



# ***Step Up to Quality*** **Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement System**

## ***Request for Proposals***

***To evaluate the development and implementation of  
Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement System  
for Early Childhood Programs***

***September 10, 2014***

# Getting Started: Signing In

- Please be sure you identified yourself by first and last name, as well as your organizational affiliation. This will help us keep track of attendees at the seminar.
- You can edit your sign-in information by clicking on the options icon in the upper right corner of the Attendees panel and selecting “Edit My Information.”

# Getting Started: Q&A

- Although we will have voice activated for everyone calling into the conference line, please keep your line muted and use the Chat panel in the upper right corner of your screen to type your questions. This will enable us to capture and share questions and answers with all attendees more efficiently after today's presentation.
- If you would like to pose a question or comment verbally, please use the "set status" icon at the top of your screen to "raise your hand" and the presenter will call upon you to unmute your phone line.

# Nebraska's System

## *Step Up to Quality*

- LB507 passed in 2013 establishing *Step Up to Quality*
- Implemented jointly - Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services and the Department of Education
- Five steps to quality
  - Step #1 – state licensure
  - Step #2 – coaching available
  - Steps #3, #4, #5 – financial incentives, technical assistance, and tiered reimbursement available
- *Required* providers enroll during the first three years (2014, 2015, 2016) as outlined in legislation – other providers may enroll *voluntarily*
- Ratings go public in 2017

# Required Participation in *Step Up to Quality*

- *Year 1:* July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014
  - Programs/providers who receive \$500,000 or more annually from the child care subsidy
- *Year 2:* July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
  - Programs/providers who receive \$250,000 or more annually from the child care subsidy
- *Year 3:* July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016
  - Programs/providers who receive \$250,000 in the preceding fiscal year or six months after receipt of assistance, whichever is later

# Basic Framework for Evaluation

- The timeframe for collection of data
  - January 2015 – December 1, 2015
- The collection of data will overlap – asking for it to be reported in two phases
  - Preliminary findings on Phase #1: 4-30-15
  - Preliminary findings on Phase #1 & #2: 12-1-15
  - Final report due: 2-1-16
- Keep information separate:
  - Required participants from voluntary participants

# What We Want To Know

- How many participants are enrolled?
- How many total children do they serve and how many are on the child care subsidy?
- At what step did the participants enter ?
- How many have utilized incentives?
- How many have moved up a level since enrollment?
- What are the barriers to upward movement?
- What is the level of interest for voluntary participation?
- How many parents have heard of *Step Up to Quality*?

# Timeline

- Proposals due November 24, 2014
- Notification of award December 15, 2014
- Contract begins January 2, 2015
- Preliminary findings (#1) April 30, 2015
- Preliminary findings (#1 & #2) December 1, 2015
- Final report due February 1, 2016



# Proposal Requirements

- No more than 10 pages including budget
- Supporting documentation listed as appendices
- Submit electronically – November 24; 5:00 p.m.
- Available funding \$150,000
- Indirect costs limited to 10% of the request
- Funds distributed:
  - One-third upon contract signatures (January '15)
  - One-third upon submission of Phase #1 findings (May '15)
  - One-third upon submission of Final Report (February '16)

# Scoring Criteria

- Approach and design of the evaluation (40 points)
- Evaluation team qualifications and experience (30 points)
- Budget proposal (30 points)
- Conceptualize and suggest questions for a Phase #3 evaluation (extra 10 points)



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