



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 20, 2022

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

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy & Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the recipients of the Educator Shortage Grant from August 2022 to December 2024.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 6, 2022, the NDE, in partnership with NACTE, convened 20 stakeholders to discuss statewide ESSER III investment strategies to address the educator shortage. Attendees included leaders from public and private schools, ESUs, policy partners including NSEA, NASB, and NCSA, educator preparation program officials, and NDE staff.

The NDE used this input to develop the Educator Pipeline Grant, which had the following objectives:

- Address the immediate shortages of educators, including but not limited to strategies supporting the recruitment, preparation, and retention of teachers, paraprofessionals, education specialists, and leaders.
- Provide funding to a site and/or a consortium of sites to create localized approaches to addressing the educator shortage.
- Develop and deepen partnerships to address the complex educator shortage problem.

The grant had three funding levels: \$250,000, \$100,000, and \$50,000. Primary scoring priorities focused on well-articulated partnerships, focus on immediate needs, stakeholder engagement, strong evidence-basis, evaluation, and focus on identified shortage areas.

The NDE opened the grant opportunity May 23 and closed the grant June 13. The agency received 25 applicants requesting a total of \$3.5 million. Applications were triple reviewed by a team of eight NDE staff. The following are the proposed recipients needing state board approval:

\$250,000

- University of Nebraska-Lincoln – The New Nebraska Teaching Project
- University of Nebraska-Kearney – Mid-Nebraska Educator Pipeline

\$100,000

- Doane University - Educator Pipeline Collaborative: Regional Multiple Modality Grow Your Own, Dual Credit Education Career Pathway (Epic)
- Chadron State College – Nebraska Panhandle Para to Teacher Academy

- Westside Community Schools – Growing Our Own – EA to Teacher Ladder Program
- ESU 6 & 9 – Grow Your Own: Addressing Educator Pipeline Shortage in Rural Southeast & South Central NE
- MOEC/UNO - Synergy: Utilizing Collaborative Leadership Training to Positively Flip the Conversation about Education Profession
- ESU 6 – Lead Nebraska
- ESU 4 – Coaching 4 Retention
- Scottsbluff Public Schools – Scottsbluff Public Schools Recruiting & Retaining Project
- UNL/LPS – Building the Special Education Teacher Pipeline

\$50,000

- UNL – Educator Shortage Summit 2.0
- ESU2 – ESU2-Midland University Induction
- Wood River – Grow Your Own
- ESU8 – Empowered to Stay

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2022

ESTIMATED COST: \$1.6 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER III
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: