



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### 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 continuation grant to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to continue the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** 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 annual appropriation is to be used to expand programs and services for early childhood mental health. 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. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) submitted the successful application. NCFE used the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors grant to expand their early childhood mental health initiative entitled Rooted in Relationships. This agenda item is to renew the grant to the Nebraska Children and Families foundation to continue the work in identified communities and to begin work in additional areas of the state.

The Nebraska Legislature did not appropriate money for NDE to conduct an evaluation of the program. NCFE conducted a combined evaluation of the publicly funded Nurturing Healthy Behaviors grant and the privately funded Rooted in Relationships initiative. The executive summary of the evaluation report is attached as support material.

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$400,000