



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve continuation grants for up to three years for early childhood coach consultation.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Coaching is an evidence-based practice shown to be effective in improving early childhood program quality. Like teachers, coaches benefit from reflection and support to improve their practice.
- This grant will allow the listed ESUs to continue to provide coach consultation across the state.
- The coach consultation system consists of five Coach Consultants who operate out of five Educational Service Units (ESUs) They are ESU #1, ESU #3, ESU #6, ESU #10, and ESU #13.
- The coach consultation system was begun in 2018 as a pilot at ESUs #3 and #6 using federal Child Care and Development Funds. It was expanded across the state using federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funding. In preparation for the ending of the Preschool Development Grant, the Coach Consultant grants were built into the continuing Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) agreements.
- The entire coach consultation system in Nebraska is now funded with federal CCDF dollars. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is the lead agency for the CCDF. The NDE enters into agreements with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services each year for use of the funds to support early childhood professional development and infrastructure.
- The NDE monitors the Coach Consultant grants in a number of ways.
 - NDE staff visit each Coach Consultant and the Consultant's supervisor each year.
 - The NDE Coach Collaboration Specialist conducts regularly scheduled virtual meetings with the group of Coach Consultants to provide information and direction, discuss challenges of the Coach Consultants, and exchange ideas.
 - Budget expenditures are scrutinized.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May, 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$680,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - This expenditure was written into the annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NDE for use of a portion of the CCDF funds identified for professional development.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2018

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for contractor selection: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following is a situation for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies is set out in 73-507 R.R.S. Agreement for services to be performed for a state agency by another state or local government agency for the direct provision of services to the public
- Grants to the five ESUs are non-competitive, however each year the grantees are required to complete a continuation grant application. In this application, the ESU reports:
 - Successes and challenges of the previous year
 - Data regarding coaches served throughout the year
 - A detailed budget

**Updated 08.15.2023*