



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 a grant renewal for up to three years to fund the Child Care Wage\$ program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA is a program that provides education-based salary stipends to low-wage early care and education providers working with children ages birth-five in licensed family child care settings in Nebraska.
- This program is designed to increase retention, education, and compensation of the early childhood workforce.
- The program pays periodic stipends to family child care providers on a graduated scale that is based on post high school educational attainment.
 - At the first level, participating providers receive \$300 annually for attaining nine college credit hours.
 - The highest level, level 10, provides a \$3,500 annual supplement for a participating provider with at least a bachelor's degree with a current Nebraska teaching certificate.
- The grant will be to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC).
- NeAEYC is the only Child Care WAGE\$ licensee in the state of Nebraska.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care and Development funds.
 - This activity is included in the annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NDE for the use of a portion of the CCDF funds reserved for early childhood professional development

- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2022

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 Child Care WAGE\$ in Nebraska

**Updated 08.15.2023*