



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### 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 Children and Families Foundation to continue the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors/Rooted in Relationships program.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** During the 2014 legislative session, the Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$400,000 within the state budget for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to expand the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program across the state. This annual appropriation was to be used to expand programs and services for early childhood mental health. No funding was appropriated for NDE to administer local grants; therefore, the NDE Office of Early Childhood issued a request for proposals for a single provider with the capacity to coordinate the project and to cultivate programs across the state. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation was the chosen provider based on their application and organizational capacity. This grant is a continuation grant to the Nebraska Children and Families foundation to continue the work in identified communities and to begin work in additional areas of the state. The Nebraska Children and Families foundation secured private donations to begin or add to work in communities and expand the reach of state funding.

The grant renewal recommendation is based on the following:

Rooted in Relationships/Nurturing Healthy Behaviors supports community teams to plan strategies for early childhood systems of care. These may include any or all of the following:

- a. Parent engagement activities,
- b. Public awareness activities about children's social-emotional needs, implementation of the Pyramid Model for promoting the social-emotional competence in young children,
- c. Promoting the importance of high-quality childcare.
- d. Planning and implementation of Circle of Security™ -Parenting (COS-P).

Rooted in Relationships/Nurturing Healthy Behaviors is evaluated annually and continually shows positive outcomes.

**ESTIMATED COST: \$400,000**

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE: State General Funds**