nearly three years ago.

This lawsuit came as COVID-19 deepened the inequities felt by Nebraskans at a critical moment when having access to quality health care matters more than ever.

To ensure that every Nebraskan can get the critical care they need, Appleseed and statewide partners promoted enrollment and connected people with the tools and resources to enroll themselves and their loved ones. Appleseed placed radio ads across Nebraska, produced informational videos, and created postcards in multiple languages with vital information on Medicaid expansion and how to sign up.

470,000+

Nebraskans reached in radio ads across the state in English and Spanish

3,000

people reached with "Enroll Now" information in partnership with the Food Bank of Lincoln

**CONNECTING
NEBRASKANS WITH
MEDICAID EXPANSION
HEALTH COVERAGE**

**LB 997:
A VICTORY FOR
NEBRASKANS**

This law protects Nebraskans from potentially devastating "surprise billing" costs by barring providers from charging out-of-network costs when seeking emergency care

IMMIGRANTS & COMMUNITIES

LIFTING EVERY VOICE IN NEBRASKA

Every Nebraskan should feel welcome in the communities they call home. It only happens when we lift every voice, and cultivate a culture of inclusion rooted in the shared belief that each person has a chance to shape what our state looks like.

It's why we facilitated 16 "Come to Your Census" trainings for grassroots leaders and started reaching out to Nebraskans in 2019 to ensure every person was counted in the 2020 Census. Together in partnership with state grassroots leaders, Nebraska achieved one of the greatest Census response rates in the country, ensuring resources and representation are distributed fairly. We also started our voter outreach efforts early, connecting voters of color with the information they needed to register to vote, secure a ballot, and cast their vote during a momentous election.

After years of toxic immigration policies and uncertainty, immigrant Nebraskans are inspired by the new possibilities for positive immigration policy. We celebrated in June 2020 when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the successful Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. It's an exciting victory—made possible by the young leaders throughout Nebraska who bravely

spoke of their experiences, lifted their concerns to those in power, and paved the way for a future where all Nebraskans feel at home.

When COVID-19 began to spread in Nebraska's meatpacking plants, Appleseed joined workers, community partners and organizations in calling for essential protections for essential workers. We helped connect the concerns of workers with those in power to lift the shadow of unsafe working conditions, and ensure all Nebraskans can work with dignity and respect.

We also worked with partners statewide to activate a network of trusted immigrant leaders to connect more than 2,700 families in 37 counties with a combined \$2.4 million in financial support from the Angel Fund, a collaborative effort funded by local foundations.

When police brutality yet again threatened our neighbors, we supported the diverse voices energizing the urgency of racial justice. We listened to the stories of Nebraskans of color, and recommitted ourselves to be actively anti-racist, denounce the racism embedded in our communities, and take responsibility to create systemic change alongside our neighbors.

500+

**MEATPACKING
WORKERS REACHED
WITH KNOW YOUR
RIGHTS TRAININGS**

19,000+

**RURAL VOTERS OF
COLOR REACHED BY
GET-OUT-THE-VOTE
EFFORTS**

180

RURAL LEADERS

14,000+

GOTV PHONE CALLS

27,000+

GOTV TEXTS



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

STEPPING UP WITH NEBRASKANS IN NEED

It was clear when COVID-19 struck that thousands of Nebraskans were quickly becoming at risk of being made vulnerable. From food insecurity to insufficient housing and evictions, Appleseed doubled down on our longstanding efforts on these issues, while also forging new connections with partners and community leaders to advocate for essential services and protections.

With the help of Nebraskans pressuring the Governor, we successfully secured the continuation of Pandemic-EBT and SNAP Emergency benefits at the height of the pandemic to help Nebraskans facing food insecurity find relief. Services and programs such as these are a lifeline for Nebraskans who lost their jobs, had their hours cut, or saw health insurance vanish amid the pandemic.

On the November 2020 ballot, 83% of Nebraska voters stood up to protect Nebraskans from predatory payday lending and voted FOR Initiative 428. This landslide victory is the result of years of legal research, policy advocacy, and community organizing at every level—and a testament to the power of partnerships, collective advocacy, and Appleseed's deep network of supporters.

As we continue to support Nebraskans as they recover from the economic downturn brought on COVID-19, we're looking to expand our efforts fighting food insecurity, advocating for affordable housing, and supporting the policies that help each Nebraskan live a fulfilling life.



NEBRASKANS END PREDATORY LENDING

125,000+
SIGNATURES FROM
46 COUNTIES TO PLACE
I-428 ON THE BALLOT

83% OF VOTERS
APPROVED I-428 IN
NOVEMBER 2020

FIGHTING FOR CRITICAL PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

Last fall, we heard from neighbors worried about how they were going to feed themselves and their families through the winter as COVID cases increased, the price of food rose, and many saw their work hours reduced.

Appleseed mobilized over **1,200+** people from **100 communities statewide** in two successful advocacy campaigns to extend and expand critical food assistance (Pandemic-EBT and SNAP Emergency Allotments), which brought **\$8 million** in critical assistance each month to over **44,000 households**.



AT THE LEGISLATURE

Key legislation passed providing additional utility shut-off protections to Nebraskans who rely on in-home medical equipment, and legislation to provide workers protections from wage theft.



FIGHTING HUNGER IN NEBRASKA

Our kids, families, and communities are stronger when Nebraskans have equitable access to food.

In 2020, Appleseed helped **double** the number of schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision, which now reaches **12,000 kids statewide**. We created an essential summer meal toolkit for schools, and distributed over **\$600,000** in grants to schools and emergency pantries to provide meals amid COVID-19.

CHILD WELFARE

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALL NEBRASKA YOUTH

All kids in Nebraska must have the support they need to reach their fullest potential. This vision fueled our efforts to advocate for a more effective and equitable child welfare system that supports and protects all Nebraska kids and their families.

To ensure young people in foster care have the supports they need for a successful future, Appleseed worked alongside inspiring young advocates to pass LB 219, which removes barriers to adulthood and helps youth obtain a driver's license.

In addition, Appleseed advanced strategies with partners to pass LB 1061, a key piece of legislation that ensures children and families are able to thrive together. The bill reauthorizes the use of alternative response and increases oversight of non-court cases—commonly referred to as “hidden foster care.”

Together with partners, Appleseed recommitted itself to learning more about the diverse experiences of Nebraska youth to identify and dismantle the inequities in our child welfare system that hold back young Nebraskans and families from living a full life.

With the passage of LB 848, we're making key strides in creating a more equitable child welfare system.

LB 848 bridges the gap for tribal youth aging out of foster care by opening access to the critical benefits of the Bridge to Independence Program (B2I), ensuring everyone has a fair shot at a successful transition into adulthood.

KEY LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR YOUNG NEBRASKANS

LB 219

Ensures young people have the resources they need to successfully transition into adulthood, including driver's licenses

LB 848

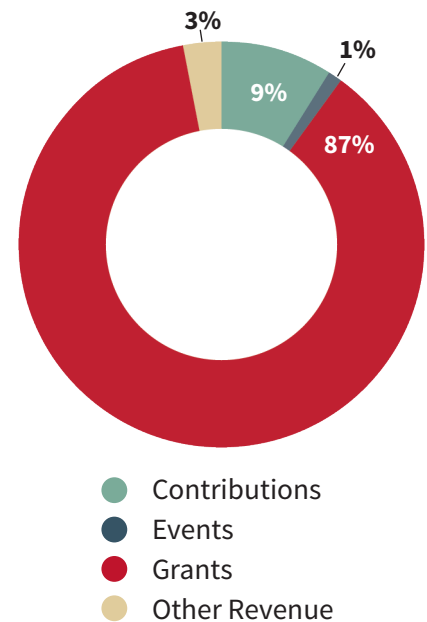
Bridges the gap for tribal youth aging out of foster care to receive the benefits of the Bridge to Independence (B2I) program



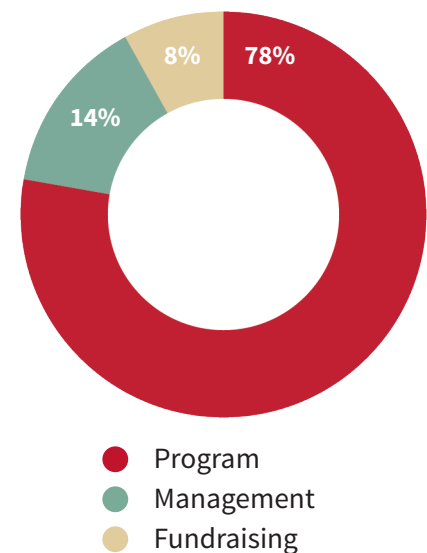
AUDITED FINANCIALS

	FY 2020	FY 2019
SUPPORT & REVENUES		
Contributions	415,795	343,809
Events	44,520	70,358
Grants	3,939,354	1,791,288
Other Revenue	124,290	140,685
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	\$4,523,959	\$2,346,140
EXPENSES		
Program Services	2,482,256	2,200,868
Management & General	441,032	429,746
Fundraising	270,197	259,313
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,193,485	\$2,889,927
ASSETS		
Cash	3,343,362	2,813,284
Grants Recievable	2,170,945	1,134,192
Other Current Assets	48,957	278,287
Net Equipment	41,923	43,444
Investments	1,636,490	1,636,490
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,241,677	\$5,905,697
NET ASSETS & LIABILITIES		
Without Donor Restrictions	4,164,652	2,239,373
Operating Reserve Fund	805,000	700,000
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	2,109,956	2,809,761
Total Net Assets	\$7,079,608	\$5,749,134
Total Liabilities	\$162,069	\$156,563
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$7,241,677	\$5,905,697
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Change in Net Assets	1,330,474	(543,787)
Beginning	5,749,134	6,292,921
Ending	7,079,608	5,749,134

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc. Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2020 with summarized financial information for 2019.



**NEBRASKA APPLESEED
FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL NEBRSAKANS**

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STAFF ATTORNEY
ECONOMIC JUSTICE

BECCA BRUNE
FEDERAL POLICY DIRECTOR

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WEITZ FELLOW

TRISHA THOMPSON
SR. INTAKE COORDINATOR

DARCY TROMANHAUSER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
IMMIGRANTS & COMMUNITIES

ERIC WICKIZER
IT & DATA DIRECTOR

CHRISTA YOAKUM
SR. WELCOMING COORDINATOR
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OMAID ZABIH
STRATEGY SR. DIRECTOR

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