

Sixpence Childcare Partnerships Opportunity



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Released: June 3, 2024

Full Proposal Submission Deadline:
July 10, 2024 at 5:00pm CST/4:00pm MST



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Request for Proposals (RFP) – Child Care Capacity Building Opportunity

I. Purpose

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s Sixpence Childcare Partnerships—through partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Children and Family Services Division—is excited to announce a funding opportunity to school districts across Nebraska that will assist in increasing the quality of care for infants and toddlers in licensed child care programs.

Sixpence Childcare Partnerships (CCP) are 100% federally funded through a subaward from Nebraska Department and Health and Human Services to Nebraska Children and Families Foundation using Child Care Development Funds that are allocated to school districts.

LB547 states, “The board of trustees shall require the child care providers in programs receiving grants under this section to obtain a step three rating or higher on the quality scale described in section 71-19576 within three years of the starting date of the initial grant period to continue funding the program.”

Eligible applicants include school districts in the state of Nebraska. School districts may choose to contract with an Educational Service Unit (ESU) or Head Start Agency, but the school district is required to be the grantee. Applicants will be required to demonstrate they can follow all Sixpence Childcare Partnership Quality Indicators (Attachment C). Funding is reimbursement-based, and documentation of allowable expenses must be detailed. The intention is to select proposals in both rural and urban areas of Nebraska. Priority will be given to areas that participated in the PDG 4.0 Rooted, Community Partnerships project.

Examples of Allowable Funds

- Materials and supplies to increase the quality of the child care environment
- Retention bonuses for childcare staff
- Professional Development for Childcare Staff
- Family engagement opportunities
- Curriculum and Assessments

All expenses must directly improve the quality of child care being offered for infants and toddlers. Any items that are purchased with ONLY be allowable to use towards infants and toddlers. For items that are used in a child care setting where older children are also care for, a cost allocation ratio documenting the percentage of infants and toddlers being served will be used.

II. Informational Webinar

Nebraska Children’s Sixpence Childcare Partnerships Team will release a pre-recorded webinar on the Sing a Song of Sixpence Website with additional details on June 12, 2024.

III. **Application Open**

The application will be available on the Sing a Song of Sixpence website:

<https://www.singasongofsixpence.org/> on June 12, 2024. Navigate to **Evaluation/Resources>Child Care Partnerships Login**.

Username: CCPapp24

Password: 6Papp24\$

IV. **Q&A Sessions**

The Sixpence Childcare Partnerships team will hold two Q&A sessions on June 18, 2024 9:00am CST/8:00am MST and on June 20, 2024 2:00pm CST/1:00 pm MST. The applicant is encouraged to attend one of the two sessions.

6/18/24 CST/9:00 am/8:00 am MST link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86737477394?pwd=zi1jXrhbEnufN0CcnfigSW3Fop7yRk.1>

Meeting ID 867 3747 7394

Passcode 496271

6/20/24 CST/2:00 pm/1:00 pm MST link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88121992140?pwd=bnR3kttH7WuM4rwmASgvtLTM5PUda.1>

Meeting ID 881 2199 2140

Passcode 526812

V. **Proposal Submission/Summary of Key Dates**

Proposals are required to be submitted in PDF format to:

<https://www.singasongofsixpence.org/private/login.html> (see login credentials under item III)

Full proposal submission deadline is on or before Wednesday, July 10, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. CST/ 4:00 p.m. MST.

Summary of Key Dates	
Pre-Recorded Webinar Release	June 12, 2024
Request for Proposal Overview and Application Released on Sixpence Website	June 12, 2024
Q&A Sessions (One Hour, Two Offered, Attend One)	June 18, 2024 9:00 am CST / 8:00 am MST June 20, 2024 2:00 pm CST/ 1:00 pm MST
Proposal Submission Deadline	July 10, 2024 5:00 pm CST / 4:00 pm MST
Review Process	July 11 – July 31, 2024
Contract Announcements	July 31, 2024
Contract Period	August 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

VI. **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are defined as school districts that are eligible to receive federal funding and have the capacity to manage a reimbursement-based payment system. Must be able to provide

accurate and timely reporting information related to allowable expenditures. School districts may choose to contract with an Educational Service Unit (ESU) or Head Start Agency, but the school district is required to be the grantee.

Applicant Readiness

School districts submitting proposals must demonstrate a willingness and ability to quickly work to follow all Sixpence Childcare Partnership Quality Indicators (Attachment C). A high level of organization and accountability will be required.

VII. Funding Information

Contracts will be managed through Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Contracts must be to school districts in Nebraska. All contracts are reimbursement-based. The **contract period for this year is eleven (11) months long and runs from August 1 through June 30**. Future funding years will run from July 1st through June 30th. All funding must be spent in that time frame. Award amounts will be based on CCP Budget Guidance (attached) and the individual needs of the community.

VIII. Evaluation

The sole purpose of the funding is to increase the quality of licensed childcare programs in Nebraska. Child Care Partners must participate in Step Up to Quality and show improvement in quality to achieve Step 3 within three years. To track progress towards that outcome, CCPs must participate in evaluation as determined by Sixpence Board of Trustees. Sixpence Childcare Partnership Coach and Program Coordinator will communicate with UNMC/MMI and Childcare Partners to ensure that required data collection is completed.

IX. Technical Assistance

Sixpence Childcare Partnerships Staff will provide recipients with technical assistance through onsite and virtual consultation, communications, and coordination. Technical assistance can include but is not limited to assistance with locating or connecting to resources, data collection, accountability, continuous quality improvement, reporting requirements, marketing and communication, community collaboration and sustainability planning

The following documents may be useful to refer to as guides for planning a quality Sixpence Childcare Partnership program. They can be found on the Sing a Song of Sixpence Website.

<https://www.singasongofsixpence.org/>

Quality Criteria for Child Care Partnership Programs (Attachment C)

Sixpence Map

Sixpence Early Learning Fund 2022-2023 Annual Report

Sixpence CCP Budget Guidance

X. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should be submitted electronically in PDF format, with regular style 12-point font, double spaced. Please type responses directly into the Sixpence Childcare Partnership Application.

Sixpence Childcare Partnership Opportunity – Application
(form provided on Sixpence Website at <https://www.singasongofsixpence.org/>)

Fill in boxes on the application. Save as PDF prior to uploading.

Contact Information:

- Name and contact information of person submitting application
- Date submitting
- School District Name, Superintendent’s name, contact information
- Contracted program name, Administrator, and contact information

Proposal Overview:

- Number of Child Care partners proposed
- Anticipated # of children under age 3 served
- Program Coordinator and Coach information
- Funds requested (refer to Sixpence Budget Guidance)
- Child Care Partners Overview

Describe the proposed program

1. Application Summary
 - Identify how grant funds will be used
2. Goals and Objectives of the Proposed Program
 - Indicate how the Program Coordinator, Coach and Child Care Providers will work together to meet the Quality Criteria in Attachment C.
 - Describe how implementing the proposed program and achieving the goals and objectives will fulfill the purpose of Sixpence Childcare Partnerships Programs.
 - Identify the geographic area to be served, including the boundaries of the service area, total community population, number of children birth to age five in your community. <https://www.neopportunitymap.org/>
3. Child Care Providers
 - Describe the community’s current child care landscape.
 - Program must work with a minimum of 5 infant and toddler programs (Family Home I & II or Child Care Center Infant and Toddler Classrooms)
4. Staffing and Organizational Structure
 - Describe the qualifications, any specialized skills, and duties for each position necessary for quality implementation of the proposed program.

- Describe how the partners will recruit appropriate staff and assure that all staff meet the Sixpence Quality Criteria.
5. Recruitment, Eligibility, and Participant Selection
 - Describe how community child care providers will be selected.
 6. Budget Narrative and Justification
 - Provide detailed narrative and justification.

XI. **Selection Process**

Objective Review and Results

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will partner with the Nebraska Department of Education to review applications. Two proposals will be offered contracts. This funding opportunity will be highly competitive as RFPs will be accepted from across the entire state. The intention is to select a proposal in both a rural and an urban areas of Nebraska. Priority will be given to areas that participated in the PDG 4.0 Rooted, Community Partnerships project. Contracts will be distributed ASAP and all funds awarded will need to be spent by June 30, 2025.

The submission requests and eligibility requirements are described in this RFP. Failure to evidence information related to either of these areas may result in rejection. During the review process, Nebraska Children may request clarifying information concerning eligibility. Failure to respond to a request for clarification by the date set forth in the request will result in removal of the proposal from consideration. Proposals will be funded based on meeting eligibility criteria and available funding.