

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1203

Introduced by Briese, 41.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for
- 2 child care.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Federal Funds appropriated in sections 2 to 17 of
2 this act are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the
3 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal
4 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.
5 9901.

6 Sec. 2. There is hereby appropriated \$5,000,000 from Federal Funds
7 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist
8 families and waive copayments for child care subsidy and cover lost
9 income of child care providers.

10 Sec. 3. There is hereby appropriated \$2,900,000 from Federal Funds
11 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support
12 the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative's Teen and Young Parent
13 Program.

14 Sec. 4. There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal Funds
15 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract
16 with an outside entity to help sustain the Child Care Referral Network
17 for an additional three years.

18 Sec. 5. There is hereby appropriated \$250,000 from Federal Funds
19 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract
20 with an outside entity to provide child care licensing materials,
21 guidance, and support to help unlicensed and potential child care
22 providers fulfill state licensing requirements.

23 Sec. 6. There is hereby appropriated \$150,000 from Federal Funds
24 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract
25 with an outside entity to help family child care home providers achieve
26 National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation, including, but
27 not limited to, training, mentoring, a peer learning network, self-study
28 materials, and application assistance.

29 Sec. 7. There is hereby appropriated \$300,000 from Federal Funds
30 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract
31 with an outside entity to increase statewide access to All Our Kin, a

1 business course for family child care providers.

2 Sec. 8. There is hereby appropriated \$400,000 from Federal Funds
3 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the
4 Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System.

5 Sec. 9. There is hereby appropriated \$480,000 from Federal Funds
6 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to contract with an
7 outside entity for an early childhood mental health and education
8 consultation service developed to address the diverse behavioral health
9 issues of young children and the environmental and educational needs of
10 child care and early childhood educational facilities.

11 Sec. 10. There is hereby appropriated \$19,000,000 from Federal
12 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to
13 contract with an outside entity to increase child care capacity in areas
14 of need, by increasing local community infrastructure, including, but not
15 limited to, conducting a child care landscape study, development of
16 capacity building plans, business planning, quality models, social
17 emotional support and training, funds for planning and implementation of
18 expansion and start-up for child care for children from birth through
19 five years of age.

20 Sec. 11. There is hereby appropriated \$12,518,000 from Federal
21 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to
22 extend the preschool development grant.

23 Sec. 12. There is hereby appropriated \$750,000 from Federal Funds
24 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to coordinate with the
25 Department of Health and Human Services to translate licensing materials,
26 basic educational materials, and information regarding the Step Up to
27 Quality Child Care Act into Spanish.

28 Sec. 13. There is hereby appropriated \$3,580,000 from Federal Funds
29 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the Child
30 Care WAGES\$ Nebraska program which provides education-based salary
31 supplements for child care workers in licensed family child care

1 settings.

2 Sec. 14. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000 from Federal Funds
3 for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to extend
4 state funding for fingerprinting and background checks for license-exempt
5 providers, child care providers, staff, volunteers, and household members
6 in licensed child care programs.

7 Sec. 15. There is hereby appropriated \$165,000 from Federal Funds
8 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the
9 department's scholarship project to help child care providers cover the
10 costs of professional development requirements.

11 Sec. 16. There is hereby appropriated \$3,500,000 from Federal Funds
12 for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to contract with an
13 outside entity to support the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska program
14 that provides scholarships to help early care and education professionals
15 complete coursework at a local college and work toward a degree in early
16 childhood education.

17 Sec. 17. There is hereby appropriated \$50,000,000 from Federal
18 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services for
19 retention and recruitment allowances for early childhood professionals.
20 Currently employed child care professionals shall receive a monthly
21 allowance of \$350 for one year if they remain in the workforce. Newly
22 recruited or re-engaged child care professionals shall receive the \$350
23 monthly allowance 60 days after active employment with a program,
24 including retroactive payments for the initial two months. They will also
25 be eligible to receive this monthly allowance for one year.