

You are receiving this email because of your interest in early child care work in Nebraska.

# NEBRASKA PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT



Quarterly Newsletter - July 2019

## **Nebraska's vision is for families to have strong early childhood options to choose among, supported by strong community leadership and well-aligned state system.**

Nebraska's goal in the Preschool Development Grant - aligning state systems to equip local communities to deliver services, resulting in parents and families choosing options that support their child's healthy development - requires that the needs assessment address not only state-level data and infrastructure but also local and regional data.

To accomplish this, grant-funded activities include projects to support:

1. Needs Assessment
2. Statewide Strategic Plan
3. Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge
4. Sharing Best Practices to Strengthen the Early Childhood Workforce
5. Improving the Overall Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

View updates from these projects below:

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## **PDG Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Update**

by Amy Mart, Implementation Consultant, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

The PDG Needs Assessment will provide an in-depth and comprehensive view of the systems that serve Nebraska's children birth through 5. The goal of the needs assessment is to identify opportunities and barriers for improving access to high-quality early childhood services for all Nebraska's children and families. Two large-scale surveys, which serve as the foundation for the needs assessment, will wrap up in July. "Focus on Nebraska Families" was mailed to over 90,000 families across the state. The "Early Childhood Program and Leadership Survey" was mailed to leaders of all childcare centers, family childcare homes, pre-K programs, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and license-exempt providers in the Nebraska. For more information about these surveys, please see the [previous PDG newsletter](#).

Preliminary results from the PDG needs assessment will be shared at two Strategic Planning Advisory Team (SPAT) meetings on August 7th (1:30pm in Kearney) and August 8th (1:30pm in Lincoln). There will also be an option for digital participation via Zoom. Please [use this link](#) to RSVP for one of these meetings, and we will send a more detailed invitation soon. After the Needs Assessment is complete, we will begin to draft goals and objectives for Nebraska's Strategic Plan. In September, we will reach out to partners and stakeholders to engage in discussions and provide feedback on the Strategic Plan.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## Getting Ready: Engaging Families in Early Childhood Programs

by Lisa Knoche and Amanda Prokasky

### What is Getting Ready?

Getting Ready is an evidence-based intervention developed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln aimed at enhancing the school readiness of young children birth to age five. It focuses on strengthening relationships in children's lives, including relationships between parents, their young children, and the early childhood professionals connected to the family.



### What are we doing in the state?

We are excited to expand the impact of Getting Ready across the state as part of the Preschool Development Grant. We will begin training 75 professionals working in Head Start, Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs in summer/fall of 2019. After an initial 1.5 day training, each professional will participate in three virtual coaching sessions with a Getting Ready coach whereby professionals submit video samples of their work with families to reflect on and enhance their interactions with families.

[Read the full article here](#)

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## All Our Kin

*by Shannon Cotsoradis,  
Nebraska Early Childhood  
Collaborative*

The Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative is excited to pilot a model established by All Our Kin, a nonprofit organization based in New Haven, Connecticut, for providing business coaching and consultation to family child care providers, and for supporting providers in their journey toward licensure. Over the next 18 months, NECC will provide training to family child care providers to strengthen their business practices in four Nebraska communities: Norfolk, Fremont, Lincoln, and Omaha. The model, which has been evaluated and has had 20 years of continued success in Connecticut, holds great promise for strengthening the business of family child care, which is an important part of the path to higher quality. The pilot project is intended to inform possible statewide implementation.

[Read the full article here.](#)

## ReadyRosie

*by Marti Beard, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*

ReadyRosie is an evidence-informed and research-based family engagement and early learning resource. All content is based on a foundation of research that has proven to have a positive impact on family behaviors and child outcomes. ReadyRosie is a multifaceted, innovative program that supports schools, childcare programs and others working with families of young children in optimizing family engagement.

[Read the full article here.](#)



*Caitlin Goin, from Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, with just a few of the hundreds of bags that were assembled for the Ready Rosie training sessions.*

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## Registration open for Thriving Children, Families and Communities Conference

Save the date for the Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference on September 16 and 17, 2019, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. The conference will be an exciting opportunity for learning, sharing, and planning as communities from across Nebraska come together to focus on high-quality early childhood education and its connection to economic development

# Fundamentals of Data Integration Webinar Series

You are invited to the PDG B-5 Community of Conversation Series focused on the Fundamentals of Data Integration specific to PDG B-5 Grantees Teams and their roles!

The series will feature data experts from AEM Corporation and will be comprised of four CoCs focused on:

CoC 1: Data Governance:  
July 19, 3:30 – 4:30 PM  
EST.

CoC 2: Single ID: July 30,  
3:00 – 4:00 PM EST.

CoC 3: Data Privacy:  
August 8, 3:00 – 4:00 PM  
EST.

CoC 4: Data Integration:  
August 13, 3:00 – 4:00 PM  
EST.

**Please click here to learn more and register.**

and community vitality. This conference experience is intended for community leaders in education, economic development, child care, business, government, health care, higher education, and philanthropy who have an interest in learning more about high-quality early childhood education programs and services and their impact.

**[Click here to learn more and register](#)**



Learn More About PDG

**Please forward this email to others who may be interested in learning more about Nebraska's Preschool Development Grant work.**

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## **PDG Partners**

Nebraska's PDG work is led by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) under the authority of Governor Pete Ricketts, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, the University of Nebraska system, and many other partners.

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