



October 25, 2019

State of Nebraska Child Care  
c/o CCDF Draft Plan Comments  
P.O. Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Ms. Vint,

On behalf of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) and First Five Nebraska (FFN), we would like to express our appreciation for the hard work and thought you have put into Nebraska's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan. We are also grateful for your efforts to bring Nebraska into compliance with the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 2014. You and your staff are taking the necessary steps to ensure Nebraska's children most in need receive quality child care that promotes their healthy development, safety, and well-being.

This plan would be a large improvement for families that rely on the child care subsidy so their children can receive safe, quality care while they endeavor to improve their situation through work or education. The research supporting the importance of continuity of care in the development of children is robust, and the 12-month eligibility period, no sliding fee increase in that 12-month period, the graduated phase-out, and allowing for temporary change all support this goal.

It is paramount that we verify the safety of the environments in which Nebraska's children will spend much of their time. Broader background checks, first-aid and CPR requirements, orientations, training, and emergency preparedness support this effort. Including child care services for homeless populations is also a necessary step to ensuring that children in greatest need will benefit from safe environments that facilitate their healthy development.

The proposed changes also demonstrate a commitment to making the child care subsidy more user-friendly for child care providers. Enabling providers to bill up to 5 absence days per child per month and maintaining a 12-month eligibility period will create greater financial stability for child care professionals taking on the important task of serving children in need.

Both NCFE and FFN support the proposed changes and again commend the CCDF team for their great work. In addition to these changes, we hope to continue working with your team in the future to ensure that child care subsidy rates pay for the cost of providing quality care.

Thank you,

Amy Bornemeier  
Vice President, Early Childhood Programs  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Adam Feser  
Policy Associate  
First Five Nebraska