



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a continuation grant to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children to operate the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship program.

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 21 states and assist early childhood educators complete associate's degrees in early childhood education and eventually 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 Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the T.E.A.C.H. license holder for Nebraska.

ESTIMATED COST: \$270,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE: Federal Child Care and Development Funds

Previous Grants: \$360,000 from Federal Child Care and Development Funds (approved in September of 2018). \$96,000 from Nebraska State General Funds (approved in June of 2019)