

Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

2019

impact report

message from the CEO

NECC Capitalizes on Expansion, Partnerships for Substantial Growth in 2019

As I look back over everything that happened at the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative in 2019, two words come to mind: growth and expansion.

To some, those terms may mean similar things. But for NECC, they meant we served more children and families and we added new partners that strengthened our community commitment and impact, among other things.

In fact, we enjoyed several successes last year, highlighted by:

- **Expansion** of our Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership to serve an additional 104 children and families at the Omaha Early Learning Centers at Kennedy and Skinner;
- **Completion** of our new, permanent home as part of the “cradle-to-career” vision of Seventy Five North that includes a state-of-the-art Training Center and Business Resource Center, both of which are serving not only the needs of the Collaborative, but also the needs of the broader early childhood community;
- A new **local** partnership with the Building Healthy Futures Fund to ensure that our teens and young parents, particularly our Spanish-speaking teens and young parents, have access to mental health services; and
- A new **national** partnership with All Our Kin in four Nebraska communities to pilot their well-respected model for business training and consultation for family child care educators. In 2019, we trained 73 family child care educators over a 10-week period.

Since our founding in 2014, we have made it our mission, every day, to expand our reach across the state and beyond. We invest in our children’s futures as we take steps to close the achievement gap, improve outcomes, boost earnings for providers and support the small businesses in our communities that enrich Nebraska’s babies.

While 2019 was a year marked by growth and expansion, when I think about what the future holds for NECC, I am most excited about the opportunity to deepen the promising local and national partnerships that emerged this year and for the opportunity to build new ones. Our partnerships hold the greatest potential for impact.

We are ready to partner and make transformative change for child care providers and families. We hope you will join us.

Shannon Cotsoradis
Chief Executive Officer



Revenues	Budget	Actual
Early Head Start - Operating	\$4,677,557	\$4,249,103
Early Head Start - T&TA	\$112,986	\$126,188
Early Head Start - Startup	\$277,618	\$277,618
Non-Federal Share	\$1,267,042	\$1,163,228
TOTAL REVENUES	\$6,335,203	\$5,816,137

Expenses	Budget	Actual
Personnel & Fringe Benefits	\$1,940,051	\$1,891,007
Travel/Training	\$147,117	\$126,585
Supplies	\$289,551	\$231,953
Contractual	\$3,702,888	\$3,333,502
Other	\$255,596	\$233,090
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,335,203	\$5,816,137

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership

Health Services:

- 225 Total Families Served
- 97% of Children with Health Insurance
- 97% of Children with a Medical Home at the end of Enrollment
- 100% Children Received Medical Services
- 75% Children with Dental Home
- 99% Children up to date with immunizations or exempt
- 80% Infants and Toddlers Received Preventative Dental Services
- 8% Sought Mental Health Services Outside of Educare Omaha Early Learning Centers (ELC)
- 11% of Children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Population Served:

- 264 Children Served
- 56% African American/Black
- 33% White
- 9% Multiple/Other
- 34% Hispanic/Latino
- 66% Non-Hispanic
- 43% Female & 57% Male
- 100% Free & Reduced Lunch
- 11% Verified for Special Education
- 27% Preferred Language Other Than English

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.

School Readiness

(% of children that met or exceeded the goals)

Approaches to Learning – 94.5%

- Through new experiences, the child demonstrates creativity to increase understanding and learning.

Social and Emotional Development – 95.7%

- Child is able to manage and regulate emotions in both verbal and non-verbal manners.
- Child develops secure relationships with adults and peers.

Language and Literacy – 92.7%

- Child maintains their home language while developing English language skills.
- Child communicates with peers, families, and other adults non-verbally and verbally.
- Child understands that print conveys meaning while engaging with books for stories and information.
- Child makes written marks and uses them to represent objects or actions.

Cognition – 93.6%

- Child shows persistence or curiosity through problem solving and thinking in relationships and play.
- Child uses beginning math concepts during daily routines and experiences.

Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development – 94.1%

- Child engages in healthy and safe behaviors during daily routines.
- Child uses small and large motor skills throughout the day to understand information to direct their actions.

Coaching

Coaching Model & School Readiness

NECC uses the Construct Coaching Model, a research and data-driven model that provides embedded professional development for all teaching staff. School readiness goals are directly aligned with Omaha Public Schools’ goals, Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines, and Head Start Early Learning Framework, better preparing children for school.

Data

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) uses research-driven insights to improve how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences.

CLASS Scores

(based on a 7 point scale)

- 6.41 Emotional and Behavioral Support
- 3.9 Engaged Support for Learning
- 92.7% Minimum Score Across All School Readiness Domains

Targeted Supports & Interventions

- 52 children received additional support from NECC’s Mental Health Consultant, Education Coach, or Early Development Network for a challenging behavior or developmental delay.

Family Engagement

Data Driven Practice

NECC implements strategies at the Educare Omaha Early Learning Centers (ELC) that develop positive parenting practices, enhance parent-child relationships and promote home learning activities to improve child outcomes. All families participate in creating a partnership with the centers to ensure that children and their families are prepared for school.

200+ monthly newsletters were distributed including health and safety information, community resources, at-home family activities, and information on social emotional development in children.

200 families attended Friday Morning Café at the ELC.

50 different topics were shared with families at the Friday Morning Café events.

In collaboration with Southwest Human Development, the Brazelton Touchpoints and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, the Family Engagement Team participated in a Breakthrough Family Engagement Initiative.

The coaching model for Family Engagement Specialists enhances and highlights the important work they do to ensure that families have the support needed to prepare their children for school.



Professional Development

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

- 23 teaching staff started CDA Training in 2018-2019 school year.
- 12 teaching staff earned their CDA credential.
- 2 teaching staff renewed their CDA credential.

T.E.A.C.H Scholars supported by NECC / ELC in 2019

- 4 scholars at the ELC at Gateway.
- 2 scholars at the ELC at Skinner.

CDA Community Scholars

- 35 Community Scholar participants.
- 22 are working on training hours.
- 9 are requesting assessment.
- 1 CDA Credential was obtained.

Literacy Development

- 146 assessments were completed by ELC staff and families for a research study to support the development of the Infant Toddler Literacy Assessment (Jackson & Marvin). Teachers used these results to plan classroom literacy activities.

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Teen & Young Parent Program

Pregnancy and parenting can be exciting and overwhelming. NECC's Teen & Young Parent Program (TYPP) works to support and empower young parents as they navigate healthy lives and improved educational outcomes. In 2019, TYPP strove to engage more clients during pregnancy, as teen/adolescent parents and their children are at an increased risk for medical, psychological, developmental and social problems.

- 472 total participants served in TYPP.
- 375 children served.
- 134 prenatal participants served.
- 70% of participants served with children entering the program 0-5.
- 45 clients served by multiple agencies within collaboration. TYPP dual-enrolled clients help show the impact of cross-agency collaboration.

Outcomes for Children

- 97% had up-to-date immunizations.
- 98% had a medical home.

Outcomes for Parents

- 91% graduated from high school (Above national average of 40%)
- 98% initiated breastfeeding (Above # initiated in NE)

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Family & Community Services

A young, single mother seeking assistance for tuition to pursue her dream of becoming a dental assistant was struggling to get by due to recently becoming the sole provider for her young child.

With financial aid not being an option to help assist her with tuition, she reached out to her case manager for help. After researching other options, the case manager thought the best option would be to apply for community response funds. Once received, the application for assistance was approved for this young mother.

Per the program director, the client has been attending classes, completing the required coursework and participating in hands-on activities. She will soon begin her clinicals, where she will be able to observe and assist the dentist. Upon completion of the program, she plans to get a job as a dental assistant, and it is her hope that her new career will provide a better life for her and her child.

Teen & Young Parent Program Success Story

A CRP Success Story

Community Response Program

Through a collaborative effort with other community leaders, the Community Response Program (CRP) promotes child well-being and provides a prevention system to create safe, quality environments for children and families through emergency financial support.

more than 900 children served through the Community Response Program in 2019.

472 families received CRP funds in 2019.

Flex Funds:

- 42% Rent / Housing Assistance
- 23% Utilities
- 17% Transportation
- 3% Education
- 4% Legal
- 6% Special Circumstances (child care, groceries, driver's license, baby wipes, etc.)
- 5% Mental / Behavioral Source

"She burst into tears and cried because she was so grateful for our help."

A request came in for a single mother whose children's father had passed away from cancer the previous month. Due to the spouse's battle with the disease, mom missed many days of work and used all of their savings to pay as many bills as she could. Dad was the primary provider for the family, and with no money left in savings, mom and the children were now facing eviction. Her application was approved and eviction was avoided. Mom has begun grief counseling for her and her children and she was recently hired at a new job.

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Innovative Partnerships

All Our Kin

All Our Kin (AOK) has developed a successful model of training, supporting and consulting family child care providers through English and Spanish programs. These programs help child care professionals see themselves as successful business owners. With proven success in Connecticut and New York, AOK was inspired to scale this model nationally, beginning with a pilot in Nebraska.

- 73 family child care providers graduated from the 10-week, 30-hour Business Training Series.
- 35 Business Training Series graduates are participating in 10 weeks of additional one-on-one consulting.



ALL OUR KIN

All Our Kin Success Story

A graduate of NECC's Fall 2019 Business Training Series began her child care journey in her late teens, years before she became a mother herself. After providing the service to families on and off for years, in January 2016, she took a leap of faith – quitting her day job to become a full-time child care provider with only her niece and two children in her care. She began networking and getting the word out that she was in this for the long haul, and business began to grow substantially. At the end of 2016, her significant other decided to quit his day job and join forces with her, and from then on, they have been running the business together. Knowing the importance of education, she said she likes to homeschool them at an early age so they will be successful as they eventually enter school. She said her experience working with NECC was nothing short of amazing, and she is "so happy and blessed" to have been introduced to NECC.

LENA

92 children/families participated in the LENA Grow program, an innovative, research-based professional development program focusing on improving the quantity and quality of language experiences in the classroom.



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Shared Services Network

Through our partnership with six large early learning centers, NECC has made great strides toward our goal of providing access to high-quality early learning opportunities across our communities.



Employment

- 375 full-time employees across network.
- 150 employees hired and completed two-week onboarding.
- 11 CDA Credentials received by teachers through NECC.
- Budgeted for salary and fringe benefits: \$21,556,450.

Economic Impact

- Fee for Service: \$5,374,703
- Child Care Assistance: \$3,117,176
- Early Head Start: \$14,175,000
- Private Funding: \$13,422,914
- Total Revenues: \$36,089,893

Children Served

- 604 children enrolled across network.
- 94% below Federal Poverty Level.

Substitute Pool

One of the many workforce challenges facing child care providers is high-quality substitute care. In 2017, NECC established a substitute pool that serves NECC's shared services network. Substitutes are NECC employees who attend comprehensive orientation and onboarding, and receive ongoing professional development.

- 31 substitutes within NECC's network.
- 3 substitutes hired as full-time-employees at Educare Omaha.
- 496 average hours covered by substitutes.

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NECC's new headquarters at Kennedy

