



The Extra Mile

Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms

Meet Our New Program Coordinator!

Project Extra Mile is thrilled to welcome Cecelia Fuller to the team as its new Program Coordinator. She graduated with a bachelor's in journalism from Creighton University in May 2024 with an emphasis in public relations. Cecelia has been heavily involved in social justice and advocacy throughout her time at Creighton, even receiving the David A. Haberman Journalism Award for excellence in Journalism through service to the community. In her free time, Cecelia loves baking and road trips with family and friends. She is excited about joining the team and ready to learn more about advocacy and policy in Nebraska.



Miles to Go: 25 Omaha Area Businesses Sold Alcohol to Minors



Local and state law enforcement agencies conducted compliance checks between May 9th and 17th in Douglas and Sarpy counties to ensure that retailers are refusing the sale of alcohol to minors. The checks come at a pivotal time as youth begin summer break.

"Our organization works with local law enforcement to make sure that businesses are checking IDs and refusing the sale of alcohol to youth during graduation season," said Project Extra Mile Executive Director

Chris Wagner. "Underage drinking can lead to unspeakable tragedies that are entirely preventable. The goal of these operations is to keep the community vigilant so that our youth come home safe."

Overall, 25 (8%) out of 307 businesses checked in Douglas and Sarpy counties were cited for selling alcohol to minors. A summary sheet of the enforcement results and a full list of businesses checked are [available here](#). Four of the businesses cited are facing enhanced penalties due to a prior sale to minor within the last four years -- the time frame used by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to assess penalties.

- Casey's 3334, 5920 F St, Omaha (12/2024);
- Ollie & Hobbes, 310 E Gold Coast Rd, Papillion (12/2024);

- Flight Deck, 2929 California Plz, Omaha (12/2021);
- Javi's Tacos, 17676 Welch Plz, Omaha (12/2021).

To read the rest of the press release, [click here](#).

Miles to Go: Yet Another Attempt to Allow the USPS to Ship Alcohol to Consumers



Members of Congress continue to push to allow the United States Postal Service (USPS) to ship alcoholic beverages directly to consumers. The [USPS Shipping Equity Act was reintroduced as H. R. 3011](#) on April 24th by Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA). Previous attempts in 2021, 2023, and 2024 failed due to public health opposition to the measure.

Permitting the USPS to ship alcohol directly to the customer will not only increase access to

those under the age of 21 but also:

- Undermines the three-tier system of alcohol control that provides important public health and safety protections and safeguards.
- Heightens the potential of lost excise tax revenue at a time when alcohol-related problems are going to add an ever-increasing burden on local, state, and federal resources.
- Increases the potential for unsafe, counterfeit, and unlicensed alcohol to enter the marketplace under the radar of regulators.
- Have the opposite intended effect. Alcohol isn't going to save the USPS, it's going to force them to spend more money on technology and training to ensure that illegal alcohol deliveries don't occur.

Law enforcement operations in North Carolina and Virginia found that alcohol deliveries were successfully delivered to underage youth 45 percent and 70 percent of the time. More should be done to protect vulnerable youth from negative impacts of alcohol, rather than making it more accessible.

Legislative Update

The 2025 session of the Nebraska Legislature is set to recess on June 9th. During this session, several alcohol-related bills were introduced and debated. Unfortunately, no bills advanced that would have decreased alcohol-related harms in Nebraska. This includes Senator Juarez's [LB 330](#) which would have increased the alcohol sales tax by 10% with the additional revenue being split between the Education Future Fund to fund new social work positions in public schools and the Excessive Alcohol Consumption & Treatment Fund to help prevent and treat excessive alcohol consumption.



This bill and proposed compromise may still be debated during the 2026 legislative session. The other bill was Senator Clouse's [LB 178](#) which failed to advance on General File. The bill would have required all individuals engaged in the sale, service, or mixture of alcoholic liquor, in providing security, or in verifying customer's age to complete mandatory alcohol server training within 90 days of the start of employment. The bills that did pass, [LB 113](#) and [LB 186](#) as amended into LB 113 will increase alcohol-related harms in the state.

Senator Holdcroft's [LB 124](#) changes penalties for a motor vehicle homicide of an unborn child as a result of impaired driving to equal those of motor vehicle homicide of an unborn

child. This bill was amended into Senator Kauth's [LB 530](#) which was presented to the Governor on May 29th. The first session of the 109th Legislature adjourned Sine Die a day early on June 2nd.

For more information on these and other bills Project Extra Mile is tracking, and to see our testimony, please visit [our website](#).

Spots Still Available for Our 2025 Law Enforcement Training

Registration closes July 25th



**LAW
ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING** **2025**

August 4-5, 2025, Kearney, NE
August 6-7, 2025, Omaha, NE

**Alcohol
Enforcement**

Nebraska law enforcement are invited to register for our FREE Law Enforcement Training focused on alcohol enforcement. The training has been scheduled for August 4-5 at the Kearney Police Department and August 6-7 at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center. Topics covered at the training will include: creating awareness of enforcement efforts; report writing; sales to minors investigations; sales to visibly intoxicated patrons; source investigations; license inspections; and nuisance establishments.

More information and registration are available on [our website](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Liene Topko at liene@projectextramile.org or by calling our office at (402) 963-9047

Youth Corner: Reflecting on My Time in the Youth Leadership Network

Written by Saral Sapkota, 2025 graduate of Elkhorn North High School

My senior year in high school started with lots of excitement, as well as uncertainties. I have been with Project Extra Mile for 3 years, and have grown immensely as a person in that period.

As the school year started, I readied myself for the next chapter of my life and started thinking about applying to colleges (brushing up my CV, writing my college essays, etc.). Talking about leadership and passion was important for college applications, and I realized how much I had learned about these things through my involvement in Project Extra Mile. As I was starting my college essays, I got the exciting news that I had won the Youth Leadership Scholarship. It made me overjoyed and humbled at the same time. I was proud of what we were able to achieve thus far, but also realized we had more work to do if we wanted to make a real impact towards decreasing alcohol-related harms.

We celebrated the fact that our idea about increasing taxes on alcohol to reduce consumption and provide property tax relief was picked up by the governor. Though our proposal failed to advance, we did everything we could to help pass the bill, but eventually, the alcohol industry prevailed.

Looking back, I still believe it was a great achievement to even get to that point. It is a testament to the power of youth, passion, and advocacy. Even in an uphill battle, we were able to convince our governor to introduce our idea to our state legislature. Even with our limited resources, we fought head-to-head against such a powerful adversary. Yes, we lost the battle, but I am confident that we are on the right path, and one day we will win the war.

Coalition Spotlight: Ryan Wiesen

Ryan Wiesen is a deputy city attorney in the City of Omaha Law Department. Ryan has worked for the City of Omaha since 2013 and worked his way up from assistant city prosecutor to now deputy city attorney. In 2022, Ryan was awarded the Project Extra Mile Marty Conboy Public Advocate Award for his work to hold businesses accountable before the Omaha City Council and the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Ryan has been a valuable member of the coalition and a helpful partner to Omahans trying to understand the liquor licensing process and how they can engage the Liquor Control Commission to protect their neighborhoods from alcohol-related harms. Ryan joined the coalition in 2019 and has found the partnership to be of

great value because “it brings together various individuals and organizations from around the community and engages them on how to make the community safer by encouraging a reduction in the harms occurring in the community through alcohol consumption and abuse.” Thank you for all you do for the City of Omaha and its residents, Ryan!



No Coalition Meeting in June or July!



Meetings are held at
UNO's Community Engagement Center
6400 University Drive South



2025 Meeting Dates

January 22nd

February 12th

Join us at our
30th Anniversary
Recognition Dinner
on March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

No Meeting in June

No Meeting in July

August 13th

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th



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