

# 2021 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference Agenda

## 8:30 a.m. Welcome

**John Spatz**, Nebraska Association of School Boards

## 8:40 a.m. Opening Remarks

**Senator Brett Lindstrom**, Nebraska Legislature

## 8:50 a.m. Opening Plenary Session

**Rosemarie Allen**, Center for Equity & Excellence

Early childhood education has the power to change lives. Investing in quality early education programs helps children grow up healthier, better educated, and less likely to turn to crime, helping families and entire communities thrive. But not all children have the same needs, and the same solutions don't work for every child. This keynote address by Rosemarie Allen, President and CEO of the Center for Equity & Excellence, will highlight the importance of meeting children and families where they are and the incredible return on investment that is possible.

## 9:20 a.m. Community Response Panel

**Moderator: Jessie Rasmussen**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**Rosemarie Allen**, Center for Equity & Excellence

**Quentin Brown**, Educare Lincoln

**Diane Temme Stinton**, TMC

**Luke Virgil**, Wayne Area Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce

## 9:50 a.m. Break

## 10:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions

## 10:50 a.m. Break

## 11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions Repeated

## 11:50 a.m. Break

## 12:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session

**Bina Patel Shrimali**, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

A lack of available, affordable child care is costly—for everyone. In Nebraska, the state loses out on nearly \$745 million each year in missed family income, state tax revenue, and business losses due to worker turnover and decreased productivity. And since the pandemic began, nearly 2 million women nationwide have dropped out of the workforce, many to take care of children. This closing keynote address by Bina Patel Shrimali, community development research manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, will highlight the importance of access to quality child care as front and center to the economy and how businesses and communities rely on child care to support a thriving labor force.

## 12:25 p.m. Closing Remarks

**Jason Prokop**, First Five Nebraska

# Breakout Sessions

## Leveraging New and Evolving Policies and Funds to Support Local Child Care

**Jammie Albert**, National League of Cities

**Melissa Mincic**, National Conference of State Legislatures

**Arabella Piuta-Ehlers**, National Association of Counties

The critical need for early childhood care and education has been elevated at federal, state, and local levels, leading to unprecedented emphasis and powerful new funding possibilities for communities such as the American Rescue Plan. Learn what these evolving financial incentives and new funding opportunities mean, and how to access and leverage them to support your local child care needs.

## Safer Communities, Brighter Futures

**William Brueggemann**, Cass County Sheriff's Office

**David Moore**, Janesville (WI) Police Department

**Mark Musick**, United States Air Force

**Joshua Spaulding**, Council for a Strong America

**John Werden**, Carroll County (IA) Attorney's Office

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids—a national bipartisan membership organization of over 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors—will host a panel discussion focused on law enforcement's support for evidence-based high-quality early childhood programs. Research shows that these early years can set the foundation for school success, reduce involvement in the criminal justice system, and improve public safety. These critical assets promote social and economic opportunity as safer communities are more likely to retain and attract residents, skilled workers, and business/industry.

## Exploring Factors Beyond Economic Investment That Influence Community Vitality

**Sandra Barrera Fuentes**, Nebraska Extension

**Holly Hatton-Bowers**, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

**Ted Hibbeler**, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

**Howard Liu**, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Wondering what factors beyond fiscal investment create communities where people want to live, work, and play? Join folks from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska—Lincoln Native American Coalition, UNL College of Education and Human Sciences, and Nebraska Extension's Latino Small Business Program who will share their experience and knowledge about how factors like culture, small businesses, mental health, and wellbeing influence community vitality. Then, connect with fellow attendees to discuss why communities are a complex network of people, partnerships, organizations, and relationships.

## Community-Centered Solutions to Increase Child Care Availability

**Michael T. Hansen**, Columbus Community Hospital

**Colten Venteicher**, Bacon, Vinton & Venteicher Law Office

Community leaders across Nebraska are implementing innovative solutions to address their critical local need for child care. This breakout session will showcase success stories, such as Gothenburg's school-city-hospital interlocal agreement and the Columbus Community Hospital Child Care Center.

## Quality Early Care and Education Revisited: What It Means and What It Takes

**Kathleen (Kate) Gallagher**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska

**Jolene Johnson**, University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Kirsten Kainz**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Portia Kennel**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Early childhood programs are often designed and developed without input from families, professionals, and communities. This can negatively impact equitable access to quality early care and education for children. This session will look at how Nebraska defines quality and share a number of principles and processes that can help your community's early childhood settings ensure that each child and family thrives.

### **Diapers to Diplomas**

**Sadie Coffey**, Milford Public Schools

**Melody Hobson**, Nebraska Department of Education

Learn more about “Rule 11” and how Shickley leveraged Nebraska’s Department of Education regulations to transform a child care desert in rural Nebraska. Hear from a superintendent and a Nebraska Department of Education expert about how innovative thinking and the “Diapers to Diplomas” program have helped the school remain an active and vibrant resource in the community.

### **Innovative Ways to Support the Community Child Care Workforce**

**Chandra Berlin**, York Public Schools

**Suzanne Schneider**, Lincoln Littles

**Shelina Williams**, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

Join Nebraska community representatives and the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative to find new ways to support the early child care workforce. Hear specific examples, including hosting monthly provider meetings for networking, identifying new training opportunities, providing stipends for training, and offering support for centers and in-home providers.

### **Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan: Collaborating Across Communities**

**Alexandra Dillon**, Educational Service Unit 10

**Hallie Duke**, Dr. Duke Consulting, LLC

**Susan Sarver**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska

The Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan is a dynamic plan developed by and for Nebraskans to provide all children and their families with access to quality early childhood services that support children’s healthy development from birth through age 8. Join the conversation to shape the how the strategic plan will support communities in coordinating local resources and build capacity to meet the needs of families and children.

### **Community Storytelling**

**Saffron Buettner**, Hall County Community Collaborative

**Lindsey Jarecki**, Boone Beginnings

**Joan Lombardi**, Early Opportunities, LLC

**Melissa Polinoski**, Atkinson Children and Families Coalition

Listen to representatives from three Nebraska communities share their early childhood journey and develop their unique story. The focus will include lessons learned, successes, and challenges that were encountered along the way. The panelists will share their creation of community storyboards and recap what was learned over a yearlong storytelling webinar series.

### **Understanding Fundraising Basics**

**Pam Abbott**, Keith County Foundation Fund

**John Levy**, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

**Jessie Rasmussen**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Successful fundraising requires much more than “making an ask.” Hear from philanthropy experts and learn about researching potential funders, building relationships, asking questions, understanding key terms, and delivering a well-constructed proposal.