nebraska early childhood
COLLABORATIVE

2020 IMPACT REPORT

NECC Focuses on Serving Communities and Strengthening Child Care in 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO To say this year presented more challenges than anticipated would be an understatement, and the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative was not alone in overcoming the difficulties that 2020 brought to the table. The COVID-19 pandemic marked a turning point in understanding the need for quality child care and how access to this resource is not only necessary for families with young children, but an essential component to a thriving workforce and flourishing community.

In Nebraska, this meant focusing on strengthening already fragile child care businesses with business supports and resources. In Douglas County specifically, it required our teams to find a different approach to be able to interact with and serve the communities who most need assistance.

Despite the many challenges, we managed to find our footing and gain a deeper appreciation for the values we live by.

- Guided by our value of Mission First, we helped to serve 884 families and over 1,800 children as part of Douglas County Community Response.
- We extended emergency relief to child care providers including personal protection equipment, a resource that became necessary to continue operations.
- For the first time, we expanded our service delivery to include more Spanish-first resources, including a CDA course and course materials, both offered in Spanish.
- We established an organizational DEI task force and developed an action plan to:
  - **INCREASE AWARENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING NECC'S COMMITMENT TO DEI.**
  - **ENHANCE EMPLOYEE TRAINING TO REFLECT NECC'S COMMITMENT TO DEI.**
  - **STRENGTHEN CAREER PATHWAYS FOR PROSPECTIVE AND CURRENT EMPLOYEES FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.**
- We launched our Family Child Care Network, a program that strengthens early care and education by giving family child care educators access to business resources, professional development, funding, and more.
- Elevate, our annual business summit for child care providers went virtual, a quick pivot for the conference's second year, and featured speakers from All Our Kin, Innocent Technologies, and Opportunities Exchange.

What was indeed a challenging year still managed to shine a light on the positive impact we can make on our community and on the business of child care. Investing in the future of Nebraska's babies through boosting provider earnings, supporting small businesses in the community who enrich the lives of children, and taking steps to close the achievement gap creates more opportunity for success for generations to come.

I am confident that after a year of exponential organizational growth in the face of a pandemic, we are more prepared than ever to further forge the path of accessible and affordable high-quality early care and education for all. We hope you will join us on this journey.

Shannon Cotsoradis

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Chief Executive Officer

EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Budget & Population Served

How we serve children and families through our Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership with the Omaha Early Learning Centers can be broken down in a myriad of ways. Here is a bird's eye view of how our resources are spent and who we spend them on. It underlines the incredible makeup of our community and what the important work of serving them looks like in dollars and cents.

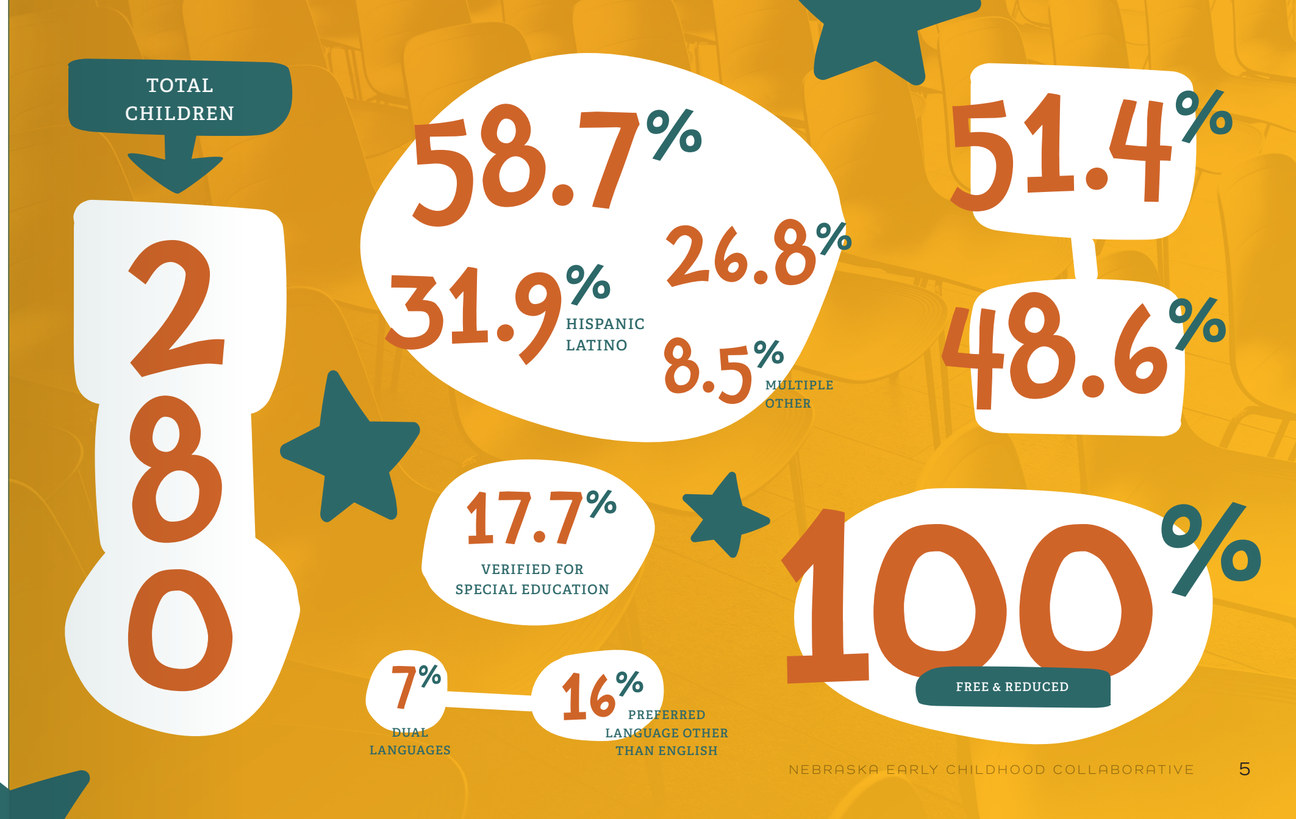
FEDERAL REVIEW — In April 2017, NECC participated in an EHS-CCP program performance review. NECC achieved satisfactory progress in all areas and no concerns were identified during the review.

REVENUES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
EARLY HEAD START OPERATING	$6,014,145	$5,946,411
EARLY HEAD START T&TA	$122,653	$101,793
NON-FEDERAL SHARE	$1,358,640	$1,328,431
TOTAL REVENUES	**$7,495,438**	**$7,376,635**

EXPENSES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
PERSONNEL & FRINGE BENEFITS	$2,279,683	$2,221,778
TRAVEL/TRAINING	$122,653	$101,793
SUPPLIES	$489,109	$487,339
CONTRACTUAL	$4,258,285	$4,229,537
OTHER	$345,708	$336,188
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$7,495,438**	**$7,376,635**



EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Health Services

In 2020, strengthening access to resources specific to health care became even more essential. Supporting children and families by assisting with medical service needs continued to be a key component of NECC's commitment to comprehensive child care during an increasingly complex year.

NOTE — Some data points weren't able to be recorded due to COVID disruptions. *NDF = No Data Found

93%
CHILDREN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

94%
CHILDREN WITH A MEDICAL HOME AT THE END OF ENROLLMENT

99%
CHILDREN UP TO DATE WITH IMMUNIZATIONS OR EXEMPT

NDF*
CHILDREN RECEIVED MEDICAL SERVICES

94%
INFANTS AND TODDLERS RECEIVED PREVENTATIVE DENTAL SERVICES

78%
CHILDREN WITH DENTAL HOME

242
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED

34%
SOUGHT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OUTSIDE OF EDUCARE OMAHA EARLY LEARNING CENTERS *(ELC)*

NDF*
DUE TO COVID
SOUGHT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OUTSIDE OF EDUCARE OMAHA EARLY LEARNING CENTERS *(ELC)*

4.7%
CHILDREN **AT GATEWAY** WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN *(IFSP)* OR INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM *(IEP)*

13%
CHILDREN **AT SKINNER** WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN *(IFSP)* OR INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM *(IEP)*

“We are more prepared than ever to further forge the path of accessible and affordable high-quality early care and education for all.”

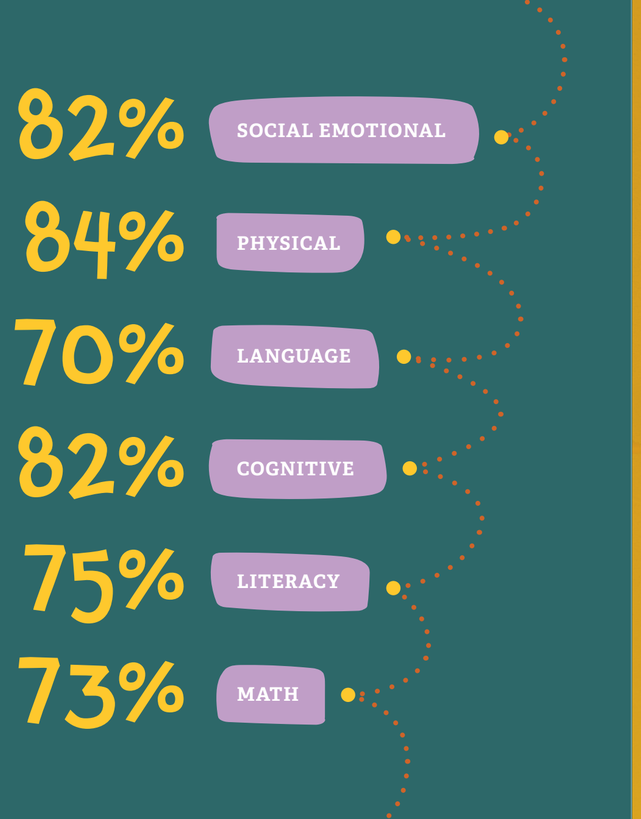
Shannon Cotsoradis

On growth in the face of a pandemic

EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

School Readiness

The percentages on the right represent children meeting or exceeding expectations in each Developmental Domain at our last checkpoint (Feb 15, 2021). Developmental domains are the framework used in early care and education to identify and evaluate development in the first five years of a child's life.



Family Engagement

92% OF FAMILIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE GOAL-SETTING PROCESS TO ACHIEVE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND/OR SCHOOL READINESS

84% RECEIVED PARENTING EDUCATION FROM AN EVIDENCE-BASED CURRICULUM

1,613 REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES TO ADDRESS CRISIS SITUATIONS

FAMILY #1 One mom in the program recently shared how much she valued the support she received while her children were enrolled in the Omaha Early Learning Centers. Since beginning the program in 2015, she has become much more active in the school setting participating in opportunities like Self-Assessment and Focus Groups. With the support of her Family Engagement Services, she has become more patient and in tune with her children recognizing that they each have individual needs. She stated that since her first daughter was enrolled, she has been supported in knowing where to go for help and information for her child and her family.

FAMILY #2 Another mother that has had two children in the program recently expressed her appreciation to the entire Family Engagement team at her daughter's school after completing a stress management class they provided. Throughout the enrollment of her two daughters, she has grown in her ability to communicate and develop positive goal-oriented relationships with others.

Professional Development

NECC provides professional development opportunities that have the potential to put a provider on the path to degree attainment and to increase their wages. NECC offers early educators the opportunity to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, the foundational credential in early education, in both English and Spanish. NECC also supports early educators who participate in T.E.A.C.H., a scholarship that helps them earn a degree in early childhood education.

T.E.A.C.H. SCHOLARS

8 SCHOLARS SUPPORTED BY NECC AT THE OMAHA EARLY LEARNING CENTERS IN 2020
(2 graduated & 2 new accepted)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

34 TEACHING STAFF STARTED CDA TRAINING IN 2020

11 TEACHING STAFF WHO STARTED THEIR CDA TRAINING PRIOR TO 2020 OBTAINED THEIR CDA CREDENTIAL IN 2020

9 TEACHING STAFF RENEWED THEIR CDA CREDENTIAL

CDA COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

36 COMMUNITY SCHOLAR PARTICIPANTS

28 ARE WORKING ON TRAINING HOURS

4 CDA CREDENTIALS WERE OBTAINED

7 DROPPED THE COURSE; 5 DUE TO COVID

Teen & Young Parent Program

The Teen and Young Parent Program (TYPP) is a collaboration of four of the largest community service agencies in Douglas and Sarpy counties. The collaboration includes the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), Child Saving Institute (CSI), Nebraska Children's Home Society (NCHS), and Heartland Family Services (HFS). The TYPP is a two-generation approach that strives to ensure that every family with limited resources receives support to promote healthy lifestyles and to increase educational attainment for young parents and their children.

TEEN & YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM (TYPP)

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED IN TYPP **442**

CHILDREN SERVED **362**

PRENATAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED **78**

% OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED WITH CHILDREN ENTERING THE PROGRAM ... **100%**

OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

95% HAD UP-TO-DATE IMMUNIZATIONS

99% HAD A MEDICAL HOME

OUTCOMES FOR PARENTS

75% GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

87% INITIATED BREASTFEEDING

Community Response Program

NECC serves as a central point of intake for a community collaboration in Douglas County referred to as the Community Response Program (CRP). Through a collaborative effort with other agencies in the community the Community Response Program promotes child well-being and provides a prevention system to create safe, quality environments for children and families.

884
FAMILIES SERVED

1,843
CHILDREN SERVED

FLEX FUNDS AREAS OF SERVICE

PERCENTAGE	
RENT/HOUSING ASSISTANCE	42%
UTILITIES	38%
TRANSPORTATION	5%
MEDICAL	2%
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES*	13%

SERVICE NEEDS #'S	
RENT/HOUSING ASSISTANCE	489
UTILITIES	453
TRANSPORTATION	60
MEDICAL	27
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES*	149

Education, legal, mental, daily living, technology, concrete supports etc.

FAMILY #1 A family of 4 was hit hard by COVID-19. Mom was the only one working full-time to provide for the family when she became sick and missed work, and her spouse was unemployed and not receiving benefits. Through Douglas County Community Response, the family received utility assistance which helped keep their services connected and with continued support from a partnering agency, they were able to set up a budget for their expenses.

FAMILY #2 A pregnant, single mom of two young children needed help covering July and August rent after receiving notice to pay or vacate. Mom was out of work due to COVID-19 and though she filed for unemployment, she had not received any claims and was struggling to find new work. Mom was receiving housing assistance and filed paperwork for a modified lower rent payment, but the modification wouldn't be effective until September.

Douglas County Community Response was able to help the family with July and August rent, and keep Mom and her children in their home. By providing this assistance, Mom was relieved of financial stress and able to secure a new job that allowed her to maintain her monthly bills.

Omaha Community Foundation Grant

PROJECT TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND CLEANING PRODUCTS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATORS

Providing access for mental and behavioral health services for family child care educators.

Through the grant, necessary cleaning materials were provided to family child care educators. Many of these educators are unable to purchase the appropriate materials on their own. This purchase will keep both the educators and youth in the care safer. Provide videos, resources, and kits to the service educators. These help to keep youth actively engaged during this difficult time.

135 licensed family child care educators in Omaha received a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit that included a digital thermometer (and batteries), package of medical-grade vinyl gloves, a face mask, and two pieces of literature detailing how to keep themselves and the children in their care as safe as possible during the pandemic. During the late summer and early fall, 49 family child care educators participated in the Grief's Journey training series to learn more about grief, empathetic boundaries, and self-care. Of the family child care educators that participated, 27 attended the sessions held in English and 22 in Spanish. All participants received a self-care kit in the mail that included items to support their emotional health, including the book "The Gift of Imperfection" by Brene Brown.

NEBRASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE

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