

Attachment G: Abstract (Base Funding Option)

| State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Funding Opportunity | |
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| Organization Name (Base Funding) | Nebraska Department of Education |
| Lead Applicant Entity Type | State Government |
| Lead Applicant City and State | Lincoln, Nebraska |
| Funding Option | Base Funding |
| Project Title | Expanding Access to Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Nebraska |
| Funding Amount Requested | \$488,773.00 |
| Total Number of Apprentices Enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant, if applicable | 200 |
| Population(s) to be Served | <p>Direct: Paraprofessionals, high school graduates, career changers, and other teacher apprenticeship candidates in Nebraska with a focus on current employees coming from positions with Special Education or English as a Second Language experience or interest</p> <p>Indirect: 328,722 students in Nebraska public schools</p> |
| List of the name of the Required Partner | N/A |
| List the name(s) of Optional Partners | USDOL State Office of Apprenticeship, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska State Board of Education, Office of the Governor, Nebraska Public School Districts, Nebraska Educator Preparation Providers, Nebraska Educational Service Units, Nebraska Council on Teacher Education |
| Targeted Industry and/or Occupation | K-12 Teacher |
| Summary of Program Activities | |
| <p>Each of the 328,722 students who attend Nebraska public schools deserve a high-quality teacher. However, teacher shortages are at critically high levels. Despite these teacher shortages, NDE is optimistic, because we believe that apprenticeship programs offer an accessible pathway for more aspiring teachers to enter the profession.</p> | |

Nebraska’s public schools employed 9,320 paraprofessionals for the 2023-2024 school year, 63% (5,888) of whom have a passion for serving Special Education populations, and many of whom aspire to become certified teachers. However, simply due to financial barriers or inflexible course delivery schedules from universities, they are unable to do so. We aim to use these base grant funds to build both the internal and external capacity necessary to allow for further expansion of the T-RAP model in Nebraska.

The vast majority (83%) of the base funds (\$407,075.00) will go directly towards building the administrative capacity, infrastructure and programmatic activity that supports the maintenance of Nebraska’s Apprenticeship in Teaching model launched in January 2024.

Namely, this includes set-asides for building NDE’s capacity and systems to (1) ensure the effective oversight and management of the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship pilot program, (2) engage with and provide technical assistance to Employers and Related Instruction Providers during implementation, (3) foster partnerships, coherence, and alignment on workforce development priorities with state partners, including NDOL and NCTE, (4) drive innovation in apprenticeship program design in partnership with EPPs and NCTE, and (5) technical support and resources from national apprenticeship experts.

The Base Award would be used to (1) provide salaries for personnel at NDE who would be dedicated to administering and expanding apprenticeship programs with fidelity, (2) allow statewide travel for NDE leadership to encourage local buy-in and compliance to the apprenticeship model, (3) secure equipment and supplies needed by staff members to execute the proposed project with fidelity, and (4) cover other costs associated with NDE’s implementation of the proposed grant project.

The remaining 23% of funds (\$81,698) will be used for indirect costs and anticipated contracting costs as needed during NDE’s implementation of the proposed grant project. As NDE looks to scale its pilot apprenticeship programs, such administrative expenses are critical to ensuring high-quality, low-cost programs are accessible for all aspiring teachers.

At the end of Year 4, NDE aims for SAEF grant base funds to have created 4 new RAPs and expanded 3 RAPs, with 200 total apprentices served.

| Subrecipient Roles | |
|--|---|
| N/A | |
| List of Credential(s) to be Awarded | Nebraska Initial Teaching Certificate |
| Public Contact Information | <p>Jessica Javorsky, Strategic Initiatives Grant Specialist, Commissioner’s Office</p> <p>500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor, Lincoln NE, 68510-2611</p> <p>(402)-310-0068 jessica.javorsky@nebraska.gov</p> |