



Childcare Start Up Stipend Application Powered by Buffalo County Community Partners

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (Grant Number 90TP0079-03, of the USDHHS-Administration for Children and Families, Office of Early Childhood; Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Nebraska Department of Education; and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation) following grant requirements of 70% federal funding with 30% match from state and private resources.

Scope. A one-time \$1,000 stipend is available through an application process to any newly licensed childcare in-home or childcare center from July 1, 2023, through April 29, 2024. This initiative is an opportunity to increase childcare capacity in Buffalo County. It is made possible through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and Communities for Kids (C4K) Preschool Development grant funds and powered by the Buffalo County Early Childhood Collaborative (BCECC). The BCECC facilitates community conversations that lead to opportunities for young children to learn, grow, and develop in high-quality, safe, and loving environments. BCECC was started to strengthen partnerships among agencies, increase parent engagement, and support childcare providers while continuing to identify gaps and barriers and build on strengths within our community surrounding early childhood.

Funding Source. The Childcare Start Up Stipend is funded by CRRSA and C4K. These funds are specifically designated to increase the number of quality childcare programs in Buffalo County. Allocation of funds is a one-time \$1,000 stipend for newly licensed Family Child Care Homes I, Family Child Care Homes II, and Child Care Centers serving children ages birth to 5-years. These funds are allowable to be used toward operation of applicants newly licensed childcare program. This program may be disbanded if funding should be discontinued or materially reduced.

Eligibility. A new, not yet licensed, Family Child Care Home or Child Care Center with the intent to obtain a provisional and eventually operating license. If you are looking to becoming a licensed childcare provider, visit the DHHS Child Care Licensing page to get started:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/pages/child-care-licensing.aspx>

Application Requirements. Applications are reviewed ongoing from July 1, 2023, through April 29, 2024, until funding has been used. Participating programs must register in Child Care Referral Network (CCRN) and update their program information a minimum of once per quarter if there are changes to the program. Supporting documents, along with this application, must include a copy of the recently obtained provisional license and a copy of a W9. The application and supporting documentation should be submitted to:

Kaitlin Cruzan, Behavioral Health Coordinator Assistant
Buffalo County Community Partners
assistant@bcchp.org

Guidance. There are six local Childcare Champions, including two bilingual Champions, that are available to assist with questions and provide guidance and support through the licensing and childcare start-up process. It is encouraged to reach out to one of these Childcare Champions for support:

Lacey Ahrens – Bubbly Britches Daycare – (308) 627-0030 – alacey@live.com
Natalie Hanna – Natalie’s Daycare – (308) 440-7163 – Natalie_N_Hanna@yahoo.com
Tammy Kresser – Tammy’s Tiny Tots – (308) 224-0500 – tshempstead@gmail.com
Rachel Pierce – Rachel’s Creative Kids – (308) 325-9480 – taterach@gmail.com

Bilingual Champions

Alexis Marquez – Lexie’s Little Sunshines – (308) 383-7267 – alexisalvarez1994@gmail.com
Carime Ruvalcaba – Karime Child Care – (308) 390-9365 – karimechildcare@outlook.com

Additional Resources. There are many early childhood initiatives and resources to assist childcare providers during start-up and with ongoing support. In addition to the Childcare Champions listed above, below are a more resources to reference.

Start-Up Grant: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-Care-Grants.aspx>
Step Up to Quality: <https://www.education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality/providers-educators/benefits/>
Rooted in Relationships Programming: <https://bcchp.org/rooted/>
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative: <https://nebraskaeearly.org/>

APPLICATION

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Childcare Business Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Personal Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

The undersigned acknowledges that if awarded the Childcare Start Up Stipend, the funds will be spent on the operations of their newly licensed childcare center.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Office Use Only:

- Child Care Referral Network Copy of Provisional License Copy of W9

Fiscal Director Approval: _____ **Date:** _____
Denise Zwiener, Executive Director
Buffalo County Community Partners

Project Director Approval: _____ **Date:** _____
Tana Miller, Coordinator
Buffalo County Community Partners