



# CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY STUDIES

COLLEGE of EDUCATION and HUMAN SCIENCES

## Postdoctoral Research Associate Position in Early Childhood Nutrition and Health

**Lincoln, Nebraska – Full-time, 2-year appointment with a potential  
for extension or promotion to a permanent position**

**POSITION SUMMARY:** Dr. Dipti Dev's Research and Extension Lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is seeking a motivated and skilled Postdoctoral Research Associate to join a dynamic team advancing nutrition and health outcomes for rural children through the newly funded **NIH R01 5-year** grant titled, "*Effectiveness of a Multilevel Rural Community Engagement Model for Improving Children's Dietary Intake in Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs)*." This initiative expands the Ecological Approach to Prevention (EAT for Prevention) program to improve health outcomes for Nebraska's rural children and advance evidence-based solutions in early childhood nutrition policies.

The role offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to innovative research aimed at transforming early childhood nutrition practices.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

This position supports the implementation and evaluation of the *Ecological Approach to Prevention (EAT for Prevention)* program, focusing on:

1. Improving children's dietary intake and health outcomes.
2. Enhancing feeding practices and emotional mealtime climates in family childcare homes.
3. Identifying mediators driving program effectiveness.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinate NIH-related data collection activities in collaboration with community partners and Extension professionals.
- Conduct and analyze data to prepare reports supporting future grant applications and report dissemination.
- Write additional grants to build on the preliminary data from the NIH grant.
- Write and publish manuscripts in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals.
- Mentor and guide doctoral and master's students on research and publications.

## Snapshot

### University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Chartered in **1869**, the university is organized into **nine** colleges.

**UNL** is a member of the **Big Ten** Academic Alliance and Big Ten Athletic Conference.

**CYAF** is one of **7** departments housed in the College of Education and Human Sciences, home to over **2,300** undergraduate students, nearly **900** master's/doctoral students, and more than **350** faculty and staff members.

**UNL** is part of a public-private partnership and home of a new research campus - **Nebraska Innovation Campus**. A place where businesses connect with faculty talent to transform ideas into innovations.

Dr. Dev's lab is housed in a **brand new state-of-the-art building**, Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall (see picture), centrally located on UNL's city campus.

## Spotlight on Dr. Dev's Former Graduate Students

**Dr. Saima Hasnin** is now a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. ([Linkedin](#), [Google Scholar](#))

**Dr. Jasmin Smith** serves as a Community Nutrition and Health Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension. ([Linkedin](#))

**Dr. Tirna Purkait** is continuing as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Dev at UNL. ([Linkedin](#))

Join Dr. Dev and her team in advancing groundbreaking research that will impact children's health and community nutrition!

**[cehs.unl.edu/cyaf](https://cehs.unl.edu/cyaf)**

## Living in Lincoln

- Lincoln is a big "small town" (more than 294,000) with a reasonable cost of living
- A vibrant economy and remarkable growth in the downtown/Historic Haymarket area including a new arena and entertainment district with restaurants and hotels
- Diverse community with over 125 languages spoken by students in Lincoln Public Schools
- Strong public and private schools
- Great outdoor activities including parks, lakes, and a large network of bike trails
- Many family activities and great cultural activities – art, theatre, music, the children's museum and zoo
- Easy travel to/from Lincoln and Omaha airports, Amtrak
- Lincoln and Omaha are both in the top 30 best places to live in the U.S.

## BENEFITS

- The role is based in Lincoln, Nebraska, with in-person collaboration to foster impactful research and community engagement.
- Opportunity for transition into a permanent position such as Senior Project Director within UNL after successful completion of the 2-year appointment.

## WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

### Qualifications:

- A PhD in Nutrition, Human Development, Public Health, Early Childhood Education, Child Development, or a related field.
- Proven experience in community-based research and peer-reviewed publications.
- Strong collaborative and mentoring skills.
- A valid U.S. driver's license and flexibility to travel to rural childcare settings for data collection.

### Preferred Skills & Attributes:

- Experience with grant writing and post-grant management with exceptional oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with diverse internal and external stakeholders.
- Proven organizational skills to manage and prioritize multiple tasks, deadlines, and requirements.
- Sound professional judgment, integrity, and the ability to handle confidential information.
- Proficiency in Windows-based software, including the Microsoft Office Suite, Prior experience with tools such as SPSS/SAS/R/NVivo.
- Physical Requirements: Ability to transport/move supplies and equipment and climb stairs with or without reasonable accommodation.

## JOIN US

Be part of a collaborative team working to reduce health disparities and improve early childhood nutrition and health outcomes through groundbreaking, community-engaged research. Together, we can make a lasting impact!

### About University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

The university, as a whole, has more than 26,000 students and more than 150 undergraduate and 135 graduate degree programs. It is ranked as a best-value university by *The Princeton Review*, and the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has repeatedly singled out the university for its academic strength and affordability.

A top-tier research institution and member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, Nebraska is a leader among the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As a pioneer in teaching and research, Nebraska leads an array of projects aimed at broadening knowledge and bettering lives around the world. In 2017, the Milken Institute ranked the university among the nation's elite for its ability to drive economic growth by commercializing the work of its faculty.

Optimism abounds at Nebraska, creating a spirit that breaks through conventions and tells the world that we are in the middle of everywhere.

## How To Apply:

Please email your application packet, with the subject line: Post-doc NIH, following documents as a single PDF file to Dr. Dev Dev at [ddev2@unl.edu](mailto:ddev2@unl.edu).

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- One writing sample
- Names of two references (finalists will be asked to submit letters later).

## Application Review

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Start date is flexible between February - July 2025.

## Questions?

For inquiries about the position, please contact Dipti Dev, PhD ([ddev2@unl.edu](mailto:ddev2@unl.edu)).

### Child, Youth and Family Studies

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