

## National Workforce Registry Alliance and Buffett Early Childhood Institute FAQ

### 1. What is happening?

The National Workforce Registry Alliance (NWRA) and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska have mutually agreed to end the arrangement of NWRA being administratively housed at the Buffett Institute that began with an asset transfer agreement established on Jan. 1, 2025. This decision was made after a thorough evaluation during the transition of how each organization can most effectively serve the field, meet its mission, and operate within its operations and oversight procedures.

### 2. Why are the two organizations ending the partnership agreement?

The agreement was an intentional and thoughtful effort to innovate and strengthen the early childhood workforce field. During the partnership, both organizations gained valuable insights into what works—and what doesn't—when aligning different organizational structures with different operations and oversight procedures. We've learned that the two have distinct approaches to business operations and procedures, and the NWRA's preferred practices do not align with the operating model of a university, which has specific requirements for oversight and administration. Ultimately, both organizations agreed that the NWRA's return to an independent operation would better position them for long-term impact, while allowing the Institute to maintain its operational and oversight model.

### 3. What does this mean for the NWRA and its members?

The NWRA will reincorporate as an independent 501(c)(3) and resume operations as a standalone organization. The mission and values of the NWRA remain unchanged, and its commitment to advancing workforce data, policy, and systems improvement continues. Building on this mission and vision, the organization remains committed to supporting its members by providing valuable resources, fostering a strong professional community, and advocating for their growth and success.

### 4. What does this mean for the Buffett Institute?

The Buffett Institute remains fully committed to its mission to transform early childhood development and learning through research, policy, and practice. The decision to end the agreement allows the Institute to focus on its core organizational priorities with the University of Nebraska System. The Institute will continue its statewide and national leadership role in supporting early childhood practice and policy and engaging in strategic partnerships with organizations throughout the field, including the NWRA, when aligned with our mission and goals and consistent with our operations and oversight procedures.

### 5. Will the organizations partner going forward?

There are ongoing collaborative projects that will continue through completion. The organizations will each look toward future opportunities that could utilize the strengths and expertise of each to

benefit the early childhood workforce, and where operations and oversight procedures will allow.

**6. How will this decision affect current projects or joint initiatives underway?**

Most existing collaborative initiatives between the NWRA and the Buffett Institute will continue, either through direct partnership or within each organization's independent structure. This next stage allows each organization to focus more deeply on its respective strengths, while mitigating risks and continuing to align on joint priorities such as workforce data and workforce engagement.

**7. When will this go into effect?**

The formal end of the agreement took place on Feb. 27, 2026.

**8. Who should I contact if I have more questions?**

For NWRA-related questions, please reach out to Kimberlee Belcher-Badal at [director@registryalliance.org](mailto:director@registryalliance.org). For Institute-related inquiries, please email [buffettinstitute@nebraska.edu](mailto:buffettinstitute@nebraska.edu).