

Name of Proposed Contractor: Diane Ellis

Initial Date of Posting This Public Notice:

7/10/26

NDE Contract Number:

47077

Contract Amount:

\$7,800.00

Contract Dates:

8/1/26 to 7/31/27

Scope of Services:

This contractor meets the Step Up to Quality Observer Qualifications, has education and experience specific to evaluation of child care programs in the early childhood field. Contractor demonstrates reliability to one or more of the observation tools and is able to travel to the assigned providers/programs. They will provide program quality observations and may deliver training to early childhood educators as requested by the NDE.

Public Employee or Public Official Relationship: ESU 3 - Pyramid Expansion Coach; Bellevue Public Schools - Early Childhood Trainer and Evaluator

NDE Team Responsible for the Contract:

Early Childhood Education

Email address and phone number for contacting the responsible team:

Melody.Hobson@nebraska.gov (402)860-4055

Name of Proposed Contractor: Nicole Long

Initial Date of Posting This Public Notice:

7/13/26

NDE Contract Number:

47080

Contract Amount:

\$7,800.00

Contract Dates:

8/1/26 to 7/31/27

Scope of Services:

This contractor meets the Step Up to Quality Observer Qualifications, has education and experience specific to evaluation of child care programs in the early childhood field. Contractor demonstrates reliability to one or more of the observation tools and is able to travel to the assigned providers/programs. They will provide program quality observations and may deliver training to early childhood educators as requested by the NDE.

Public Employee or Public Official Relationship: Works for both ESU 15 & ESU 16

NDE Team Responsible for the Contract:

Early Childhood Education

Email address and phone number for contacting the responsible team:

Melody.Hobson@nebraska.gov (402)860-4055

Name of Proposed Contractor: Paula Thompson

Initial Date of Posting This Public Notice:

7/14/26

NDE Contract Number:

47081

Contract Amount:

\$10,000.00

Contract Dates:

8/1/26 to 10/31/26

Scope of Services:

Conduct the federally required Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) Needs Assessment to inform state-level policy and early care and education system alignment decisions. The updated Head Start Collaboration Office Needs Assessment will also further incorporate findings from previous HSCO Needs Assessments and from the 2024 "Worthy and Good" report on Nebraska Head Start programs.

Public Employee or Public Official Relationship: Works for University of Nebraska-Kearney

NDE Team Responsible for the Contract:

Early Childhood Education

Email address and phone number for contacting the responsible team:

Melody.Hobson@nebraska.gov (402)860-4055

Name of Proposed Contractor: Stephanie Wessels

Initial Date of Posting This Public Notice:

7/27/26

NDE Contract Number:

47090

Contract Amount:

\$12,000.00

Contract Dates:

8/7/26 to 8/6/27

Scope of Services:

Develop family-focused literacy resources and at-home learning modules that provide practical strategies, activities, and tools to support student reading development. Deliver train-the-trainer professional learning to equip district literacy staff with evidence-based family engagement and literacy support practices. Facilitate ongoing project coordination and advisory committee participation to monitor progress, gather feedback, and ensure timely completion of deliverables.

Public Employee or Public Official Relationship: Works for University of Nebraska-Lincoln

NDE Team Responsible for the Contract:

Whole Child Program

Email address and phone number for contacting the responsible team:

Jessie.Coffey@nebraska.gov (402)419-3205