



Communities for Kids

nebraskachildren

NEBRASKA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS INITIATIVE

The Communities for Kids initiative was created in response to community requests for assistance with shortages of high-quality early care and education programs — shortages that both impact children's optimal development and pose a challenge for communities hoping to attract and retain the viable workforces they need to thrive.

Communities for Kids aims to partner with communities' public and private entities to support and coordinate planning for access to high-quality early care and education for all children birth through age eight. These partnerships will be customized to address each community's unique assets and needs — so each community can grow and prosper well into the future.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will provide expertise and coordination to support communities using a collective impact approach:

- **Engage** stakeholders in identifying the strengths and gaps of the current whole-child, early care and education resources in their community by completing the Early Childhood System of Care (ECSOC) Community Self-Assessment, if a similar assessment has not already been completed. Engaging schools will be an important element of this work.
- **Utilize** informed decision-making to determine strategies and desired outcomes most relevant to meeting the priority needs identified in the community assessment and detailing a business plan when indicated. Whenever possible, this will be done through existing planning efforts to maximize community resources.
- **Connect** communities with other communities through peer learning networks regarding research, best practices, implementation, quality measurements, financing, use of government/public resources, and physical environmental designs, etc.
- **Explore** and assist communities with applying for all available sources of funding (private/public grants, public funding programs such as child care subsidy, no- or low-interest loans, etc.) to implement and sustain the identified strategies.

COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS PARTNERS:

- Columbus
- Schuyler
- Lexington
- Gothenburg
- Grand Island
- 11 counties in the Panhandle
- Pender
- Norfolk
- Red Cloud
- York
- Albion/Boone County
- Nebraska City/
Otoe County
- Ogallala/Keith County
- Valentine/Cherry County
- Wood River
- Stuart/Holt County
- McCook/Red Willow County

Additional communities may be offered limited advisement and may be selected for future partnerships.

For more information, contact:

Marti Beard

Associate VP Early Childhood

402-310-7251

mbeard@nebraskachildren.org

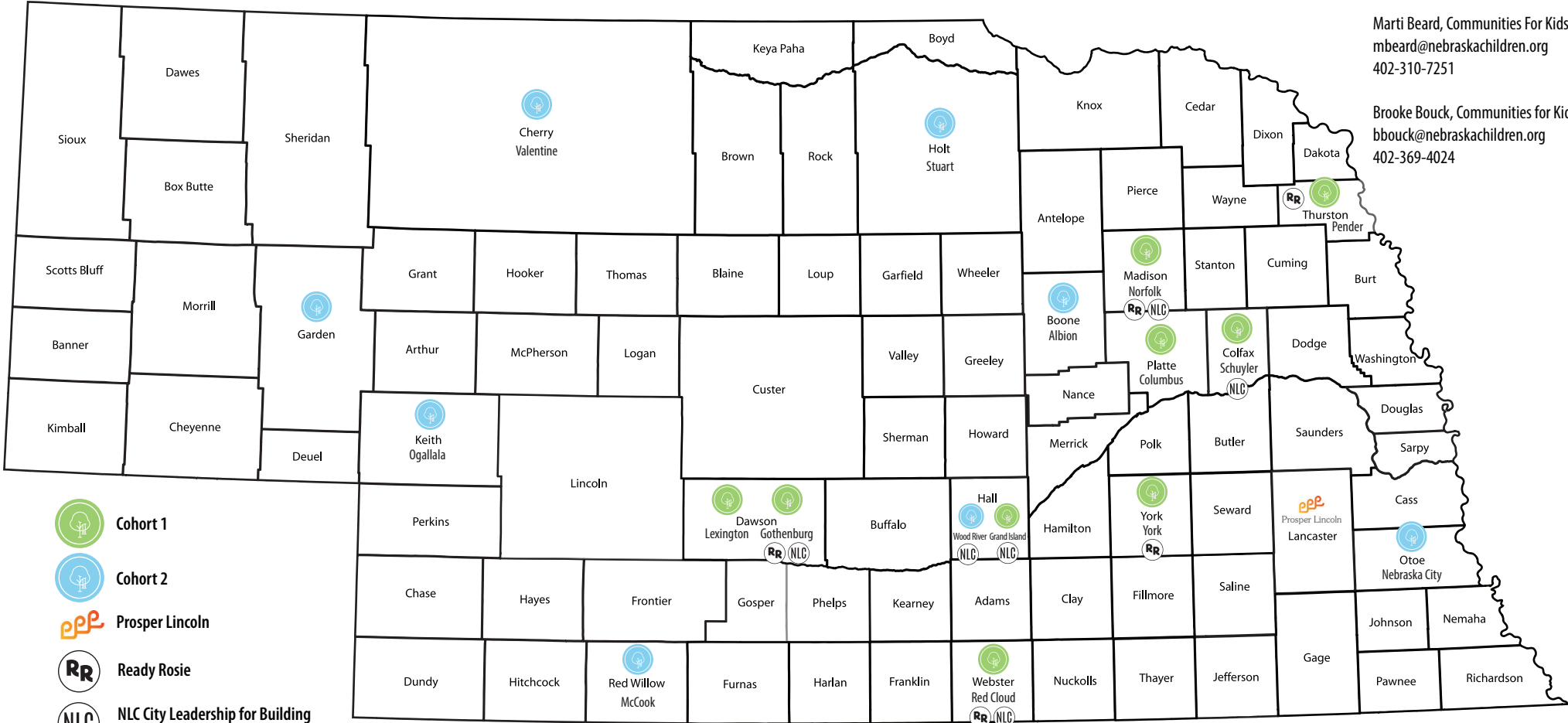


Communities for Kids Growth Map (Current)

Nebraska Children Staff:
 Michelle Suarez, Prosper Lincoln
 michelle.suarez@prosperlincoln.org
 402-432-3290

Marti Beard, Communities For Kids
 mbeard@nebraskachildren.org
 402-310-7251

Brooke Bouck, Communities for Kids
 bbouck@nebraskachildren.org
 402-369-4024



-  Cohort 1
-  Cohort 2
-  Prosper Lincoln
-  Ready Rosie
-  NLC City Leadership for Building an Early Learning Nation