

NECC Quality Child Care Partnerships: The Child Care Network Biennial Report 2020-2022

Who did the Child Care Network Serve?

The Child Care Network has served more than 600 educators across Nebraska to help build their business practices and increase the quality of their interactions with children as they engage in one or more of the seven program components. The majority of the educators are administrators, owners, or directors who work in family child care settings. The program is making progress in

reaching its strategic goal to serve educators in rural areas and represent those educators from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Continued work needs to focus on the expansion of educators who work in underserved areas in the Omaha community.

647 educators across the state engage in 1 of 7 Child Care Network components to improve their business practices and quality of their child care.

The Network has a statewide presence with 52% of the educators living in rural counties.

What services did the Child Care Network provide?

"I owe all my success to Child Care Network. I would not have been able to further my education without them. I have received so many quality learning toys, which I would have never been able to afford. I just wish more people would take part in this amazing opportunity!"

Training

Web-based Resources

1:1 Mentoring

Classroom Materials

Licensing Toolkits

2,650 hours of professional development offered across 85 training events.

Did Child Care Network activities make a difference?

The Child Care Network was a valued program:

Over 90% of the educators reported the activities were helpful and supported them in their job.

"Very accommodating." "Time saving."
"Learned new ideas and strategies to help my program."
"More comfortable with technology."
"Helped me meet my goals."



The Child Care Network improved educators' business practices:

<p>Over 90% of the educators reported the Child Care Network helped them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve business practices • Continue their business • Set goals <p>Educators received their provisional license (14) or became fully licensed (6).</p>	<p>“The online platform allowed me to go from all the old school paper forms and payments to my clients being able to autopay and to be kept up to date on their child’s day, while they are still at work. Overall, I have been saved so much time, less stress, and allowed for running my child care seamlessly.”</p>
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The Child Care Network improved educators' instructional practices:

<p>Over 95% of the educators reported the Child Care Network helped them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address children’s behavior concerns • Engage children in learning activities • Create safer learning environments 	<p>152 educators completed the CDA prep training which increased their skills in engaging with children in their care.</p>
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Recommendations

The Child Care Network is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion as they work to expand reach and impact the Early Childhood Education Community to drive access and sustainability. In order to address this goal and based on the findings from the evaluation, the following is recommended:

Access/Equity:

- Continue to elevate parent and provider voices through the Family Child Care Network Advisory Council and other initiatives.
- Increase the providers who serve children in underserved areas in Omaha.
- Continue to expand services to rural communities and to those with language barriers with an emphasis on Spanish language services.
- Identify strategies to gather feedback from diverse populations of providers in the Child Care Network Annual Survey that can aid continuous quality improvement for the Network.
- Determine strategies to collect analytic data on educators’ access of NECC’s social media platforms, website, and the Nebraska Exchange to help determine its utility for educators.

Quality of Program Services:

- Increase the number of trainings available to educators based on recommended expanded content.
- Continue to provide educators with information on potential grants and other capital access opportunities to help fund improvements to their child care programs.
- Provide expanded opportunities for networking among educators across programs.

