



## Childcare Start Up Stipend Application – Child Care Centers

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 \$2,000 stipend is available through an application process to any newly licensed 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 enrollment capacity in Buffalo County. Allocation of funds is a one-time \$2,000 stipend for newly licensed 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, 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 will:

1. Register in Child Care Referral Network (CCRN) and update their program info
2. Register program staff in Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System (NECPRS) and update their records a minimum of once per quarter if there are any additions
3. Achieve Step Up to Quality Step One
4. Participate in one of the following:
  - a. Getting Ready <https://gettingready.unl.edu/>
  - b. Cultivating Healthy Intentional Mindful Educators (CHIME) <https://child.unl.edu/chime>
  - c. Child Care Management Software (in partnership with NECC):  
<https://mybrightwheel.com/> <https://www.wonderschool.com/corp/> or  
<https://www.tryplayground.com/>
  - d. Business Training Series <https://nebraskaeearly.org/business-training-series/>
  - e. NECC Child Care Network <https://nebraskaeearly.org/elevated-provider/>
  - f. CDA classes for Family Home providers <https://www.education.ne.gov/oec/nebraskas-cda-pathways/#1698331639608-76dac3dd-8544> and/or  
<https://nebraskaeearly.org/child-development-associate/>

- g. GO NAP SACC Training <https://unlcms.unl.edu/ianr/extension/negonapsacc/>
- 5. Complete baseline survey when provider or program initially receives funds, 6-months after receiving the funds, and at the end of CRRSA/ARP contract. [CRRSA/ARP Data Collection Survey](#)

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](mailto: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](mailto:alacey@live.com)  
**Natalie Hanna** – Natalie’s Child Care – (308) 440-7163 – [Natalie\\_N\\_Hanna@yahoo.com](mailto:Natalie_N_Hanna@yahoo.com)  
**Tammy Kresser** – Tammy’s Tiny Tots – (308) 224-0500 – [tshempstead@gmail.com](mailto:tshempstead@gmail.com)  
**Rachel Pierce** – Rachel’s Creative Kids – (308) 325-9480 – [taterach@gmail.com](mailto:taterach@gmail.com)

*Bilingual Champions*

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

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Referral Network | <input type="checkbox"/> NECPRS          | <input type="checkbox"/> Step Up to Quality – Step One |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Qualifying Program      | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseline Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Provisional License   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of W9                  |  |  |

Fiscal Director Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Denise Zwiener, Executive Director  
Buffalo County Community Partners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Director Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Tana Miller, Coordinator  
Buffalo County Community Partners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_