



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a grant to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to implement the statewide Nurturing Healthy Behaviors Program

RATIONALE: **Nurturing Healthy Behaviors**

History

In 2006, The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued a Request for Proposals to fund local partnerships in their efforts to support healthy social, emotional, and behavioral development in children's natural environments. The initial proposals became the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program.

Appropriation

During the 2014 legislative session the Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$400,000 within the state budget for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to expand the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program across the state. This \$400,000 is to be used to expand programs and services with particular attention to Nebraska's third congressional district. No funding was appropriated for NDE to administer local grants, therefore, the NDE Office of Early Childhood issued a request for proposals for a single provider with the capacity to coordinate the project and to cultivate programs across the state.

Process and Recommendation

Two applications were received and were reviewed by a panel of early childhood and mental health professionals. The panel recommended funding to be granted to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF). The grant period will begin January 1, 2015. NCFF will work with regional and local entities to get community involvement to implement the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence with fidelity in community early childhood education and care programs.

The grant application is available upon request.