



A Conversation with Community Leaders about Improving Access to Quality Early Childhood Care And Education

The Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan: a
Dynamic Plan by and for Nebraskans

Vision

All Nebraska children and their families have access to quality early childhood services that support children's healthy development from birth through age 8.



The goals of the Strategic Plan are designed to change early childhood systems through **ALIGNMENT** and **COLLABORATION** so that **EACH AND EVERY CHILD** in Nebraska has **ACCESS** to **QUALITY** early childhood services.





You work where the vision meets the road...

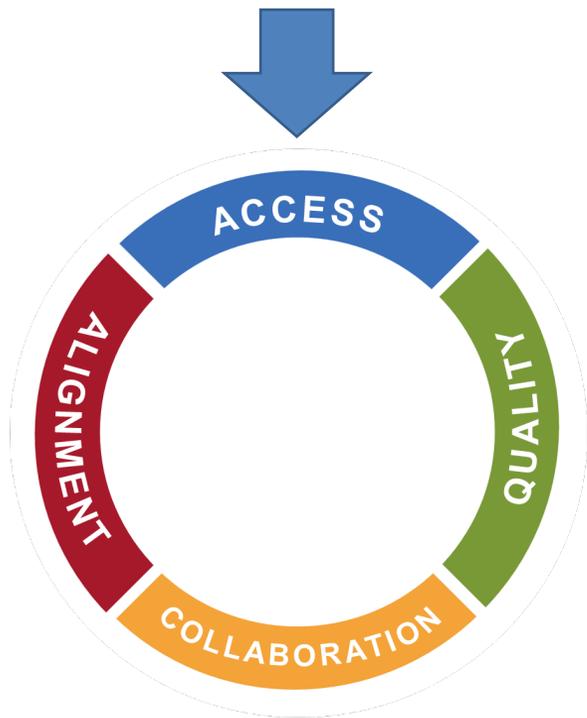
...in the community with families and early
childhood professionals.



ACCESS
to these early
childhood
services is
essential to
children's
healthy
development



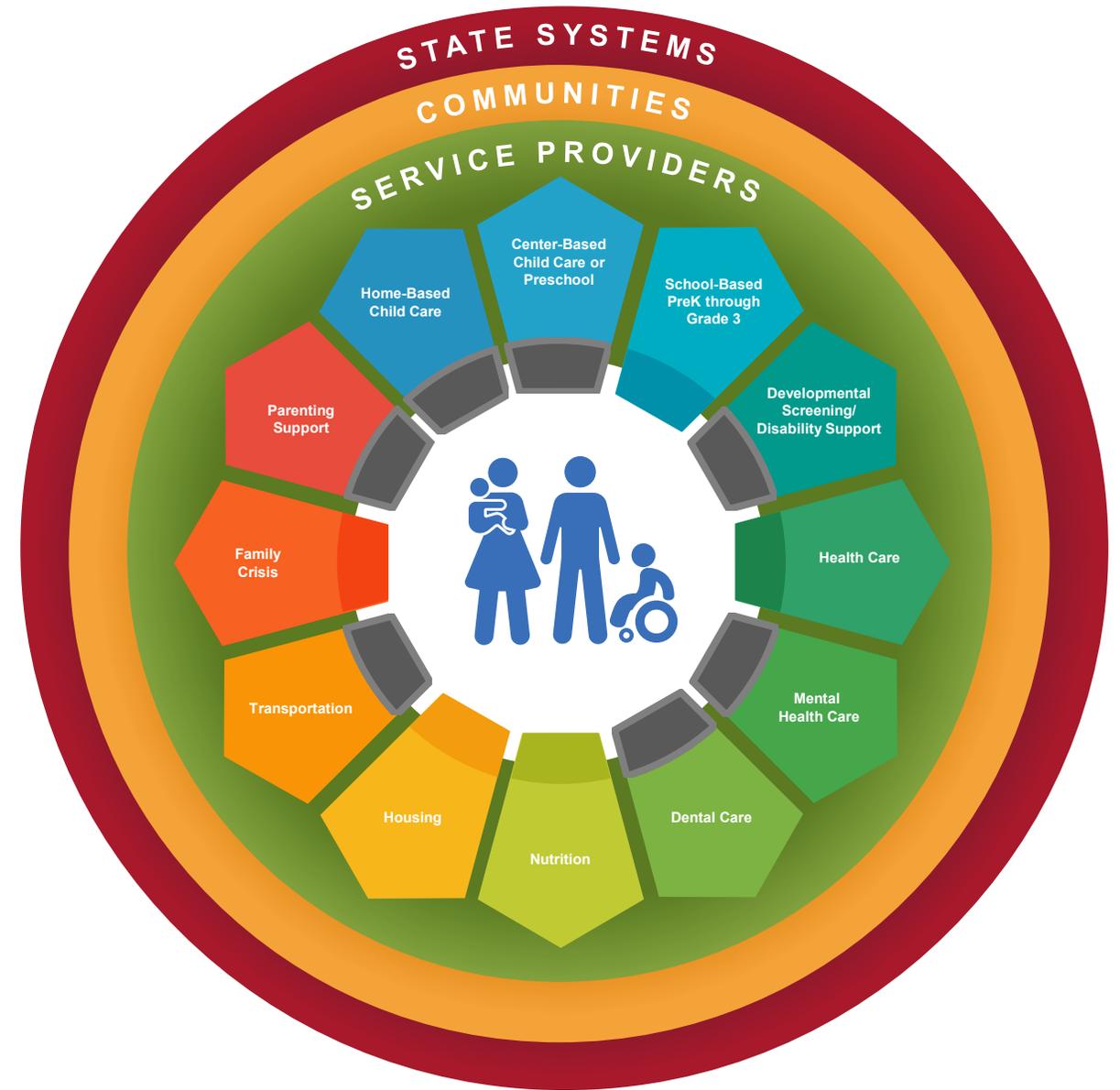
Doors are closed to families because of ...



inconvenient hours
service not available
unqualified workforce
special needs
not affordable
no transportation
limited subsidy
cost prohibitive
hard subsidy application



An important part of creating equity for all families means opening the doors that are closed.



What keeps families in your community from accessing the care or services they need?



Please share or post in chat.



Strategies to improve ACCESS include...

- Funding is available to cover full cost of quality
- Change eligibility criteria for subsidy
- Simplify enrollment applications
- Expand resource and referral networks
- Address unique barriers faced by families of children with disabilities
- Expand access to essential services to families in rural areas

Do you think these strategies would help in your community?

What are you doing to address barriers to access?





QUALITY early care and education is defined in terms of what **Each Child Experiences** and is characterized by positive and consistent interactions between the developing child and familiar, caring adults – no matter the setting.

Sensitive and responsive interactions

Doors are closed to quality because of ...

no engagement

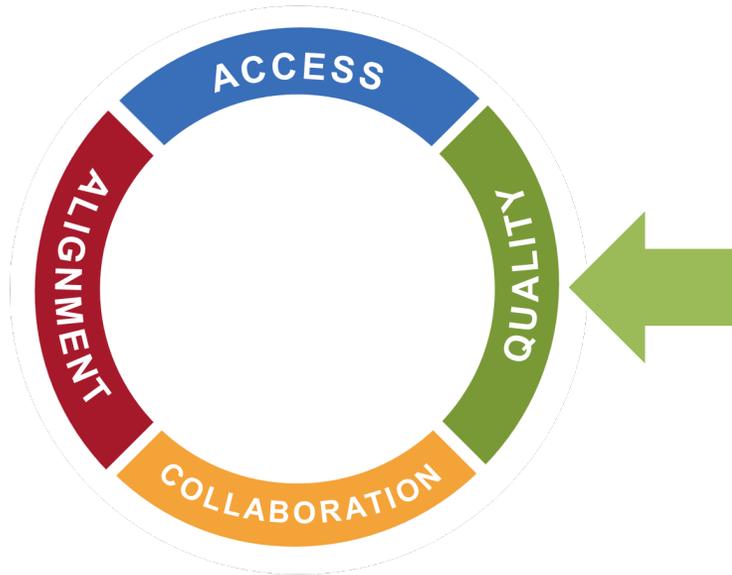
no referral network

limited training

can't find services

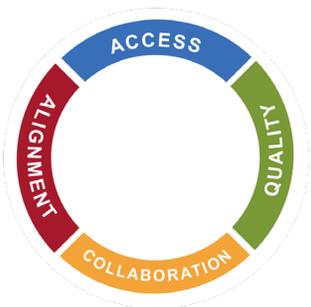
don't speak language

don't understand culture



What keeps families in your community from finding quality care?

Please share or post in chat.



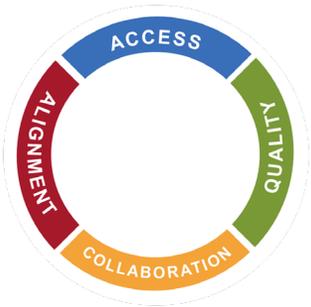


Strategies to improve QUALITY include...

- EC professional pathways are affordable, accessible, and equitable
- Strengthened quality coaching for the workforce
- Enhanced workforce wellbeing
- Expanded capacity to care for children with special needs
- Improved communication strategies between providers and parents.
- Safety and design of early childhood facilities

Do you think these strategies would help in your community?

What are you doing to address barriers to Quality?







Let's keep the conversation going...

- Learn more at NEarlychildhoodplan.org
- Events calendar



To create more connections or host a discussion, contact Sara Vetter at

svetter@nebraska.edu



THANK YOU!

*A feedback and
evaluation survey is
in the chat window.*

NEarlychildhoodplan.org



Acknowledgements

- Facilitation of the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan is provided by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska as part of a broad collaborative effort of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Department of Education, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, and a number of other organizations.
- This project is supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0040-01-00, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

www.NEarlychildhoodplan.org