



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 grant renewals for up to three years to operate the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Nebraska® Scholarship program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant - consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska® is a scholarship program for low-income professionals working in early childhood education and care programs who want to continue their education.
- T.E.A.C.H. is an acronym that stands for Teacher Education and Compensation Helps.
- T.E.A.C.H programs operate in twenty-one states.
- Nebraska T.E.A.C.H. scholars work to complete a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA), and/or an associate degree in early childhood education and eventually may complete a bachelor's degree and obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate with an Early Childhood Inclusive endorsement.
- T.E.A.C.H. pays tuition, books, and release time for students who work at least 30 hours per week in an early childhood program.
- The grant will be to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC).
- The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska® license holder for Nebraska
- During the 2022/2023 program year:
 - There were 122 Nebraska TEACH Early Childhood Scholarship Recipients.
 - Nebraska TEACH Scholars completed 1,366 credit hours.
 - Average grade point average of Associate degree scholarship recipients was 3.22.
 - Average grade point average of Bachelor's degree scholarship recipients was 3.31.
 - 27.9% of recipients were people of color and/or Latinex.
 - 6,243 Nebraska children were cared for in settings that participated in T.E.A.C.H.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$410,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:
 - \$300,000 is funded by Federal Child Care Development Funds,
 - \$100,000 is funded by state general funds allocated specifically for TEACH scholarships to early childhood education and care professionals employed in programs participating in Step Up to Quality

- New or Renewal: Renewal

- If renewal, date of first approval: 2002

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: The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the only entity licensed to provide the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood® Scholarship program in Nebraska.

**Updated 08.15.2023*