

Together for Kids and Families

Early Care and Education Work Plan

Updated March 19, 2015

Together for Kids & Families Goals				
Early care and education in Nebraska is high quality, developmentally appropriate, and accessible to all children.	All Nebraska children have access to a dental/medical home, and receive high quality health services.	The early childhood social, emotional, and behavioral health needs of Nebraska's children are met.	Nebraska families support their children's optimal development by providing safe, healthy, and nurturing environments	
Strategies	Action Steps	Who	Completi on Date	Activities/Notes/Resources
Strategy 7 <i>Through a mixed delivery system, provide access to voluntary, high quality, early childhood education and care programs and services that meet the needs of all young children and their families.</i>	7.1 Outreach and active recruitment of community child care homes & centers for participation in Step Up to Quality and other quality enhancement strategies.	ECS, Early Head Start and Head Start, ELC Coordinators, NeHSA, NeAEYC, NE Family Child Care Assoc., DHHS, NDE, First Five Nebraska, Buffett Institute, Holland Children's Movement	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of March 18, 2015, there were 121 programs and 819 users in the professional record system. Of these programs, 36 have currently earned their Step 1 rating, 11 have earned their Step 2 rating, and 4 have earned a Step 3 rating. • NDE will develop & release (late 2015) an RFP for a statewide communications plan for <i>Step Up to Quality</i>. • NDE has begun reaching out (with documented success already) to users in the record system to ensure programs are receiving a Step rating. • The Program Guide to <i>Step Up to Quality</i> is almost finalized. • LBs 489 & 547 encourage child care providers to participate in <i>SUTQ</i> by allowing those who do to access Sixpence resources when they collaborate with a school district. These bills make additional resources available to <i>SUTQ</i> and to Sixpence for grants to partnerships that include child care providers who participate in <i>SUTQ</i>. • Quality Improvement grants \$500 can be used to pay coaching time. Disseminate this info to providers.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebraska AEYC actively recruits early childhood providers to participate in a variety of quality improvement initiatives.
	7.2 Expand the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Grant Program so all public school systems and Educational Service Units have an opportunity to provide early childhood programs in partnership with community programs and services.	NDE, First Five Nebraska, Holland Children's Movement, NeHSA	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of spring 2015, 193 of 243 public school districts operate an approved (Rule 11) preschool program. 24 applicants for preschool grants (both new and expansion) were received by NDE in Spring 2015.
	7.3 Expand the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund Program (Sixpence) so all public schools have an opportunity to provide early childhood programs in partnerships with community programs and services.	First Five Nebraska, Sixpence Board of Trustees, Holland Children's Movement	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of January 2014, 25 school districts across the state (with community partners) now offer Sixpence programs for infants, toddlers, and their families. Additional school districts have expressed an interest; not everyone who applied received a grant. Future expansion of services for 0-3 should be done hand-in-hand with workforce development. LBs 489 and 547 increase resources for Sixpence, as well as expand local partnerships to include licensed child care partners who participate in <i>SUTQ</i>. Workforce development is built into the legislation by providing child care providers with 3 years (and the resources of <i>SUTQ</i>) to earn a Step 3 rating.
	7.4 Support Early Head Start efforts (<i>edit/expand this further with help of Joan...partnership efforts, "continuous care"</i>)	EHS, HS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EHS Infant/Toddler Quality Initiative Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships
	7.5 Secure additional public funding to provide sustainability to current high quality early	First Five Nebraska, NDE, DHHS, Buffett Institute, Holland	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong bi-partisan support for high quality early childhood investments continues. (<i>Update in June 2015 with passage of legislation</i>)

	childhood efforts (including workforce).	Children's Movement		
	7.6 Through existing councils & work groups examine avenues for & barriers to collaboration among early childhood sectors. Disseminate information	EC&E workgroup, ECICC, HV Partnership, AAP, AR EC subcommittee	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Programs & Funding Sources" document was last updated 2/13. • <i>(Mary Beth will check with Jessica Le Chere on updates. If Jessica isn't sure, check with Pat.)</i> ECIC & HHS Licensing is collaborating on training for non-compliance-licensed providers. Did a Train the Trainer for programs in non-compliance. Training will be offered several times a year in each ELC Region. This can be used for 2 hour workshop required in non-comp situations. Now have 45 trainers. • "Recharge for Resiliency" statewide HV conference was held October 2014. This may become an annual event. • <i>(Add AR activities.)</i> • NeAEYC annual retreat is scheduled for June 2, 2015.
	7.7 Provide materials to Early Childhood Educators on toxic stress and the impact on brain development. Materials will be relevant or educators and families. Include trauma informed care information.	DHHS, NDE, NAIMH, UNL Extension, NE Family Child Care Assoc, ECS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote toxic stress CD-ROM (series of 4). This series has HHS approval for 1.5 contact hours. • Distribute to higher education institutions. • Develop/review existing materials for parents/caregivers. • ECS will distribute the materials to their Network of Excellence program
	7.8 Promote common language among all early care and education professionals to influence professionalism, education and competency.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New action step still under development. Finalize this action step with further input from the TFKF ECE workgroup.</i> • Work with Early Learning Coordinators, NDE, NDHHS licensing, etc. to decide (then use) common, more accurate language in print and messaging.
	7.9 Review and update regulations (and the	DHHS, NDE	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Down to Business (series) has been included in regulations for Family Homes. Proposed

	training to support them) a. Licensing b. Rule 11, (including Results Matter) 51, 52 c. Teacher Certification d. CCDBG Reauthorization			regulations still in process. Rule 11 still under revision, including Results Matter. Rule 51, Part C regulations have come out, and a decision on the inclusion (or not) of 0-3 has not been finalized. New proposed EC education endorsements for teacher preparation and certification are at NE council for teacher education currently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information to early childhood practitioners and stakeholders regarding regulations The TFKF ECE workgroup would like to provide support and input into the CCDF State Plan.
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Strategies	Action Steps	Who	Completi on Date	Activities/Notes/Resources
Strategy 8 <i>Grow and develop the early childhood workforce needed to implement voluntary, high quality, early childhood education and care programs.</i>	8.1 Support, educate, and promote <i>Step Up to Quality</i>	AR EC subcommittee	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching Incentives Small amount to support <i>SUTQ</i> included in Governor’s 2015 budget. LB547 with AM785 provides additional funding for <i>SUTQ</i>
	8.2 Identify and support workforce issues led by the Buffett Institute	Buffett Early Childhood Institute, First Five Nebraska, NDE	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	8.3 Expansion of and full funding to support early childhood professional development regional system.	DHHS, First Five Nebraska, NDE, ELC Coordinators	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full time coordinators in regional office statewide. Additional supports needed (i.e., ELC for Quality Improvement Portfolio, coaches). Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative (Teaching Pyramid) Rooted in Relationships
	8.4 Quality Recognition a. Accreditation support for providers	NeAEYC, NDE, DHHS	On Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NeAEYC continues to provide accreditation support. (Fee for service). Career levels are being built into the NE EC Prof. Development Record

	b. T.E.A.C.H. Program (Tuition Assistance) c. Others			<p>System. NDE still has funds to pay fees to get accredited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebraska AEYC continues to provide NAEYC Accreditation support as “fee for service” work. Nebraska currently has 68 NAEYC accredited programs with 22 of them achieving reaccreditation in 2013. We also provide recognition to accredited programs in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. Nebraska AEYC provides formal recognition to outstanding members of the early childhood community at our yearly statewide planning retreat in June. T.E.A.C.H. continues to offer scholarships (tuition assistance) to child care providers. There are currently 203 T.E.A.C.H. recipients.
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