



# AGENDA

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

## Communities for Kids

8:15 a.m. Check-in and breakfast

9:20 a.m. Expert content sessions

11:20 a.m. Individual community action plan conversations

12 p.m. Lunch and presentation

### **Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy**

Becky Veak, director of First Five Nebraska, and Tammy Ward, director of the Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy, will share information about the newly-created academy and the role it can play in supporting community members' outreach to policymakers and elected officials.

1 p.m. Closing

Communities for Kids is an initiative of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and includes 10 communities that are receiving technical assistance to advance early childhood programming and services. If you are interested in learning more about Communities for Kids, please contact Marti Beard (402.310.7251 or [mbeard@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:mbeard@nebraskachildren.org)).

# Expert Sessions

## Funding Early Childhood Programs by Braiding Private/Public Funds

### Gladys Haynes, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

High-quality early childhood programs positively impact children's development. Ensuring programs remain financially stable, however, can be challenging. Often a program's financial sustainability requires blending and/or braiding funds from numerous sources. This workshop will identify operational costs associated with providing high-quality early childhood care and education services. Potential revenue sources will also be discussed, including partnerships where expenses are shared.

## Community Fundraising: Tools for Creating Your Plan and Approaching Donors

### Jessie Rasmussen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

This session will provide information about how to create a fundraising plan, including ideas for researching and approaching potential funders. Practical knowledge and tools will be shared for communities to begin creating their own fundraising plans.

## Early Learning Setting: To Build or Not to Build

### Debora Wisneski, University of Nebraska at Omaha

### Ed Buglewicz, RDG Planning & Design

This interactive workshop will explore purposeful connections between quality environments and quality programs, reflecting on the fundamentals of architectural design along with the selection of building finishes, program materials, and furnishings that all add up to quality inclusive environments for young children. Whether undertaking renovation, new construction or a simple remodel, there are lessons learned and guiding principles to consider. The discussion will apply to a range of settings from home-based to center-based programs and will identify special considerations for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children, including mixed age groupings.

## Quality Programs: The Importance of Quality Environments

### Alesha Henderson, Lakeshore Learning Materials

Quality is determined by many factors, including the learning environment. This interactive session will explore the importance of quality in the learning environment, from furniture and design to resources and implementation.

## Developing Your Early Childhood Message and Tailoring Your Approach

### Mike Medwick, First Five Nebraska

Engaging local audiences about the importance of early developmental experiences is essential to the success of your community's early childhood goals. This interactive workshop will focus on framing your message for target audiences, leveraging your communications resources, and other key elements of crafting an effective messaging strategy that influencers and decision makers will respond to.