

# Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan



## OVERVIEW

The Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan is a dynamic plan by and for Nebraskans that seeks to ensure that all children have equitable access to quality early childhood services.

The strategic plan is based on findings from a comprehensive statewide needs assessment conducted in 2019 and informed by input from families, early childhood providers, and other early childhood collaborators representing communities across Nebraska and many sectors of the state's early childhood.

The plan was designed to improve the early childhood experiences of the more than 235,000 children, birth through age 8, who live in Nebraska today, with special emphasis on addressing significant disparities that exist across the state.

### Vision and Goals

The overarching vision of the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan is 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.

The plan's four goals are intended to create a more aligned early childhood system by implementing integrated strategies across identified goals.

- Access Goal—Each child and their family can access the quality early childhood care, education, and other essential services they need to support each child's healthy development.
- Quality Goal—All early care and education settings provide quality experiences for children.
- Collaboration Goal—Communities coordinate a locally designed mixed delivery system that provides continuous care and meets the needs of families.
- Alignment Goal—Statewide systems align to support communities in creating an integrated and comprehensive mixed delivery system for all children.

### Strategic Planning for Equitable Access to Quality Early Childhood Care and Education

SPEAQ Up! Nebraska is a series of community-based conversations designed to capture the perspectives and priorities of diverse communities and stakeholders across the state. Because the first round of stakeholder engagement did not reach enough people, many voices are not represented in the Strategic Plan. We are committed to hearing the voices of people across the state – including rural, people of color, indigenous people, families of children with disabilities, and more – and to including their perspectives and priorities in the 2023 Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan.