

Colfax County

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

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Section I: Executive Summary

Colfax County was created in 1870 along the Platte River. Like the river, it has maintained its strength and vitality as the environment around it has greatly changed. Colfax County has grown and changed by virtue of the population dynamics in the community. Colfax County remains primarily a Nebraska agricultural community. However, over the past two decades, Colfax County has experienced an increase in the number of foreign-born, non-English speaking, and undocumented residents from Mexico, Central America, South America, Cuba, and the Sudan calling it home. Demographic statistics vary, but nearly half of Schuyler and one-third of Colfax County identifies as Hispanic. As the county experiences this change, the main issues to emerge include educational deficit; widespread alcohol and drug abuse; youth access to firearms and weapons; gang involvement and violence; physical, mental, and behavioral health needs; poverty; housing and transportation needs; and associated issues of child abuse and neglect.

Educational deficit among Colfax County residents is of great concern. Colfax County ranks 92 out of 93 counties in the number of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree and 71 out of 93 in the number of residents over the age of 25 with a high school diploma¹ Enrollment consistency and excessive absence from school is a significant concern to the community with about 1 in 4 children missing school each day, making our absentee rate twice that of the state²

The rate of youth cited for minor (individuals under 21 years old) in possession of alcohol has almost doubled³. The rate of alcohol impaired driving death is almost 10% higher than the statewide average⁴. This is coupled with undocumented residents who are unable to attend driver's safety courses and meet basic licensure requirements to obtain a valid motor vehicle operator's license but continue to drive. Access to treatment is a concern. Marijuana/THC use continues to increase and drive down the personal and intellectual development of our youth.

¹ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

² Schuyler Central High School 21-22 School Year Data

³ Schuyler Police Department (2023-2024)

⁴ NE Assoc. for Local Health Directors & East Central District Health Department, 2021 East Central District Comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment, https://ecdhd.ne.gov/file_download/inline/ed8de50a-0442-4d09-bfa4-a09f2af3ae21 - page 47.

Youth in our community identify with gangs at a rate of up to five times the statewide average⁵. This is alarming given recent reports of infiltration of violent gang members arriving and settling throughout the United States, including neighboring Colorado. With the rise in gang affiliation comes an increase in the presence of firearms and crimes of violence, such as threats, assault, and robbery.

The Colfax County teen birth rate is twice the state average⁶. Many youths are new to our community and are looking for an immediate sense of belonging and community. There are limited pro-social activities and youth groups in the Schuyler community. Opportunities for youth engagement are greater in our county-based towns and city.

The East Central District Health Department's 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment indicates behavioral health is the greatest health need in our community⁷. There are many facets to ensuring equitable access to behavioral health, from the availability of providers to meeting non-English speaking needs. In addition, there is more awareness needed around the importance and normalcy of seeking behavioral health support. Physical and mental health treatment needs exist as well and are equally as important to the overall health of the community.

Children in our county suffer from poverty at a much higher rate than the rest of the state⁸. This number is generally a product of many unaccompanied minors arriving in our community. The County Court for Colfax County has seen an increase in the number of guardianships for minors filed. There were 14 filings in 2023, and there have been 22 filings through November 20, 2024.⁹

For families residing here, housing and transportation are often barriers. For families to afford housing, they often turn single-family dwellings into multi-family dwellings. While Schuyler has public transportation, there are limited hours with limited routes making it extremely difficult for family members to get to work, appointments and schools.

⁵ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

⁶ CHI Health, East Central District Health Department, & Good Neighbor Community Health Center, 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment – page 24.

⁷ CHI Health, East Central District Health Department, & Good Neighbor Community Health Center, 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment – page 23.

⁸ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

⁹ County Court for Colfax County

Colfax County is experiencing many educational, social and economic challenges. Failure to address these challenges will represent a failure to our most vulnerable population; our children and young people. And we have the ongoing responsibility to examine fiscal, physical, and human resources available to meet these educational, social and economic challenges. We believe we can work together and adjust as a community to embrace and confront these challenges. Like the river we are settled next to, we are strong and steady. Over the course of the next 5 years, we are collectively committed to try new things and think “upstream” to address the stress and strain of our many challenges.

Our priorities for children, youth, and families in Colfax County are to increase the number of youths earning a high school diploma; increase the availability of mental and behavioral health services; reduce the incidence of abuse of alcohol and drugs; increase the availability of transportation and housing options; and increase the availability of structured recreational and pro-social activities.

We will accomplish these priorities through improved early childhood care and educational support; providing referral services and access to mental and behavioral health services; alcohol and drug education and evaluation; expanding public transportation, driver’s education, and affordable housing; and supporting pro-social opportunities for youth in concert with downtown revitalization and recreational development initiatives.

We have a dedicated team of representatives ranging from elected officials, schools, law enforcement, hospitals, treatment providers, community leaders, residents, and youth who are committed to solving problems to help children, youth and families thrive. With the support of our schools to provide mentoring, counselling, referral to services, early childhood education, sports and other pro-social opportunities, and mental and behavioral health support, we can revitalize Colfax County. Investments in improved transportation opportunities and development of the Schuyler downtown community will change the trajectory of our youth toward long-term positive community growth and success. The creation of a Public Art 501(c)(3) organization to compliment the revitalization of downtown is an idea worth considering. We are in pursuit of improving the life of every child, youth, and adult that calls Colfax County home for one day or for a lifetime.

Section II: Introduction

The Colfax County Juvenile Services Team (team) has been in existence for close to 15 years. The team was created for the development and facilitation of the Colfax County Community Plan and the Colfax County Community Based Aid Grant application. Members of the team have various roles in effectuating the priorities and objectives identified in the plan. The team meets at least once per quarter in a variety of relevant settings.

The current year's planning process commenced on August 1, 2024, when the County Attorney's Office invited members of the team to the initial planning meeting. Subsequent meetings and communications occurred during the months of September, October, and November. The team had a diverse representation of key stakeholders to include courts, law enforcement, community service providers, schools, county officials, probation, and DHHS. There were at least 80% of team members in attendance at meetings. There was a change in administration at Schuyler Community Schools. The three county schools in Leigh, Clarkson, and Howells also experienced administrative changes. Nevertheless, each of the schools provided valuable insight into the current condition of our children and youth. The county's largest employer, Cargill, was given an opportunity to directly contribute to the Community Plan but did not engage in partnership with the team on this project. Nevertheless, the team recognizes it as an important community partner and our collective efforts will be to incorporate Cargill and other area employers in developing community-based solutions. Each of the three elected County Commissioners were provided with a draft copy of the plan and discussed with the County Attorney their priorities for Colfax County over the next five years.

Data was collected and gathered from team members consisting of basic community demographics as well as data from juvenile justice system point partners. Additionally, data from the Juvenile Justice Institute was reviewed. Partners from the East Central District Health Department as well as the Columbus Area United Way were incorporated into the data collection and analysis. The UNO Office of Latino and Latino American studies is a resource to explore in the future for data to drill down on as the county moves forward.

Once the team reviewed the data and discussed gaps, trends, and ideas for ways to best address these gaps, the process of formulating priorities and objectives were identified. This consisted of five different priority areas focused on education, health, substance abstinence and diversion, socioeconomics, and pro-social activities.

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners would like to thank all the Colfax County Juvenile Services Team members for their time and commitment to this important project. Member voices provided great insight and direction for the development of a plan unique to Colfax County.

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Community Description



Colfax County is located West of Dodge County, East of Platte County, North of Butler County and South of Stanton County. The Platte River forms its southern border. Highway 15 runs south to north and Highway 30 runs east to west. Colfax County is approximately 66 miles North of Lincoln, and approximately 75 miles Northwest of Omaha. Colfax County has a population of 10,563 and encompasses 411.6 square miles. Schuyler, population 6,200, is the largest town and county seat. Established in 1869 with the courthouse being built in 1870, Colfax County is in the process of revitalizing the downtown area.¹⁰

The Schuyler Public School System offers public education to children at pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school levels. Schuyler Community Schools has 7 schools and

¹⁰ Nebraskatravelerguide.com

nearly 2,000 students¹¹. Close to 64% of students are economically disadvantaged according to the school's Annual Report. The district's minority enrollment is approximately 90%.¹² Total Schuyler Central High School enrollment is 643 students with the Hispanic/Latino student population at 549 (85.3%).¹³

Cargill Meat Solutions Plant in Schuyler is one of the largest employers in Northeast Nebraska. Cargill employs over 2,000 people¹⁴ and it has been said that their employees speak approximately 18 different dialects and languages. The youth of Colfax County reflect this diversity as well. The University of Omaha Juvenile Justice Institute's (JJI) data from 2020 shows that of the 3,412 youth ages 10-17 in Colfax County, approximately 65% of youth identify themselves as Hispanic, approximately 30% of youth identified themselves as White non-Hispanic, approximately 1% identify themselves as Native American, and approximately 2% of youth identified themselves as Black¹⁵. 41.7% of Colfax County youth over the age of five speak a language other than English at home, compared to 11.0% for the State of Nebraska¹⁶. About 1 in 4 residents are non-citizens¹⁷.

Colfax County has a higher percentage of uninsured individuals (21%) and children than the rest of Nebraska (12%)¹⁸. Teen birth rate (1,000 female population ages 15-19) is almost two times higher than the teen birth rate at the state level. The teen birth rate for Colfax County is the

¹¹ Schuyler Community School's 2022 Annual Report <https://www.schuylercommunityschools.org/page/annual-report>

¹² Department of Education 2023 https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Statsfacts_20222023.pdf, page 51

¹³ Schuyler Central High School

¹⁴ <https://careers.cargill.com/en/schuyler-ne>

¹⁵ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

¹⁶ CHI Health (2019) Community Health Needs Assessment – pages 19-20

¹⁷ CHI Health, Implementation Strategy 2023-2025

https://www.chihealth.com/content/dam/chihealthcom/documents/about-us/community-health-needs-assessment/implementation-plans/2023-2025/Schuyler%20IS%20FY23-25_FINAL.pdf - page 11

¹⁸ NE Assoc. for Local Health Directors & East Central District Health Department, 2021 East Central District Comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment, https://ecdhd.ne.gov/file_download/inline/ed8de50a-0442-4d09-bfa4-a09f2af3ae21 - pages 29, 58 & 60.

3rd highest in the State. Just over half of all births in Colfax County receive first trimester prenatal care. Colfax County's infant mortality rate is almost twice the state average.¹⁹

According to the East Central District Health Department, almost 19% of Colfax County residents reported having poor health compared to 14% for the State. The rate of breast cancer was the second highest in the State. During the pandemic, Colfax County had the sixth-highest per capita COVID-19 infection rate of any American county. About one in every 13 residents had tested positive for the virus²⁰.

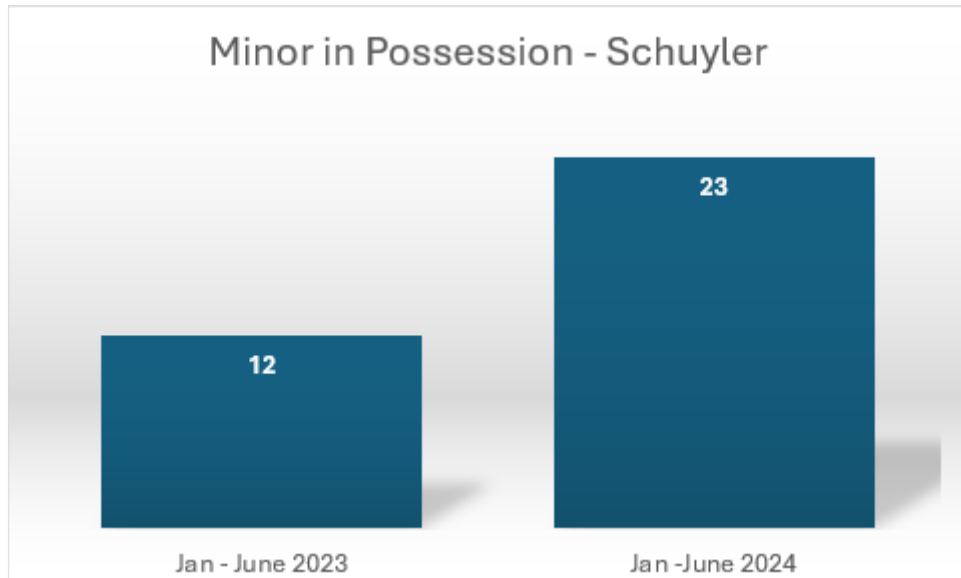
The alcohol impaired driving death rate is also a concern in Colfax County. It is 45% compared to 34% in the State of Nebraska²¹. In 2023, 89 residents were charged for driving under the influence. The rate of residents driving under a suspended license doubled over the last year (18 to 36 during a 6-month period). Driving without an operator's license increased over the last year from 87 to 142 for a 6-month period. The rate of minor's cited for possession of alcohol during a 6-month timeframe has also almost doubled from 2023 to 2024²².

¹⁹ CHI Health Needs Assessment (June 2024)

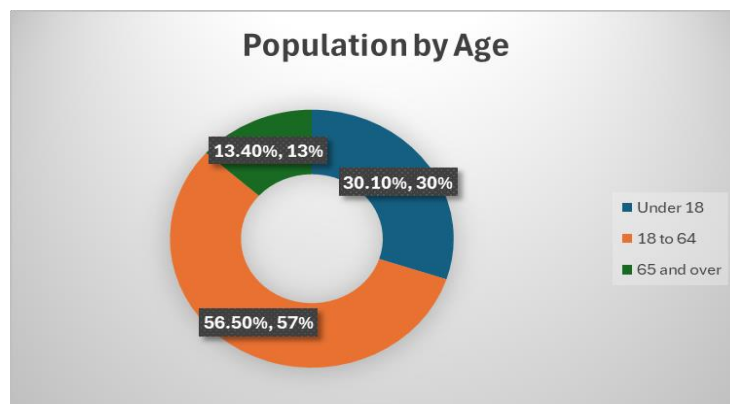
²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colfax_County,_Nebraska

²¹ NE Assoc. for Local Health Directors & East Central District Health Department, 2021 East Central District Comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment, https://ecdhd.ne.gov/file_download/inline/ed8de50a-0442-4d09-bfa4-a09f2af3ae21 - page 47.

²² Schuyler Police Department (2023-2024)



As the Juvenile Justice Institute data illustrated, most of the youth (65%) in Colfax County are Hispanic. When considering for the entire population of Colfax County, the racial demographics is about an even split with Hispanic (46%) and White (47%) with a small population of Black and Native American²³. The population broken down by age is below:



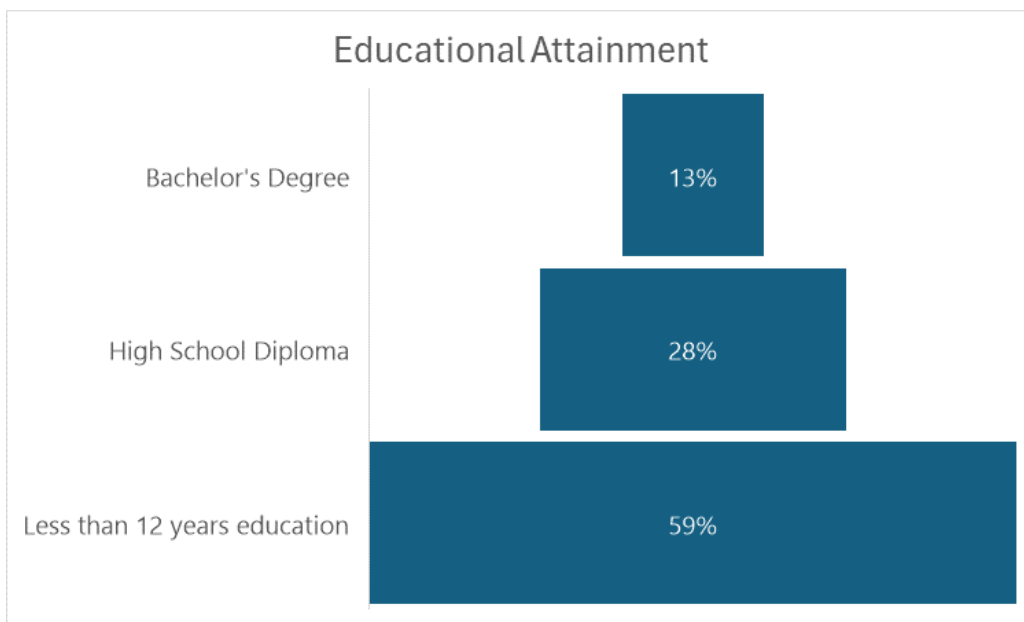
The median income in Colfax County is \$70,381 with the median property value of \$103,400²⁴. Eighty percent of food insecure children are in households with incomes below

²³ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

²⁴ Census data (2023) <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/colfaxcountynebraska/POP060210>

185% of the poverty line. Many of these percentages are comparable to the statewide average. However, when we examine educational attainment among our residents, there are great disparities when compared to the rest of the state.

97% of all K-12 students in Colfax County are educated in public schools (compared to the NE state average of 89%)²⁵. Colfax County ranks 92 out of 93 counties in the number of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree. The county is ranked 71 out of 93 in the number of residents over the age of 25 with a high school diploma.²⁶ Central Community College in Columbus provides the nearest post-secondary educational opportunities. There needs to be greater exposure to educational opportunities during and after high school.



²⁵ publicschoolreveiw.com

²⁶ Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

During the community planning meetings, the team identified the risk factors contributing to increased juvenile justice involvement. We took an evidence-informed approach, examined the reliability of data, its validity (truthfulness) and usefulness (reliability) based on credible sources, and our collective experiences. Risk factors included:

Academic Failure: The age of a youth who arrives in Colfax County from their country of origin directly affects the child's desire and/or the youth's ability to attend school. Many youths who arrive in Colfax County are expected to work to support themselves, and their families both in the United States and at home and are sometimes expected to pay for their trip to the United States. When youth must work to provide economic support for their family or guardian, education becomes less of a priority.

Another barrier to attendance at school occurs when youth enrolled in school are caring for and supporting other children. Often, families aren't using limited early childcare opportunities due to cost. The long-term impact of the absence of early childhood care and education can't be overstated. According to the Buffet Early Childhood Institute, youth who do not receive high quality early childhood care and education are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to experience a teen pregnancy, and 70% more likely to be arrested. There is increased statewide emphasis being placed on early childhood care and education systems improvement.²⁷

Families who relocate to Colfax County from their country of origin often remove their children from school for long periods of time, sometimes months, so that their family can return

²⁷ See, Nebraska Landscape Assessment, Statewide Community Conversations and Surveys, Early Childhood Care and Education Systems (2024) Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and University of Nebraska Medical Center, (Community & Family Partnership Collaborative)

to their country of origin to visit or care for family members. The trip for families to return to their country of origin can take several days or weeks and families will often withdraw their children from school to stay in their country of origin for several weeks at a time before returning.

Alcohol and Drugs: Youth in Colfax County reported drinking alcohol at a rate almost double the statewide average. Youth in Colfax County also don't generally perceive drinking alcohol daily as great concern or risk when compared to other youth across Nebraska.²⁸ The rate of minors (under 21 years old) cited for possession of alcohol during a 6-month timeframe has almost doubled from 2023 to 2024 as illustrated herein. This is significant because the county is experiencing an increase in DUI arrests involving both youth and adults. What is particularly concerning is the common fact of having children present in the vehicle at the time of a DUI arrest. And juvenile and adult drivers are often not licensed, operating on a suspended or revoked license, or operating a vehicle that is not registered or insured, and these drivers regularly test above .15 BAC.

Many of our youth are moving here from a country where the use of alcohol and drugs is acceptable behavior and widely available. Prevention efforts need to be enhanced to educate young people on the harmful effects and consequences of alcohol and drug use, to include marijuana and THC products. Vaping THC in school is a widespread problem in all the county's schools, and the risk of THC toxicity from increasingly potent and available products is a significant health concern.

²⁸ Juvenile Justice Institute (2020) Colfax County Data Report

Economic Deprivation: Children in Colfax County suffer from poverty at a much higher rate than the rest of the state. In fact, the team believes the rate is underrepresented as many of our families don't seek assistance because they are undocumented and fear immigration consequences if they seek or receive services from the government or other agencies. And team members collectively and individually must also confront the fact that this fear may be heightened over the next 5 years. As immigration policies change, we must prepare for and adapt to the challenges such changes present, to include meeting the social and economic impact on and needs of children and youth in crisis in the community.

One clearly identified problem is children arriving unaccompanied and without an adult to sign approval or permission forms to meet basic education and health needs of the children. The court has seen an increase in the number of guardianships requested due to unaccompanied minors arriving in the community. In many cases, youth are expected to work to contribute to the household.

Lack of transportation is also a major issue for families. Adults have limited knowledge concerning driving rules and laws. Due to many residents' undocumented status, there is no way for them to obtain an operator's license, and as stated above, cars are being driven without proper registration and insurance. Youth as young as 14 years old are driving in Schuyler without a license, registration, or insurance. Law enforcement and courts are strained in this regard, especially when coupled with DUI or .02 violation enforcement. When there are accidents, people are left with fines, without a car, and sometimes a judgment of restitution to pay from the limited income they are already receiving. There are currently inadequate solutions to address operating a motor vehicle without a license. The cycle continues unbroken because of the barrier

to obtaining legal motor vehicle operating privileges. The team discussed encouraging state lawmakers to consider granting a form of identification and temporary driving privilege licensure to document individuals and allow for education, registration, and insurance.

There needs to be family support established in a setting where youth are already present – making in-school services vital. These services need to include a vast array of services to wraparound the family. Services should be available to all youth. There also needs to be public awareness around the responsibilities that accompany driving a vehicle. In addition, there needs to be greater investment in making public transportation available to youth and families in Colfax County.

Mental and Behavioral Health: There are numerous barriers for families in accessing mental and behavioral health services. These barriers consist of multi-language communication needs, limited local service providers, perception and stigma around mental and behavioral health, and limited appointments available. The team believes that education about and treatment for mental and behavioral health issues are lacking for youth in Colfax County. Many families lack education and understanding concerning the importance of good physical and mental health and its relationship to behavioral health. . Additionally, educating parents and youth on the direct impact of social media platform(s) content exposure on adolescent mental health is important.²⁹

Further, many cultures see treatment of mental health issues as a weakness, a failure, an embarrassment, or something that should never be discussed, aside from being internalized or expressed in a religious or family setting. This is also oftentimes true for criminal behavior such

²⁹ Social Media and Child/Adolescent Mental Health, Fall 2024 Ethics on the Big Screen Series, *Childhood 2.0, The Living Experiment* (CHI Health Ethics Services, CommonSpirit Health Central Region).

as sexual assault occurring in the home, influenced by alcohol use, cultural differences, multi-family living arrangements, and unsupervised children

There are several youth in our schools and in our communities who have lived in war-torn and high violence regions, survived war camps, experienced poverty, and who suffered trauma before or while coming to the United States. Youth, especially girls, who travel to the United States across the southern border are often subjected to sexual assault by traffickers during their trip to the United States. Many youths have seen and experienced unspeakable atrocities because of war, violence, and instability in their native countries and many not only encounter difficulties of adapting to a new culture, but also a lack of family (both extended and immediate) support. The team believes that the younger the age that Colfax County can intervene the more effective the interventions will be.

Gang Affiliation or Involvement: According to the Risk and Protective Factors Youth Survey, 18% of twelfth grade youth in Colfax County reported being in a gang. This is compared to the statewide reporting of 3%. Some contributing factors include the dissolution of positive youth groups due to the lack of parent volunteers.

In addition, much of the youth population are newly arrived immigrants, often leaving their immediate and extended family in their country of origin. Social norms and languages are different, and youth tend to seek an immediate sense of identity and belonging. Unfortunately, this need is sometimes met by gang introduction and affiliation which in turn invites law violation behavior.

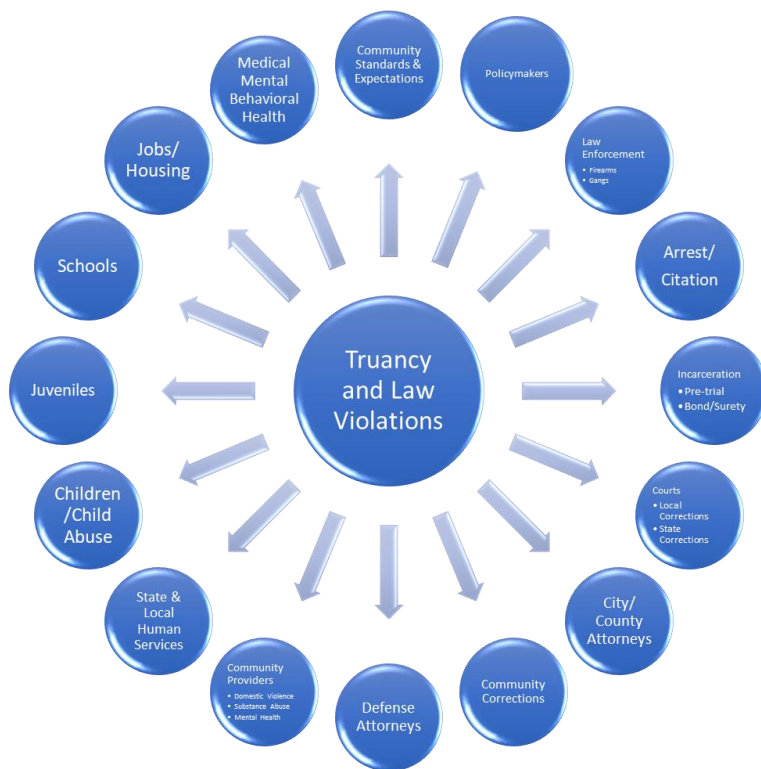
The undercurrent of gang affiliation or involvement is slowly beginning to surface in criminal behavior. In 2023, the County Attorney filed two criminal cases against juveniles under 18 for felony crimes of sexual assault and threats at school. One case proceeded to District Court disposition. In 2024, the County Attorney filed four criminal cases against juveniles under 18 for felony crimes of sexual assault, robbery, firearms, and felony assault at school. Two cases proceeded to District Court and are pending disposition. There were marginal facts of gang affiliation or ideation in some of these cases, but more importantly, the cases illustrate the need to understand and properly address the increased seriousness of juvenile behaviors in the community, and the significant strain these cases impose on county resources.

Colfax County needs more formalized community-based positive youth activities to avoid negative peer or “gang” affiliation or involvement, formal or informal. Pro-social activities can include sports, arts, leadership opportunities, or the establishment of safe and comfortable places for young people to gather, socialize, and grow. Incorporating positive peer support in these spaces will benefit our youth.

Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

Colfax County is a small community with most of the residents in Schuyler identifying as Hispanic and many recently immigrating to the United States. This makes Colfax County unique to most other Nebraska counties with different sets of needs and priorities to address them.

When law violations occur, the community and associated systems are impacted and stressed. And when the associated systems work together and support each other, law violations and truancy behavior can be best addressed, and behaviors modified. The figure below illustrates this systemic cross-dependence and interconnectedness approach necessary to effectively address truancy and juvenile law violation behaviors.



In 2022, there were 79 juvenile court filings (**4 status (TR), 62 misdemeanors/infractions/traffic**, and 4 felony law violations). There were 9 3(a) neglect cases

filed.

In 2023, there were 100 juvenile court filings (**3 status (TR), 85 misdemeanors/infractions/traffic**, and 4 felony law violations). There were 8 3(a) neglect cases filed.

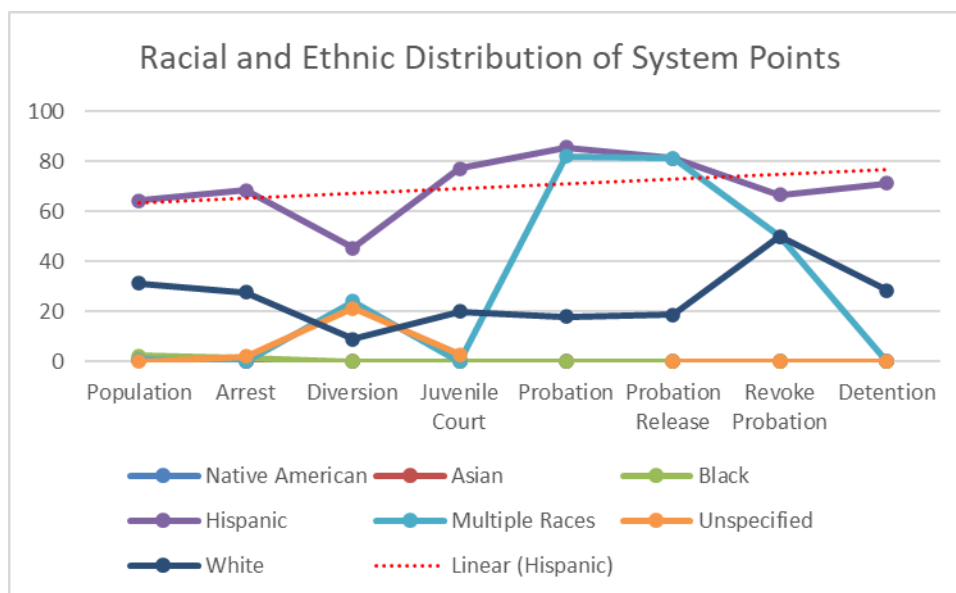
Through November 21, 2024, there are 117 juvenile court filings (**11 status (TR), 94 misdemeanors/infractions/traffic** and 4 felony law violations). For that same period in 2024, there are 8 3(a) neglect cases filed.³⁰

When examining system point data provided by the Juvenile Justice Institute for the year 2022, Hispanic youth accounted for 64.3% of the youth population yet they accounted for 68.6% of law enforcement referrals. Only 45.5% of Hispanic youth were referred to diversion, while 77.1% of Hispanic youth had charges filed in juvenile court, and 85.7% of Hispanic youth were placed on probation. In summary, as juvenile justice system points advance so too does the overrepresentation of Hispanic youth. We recognize that we need to reach the existing population of youth in our community with services rather than court involvement, in most cases, when it can be done safely following a truancy or law violation referral. The totality of the data suggests our youth are increasingly missing school and repeatedly committing misdemeanor and infraction level offenses such as marijuana (THC), driving privilege infractions, and MIP.

We also recognize and acknowledge that effective law enforcement understands that individual trauma affects behavior, particularly with children and youth. Additionally, individuals in educational, social services, and justice-related settings, to include victim

³⁰ 2023/2022 Juvenile Justice Annual Statistical Report, County Attorney internal case management system data, and County Court for Colfax County (Justice).

advocates, professional staff, court staff, reporters, and even judges and members of a jury experience the trauma lived by those we regularly encounter. We will focus on identifying trauma on its spectrum and emphasize awareness of physical and mental trauma symptoms at the point of system contact(s) as they occur around us.



Colfax County had a traditional diversion program for law violations and truancy that was targeted to youth ages 11-17, some of whom arrived directly to Colfax County from their country of origin, until 2023. However, the data from the Juvenile Justice Institute exemplified the shortcomings of this program. The latest JJI Program evaluation found for the period of 2020 to 2022, this program was ineffective due to the amount of missing data and post-enrollment behavior was found to have worsened.

From July 2020 to June 2022, 100 youth were referred with only 44 enrolling. Over half of the youth were referred for a traffic offense. Of the 66 youth who did not enroll, 83% of them never responded to outreach efforts to enroll in diversion.

Since October 2022 and progressive modification of the diversion program thereafter, the number of juvenile cases filed increased slightly. The County Attorney introduced informal intervention with warning letters and referrals to educational and community partners to prevent them from entering the system. However, many of the law violations represent repetitive behavior, often involving the same youth, and are traffic related offenses not easily managed with one-time informal intervention. There is an on-going need for informal intervention. Similarly, the availability of community resources had to be expanded. In 2024, we began a shift to focus our efforts on prevention, and early and targeted intervention with in-school direct intervention and coordination with wraparound support.

As a county, we are going to more fully engage in this early intervention strategy through our collective prevention efforts, to include an emphasis on early childhood care options and educational engagement and support to build a foundation for success in school.

For many families in Colfax County, education does not seem to be sufficiently valued or encouraged as it may be in other parts of the state. Many families in our communities value working over education to help the family financially. The team sees many older siblings quit school or stop attending school as soon as they are old enough to get a full-time job to help support themselves, their parent(s) or guardian(s), and sometimes younger siblings. Colfax County youth are exposed to various forms of poverty in Nebraska.

Additionally, many children, from an early age, don't have a strong and fundamental health, mental, or physical foundation necessary to succeed in school. Our public and private early childhood programs can currently accommodate 287 children, but there are 745 children under the age of 6 with working parents, leaving 458 children under 6 unenrolled in a private

licensed or public preschool. Approximately one-third of students require free or reduced lunch.³¹

In Colfax County, 86.6% of homes with children under age 18 have a computer in their home as compared to approximately 96% of homes in the rest of Nebraska. This statistic means that Colfax County ranks 93 out of 93 counties for percentage of homes with children under age 18 that have a computer in the home. Colfax County youth ages 12-17 also struggle with access to internet services. Youth in Colfax County under the age of 18 with an internet subscription in their home is 82.3% as compared to 91% in the rest of Nebraska³².

Colfax County is at a tipping point with youth educational attainment. Educational statistics speak volumes about the struggles confronting youth in Colfax County. During the last school year alone, chronic absenteeism doubled jumping from 9.3% in 2020-21 to 21% in 2021-22. School mobility rate (10%) is almost twice that of the state average (5%). The chronically absent rate (21%) is twice that of the State (12%) goal³³. In 2021-2022, the county ranked nearly last for individuals aged 25 and older who attained a high school degree³⁴. This improved in 2024 to 71 of 93 counties as cited above. This is an educational crisis, and it can be fixed with greater emphasis on communicating about and providing community support through schools. Greater emphasis on vocational training and professional trade licensure needs to be examined. And exposure to alternative educational opportunities in high school and beyond, such as provided by United States military services, should be explored.

³¹ Communities for Kids, Nebraska Children, one-page data sheets for Schuyler and Colfax County.

³² Juvenile Justice Institute (2020) Colfax County Data Report

³³ Schuyler Central High School 21-22 School Year Data Juvenile Justice Institute (2024) Colfax County Data Report

³⁴ Schuyler Community Schools 21-22 School Year Data

Emphasis on arts and sciences education with an opportunity to attend a 2-year or 4-year college degree needs to be examined. Schools are uniquely positioned to introduce, emphasize, secure, or restore services for children and youth and their families. The services provided will improve school attendance, prevent the need for court intervention, create opportunities to complete high school, and generally provide the necessary support to improve lives.

To make our intervention efforts more effective, we will be incorporating evidence-based practices by using an assessment tool to determine the individualized reason behind why youth are missing school. A school-based coordinator will use her education, training and experience to interview students, interact with them quickly, often, and candidly, and direct them and their families to community services through the Columbus Area United Way. The intervention will be comprehensive to ensure students have their basic needs met, and emphasize the importance of legal and safe driving, abstinence from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, and responsible behavior in personal relationships. We've also placed greater emphasis on our LB1184 collaboration efforts, and quarterly meetings between the County Attorney and school administrators.

As stated, Colfax County has seen a significant increase in the number of Hispanic residents joining the community. Many members of this population are hardworking individuals who want to succeed and contribute to the community. Unfortunately, oftentimes because of their undocumented or temporary citizenship status or their earnings, they do not qualify for Medicaid, SNAP or other benefits. People who are undocumented but need assistance are often reluctant to seek help. This has a profound effect on children and youth, including enrollment in and subsequent absenteeism from school, and law violation behaviors.

In addition, the primary local employment industries provide limited professional advancement or growth opportunities. With little opportunity for increased financial resources, many families and friends choose to live in residences that are not designed for multi-family living. This not only makes for an uncomfortable living situation, but also lends itself to potential victimization of young children residing in the home, including sexual assault, and physical, mental, and emotional child neglect and abuse. The city of Schuyler is currently pursuing a plan to build affordable multi-dwelling units that may alleviate some of these issues.

Local access to mental and behavioral health services is important to every community, but in Colfax County these services are not as accessible as they should be with residents often having to go to Columbus to access them. In fact, the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment showed that residents identified behavioral health as one of the greatest needs in our community. For the most effective treatment, providers need to be bilingual, trauma informed, and culturally trained to work with most of our population. In addition, there needs to be education and acceptance that seeking behavioral health support is normal and healthy.

Our plan is to provide direct and local services to children, youth and families throughout the county through the collaboration of the school-based coordinator and Columbus Area United Way county-dedicated community prevention youth coaching services and programming. CAUW/CFP has youth mental health vouchers and partners with schools and human service organizations to provide the referral for those vouchers. CAUW/CFP contracts with several providers to offer bilingual options. CHI Health Schuyler will also be an important partner with a newly integrated Behavioral Health Specialist and Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner in the Schuyler clinic.

Language and translation assistance are needed by youth and their families in Colfax County to understand fundamental community expectations, school attendance requirements, and the legal system. Colfax County makes every effort to communicate effectively with young people and their families in a language that the youth and their families understand. Cargill, one of the largest employers in the area, reportedly employs individuals who communicate using over 18 different languages and dialects while working in their plant every day.

Colfax County would like to develop more widespread community-based programs to help youth achieve a better understanding of expectations to help them succeed rather than be involved in the juvenile justice system. We want to offer children, youth and families the opportunity to be optimistic about the future and to set priorities for themselves and their families. Positive opportunities and outlook will greatly mitigate at-risk behaviors and personal failure and provide stability. There needs to be greater awareness of and access to available legal resources to address whatever personal circumstance that stands in the way of children, youth and families feeling safe, confident, and welcome in the community.

Transportation is an ongoing issue for youth and families. Amongst the documented immigrant community, upon arrival, many families do not have sufficient funds or credit history to purchase a vehicle or to afford car insurance, which could take months to acquire. Families often only have one reliable vehicle per family, therefore having to prioritize who uses it or where family members need to go and the limitations this brings. Due to many residents being undocumented, it is very difficult for them to obtain an operator's license, which means they are not attending driver safety courses. There needs to be compliance with laws, and public awareness and education on the importance of driver's safety. Drivers' education classes need to be readily available and attainable at school.

Alternatives to detention such as electronic monitoring and tracker services are possible in Colfax County, although very few youths require detention. The youth who are detained tend to be older youth who commit felony offenses such as sexual assault or weapons offenses and are prosecuted as an adult. However, if youth require shelter care, the closest placement is CEDARS in Lincoln. Colfax County is without an intermediary placement level between detention in Madison County, and electronic monitoring and tracker services.

Colfax County would like to expand and institute programming and services to relieve the existing stress and strain on limited community services and more broadly address all the identified needs. However, with limited funding, we are keenly aware we can make the biggest impact with prevention and pre-diversion programming in our schools. The Schuyler School Board and the City of Schuyler recently approved a school-resource officer (SRO) position within all three levels of school. The goals for the SRO will be to provide oversight and assistance with implementation of the school safety plan; provide assistance with law violation and school attendance issues occurring within the schools; work in partnership with school administration and the County Attorney; and build healthy relationships with children and youth. The position is set to begin in January 2025.

Additionally, our team will primarily focus on enhancing and expanding the existing school-based coordinator direct intervention program with referral to wraparound services for children, youth and families, and provide informal monitoring and programming for at-risk youth who have already received a truancy or law violation referral or are court-involved.³⁵

³⁵ While in pursuit of the goal of educational attainment, it is important to be aware of a significant and potential unintended consequence from being overly aggressive in pursuit of this goal as it relates to individuals ages 19 - 21 years. Our high schools must also be mindful of sexual assault laws, specifically first-degree sexual assault

that involves a sexual relationship between a 19-year-old or older adult and a 15-year-old or younger child, a violation of which carries a penalty of up to 50 years imprisonment. Youth 15 and younger are an at-risk population in this regard. So, high school educational opportunities for 19-year-old (and older) adult students look different than the opportunities available to 15-year-old children (and younger). Schuyler Central High School reports there are 40 students (including special education students) enrolled at the high school (Infinite Campus) aged 19 – 21 years old (6.2%). There are 33 non-special education students (5.1%). Additionally, this educational situation raises the risk level with concerns about the availability and use of alcohol or THC products, which is often part of the factual basis leading up to a sexual assault status offense.

Section IV: Services and Programs

AVAILABLE YOUTH SERVICES		
Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers
School-based Coordinator and Early Intervention Program	Prevention Diversion Court filing	This position is a full-time position. Due to the population of youth needing services, this position needs to have greater access to services
Schuyler Middle School Fieldhouse	Prevention	Sports focused. Youth not interested in sports would not be interested. There may be costs and other limitations associated with greater access to this facility
CAUW/CFP mental health vouchers	Prevention	Receiving referrals to meet full needs and lack of awareness of the importance of mental health treatment
Crisis Response (local) and 988 (national)	Prevention	Awareness, access, and willingness to seek help
Platte Valley Literacy/Central Community College	Prevention	Not focused on youth. Limited adult education/ESL and GED classes offered. Transportation can be an issue
Vocational Rehabilitation (Vocational Rehab)	Prevention	Serves a specific population
Bilingual Education Program at Schuyler Schools	Prevention	Class size is large. Need to expand opportunities for parents to engage with teachers
Library Internet Access	Prevention	Transportation and limited hours of use
iPads at School and At Home	Prevention	Families are required to have internet access
Salvation Army	Prevention	Limited hours, transportation issues, marketing of programs
Soccer Club/Indoor Soccer	Prevention	Limited space, limited hours, fees to play, transportation issues, parents' availability to watch youth in games
ESL Counselor at Schuyler High School	Prevention	Large number of students to serve for limited staff
Colfax County Food Pantry (youth volunteer & restitution program)	Prevention	Transportation issues
The Schuyler Swimming Pool	Prevention	Transportation issues, fees, seasonal operation

Mental Health First Aid	Prevention	Limited to select number of students interested
Walking Trails	Prevention	Safer with adult supervision, but adult time is limited due to most parents and guardians working
CAC and SANE Health Exams	Prevention	Intrusive and traumatic for children, especially victims who have been trafficked
After-School Program (Warrior Academy)	Prevention	For younger kids (ages 5-10) and a fee
Teammates	Prevention Diversion	Long waitlist for mentees and not enough mentors
Scouts	Prevention	Fees, transportation issues, parental skepticism, cultural understanding and issues
Healthy Relationships Classes	Prevention Diversion	Limited time to facilitate these classes in school
4-H	Prevention	Focused on rural communities
County Attorney Victim Advocate	Prevention Restitution/RJ	None
Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Center (Detention)	Prevention Pre-adjudication Court intervention Disposition	None (except cost)

FAMILY SERVICES		
Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers
Platte Valley Literacy/Central Community College	Prevention	Not focused on youth. Limited adult education/ESL and GED classes offered. Transportation can be an issue
Teenage Parent Programs	Prevention	Transportation issues and difficult to attend due to responsibility of caring for younger siblings
Youth and Family THRIVE Program	Prevention	Parental engagement is difficult, transportation issues; language access considerations
Salvation Army	Prevention	Limited hours, transportation issues, marketing of the program, difficult to attend due to responsibility of caring for younger siblings
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)	Prevention	Reluctant to use service due to undocumented status
Food and Toy Drive	Prevention	Reluctant to use service due to undocumented status
Backpack Program	Prevention	Reluctant to use service due to undocumented status
Community Response	Prevention	Lack of available bilingual providers, families are reluctant to participate due to undocumented status, several people living in a single-family home
School Family Literacy Program	Prevention	Language access considerations, difficult to get family to engage, need care for younger children
Circle of Serenity Parenting Class	Prevention	Language access considerations, difficult to get family to engage, need care for younger children
Mobile Food Pantry	Prevention	Families are reluctant to participate due to undocumented status
Churches (multiple denominations and religious practice)	Prevention	Transportation issues, encourages limited involvement in formal systems, tends to work against prevention
Center for Survivor's Satellite Office	Prevention	Language access considerations, difficult to get family to engage, need care for younger children
CHI and SACC Farmer's Market Vouchers	Prevention	Families are reluctant to participate due to undocumented status

First Five Nebraska	Prevention	Awareness of available assistance to families to include tax credits
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ASSESSMENT SERVICES		
Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers
Crisis Resource Navigators Nebraska Family Help Line (DHHS)	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition	Language access considerations, families are reluctant to participate due to undocumented status, several people living in a single-family home
Public school/private mental health services	Prevention	Language access considerations, services need to be trauma informed, lack of awareness of the importance of mental health treatment

CLOSE PROXIMITY SERVICES			
Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers	Distance
Professional Partners Program	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-disposition	Language access considerations, often a waiting list, low family engagement	29 miles
Juvenile Services Assessment Center	Diversion	Transportation issues, case plans are focused on Platte County area	29 miles
Mental Health Counseling Agencies (Primary Agencies Serving Youth: Good Life Counseling, Colegrove Counseling Center, Columbus Psychiatric Center, Discovery Counseling, Good Neighbor Center, Embark Counseling, Mental & Behavioral Health, Professional Mental Health and Elissa Olson), Goodwill Includes Parent – Child Interaction Therapy & Child-Parent Psychotherapy	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-disposition	Language access considerations, often a waiting list, difficulty in getting follow-through, transportation issues, lack of awareness of importance of mental health services	29 miles
Center for Survivors Revolution/Healthy	Prevention	Language access considerations, services need to be trauma informed, transportation issues, lack of awareness of the importance of these services	29 miles
Central Nebraska Community Action KIDS (Keeping Independent Directives in Society) Program	Prevention	Transportation issues, youth are often responsible to care for siblings and are unable to attend	29 miles
Central Plains Center for Services PALS Program	Prevention	Focused on a specific population exiting foster care	29 miles
Central Plains Center for Services Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program	Prevention	Transportation issues, many youths aren't homeless – rather they are living with guardians or many other people in small housing units	29 miles

YMCA Youth Development	Prevention	Transportation issues, youth are often responsible for their sibling(s) and unable to attend	29 miles
Volunteer CASA Connection	Court Filing Disposition Post-Disposition	Language access considerations and volunteers	29 miles
Nebraska Mediation Services	Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-Disposition	Language access considerations and low family engagement Suitability of services	29 miles
Immigrant Legal Center (Omaha)	Prevention	Awareness and Access	75 miles

NEEDED PROGRAMS and SERVICES			
Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers	Distance
Short-term Alternative to Detention	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-disposition	Lincoln (Cedars) is the closest alternative to detention/shelter to the Juvenile Detention Center in Norfolk.	74 miles
Mental health alternative to EPC placement	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-disposition	Availability of local crisis response services in lieu of EPC placement	29 miles or greater
Informal and administrative response to driving offenses for juveniles through DMV	Prevention Diversion Court Filing Disposition Post-disposition	Lack of State initiatives	N/A
Local recreational facilities	Prevention	Lack of investment and funding sources	29 miles or greater to participate
Inter-county transportation	Prevention	Transportation issues, youth are often responsible for care of siblings and are unable to attend; parents work in neighboring counties. Some youth aren't homeless but live with guardians or others in small housing units	29 miles or greater to travel
Family support services	Prevention	A full menu of local family support services are needed	29 miles
Local immigration legal services	Prevention	The availability of affordable legal services to address immigration issues is needed	29 miles or greater

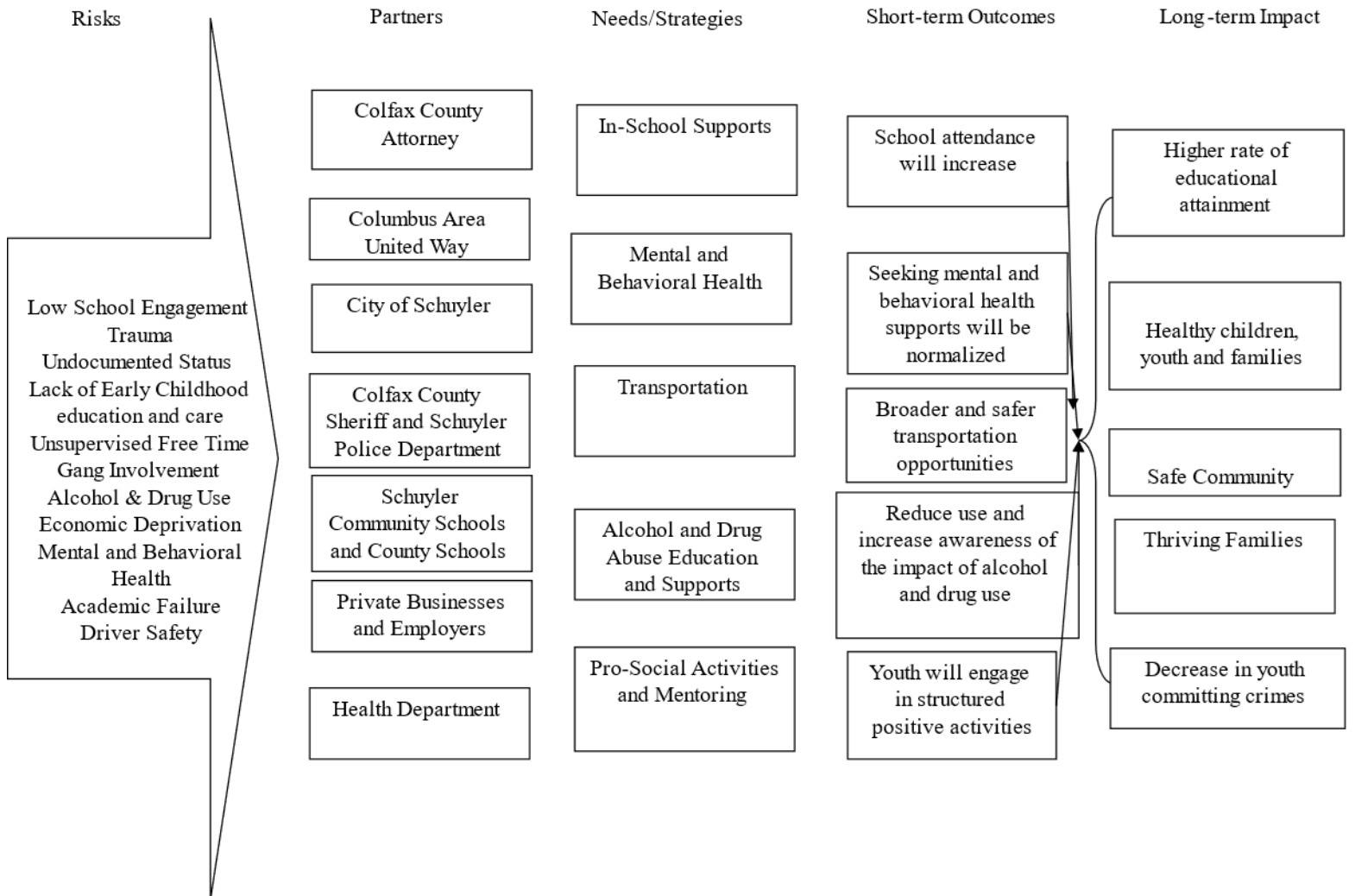
PROBATION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS FOR JUVENILE CARE

Program/ Agency Name	System Point	Issues/Barriers
Community Prevention Youth Coaching	Prevention Supervision	Availability Bilingual Providers
Family Support Worker	Prevention Supervision	Availability Willingness to participate
Intensive Family Preservation	Prevention Supervision	Availability Willingness to participate
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Prevention Supervision	Willingness and ability to participate Bilingual Providers
Mental, Behavioral, and Substance Abuse treatment	Treatment	Engagement Bilingual Providers
Richard Young/Immanuel/Bryan	Crisis Response	Availability

DETENTION & DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

Program/ Agency Name	Distance	Cost
Cedars Reception Center Shelter Care	74 miles	\$80/day
In-Home Care Electronic Monitoring Family Services	Local	\$14/day
Emergency and Traditional Foster Care	TBD	\$55.00/face-to-face contact
Kinship Care (living with a family member)	Local	\$78.76/day
MEMBER: Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Services (Colfax County Board member serves as the County Representative)	45 miles	\$180/day
Sarpy County Detention	71 miles	\$240/day or greater
Lancaster County Detention	68 miles	\$334/day
Group Home	Various	TBD
Psychological Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)	Various	TBD

Colfax County Youth



COORDINATION PLAN			
Community Service	Existing Program	Develop	Enhance/Expand
School-based Truancy/ Diversion Coordinator and Programs	Truancy and Law Violation Intervention Program	Existing	Enhance and Expand to include: 1. Validated risk assessment use 2. Ensure data sets are accurate and complete for evaluation purposes 3. Provide additional wraparound supports
Columbus Area United Way	Child, Youth and Family Services	Existing	Fully and consistently fund a “Community Prevention Youth Coach” dedicated and directly responsive to Colfax County
Volunteer Programs	Teammates/Mentoring	Develop programs with police serving as positive role models and in school (SRO) Partner with business leaders to mentor youth Develop more recreational and pro-social activities for youth	Expand existing programs to encourage a broad personal and professional spectrum of volunteers Invest in recreational facilities and encourage volunteerism
Family Preservation & Counseling	Mental and Behavioral Health Providers	Foster bilingual interpreter services for language access to services Develop Project Hope Squad in schools	Enhance programs to ensure interpreter services are fully and consistently available Expand programs to include public awareness around the importance of mental health care Expand programs to have daycare supports available during appointments Expand programs to assist families with getting to and from appointments
Center for Survivors	Community Response	Existing	Assure immediate on-site contact with victims of abuse/neglect, sexual assault, and relationship violence

Drug & Alcohol Counseling	Included with Mental and Behavioral Health Providers above	Existing	Expand to include as a requirement when youth receive a MIP/THC contact
Parents Anonymous	Salvation Army Community Response Churches	Existing	<p>Expand these programs to include public awareness around mental and behavioral health, driving safety, alcohol and substance use, school attendance, and confidentiality of services available to individuals who are undocumented.</p> <p>Enhance existing public transportation to include more routes and extended hours between Platte and Colfax County</p>
Delinquency Prevention Efforts and System Improvement Efforts	Soccer Program	<p>Further develop housing and revitalize downtown district</p> <p>Creation of a Public Arts 501(c)(3) organization</p>	<p>Enhance soccer programs and fields to make them more accessible for youth and families</p> <p>Expand current housing inventory and build affordable multi-family housing</p> <p>Enhance the appearance and improve services in the downtown district to make it more inclusive of the community youth population</p>

Section V: Priorities and Strategies (See Tables Below)

- 1. Priority Area #1:** Increase the number of youth earning a high school diploma
- 2. Priority Area #2:** Increase mental and behavioral health services available to children, youth and their families
- 3. Priority Area #3:** Reduce the use of alcohol and controlled substance(s)
- 4. Priority Area #4:** Increase transportation and affordable housing options available for youth and families
- 5. Priority Area #5:** Increase structured recreational and pro-social activities for children and youth

Priority Area #1: Increase the number of youth earning a high school diploma						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Increase School Engagement	Reach out to families missing school	School-based Coordinator	On going	School partnership and funding	20% increase in school attendance	Attendance; Reduced Law Violations
	Engage youth in extracurricular activities at school	School-based Coordinator	On going	School partnership and funding	20% increase in school attendance	Attendance; Reduced Law Violations
	Ensure youth have all necessary educational supports to be successful	School-based Coordinator	On going	School partnership and funding	Improved grades	Improved Grades
Public message campaign on the importance of school attendance	Information flyers in businesses and county offices in multiple languages	Schuyler Community Schools	June 2025	Partnerships and collaboration with businesses and county government	5% overall increase in school attendance	Attendance
	Partner with refugee services for education	Schuyler Community Schools	June 2025	Partnership with refugee services	5% overall increase in school attendance	Attendance

Wraparound Family Services	Provide children, youth and families with basic needs	School-based Coordinator	On going	Partnership with Columbus Area United Way and funding	10% increase in attendance and improved grades	Attendance & Grades Reduced Law Violations
	Build relationship between the school and families	School-based Coordinator; SRO	On going	Partnership with Schools and funding	10% increase in attendance and improved grades	Attendance & Grades Reduced Law Violations
	Assist families in ELL Classes	School-based Coordinator	On going	Funding	10% increase in attendance and improved grades	Attendance & Grades
County Attorney Consults	Collaboration between County Attorney and members of the Juvenile Services Team	Juvenile Services Team School-based Coordinator County Attorney SRO School Administrators	On going	Partnerships to include work with the Community & Family Partnership Collaborative and LB1184 teams	10% increase in attendance and improved grades	Attendance & Grades Reduced Law Violations
Access to early childhood education and care	Improve the availability of early childhood education and care opportunities	Juvenile Services Team and state/local, public/private partnerships Strong Starts Schuyler Early Childhood Partnership	December 2026	Funding and Partnership with the Community & Family Partnership Collaborative	Increased enrollment Improved attendance Improved literacy and grades Application for state “school readiness tax credit”	Attendance & Grades Reduced Law Violations

Priority Area #2: Increase mental and behavioral health services available to children, youth and their families						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Project Hope Squad in the schools	Establish Project Hope Squad in the high schools	ECDHD Schools Hopeful Horizons	September 2025	School partnership	Greater awareness of the importance of crisis response, mental and behavioral health	Youth participation
Mental and behavioral health services readily available in different languages	Ensure language access services are readily available	ECDHD/CAUW Private partner providers	July 2026	Funding & Interpreters	Increased access to mental and behavioral health services	Number of mental and behavioral health sessions held in a different language
	Explore AI options for language access services	ECDHD/private partner providers	January 2026	Funding	Increased access to mental and behavioral health services	Reduced crisis calls
	Partner with Central Community College for possible language access services	ECDHD/private partner providers	January 2026	Funding and partnership with Central Community College	Increased access to mental and behavioral health services	Reduced Law Violations
Ensure services are accessible to families	Offer transportation to and from appointments	City/County/Private partnerships and administration	July 2028	Funding	Increased access to mental and behavioral health	Participation
	Daycare available onsite	Churches & Community Response	July 2027	Funding and Providers	Increased access to mental and behavioral health	Community Response data

Priority Area #3: Reduce the use of alcohol and controlled substance(s)						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Education for all youth on the harmful effects of alcohol and controlled substance(s)	Youth will receive avoidance of alcohol/controlled substance(s) education in school	School-based intervention & SRO	May 2026	Funding	15 % decrease in alcohol and controlled substance use by minors	Number of MIP/THC Decrease in youth perception that alcohol and controlled substance use is acceptable
Engage youth in alcohol and controlled substance-free activities	Partner with community organizations to host recreational and pro-social events.	Juvenile Services Team members and public/private partnerships	May 2025	Funding & Supportive Community Events	10% decrease in alcohol and controlled substance use by minors	Number of MIP/THC
	Organize partnerships to support recreational and pro-social opportunities like soccer fields	Juvenile Services Team members and public/private partnerships	May 2026	Funding	10% decrease in alcohol and substance use by minors	Number of MIP/THC

Ensure youth who have MIP/THC receive alcohol and controlled substance use assessment and evaluation	Partner with mental and behavioral health organizations to complete assessments and evaluations for youth and families	School-based intervention/CHI partnership/private partner providers	July 2025	Funding and providers	25% decrease in alcohol and controlled substance use by minors	Number of MIP/THC
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Priority Area #4: Increase transportation and affordable housing options available for youth and families						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Education on driving, licensing, registration and insurance laws	Informational sessions on importance of having an operator's license and alternative modes of transportation	Resettlement agencies	September 2025	Partnership with agencies and employers	10% decrease in the number of traffic-related offenses and alcohol-related accidents and fatalities	Vehicle accidents
		SRO Juvenile Services Team members in cooperation with DMV	December 2026	Partnership with agencies and employers		Traffic offenses and court filings
Driver's education classes	Provide community-based driver education courses in multiple languages	Resettlement agencies Schools	May 2025	Partnership with agencies, employers, and schools	20% decrease in the number of traffic-related offenses and alcohol-related accidents and fatalities	Vehicle accidents Traffic offenses
Expand public transportation options	Expand public transportation	City/County/Private partnerships and administration Columbus Area United Way	August 2027	Funding and administration	25% decrease in the number of traffic-related offenses and alcohol-related fatalities	Traffic offenses
	Explore partnerships with Lyft and Uber	Juvenile Services Team members	August 2027	Funding	25% decrease in the number of traffic-related offenses and alcohol-related	Traffic offenses

					accidents and fatalities	
Sense of belonging in the community	Multi-family, affordable housing development	Schuyler Community Housing	May 2029	Funding Community investment	10% decrease in youth offenses	Youth offenses Reduced Law Violations

Priority Area #5: Increase structured recreational and pro-social activities for children and youth						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Engage children and youth in healthy recreational and pro-social activities	Support new soccer facilities and programming	Public/private partnerships	May 2026	Funding Youth Input	10% decrease in youth reporting gang involvement	Number of self-identified gang members
	Create a safe and comfortable place for children and youth to be in their free time in evenings and on weekends	Salvation Army Columbus Area United Way City/County Development	May 2027	Funding Youth Input	10% decrease in MIP/THC and gang association	MIP/THC; self-reported gang association, and court filings
Develop and expand existing mentorship opportunities	Schuyler Police Department will positively interact with youth in school	Schuyler Police Department	August 2025	Police and youth will learn how to communicate with and respect one another	10% decrease in youth offenses	Youth Offenses
	Expand Teammate mentors to include improved diversity	Teammates	August 2027	Mentors will reflect similar cultural interests as youth they are mentoring	15% increase in protective factors indicated on YRBS	YRBS results
	Work with business leaders to develop mentorship opportunities with youth	Private sector leaders	August 2026	Youth will have positive and successful people in their life to model behavior	15% increase in protective factors indicated on the YRPFS	YRBS results

Sense of belonging in the community	Partner with the Schuyler Chamber of Commerce and city administrators to revitalize the downtown	Public/Private partnerships and administration	May 2029	Funding Youth Input	15% decrease in youth offenses	Youth offenses Reduced Law Violations
		Creation of a Public Arts 501(c)(3) organization	May 2029	Funding Community investment	10% decrease in youth offenses	Youth offenses Reduced Law Violations

Appendix

- A. Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist
- B. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board
- C. Colfax County Data Report (JJI)
- D. 2021 East Central District Comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment
- E. CHI Health, East Central District Health Department, & Good Neighbor Community Health Center 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment
- F. Schuyler Community School's 2022 Annual Report
- G. CHI Health Implementation Strategy 2023-2025
- H. Nebraska Children's Communities for Kids
- I. KIDS COUNT Data Sheet Voices for Children
- J. Project Hope Squad Informational Flyer
- K. We Care for Kids Top-10 Facts
- L. Bottom Line Report First Five Nebraska
- M. Children in Focus – What the Data Tells Us (September 2024) FCRB