



TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117



P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 13, 2023

TO: Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida PhD
Equity Office/Administrator of the Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Deputy Commissioner to contract with multiple partners to develop and implement support services for the Afghan Refugee School Impact Grant.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Nebraska Department of Education was awarded funding from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support to Afghan refugee students and their families to survive and thrive in the state of Nebraska. The State Board of Education authorized the Commissioner to accept the grant at the September 2, 2022 board meeting.

The Nebraska Department of Education intends to contract and sub award with multiple organizations to approach this project at three levels. The first approach will be at the **system level/state**. This approach will be focused on building and enhancing the capacity of NDE as an agency to provide equitable access to services and programs supporting Afghan refugee students and their families. The second approach will be at the **local level/School District**. NDE will provide subawards to the school districts with high enrollment of Afghan refugees including in Lincoln Public School (LPS), Omaha Public School (OPS) and Millard Public School (MPS) to provide specialized services and support to these students and their families. Additionally, the school districts will utilize the funds for capacity development for school systems, including education and training for staff around the unique and varied needs of refugees, and access to necessary resources. The third approach will be at the **community level**. NDE will establish communities of practice to provide a forum for Afghan refugees and develop guidelines and strategies based on the findings of the project evaluation. The anticipated completion of this project is August 2024.



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| <p>1. Coordinator: Individual who speaks Pashto or Farsi to coordinate the grant activities @ \$40/hour</p> | \$91,000 |
| <p>2. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center: Monitor programmatic interventions and trends. Develop action plans to address data needs, gaps, and strategies to identify new sources to analyze the effectiveness and success of meeting the performance measures. Use geographical information system (GIS) to visualize data to effectively use data for planning and evaluation. Develop statistical reports. Provide expert consultation and TA to internal and external partners.</p> | \$113,000 |
| <p>ELA's subaward: Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate parent engagement and orientation workshops Provide the Afghan students specialized services Capacity development for school systems</p> | |
| Omaha Public Schools @ 350 students = \$1,146.26/student | \$401,194 |
| Lincoln Public Schools @ 300 students = \$1,146.26/student | \$343,879 |
| Millard Public Schools @ 100 students = \$1,146.26/student | \$114,626 |

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,063,699

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-competitive Negotiation



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- Rationale for method of procurement: This method of procurement was chosen as the Public Policy Center was written into accepted grant proposal.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The contractor has been approved by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (funder) to evaluate the project.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Sub awardees have been selected based on Afghan students enrolled in their school districts.

**Updated 02.07.2023*