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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Grant Opportunity Alert: Sixpence Early Learning Fund Seeks Proposals
for Family Engagement Programs**

LINCOLN, NE— The Trustees of the Sixpence Early Learning Fund are offering five family engagement grants (home visitation) to support Birth-to-Three services in new or expanding family engagement programs. School districts or district cooperatives can apply in partnership with community-based early childhood programs. Each partnership can apply for up to $85,000 (with additional start-up funding available for new programs) to expand access to quality early learning for Nebraska's infants and toddlers, helping close the achievement gap before kindergarten. The application will go live at [www.singasongofsixpence.org](http://www.singasongofsixpence.org) on February 24, 2025.

Over 40% of Nebraska children under age 3—around 30,000 infants and toddlers—face risks that hinder their developmental progress, putting them at a disadvantage by kindergarten. These challenges increase the likelihood of struggling in school, earning less as adults, facing chronic health issues, and even entering the criminal justice system. Research shows that providing stimulating and supportive experiences early in life fosters cognitive skills, positive behaviors, and traits that lead to academic success and healthier, more productive futures.

* February 24, 2025: application opens and a pre-recorded webinar will be released on <https://www.singasongofsixpence.org/>.
* March 10, 2025: first of two online Q & A sessions via Zoom (applicants only need to attend one).
* March 13, 2025: second Q & A session
* April 14, 2025: proposal submission deadline
* April 23, 2025: Sixpence Trustees make selections

**About Sixpence**: Sixpence is the public name of the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund, a public-private partnership established in 2006 to generate sustainable funding for high-quality programs serving children and their families from prenatal to age three. Sixpence issues grant awards and offers technical assistance to locally controlled early childhood partnerships under the supervision of a governor-appointed Board of Trustees. Sixpence is administered by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, which serves as the private endowment provider required by state statute. For more information, visit [www.SingaSongofSixpence.org](http://www.singasongofsixpence.org/).

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