The 4-H Healthy Habit grant, sponsored by National 4-H Council and the Walmart Foundation, mobilized youth to take action around healthy choices. Over 75 partnerships were developed across 28 counties in Nebraska. More than 2,700 K-12 grade youth received at least six hours of healthy living education. Extension professionals mentored 54 teen volunteers who then spent over 800 hours helping plan, prepare, and deliver programs in their communities. Teens (n=48) reported giving their family healthy meal or snack ideas (60%) and learning about healthy food choices (91%).

Connecting the Dots, an interactive career exploration simulation program tripled the number of youth reached, engaging over 4,700 9th and 10th grade students in opportunities to learn about careers of interest as well as how to “connect the dots” from 9th grade, through post-secondary, to the workplace.

- 97% think it is important that they do their job well.
- 84% learned how to act professionally.
- 80% say 4-H has helped them identify things they are good at and explore their future career options.

Next Chapter, a college readiness program and a UNL pre-admittance program, is offered to 8th grade students enrolled in 4-H. Throughout high school, pre-admitted students engage in events, activities, and curriculum during which they will learn how to successfully transition from high school to college. In two years, Next Chapter has served over 1,800 youth in all five Extension Districts. The Next Chapter program is also growing through partnerships in Tennessee, Illinois, and New Mexico.
EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Nebraska 4-H empowers youth’s unique Leadership skills and Entrepreneurial spirits to ensure they make lasting positive contributions to their communities.

More than 250 mentors, volunteers, and businesses supported Youth Entrepreneurship and Business Opportunity activities. More than 900 youth participated in the entrepreneurship curriculum, and 676 students participated in INVENTURE Day. During INVENTURE Day, youth familiarize themselves with local businesses and business owners, identify potential entrepreneurial careers, and develop a business around a given product.

• 72% of participants have a better understanding of the process of creating a business.
• 68% have learned skills that will help them to be successful in running/operating their own business.

The ESI curriculum uses technology and web-based activities to teach middle and high school students the ins and outs of entrepreneurship. In 2018, 191 curriculum units were purchased from National 4-H online marketplace.

“Our ESI Camp allowed 14 Middle School students to explore what it takes to become an entrepreneur by setting a budget, being a smart consumer, exercising salesmanship, and earning a profit. Each kid learned that they can be successful if they have a plan, work hard, and are willing to learn.”
- Grant Project Director

Over 1,200 youth and 350 adults were engaged in leadership development activities including a Leadership Summit field day targeting 5-6th graders, 4 trips to Citizenship Washington Focus which allows teens to explore, develop, and refine civic engagement skills, and the Nebraska Extension Priceless Pre-Teen Program held in in-schools and afterschool programs.

• 85% of youth felt confident in their ability to build positive relationships after training compared to 34% before training.
• 89% of youth believe they can create positive change in their community after training compared to 34% before training.