



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR
THE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS

STEPS 2015 - 2016 Annual Report

STEPS' mission:

To provide participatory, utilization-focused evaluation for organizations serving children, youth, and families in poverty.





As hard as we work, you'd think we would have worked ourselves out of a job by now. Sadly, poverty is persistent. We enjoy the challenge of partnering with organizations who are serving children, youth, and families in poverty through our provision of program evaluation services, training, and support.

What a joy and privilege too to be at UNO where community engagement is not only encouraged and supported, but a strategic goal. We also feel fortunate to join the community of organizations in the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center; the office space, the meeting rooms, the technology, the parking—it's all so conducive to collaboration and good work. We're grateful to our academic home, the Grace Abbott School of Social Work.

We continued to experience incredible growth this year. Dr. Keyonna King joined our program evaluation team. She came all the way from southern California and brought incredible public health knowledge in addition to program evaluation and research skills and experience. Jon Stanton also moved to full-time as our operations coordinator. This year, we began offering program evaluation capacity-building training and consulting to small nonprofits in the Omaha area, and provided many needs assessments and social returns on investment. We will continue to assemble teams and offer approaches that meet the needs of the community organizations we serve. We look forward to another great year of program evaluation and community engagement!



Jeanette Harder, Ph.D., Project Director



Pam Ashley, M.Ed., Program Evaluator



Keyonna King, Dr.P.H., Program Evaluator



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**Goal 1:
Student-centered**

- Staffed, in part, by graduate students who are mentored by professional staff

**Goal 2:
Academically excellent**

- Founded and staffed by faculty
- Facilitated service-learning
- Produced conference presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts

**Goal 3:
Community engaged**

- Partnered with 16+ community nonprofit organizations
- Offered capacity-building assistance to area nonprofits

STEPS' Team Members



Jeanette Harder, Ph.D.; Project Director
Professor, Grace Abbott School of Social Work



Pam Ashley, M.Ed.
Program Evaluator



Keyonna King, Dr.P.H.
Program Evaluator



Jon Stanton, B.A.
Operations Coordinator

FACULTY AFFILIATES



Jodi McQuillen, Ph.D. & Jieru Bai, Ph.D.
Grace Abbott School of Social Work
Faculty Affiliates



Chris Goodman, Ph.D.
School of Public Administration
Faculty Affiliate

Other contributors: Kym Caddell, Alyssa Cardona, Carly Rozeboom, Katie Schmelzle, Samantha Weiss

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS



Joe Kapusnick Forrest
MSW student



Jessica Groeneweg
MSW student



Andrea Bradley
MSW/MPH student



Natalie Scarpa
MSW/MPA student



Jennifer Sedivy
MSW student



Amy Wattier
MSW student

STEPS' Community Partners and Services

Working together to alleviate poverty.

social return on investment

FUNDING AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Community Action of Nebraska, Inc.
Omaha Community Foundation
Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

outcome evaluation

logic model

systems map

CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE

Better Together - Heartland Family Service
Financial Success Program (United Way)
Nebraska Adoption Project - Nebraska Families Collaborative
Nebraska CASA Association
Prevention Means Progress – Me360 – Heartland Family Service
Village Basketball Alliance - Hope Center for Kids

data visualization

statistical analysis

qualitative coding

literature review

process evaluation

EDUCATION

Avenue Scholars Foundation
Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha
Christ Child Learning Center - Catholic Charities
Early Head Start and Head Start - Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders Counties
GOALS Center
MCC Express - Metropolitan Community College
SummerWorks - UNO

evaluative thinking

digital storytelling

needs assessment

interviews & focus groups



What our community partners are saying about us...

“The STEPs team did a wonderful job engaging a new agency into a program evaluation process. The STEPs team is very engaging and easy to work with. They often went above and beyond and were able to explain complex topics to the agency staff who had less knowledge in the area of program evaluation. They made the program evaluation process easy and comfortable.”

~GOALS Center

“There is an effective working relationship. I do not hesitate to contact them with ideas, suggestions, concerns, etc. I have seen that they do listen to us through the results of their work.”
~Nebraska CASA Association

“Doing evaluation right is not easy, but you and your team are making it doable and that will strengthen the Omaha community in the long run. Thank you for your vision, passion and commitment to quality evaluation in our community.”

~Financial Success Program

“It has been great working with STEPs. The staff are knowledgeable about program evaluation and are helpful in addressing our program’s needs and timeline. STEPs’ program is a critical/essential component to our work and driving the ROI information for investors and partnerships.”

~SummerWorks



Accomplishments

As a community-engaged organization, STEPs made dozens of presentations in 2015-2016

- American Evaluation Association
- UNO Research & Creative Activity Fair
- Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
- EN4MRB (regional program evaluation)
- Council on Social Work Education
- Program evaluation capacity-building training series
- Countless presentations to our community partners



Above: Jennifer Sedivy received the UNO Research and Creative Activity Fair Meritorious Award for her poster on treatment fidelity.

Below: More than 30 local agencies participated in our program evaluation capacity-building training series, followed by individual consultations.

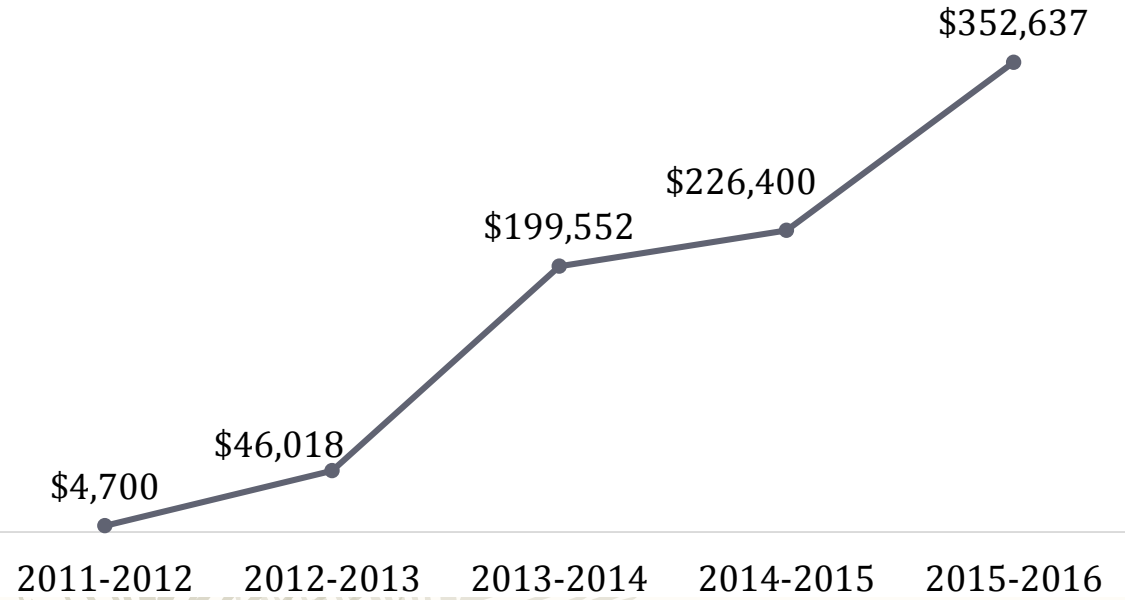


Above: Andrea Bradley was selected as the UNO Graduate Student Worker of the Year!

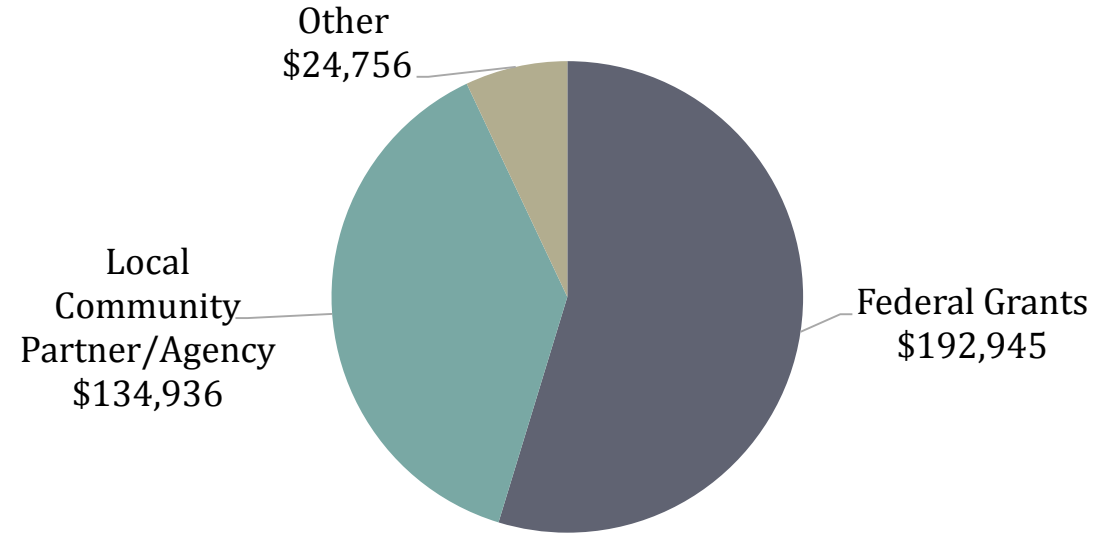


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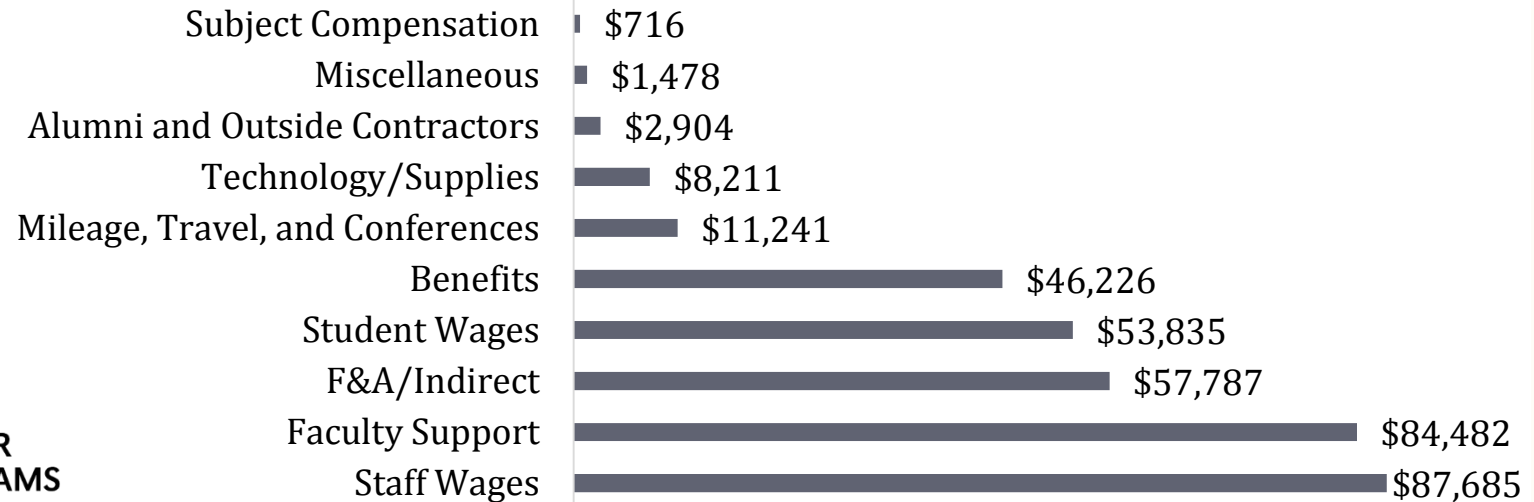
Revenue



Revenue Sources



Expenditures





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