

Attachment G: Abstract (Competitive Funding Option)

State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Funding Opportunity	
Organization Name (Competitive Funding)	Nebraska Department of Education
Lead Applicant Entity Type	State Government
Lead Applicant City and State	Lincoln, NE
Funding Option	Competitive Funding
Project Title	Accelerating and Scaling Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Nebraska
Funding Amount Requested	\$4,500,000.00
Total Number of Apprentices Enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant, if applicable	180
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, English as a Second Language, or early childhood experience</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, National Center for Grow Your Own.
Targeted Industry and/or Occupation	K-12 Teacher
Summary of Program Activities	

Each of the 328,722 students who attend Nebraska public schools deserve a high-quality teacher. However, teacher shortages are at critically high levels, especially in districts serving more students with disabilities, English learners, and students from lower-income and rural communities. Nevertheless, Nebraska is optimistic that apprenticeship programs offer an accessible and sustainable way for more aspiring teachers to not only enter the profession, but to also stay long term.

The vast majority (80%) of the requested SAEF grant competitive funds (\$3,600,000) will go directly towards offsetting participant program costs from Related Instruction Providers and programmatic activity that supports the expansion of a statewide registered apprenticeship program for K-12 teachers.

Specifically, this includes set-asides for three rounds of direct sub-grants to educator preparation providers (EPPs), who will partner with school district employers to design 1- or 2-year teacher apprenticeship pathways. EPP sub-grantees must utilize funds awarded in order to cover all out-of-pocket costs for candidates. Eligible EPPs will bid for sub-grant funds based on the quality of their program and how many apprentices they can support. NDE projects dramatic cost savings based on this competitive process, while fostering meaningful collaboration between EPPs and school districts, and building statewide capacity to design and operate high-quality teacher apprenticeships

The remaining \$900,000 of the requested competitive grant funding will be used to secure the contracting services of the National Center for Grow Your Own for ongoing technical assistance, project implementation support, writing of all competitive sub-grant solicitations, and operation of the *Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching Technical Assistance Center*, as described in the project narrative and work plan included in the application for SAEF competitive funds.

Nebraska's proposed use of SAEF competitive funds would remove financial barriers and allow individuals with a demonstrated heart for kids the opportunity to become a teacher for free while getting paid to do so. Use of competitive funds will allow districts to recruit individuals from within their local community – particularly paraprofessionals already in public schools – so that teachers not only reflect the experiences of the students they serve, they are also prepared to meet the holistic learning needs of Nebraska's youngest and brightest.

Subrecipient Roles

National Center for Grow Your Own: NCGYO is a 501(c)(3) organization that will provide ongoing technical assistance, project implementation support, writing of all competitive sub-grant solicitations, and other services as described in the project narrative and work plan. Alongside NDE, NCGYO will also launch the *Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching Technical Assistance Center (NRATTAC)*, providing ongoing technical assistance to NDE, EPPs, districts, and other parties as needed as they seek to design, register, and scale teacher apprenticeships across the state of Nebraska.

Nebraska EPPs: Approved EPPs in the state of Nebraska will be eligible to compete for three rounds of in sub-grant funding – \$1,500,000 in Fall 2024, \$1,500,000 in Spring 2025, and \$600,000 in Fall 2025 – in order to receive funding to build new apprenticeship programs in partnership with employing school districts. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement-basis, based on actual program costs incurred by the Related Instruction Provider, per enrolled apprentice. Funds will be distributed between these providers based on the number of seats they can offer at no cost to selected apprentices.

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