

Update November 2022

Purpose:

* (Task Force): to develop initial recommendations for achieving a fully funded and aligned system to ensure access to full-day, year-round, high-quality early care and education for children regardless of the setting and experiences parents choose.
* (Workgroups): to design a Nebraska-specific model as the vehicle for shared leadership and financing

PDG Strategic Plan alignment:

The Task Force was designed with Goal 4 of Nebraska’s Early Childhood Strategic Plan in mind, which is: Statewide systems align to support communities in creating an integrated and comprehensive mixed delivery system for all children.

Update: preparing no-cost extension request

Update on activities:

Utilizing PDG funds, First Five Nebraska (FFN) has contracted with national experts Jeanna Capito and Simon Workman of [P5 Fiscal Strategies](https://www.prenatal5fiscal.org/about) and local expert, Jen Goettemoeller Wendl to:

1. Working with Task Force and Workgroups, design an implementation plan for a Nebraska-specific Shared Leadership and Financing public-private hybrid model as the vehicle for shared leadership and financing of the early childhood system. We will utilize feedback from stakeholders such as parents, providers, and community/school leaders, especially from marginalized populations to inform the SL&F Implementation Plan.

Timeline: ongoing throughout the project (Fall 2022 – Fall 2024) which extends beyond the PDG funding cycle. The Task Force/Workgroups will reconvene when they have something to respond to, i.e., results from activities described in #2 and #3.

Update: Task Force and workgroups are kept informed of the progress of other activities with plans to reconvene in 2023. A stakeholder engagement plan is forthcoming utilizing a blending of funding sources.

1. Conduct a fiscal analysis will be completed to better understand the true costs of high-quality childcare and the revenues available to cover these costs. Develop recommendations for changes to state funding stream requirements to cover the cost of quality, based on findings of:

The fiscal analysis will comprise two inter-related parts:

* 1. An analysis of the revenues available to support access to ECE in Nebraska, including a close examination of blending and braiding practices and qualitative analysis to understand provider experiences accessing revenue streams.

Timeline: Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

* 1. A cost estimation study to estimate the true cost of providing childcare that meets licensing standards and higher standards related to Step Up to Quality.

Timeline: Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

Update: Fiscal Analysis and Cost Modeling Advisory Workgroup kicked off on Oct. 5th with 26 representatives from public and private funding and childcare providers. Data collection on direct service cost drivers and systems costs will be collected beginning of 2023 with a cost model developed by Fall 2023.

Utilizing Pritzker Children’s Initiative funds, FFN has contracted with Inclusion, Diversity, & Equity Assessments ([IDEA) Consulting](https://www.ideaconsultingllc.org/home/about-us) to:

1. Conduct an equity feasibility analysis of the data infrastructure for ECIDS. IDEA will conduct a feasibility study examining and defining the efforts necessary to achieve a data system capable of answering questions regarding equitable practices that may impact policies or funding streams on children, families, and providers. We aim to permanently embed equity into the architecture of our early childhood data systems.

Overarching Goals of Equity Feasibility Study:

1. Establish a data-driven foundation to articulate disparities in policies, practices, and funding that have an inequitable impact on children, families, and providers;
2. Inform the development of an equity use case for ECIDS, articulate data needed but currently unavailable for equity work, and begin building a plan to address these data needs;
3. Utilize analyses to advance equity-based recommendations in the Shared Leadership and Financing Implementation Action Plan.

Timeline: Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

Update: IDEA Consulting is connecting with stakeholders to collect input on a working definition of *equity* related to Phase I: Initial Engagement with Stakeholders, and preparing for Phase II: Equity Measurement Appraisal.