



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 partners 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 are 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 provides 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 Quality and Capacity Survey (ECQCS), if a similar assessment has not already been completed. Engaging schools is 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 resources, including other communities through peer learning networks regarding research, best practices, implementation, quality measurements, financing, use of government/public resources/funding, and physical environmental designs, etc.

For more information, please contact **Marti Beard** (402-310-7251; mbeard@nebraskachildren.org).

COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS PARTNERS:

- Adams County
- Albion/Boone County
- Atkinson/Holt County
- Broken Bow/Custer County
- Burwell/Garfield County
- Columbus
- Garden County
- Gering
- Gothenburg
- Grand Island
- Jackson/Dakota County
- Lexington
- Lincoln
- McCook/Red Willow County
- Nebraska City/
Otoe County
- Norfolk
- North Platte
- Ogallala/Keith County
- Ord/Valley County
- Pender
- Red Cloud
- Schuyler
- Sidney
- Stuart/Holt County
- Table Rock/Pawnee County
- Tecumseh/Johnson County
- Valentine/Cherry County
- Wilcox- Hildreth
- Wood River
- York County

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



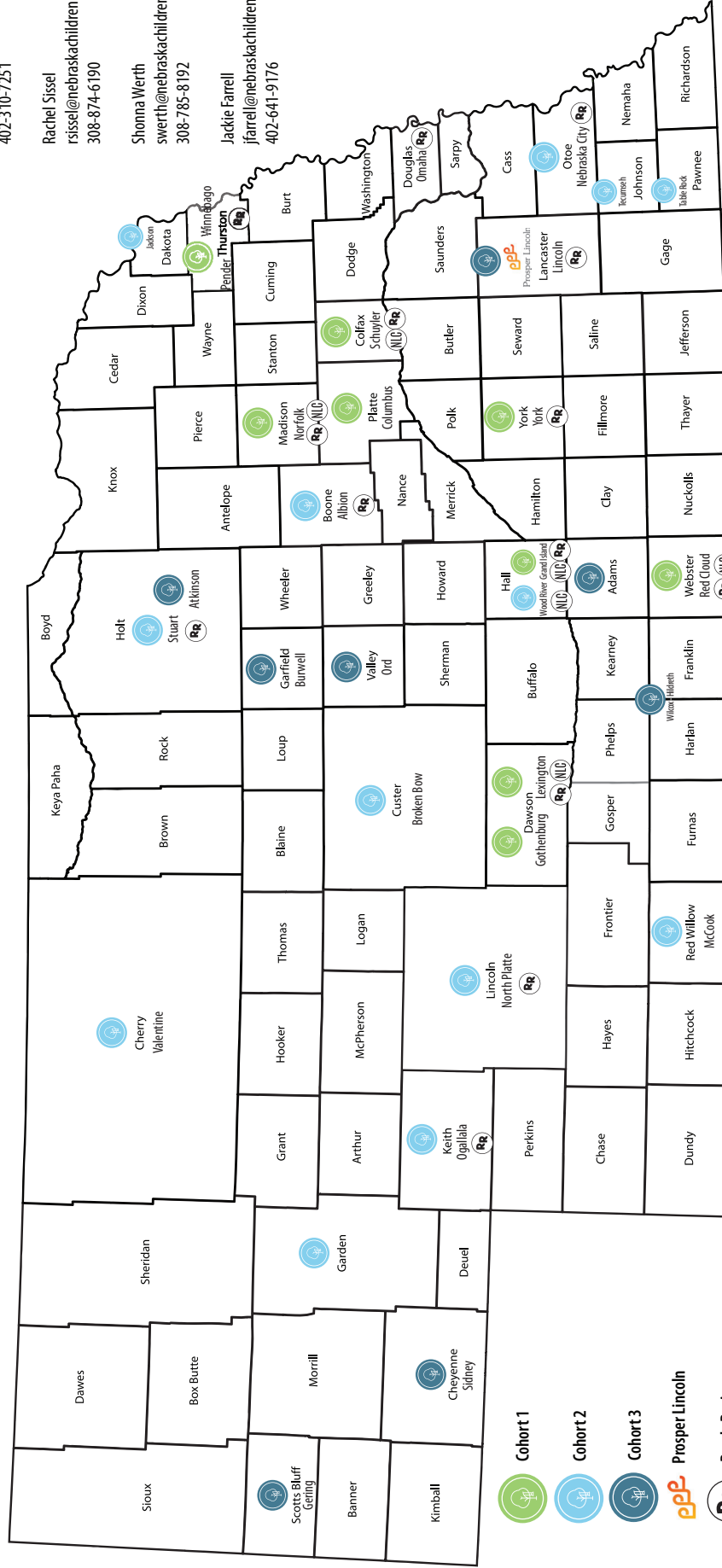
Communities for Kids Growth Map (Current)

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**NIC City Leadership for Building
 an Early Learning Nation**