



Step Up to Quality

Since the launch of Step Up to Quality in 2014, the early childhood education field has continued to advance and evolve. Just as we encourage providers to seek out opportunities for improvement, our Step Up to Quality team has learned a great deal about what works about our process in addition to what could be enhanced.

For those reasons and more, it was time to formally update our process. Launching Step Up to Quality 2.0 was a main focus for us this past year. The improvements we made included earlier coaching opportunities, observations choices and expanded indicator options for a more personalized experience.

We want to thank the hundreds of providers who attended feedback sessions and filled out surveys, giving us first-hand insights on improvements they wanted to see. We are also grateful for the dozens of early childhood education professionals from various aspects of our profession, from nonprofits, advocacy organizations, universities and more, who played an integral role in updating our process.

Since our last report, 55 more programs — serving a collective 3,639 children — have actively participated in Step Up to Quality. Since the launch of the new rating system in March 2023, 13 programs have been rated, and 15 additional programs have requested a rating.

We're so proud of the 700+ child care providers enrolled across Nebraska who are committed to continuous quality improvement every day, ensuring an excellent experience for the children in their care.



729

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

from across Nebraska are participating in Step Up to Quality



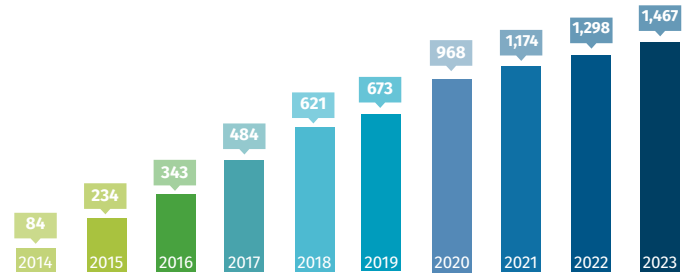
41,705

CHILDREN SERVED

in participating Step Up to Quality programs since 2014

Going Above and Beyond

Child care providers who participate in Step Up to Quality are committed to defining and elevating quality for Nebraska's children. They exceed licensing requirements by attending extra training, analyzing their business operations, updating their educational offerings to match industry best practices and continually improving the quality of the care they provide.



Providers Enrolled Each Year

Step Up to Quality began in 2014 as Nebraska's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). Not all states had a QRIS at the time — now, nearly all do. The commitment Nebraska providers have to high-quality care continues to deepen and grow.

Benefits for Providers

In addition to joining a community of supportive, like-minded professionals in the early childhood education field, Step Up to Quality offers many advantages to participating child care providers.



QUALITY INCENTIVE BONUSES

\$345,850

awarded program-wide since 2014



FREE TRAINING

3,419

people have completed Step Up to Quality's orientation



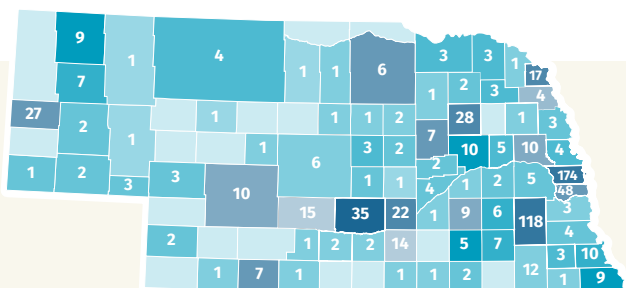
FREE COACHING

278

programs have received guidance from a professional coach

Find the Providers

Step Up to Quality providers can be found across the state of Nebraska.

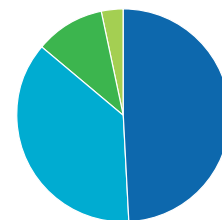


Every Provider Counts

High-quality child care can be found all over Nebraska — more than 700 child care providers throughout the state participate in Step Up to Quality.

Enrolled Programs

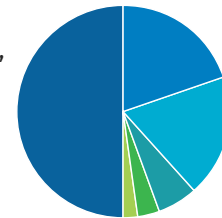
Step Up to Quality serves all types of early childhood education programs throughout Nebraska.



- 723 Family Child Care Homes
- 544 Child Care Centers
- 155 Head Start/ Public School Preschools
- 45 Preschools

Steps Achieved

Every step is significant, and no matter where providers are in the process, they are congratulated for their commitment to high-quality care.



- 738 Enrolled (not yet rated)
- 287 Step 1
- 273 Step 2
- 86 Step 3
- 49 Step 4
- 34 Step 5

Learn More: Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on social media for all the latest news!

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