



Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan

A Dynamic Plan by and for Nebraskans

Critical importance of quality early care and education

- Statewide need for equitable access to quality early childhood services
- Importance to the healthy development of our children and families
- Importance to the current and future economic vitality of our communities, our state, and our nation

A dynamic plan by and for Nebraskans that seeks to ensure that all children have access to quality early childhood services

- Informed by comprehensive statewide needs assessment
- Addresses priorities identified by stakeholders in communities across the state
- Focuses on results and measuring systems change
- Integrates needs assessment, strategic planning, and performance evaluation for sustainable change in Nebraska's early childhood system

Shared vision

To provide all Nebraska children and their families with access to quality early childhood services that support children's healthy development from birth through age 8.



Four interrelated goals

- Goal 1: Access
- Goal 2: Quality
- Goal 3: Collaboration
- Goal 4: Alignment

Work on any one of the goals will impact and inform the other goals.

Goal 1: Access

Each child and their family can access the quality early childhood care, education, and essential services they need to support each child's healthy development.

- Focuses on equitably serving each child and family in the state—no matter where they live or what challenges they face
- Strategies to increase the availability of quality early childhood services and to improve families' ability to access the care they desire for their child

Goal 2: Quality

All early care and education settings provide quality experiences for children.

- Defines quality in terms of each child's experience, emphasizing the importance of positive and consistent interactions between the child and caring adults—no matter the setting
- Focuses on achieving a shared understanding of what quality means in early care and education and infusing that definition into every aspect of the state's early childhood system

Goal 3: Collaboration

Communities coordinate a locally designed mixed delivery system that provides continuous care and meets the needs of families.

- Focuses on facilitating collaboration among community leaders to identify strengths and priorities and develop local plans to improve access to quality care
- Emphasizes building new collaborative relationships among providers
- Builds on existing partnerships to facilitate greater coordination of resources and services

Goal 4: Alignment

Statewide systems align to support communities in creating an integrated and comprehensive mixed delivery system for all children.

- Focuses on creating a more integrated early childhood system that provides seamless access to services
- Aligns statewide systems to facilitate delivery of quality services
- Develops capacity in the state's data systems to support data-informed decision making
- Builds capacity for efficient governance and ongoing improvement in Nebraska's early childhood system



What's next?

Using the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan to transform the state's early childhood mixed delivery system

In 2021–2022,
Nebraskans will be
engaged in an effort to
further develop the plan,
with a focus on
identifying strategies and
action plans for
accomplishing the goals.





Conversations with stakeholders across Nebraska

- Cultivating a collaborative, strengths-based approach to implementing the four goals
- Coordinating our work to create the early childhood system Nebraskans want



Learn more at
[NEarlychildhoodplan.org](https://www.nearlychildhoodplan.org)

- Read the strategic plan.
- Share information with colleagues and friends.
- Join our ongoing efforts to transform Nebraska's early childhood system!

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