Elevating Nebraska’s Early Childhood Workforce

Report and Recommendations of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING FLOW

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This figure presents a simplified illustration of what is actually a complex patchwork that stitches together federal and state funds allocated for early care and education. Mechanisms to fund early care and education have emerged through incremental policy changes targeted at specific goals. The resulting funding structures are often inflexible, siloed, and inefficient.

Access to as many funding sources as possible is a lifeline to keeping early childhood program doors open and lights on, but the process of acquiring and braiding funds is burdensome to maintain and complex to master. Time and energy that professionals would otherwise make available to children and families must be devoted to the administrative task of securing and combining separate sources of funding to generate enough revenue to cover the cost of providing early care and education.
Government funding is allocated through various finance mechanisms. These mechanisms originate from federal and state agencies that have distinct regulatory standards, compliance monitoring, and qualifications requirements. Mechanisms originating from federal agencies are administered through corresponding state agencies. Head Start is a notable exception.

State agencies delegate management of adhering to the requirements of specific finance mechanisms to the entities identified here as program administrators.

Providers must demonstrate eligibility to receive funds and document that they are in compliance with the requirements of applicable finance mechanisms. Program administrators deliver funds to eligible providers that demonstrate compliance.

Certain finance mechanisms are administered at the agency level and distribute funds directly to providers.
Visit EarlyYearsMatter.org/workforce for the full report.