



2025 Annual Report



Mission

We fight for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans

Nebraska Appleseed creates lasting systemic change by building power with, elevating the voices of, and advocating alongside community members to improve laws, policies, and practices that impact our lives. With a focus on poverty, children's welfare, health care, and immigration, we go wherever we can do the most good – in the courthouse, at the Capitol, and in the community.

Vision

At Appleseed, we believe that every Nebraskan deserves the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Our job is to help clear the way: Collaborating with our communities to tear down obstacles – discrimination, oppression, and reckless indifference – and strengthening our shared values as a nation. Together, as a community, we build a just, vibrant, and inclusive Nebraska where everyone can thrive.



We saw immense challenges in 2025: from devastating budget cuts to inhumane immigration policies. Despite it all, we've seen remarkable resilience, grassroots mobilization, and community building.

This is who we are.

In the face of a challenging year, Nebraskans came together to stand for our shared values and show what's possible.

In May 2025, Lincoln voters **ended source-of-income discrimination in housing** with 66% of the vote after over 15,000 residents signed a petition to get it on the ballot.

Following news of a federal immigration detention camp coming to McCook, **more than 18,300 Nebraskans from 386 communities** in less than a week signed a petition opposing the camp. **Appleseed filed a lawsuit on behalf of 13 residents and a former state senator** when the Governor moved forward with repurposing the Work Ethic Camp.

Our legal team argued at the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals to **improve Medicaid notices**. At the Legislature, we worked with senators to **permanently extend increased SNAP eligibility** for 10,000 families and **secured protections for foster youth** preventing the State of Nebraska from seizing youths' Social Security benefits.

As we head into our 30th year, Appleseed will continue to partner with our network of advocates and supporters like you to uplift the voices of those with lived experience, hold our elected leaders accountable, and sustain momentum for the future we want to see.

We're built for the challenges our communities are facing. With you, we'll keep up the fight for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans.

Rebecca Gould
Executive Director



Economic Justice

Coordinated coalitions pushing for systemic policy change in the areas of cash supports, food assistance, and housing.

Passed a local ballot initiative ending source-of-income discrimination in housing in Lincoln.

Permanently extended increased SNAP eligibility, preserving food assistance for 10,000+ families.

Sued the State of Nebraska to appeal an adverse agency decision and protect a public benefit recipient's right to due process.

Advocated against harmful cuts to SNAP at the federal level and worked to mitigate the harm to Nebraskans.



Health Care Access

Held over 10 meetings with our members of Congress to advocate against devastating health care cuts.

Organized a Health Care Town Hall attended by more than 100 people with more than 20 speakers demanding that Congress protect our health care.

Argued in front of the U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals to improve Medicaid notices.

Presented at more than 30 events to share health access information, reaching hundreds of Nebraskans.



Child Welfare

Secured protections to prevent the State of Nebraska from seizing young people's Social Security benefits and ensure they have savings when they leave foster care.

Integrated Juvenile Justice youth into the Bridges to Independence program (B2I), which supports youth ages 19 to 21 with financial support and access to health care.

Completed the multi-year Honoring Indigenous Families Grant partnership with the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition and the University of Oklahoma, which examined the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act and its outcomes with native families' interfacing with the child welfare system.

Defeated a key part of the Sports and Spaces Act that would have restricted people's access to bathrooms that match their gender identity.

Treatment Foster Care was implemented and expanded to a key subset of Juvenile Justice youth at risk of homelessness when they age out of the system.



Immigrants & Communities

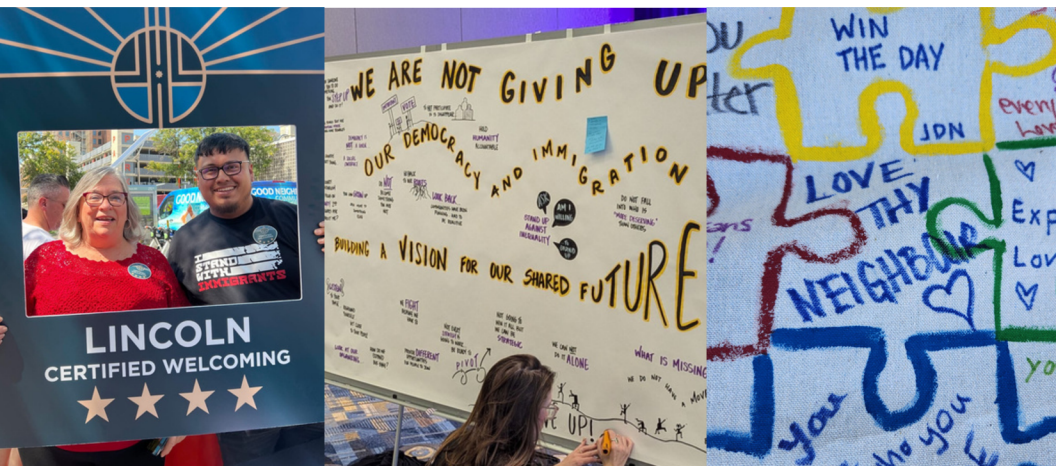
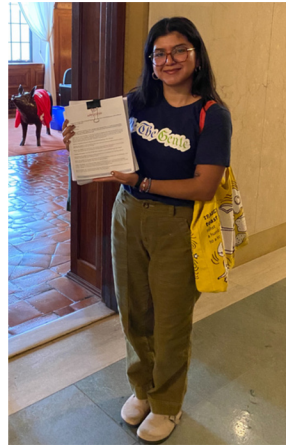
Held Know Your Rights training conversations with 650+ community members and coordinated with statewide partners for community safety planning during harsh and unproductive immigration targeting of working moms, dads, and neighbors.

Initiated a petition campaign that allowed 18,000+ Nebraskans to say NO to a large-scale federal detention camp.

Filed a lawsuit on behalf of 13 McCook residents challenging the governor's unauthorized attempt to take over a state facility.

Held long-term leadership training with 140+ statewide leaders and worker safety training with 700+ community members at high risk of injury in 32+ communities.

Together with 70+ Nebraska associations representing hundreds more organizations and small businesses, demonstrated strong statewide and multi-sector support for positive, updated, and responsible federal immigration laws for thriving Nebraska communities.



Board of Directors

Nebraska Appleseed is deeply thankful for the exceptional contributions made by our Board of Directors. Through their unwavering commitment, astute leadership, and generous support, Appleseed advances our mission and makes positive change in the community.

Katie Joseph, President

Kamron Hasan, Vice President

James Schulz, Secretary

Michael Berry, Treasurer

Arthur Zygielbaum, Immediate Past President*

Josh Barteo*

Rocio Casanova

Nate Clark

Terri Craig

Tim Cuddigan

Roger Gonzales

Wanda Gottschalk*

Toni Hill

Martha Marfileño

M. Dewayne Mays*

Mary-Beth Muskin

Patty Pansing Brooks*

Audrey Polt

Kathy Seacrest

Calli Shepherd-Hogan

Gene Summerlin

Nancy Williams

** denotes individuals who completed their board term in early 2026. We thank our outgoing members for their dedication and support.*

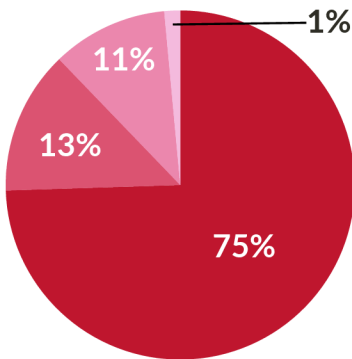


2025 Financials

	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
Support & Revenues	5,246,403	7,141,658
Expenses	5,498,809	4,568,257
	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
Assets	11,925,092	12,212,791
Liabilities	737,155	770,180
Net Assets		
<i>Without Donor Restrictions</i>	6,788,369	5,815,661
<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	4,399,568	5,626,950
Total Net Assets	11,187,937	11,442,611

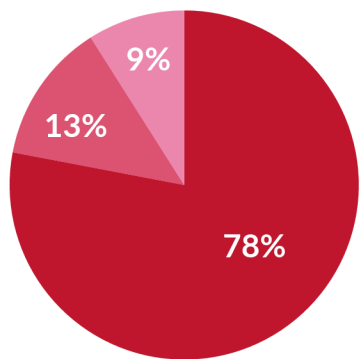
Full audited financial statements can be found online at NeAppleseed.org/financials

Revenues



- Grants
- Other
- Contributions
- Events

Expenses



- Programs
- Fundraising
- Management
- Events

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc. unaudited consolidated statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2025 with summarized audited financial information for 2024.

Support Justice for All

Our impact is possible because of dedicated supporters like you. Appleseed makes it easy to give through one-time donations, monthly gifts, donor-advised funds, IRA rollovers, bequests, gifts of stock, or through your workplace giving program.

Give a one-time gift

NeAppleseed.org/donate



One-time gifts are the most popular way to show your support. No matter the amount, your gift goes right to work advocating for a better Nebraska. It's also a great option if you'd like to make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Become a monthly sustaining supporter

NeAppleseed.org/sustainer



The most convenient way to make a difference. Monthly giving maximizes your support through smaller gifts that add up to real impact. Sustaining supporters help meet the moment by providing critical flexibility and stability throughout the year.

If you have any questions or would like information about other ways to give through estate plans, IRA rollovers, or gifts of stock, please contact **Nic Swiercek**, Development & Engagement Sr. Director, at nswiercek@neappleseed.org or call (402) 438-8853 x110.

Get Involved

Your voice is vital in the fight for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. No matter your skillset or your comfort level, there is a way for you to get involved.

From testifying at legislative hearings to contacting elected officials to signing petitions, there's always something to do.

Keep up-to-date on all opportunities by visiting NeAppleseed.org/takeaction.



Since 1996, Nebraska Appleseed has tackled the toughest systemic issues facing Nebraskans. Even in the face of immense odds, we've fought for *and won* impactful change, from securing people's rights in court to winning policy change for thousands of Nebraskans statewide.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we remain committed to fighting for justice and opportunity, in the face of numerous challenges.

Together, with a network of resilient advocates and partners, we'll continue building a better Nebraska for *everyone*.



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