GREG W. WELCH | ELIZABETH SVOBODA | AMANDA GARRETT
KATHLEEN GALLAGHER | MOLLY GOLDBERG | ALEXANDRA DARO

Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey Report

2019

Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute
at the University of Nebraska

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The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska promotes the development and learning of children from birth through age 8. Our vision is to make Nebraska the best place in the nation to be a baby. Visit buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu for more information.

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Introduction

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was reauthorized with renewed emphasis placed on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, which seeks to provide equal access to quality child care for families. The CCDF program is necessary to ensure children from low-income families have the opportunity to experience stable, high-quality early experiences while their parents experience a pathway to economic stability. A primary goal of the CCDF program is to ensure that low-income families receive CCDF funds to help them access quality child care in the same manner as families that pay the full rate for child care services (Davis et al., 2017).

The CCDBG Act requires Lead Agencies to engage in a number of activities designed to inform families receiving CCDF assistance, the general public, and child care providers of various aspects of the new law. This includes a requirement for Lead Agencies to conduct a market rate survey or alternative methodology to establish provider payment rates. Various factors should be considered when provider payment rates are established to ensure children from low-income families have equal access to high-quality child care. Federal regulations indicate that the 75th percentile payment rate is a benchmark for gauging equal access for families receiving subsidy. However, States/Territories are given the freedom to determine their own rates and eligibility requirements for families and programs.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) is the CCDF Lead Agency in Nebraska. While the reauthorized CCDBG allows states to conduct a market rate survey every three years, state legislation requires that NDHHS adjust the reimbursement rate for child care every odd numbered year. For 2019, NDHHS contracted with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (referred to as Institute throughout the remainder of this manuscript) at the University of Nebraska to conduct a market rate survey (MRS) for child care in the state of Nebraska. The 2019 MRS was designed to meet the following federal benchmarks: (a) includes the priced child care market; (b) provides complete and current data; (c) represents geographic variations; (d) uses rigorous data collection procedures; and (e) analyzes data in a manner that captures market differences as a function of age group, provider type, and geographic location (45 CFR § 98.4).

Consistent with the 2017 MRS, the Institute conducted a survey of all licensed child care providers across the state to obtain private pay child care rates for children with or without special needs. Categories of focus for data collection and reporting included:

1. Geographic Location: Rural or Urban;
2. Type of Care: Family Child Care Home I, Family Child Care Home II, Child Care Center, and School Age License;
3. Age Group of Children: Infant, Toddler, Pre-school, and School-age;
4. Special needs status: Medical and Behavioral;
5. Accreditation;
6. Extent to which child care providers participate in Child Care Subsidy Program;
7. Barriers to child care providers accepting the Child Care Subsidy Program;
8. Proportion of children who receive subsidy;
9. What limits, if any, providers place on the number of children they will accept with the Child Care Subsidy Program;
10. What level the provider participates in Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement system, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), or other systems of quality indicators;
11. Cost of implementation required for Health and Safety trainings; and
12. Traditional and non-traditional care.

In addition to conducting the 2019 MRS, the Institute agreed to perform the following services for NDHHS:

1. Analyze data. Executive summary and recommendations presented in a format and file type approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), summarizing overall study findings and providing recommendations to Lead Agencies as mentioned above. Analyses of rates will be presented in Hourly and Day units reflective of 50th through 100th percentiles in increments of 5.
2. Preliminary data estimates in Hourly and Day units categorized by geographic location, type of Child Care Provider, and age group of child.
3. Write and deliver a comprehensive report of study process and results.
4. Produce a secondary comprehensive report that calculates rates reflective of half day/full day units and half week/full week units.
5. Provide ongoing support, including presentation of study process and findings to stakeholder groups.

Methodology

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

This survey was conducted by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute on behalf of the NDHHS to study the 2019 market rate prices for child care in Nebraska. The 2019 child care market rates will inform the child care subsidy reimbursement rates. The Buffett Institute research team closely collaborated with the NDHHS to develop a draft of the survey based on the State's previous MRS in 2011, 2015, and 2017. The draft was then reviewed and discussed by a steering committee that provided additional guidance and facilitated the decision-making process for the Nebraska MRS. The steering committee[1] was composed of experts who are experienced with the MRS and child care in Nebraska. The final survey content was approved by DHHS prior to survey administration.

The final survey included questions related to (a) rate information by provider type, child age, and geographic setting; (b) program descriptors (i.e., ZIP code, staff, hours of part-time and full-time care, children enrolled, enrollment fee); (c) quality measures and participation (i.e., accreditation, funding); (d) child descriptive information (i.e., children with special needs, homeless and migrant children); and (f) barriers for providers with a Child Care Subsidy agreement. The survey was carefully reviewed and completed by key stakeholders and various employees in the Institute to ensure the questions were clear and the survey was clean of typos, etc. To facilitate distribution of the survey to providers across the state, the Institute contracted with the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. BOSR also provided consultation on the layout and design of the survey as well as specific survey items. The process for survey distribution is described in detail below. The final survey is included in Appendix A.

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION AND SAMPLING

The survey was initially mailed to child care providers on February 1, 2019 and data collection remained active through April 26, 2019. The total data collection window lasted approximately 12 weeks. Participation in the survey was voluntary; providers

[1] Brandee Lengel, Co-Executive Director at Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children.
Ben Baumfalk, Policy Research Analyst at First Five Nebraska.
Lisa Knoche, Research Associate Professor at Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools.
Jen Goettemoeller, Owner and Consultant at Prairie Oak Publishing & Consulting.

could selectively choose to respond to each question. There were three phases in the survey distribution and sampling process; these are specified below.

Phase 1. For phase I, NDHHS provided the list of currently licensed child care providers in Nebraska, n=3,220. BOSR project staff removed any duplicated providers' addresses, resulting in an eligible survey sample of 3,219. The team planned a census approach to surveying all 3,219 licensed child care providers in Nebraska.
In the initial mailing, a survey packet including a cover letter explaining the survey, a copy of the survey, and a postage pre-paid addressed business reply envelope for the survey to be mailed back to BOSR was mailed to each child care provider. A $1 incentive was also enclosed with the other materials as a small token of appreciation regardless of the provider's decision to participate. The initial mailing was sent to providers on February 1, 2019. For each address, the director of the child care program was asked to complete the questionnaire.

Phase 2. One week after the first mailing, all licensed child care providers were mailed a postcard reminding them to complete the survey. This reminder postcard was sent to providers on February 8, 2019.

A final mailing went out on February 22, 2019, to all non-respondents, which replicated the materials sent in the first mailing except for the $1 incentive. All communication materials were in English and can be found in Appendix B.

Phase 3. In phase III, survey non-respondents received up to three phone calls from BOSR reminding them to complete the survey. BOSR answered any providers' questions. BOSR also contacted school districts that have a research board to identify school-based child care programs. BOSR requested the research boards fill out the survey in batches for multiple centers within the same district that offer the same rates. The phone call reminders began March 22, 2019 and ended April 12, 2019. The sample pool for phase III included 2,760 licensed providers in Nebraska who did not complete the initial survey. From Phase III, a total of 1,236 responses (44.78%) out of the 2,760 non-responses were collected.

Final Sample. After a data cleansing process excluding invalid responses and unlicensed providers, 1,695 (52.66%) valid responses were obtained for use in data analyses. The response rate of 52.66% was calculated using the American Association for Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) standard definition for Response Rate 2. Of the 3,219 total licensed child care providers, 0.3% (n=10) were determined to be ineligible (e.g., no such address, vacant, closed business) and 3.0% (n=97) were undeliverable addresses with unknown eligibility. Refusals (e.g., blank survey returned, letter, phone

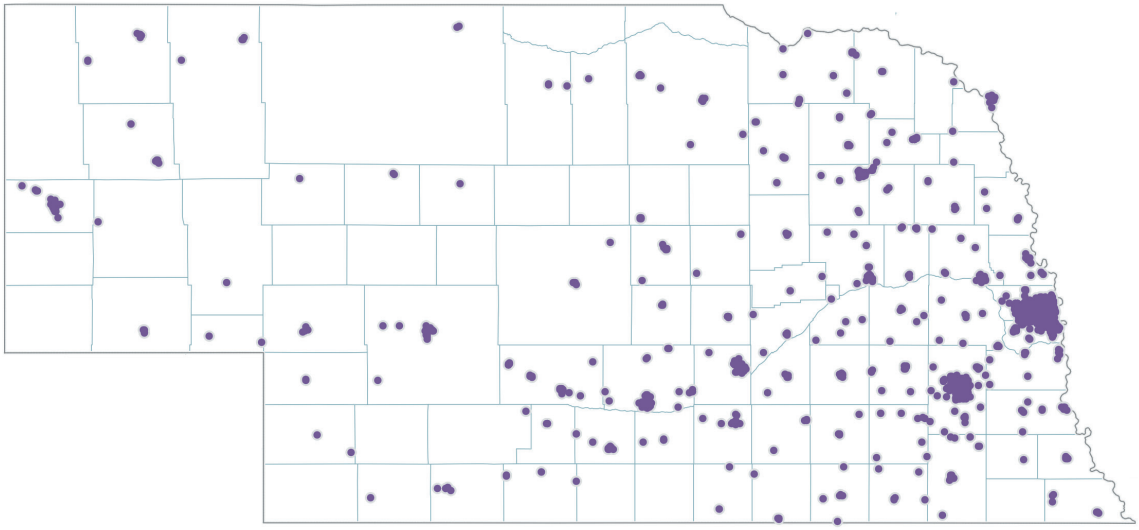
call, or email stating refusal to participate, including batch refusals for entire school systems or sites) and refused mail were obtained from 5.4% (n=175) of the sample.

All analyses reported include three provider types:

- Family Child Care Home I & II (Home I & II)
- Center-based by combining Child Care Centers and Preschools (Center-based)
- School Age License (School Age).

Two geographic distinctions (rural and urban) were made using DHHS's previously established data reporting categories (Child Care Subsidy Rates, 2018). The 2019 Nebraska MRS adopted these two geographic categories; DHHS had already classified all 93 Nebraska counties into one of the two geographic categories. Four counties were classified as urban, and the remaining 89 counties were considered rural. The survey represents geographic variation with responded providers. Figure 1 presents the geographic locations of provider responses by county across the State.

FIGURE 1. | LOCATIONS OF RESPONDED PROVIDERS



DATA MANAGEMENT

Data Processing. Mail survey data were entered using Epi Info 6 software. The data were saved on BOSR's secure network file server. Data entry was completed by an experienced data-entry staff. All of the data-entry workers had previous experience in data entry using Epi Info 6 on other mail survey projects. The data-entry staff was supervised by full-time BOSR project staff.

Data entry was completed in two steps. First, one data-entry worker would enter responses from a single survey. Second, another data-entry worker would re-key the survey and be alerted of any discrepancies with the first entry. Supervisory staff members were available to answer questions about discrepancies or illegible responses.

Data Entry and Cleansing. Data collected from child care providers via the mailings were recorded and stored by BOSR staff on a secure server located within the Sociology Department at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software package was used to process and document the dataset. The dataset was exported from Epi Info 6 into an SPSS system file. BOSR removed any cases that were duplicate or blank. The first step in data cleaning was to run frequency distributions on each variable in the survey. The second step was to generate variable and value labels. The final step in data cleaning was to check for out-of-range values on all survey items. Recoding was done to correct for the most obvious errors/ inconsistencies in the data. There were a several write-in answers as well, which were added as non-numeric additional values.

Outlier detection. Additional data cleaning techniques removed outliers, or extreme values, from key variables. Frequency distributions along with a visual display of the data were used to detect the outliers for removal at both the low and high ends of the distributions of rates.

It is important to be cautious interpreting the findings given the small number of providers that responded to key questions in the survey. Although the reported response rate of 1,695 is consistent with previous market rate surveys in Nebraska, in our study this value represents the number of providers that responded to any portion of the survey. This does not mean the provider responded to all of the survey questions. In fact, the number of providers responding to key questions about hourly/daily rates charged was much smaller than the total reported response rate.

Data Analyses. We used the SPSS software (version 25) and the Tableau (version 13) to conduct descriptive data analyses and provide a geographic display of key findings.

Key Findings

Findings are provided across four key areas: (a) a description of the survey respondents; (b) the child care market rates; (c) program descriptions; and (d) special populations served.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table 1 displays the number and percentage of accredited licensed child care providers for each of the three provider types. Table 2 presents the number and percentage of responded providers who are accredited and who serve children at each age group by provider type and geographic location. Table 3 presents the number and percentage of non-accredited licensed child care providers for each of the three provider types. Figure 2 presents the distribution of the sample by provider type.

-

TABLE 1. | NUMBER (%) OF ACCREDITED PROVIDERS PER PROVIDER TYPE

PROVIDER	ACCREDITED	NOT ACCREDITED
Home I & II	**192 (12.77%)**	**798 (53.09%)**
Center-based	**97 (6.45%)**	**317 (21.09%)**
School Age	**20 (1.33%)**	**79 (5.26%)**

TABLE 2. | NUMBER (%) OF ACCREDITED PROVIDERS SERVING EACH AGE GROUP BY PROVIDER TYPE AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

	INFANT		TODDLER		PRESCHOOL AGE		SCHOOL AGE	
PROVIDER	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*
Home I & II	66 (28.09%)	117 (49.49%)	66 (26.51%)	120 (48.19%)	65 (23.55%)	120 (43.48%)	50 (22.03%)	102 (44.93%)
Center-based	35 (14.89%)	17 (7.23%)	42 (16.87%)	21 (8.43%)	49 (17.75%)	42 (15.22%)	33 (14.54%)	22 (9.69%)
School Age	0	0	0	0	0	0	16 (7.05%)	4 (1.76%)
Total	101	134	108	141	114	162	99	128

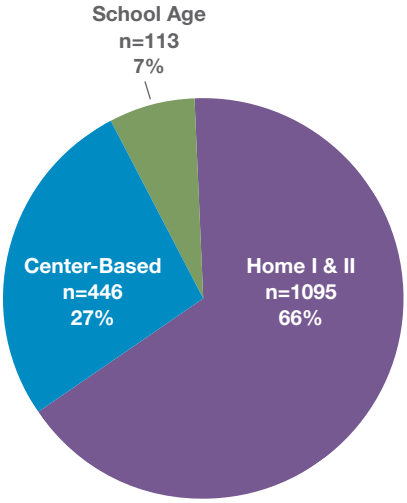
Note. Percentage is calculated by dividing the number of providers within each cell by the total number of each child type (N_{infant}= 235; $N_{toddler}$ = 249; $N_{preschool}$ = 276; $N_{school\text{-}age}$ = 227).

TABLE 3. | NUMBER (%) OF NON-ACCREDITED PROVIDERS SERVING EACH AGE GROUP BY PROVIDER TYPE AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

	INFANT		TODDLER		PRESCHOOL AGE		SCHOOL AGE	
PROVIDER	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*
Home I & II	278 (29.20%)	476 (50.00%)	294 (29.52%)	486 (48.80%)	289 (26.69%)	480 (44.32%)	215 (24.05%)	410 (45.86%)
Center-based	100 (10.50%)	98 (10.29%)	109 (10.94%)	107 (10.74%)	150 (13.85%)	160 (14.77%)	89 (9.96%)	103 (11.52%)
School Age	0	0	0	0	2 (0.18%)	2 (0.18%)	56 (6.26%)	21 (2.35%)
Total	378	574	403	593	441	642	360	534

Note. Percentage is calculated by dividing the number of providers within each cell by the total number of each child type (N_{infant} = 952; $N_{toddler}$ = 996; $N_{preschool}$ = 1,083; $N_{school\text{-}age}$ = 894).

FIGURE 2. | DISTRIBUTION AND PERCENTAGE OF THE SAMPLE BY PROVIDER TYPE



CHILD CARE MARKET RATES

Full-Time Rates

Tables 4 & 5 show the full-time rates at the 50th-100th percentiles in increments of 5 by provider type (Home I & II, Center-based; school age was excluded due to insufficient number of school age-only providers), age level of child (infant, toddler, preschool age, school age), and by pricing modes (hourly, daily). The 75th percentile of rates is the price at which 75% of child care slots may be purchased. Several trends are apparent in Tables 4 & 5. Regardless of pricing mode, geographic area, or age level of children, the rates for Home I & II are generally consistently lower than that for center-based care; rates in rural areas are lower than rates in urban areas; and the rates for infants and toddlers tend to be slightly higher than that for preschool and school age children. Tables 6a-d provide the sample sizes and range of rates for hourly and daily full-time care across geographic setting, child age, and provider type.

2019 Nebraska Market Rate Survey Results
Full-Time Rates

TABLE 4. | HOW MUCH DO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS CHARGE IN **URBAN+ COUNTIES**?

	INFANT				TODDLER				PRESCHOOL				SCHOOL AGE			
	HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED	
PR*	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY
50	4.50	30.00	6.80	43.50	4.00	30.00	6.35	41.55	4.00	30.00	6.00	38.00	4.00	30.00	6.00	34.50
55	4.50	30.00	7.00	44.85	4.00	30.00	6.50	42.00	4.00	30.00	6.00	39.00	4.00	30.00	6.00	35.00
60	4.50	30.00	7.00	45.00	4.40	30.00	6.50	42.40	4.30	30.00	6.25	39.20	4.50	30.00	6.00	35.40
65	5.00	32.00	7.00	45.56	4.50	30.00	7.00	43.53	4.50	30.00	6.60	40.00	4.50	30.00	6.00	36.00
70	5.00	35.00	7.35	46.00	5.00	30.20	7.10	45.00	5.00	30.70	6.80	40.00	5.00	30.00	6.30	36.00
75	5.00	35.00	8.00	48.81	5.00	33.00	7.50	45.30	5.00	33.00	7.00	41.13	5.00	30.00	6.50	38.25
80	5.00	35.00	8.00	50.00	5.00	35.00	7.95	47.00	5.00	35.00	7.40	44.00	5.00	32.00	7.00	40.00
85	6.00	36.00	8.59	50.00	5.00	35.00	8.00	48.00	5.00	35.00	7.50	45.00	5.00	35.00	7.00	40.00
90	6.45	40.00	8.98	52.30	5.70	36.70	8.00	50.00	5.70	36.00	7.70	45.80	5.15	35.00	7.10	44.60
95	7.95	45.00	9.00	55.00	7.20	40.00	8.10	55.00	7.00	40.00	8.00	49.90	6.65	40.00	7.55	50.00
100	9.00	50.00	9.00	59.00	8.50	45.00	8.50	55.00	8.50	45.00	8.00	55.00	8.50	45.00	8.00	55.00

+Urban counties included Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Dakota (all other counties were considered rural).
**PR denotes percentile rank.*

TABLE 5. | HOW MUCH DO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS CHARGE IN **RURAL COUNTIES**?

	INFANT				TODDLER				PRESCHOOL				SCHOOL AGE			
	HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED		HOME I & II		CENTER-BASED	
PR*	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY	HOUR	DAY
50	2.85	25.00	4.35	32.00	2.75	25.00	4.00	30.00	2.75	25.00	4.00	29.00	2.75	24.00	4.00	28.00
55	3.00	25.00	4.50	32.20	2.85	25.00	4.11	30.00	2.85	25.00	4.00	30.00	3.00	25.00	4.00	29.90
60	3.00	25.00	4.73	33.00	3.00	25.00	4.25	31.00	3.00	25.00	4.00	30.00	3.00	25.00	4.00	30.00
65	3.00	25.00	5.00	33.52	3.00	25.00	4.50	31.00	3.00	25.00	4.00	30.00	3.00	25.00	4.10	30.00
70	3.00	27.00	5.00	35.20	3.00	25.00	4.50	31.10	3.00	25.00	4.32	30.00	3.00	25.00	4.46	30.00
75	3.00	28.00	5.00	36.00	3.00	25.00	5.00	33.50	3.00	25.00	4.88	31.20	3.00	25.00	5.00	30.50
80	3.00	30.00	5.20	36.80	3.00	27.00	5.50	35.00	3.00	26.60	5.40	35.00	3.00	25.00	5.40	33.00
85	3.48	30.00	5.95	40.00	3.25	29.64	6.00	36.00	3.25	28.00	6.00	35.21	3.49	28.00	6.00	34.00
90	3.56	30.00	6.42	40.00	3.50	30.00	6.45	36.00	3.50	30.00	6.49	36.00	3.60	30.00	6.45	35.42
95	4.15	35.00	8.00	40.00	3.86	30.00	8.00	38.85	4.00	30.00	8.00	37.60	4.91	30.00	8.00	36.00
100	7.00	50.00	9.00	43.00	7.00	40.00	9.00	45.00	7.00	45.00	9.00	40.00	5.00	40.00	9.00	40.00

Tables 6a-d. Sample Sizes and Range of Rates for Full-Time Care

TABLE 6A. | URBAN SETTINGS - HOURLY

	INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE
Home I & II	80 $2.00-9.00	75 $2.00-8.50	75 $2.40-8.50	86 $2.75-8.50
Center-based	30 $5.00-9.00	35 $4.14-8.50	35 $4.43-8.00	37 $4.50-8.00

TABLE 6B. | RURAL SETTINGS - HOURLY

	INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE
Home I & II	273 $1.25-7.00	270 $1.25-7.00	270 $1.25-7.00	266 $1.75-5.00
Center-based	47 $2.50-9.00	54 $2.25-9.00	61 $2.00-9.00	60 $2.00-9.00

TABLE 6C. | URBAN SETTINGS - DAILY

	INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE
Home I & II	168 $9.00-50.00	162 $8.00-45.00	160 $8.00-45.00	177 $7.00-45.00
Center-based	45 $30.00-59.00	56 $20.00-55.00	60 $20.00-55.00	58 $7.00-55.00

TABLE 6D. | RURAL SETTINGS - DAILY

	INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE
Home I & II	283 $10.00-50.00	280 $10.00-40.00	275 $10.00-45.00	273 $4.50-40.00
Center-based	54 $20.00-43.00	61 $20.00-45.00	63 $15.00-40.00	61 $4.00-40.00

When the rates were analyzed by county, distinct patterns of rates across the state appeared. Figures 3a-d depict how the rates vary across the state by child age.

FIGURE 3A. | AVERAGE INFANT FULL-TIME HOURLY RATES BY COUNTY

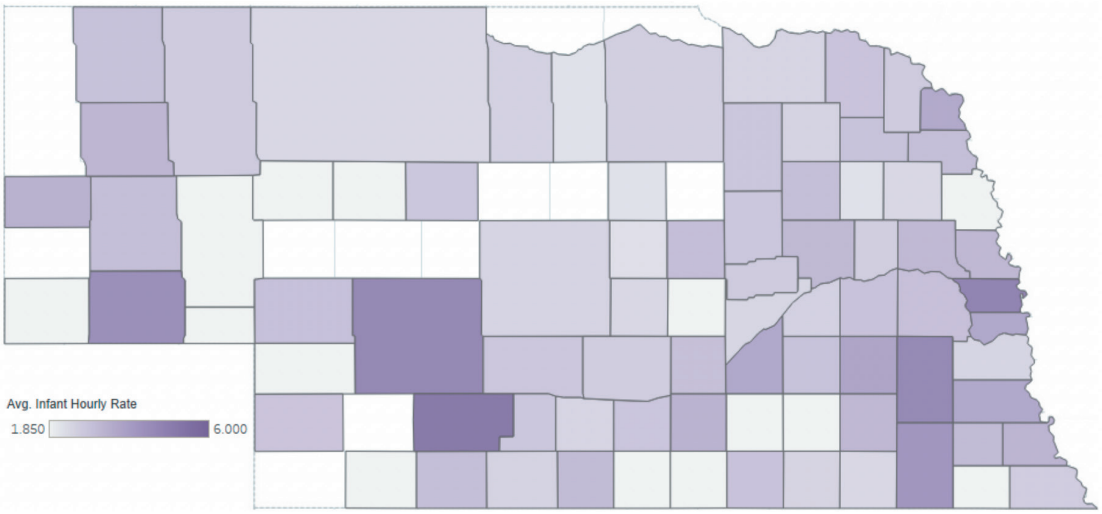


FIGURE 3B. | AVERAGE TODDLER FULL-TIME HOURLY RATES BY COUNTY

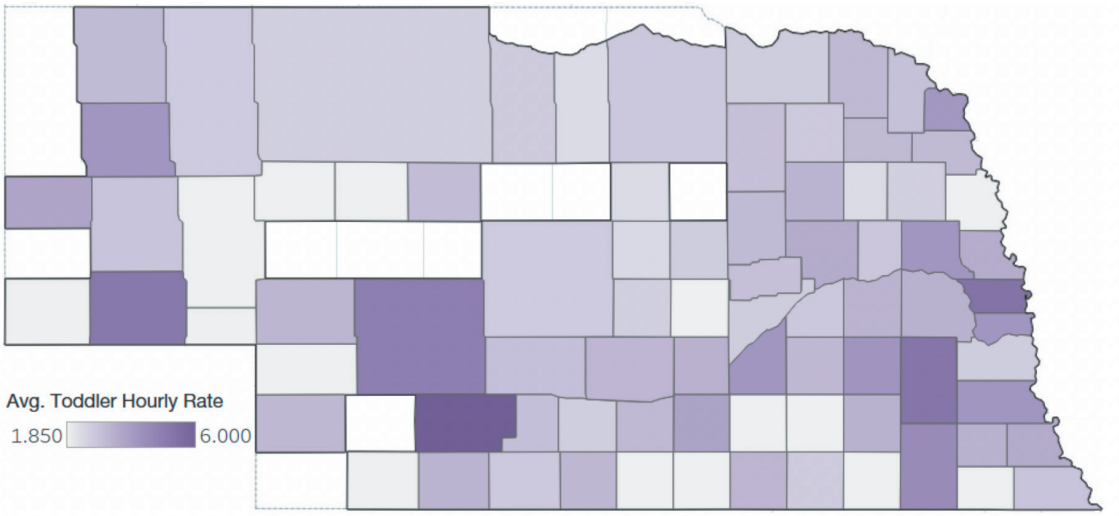


FIGURE 3C. | AVERAGE PRESCHOOL FULL-TIME HOURLY RATES BY COUNTY

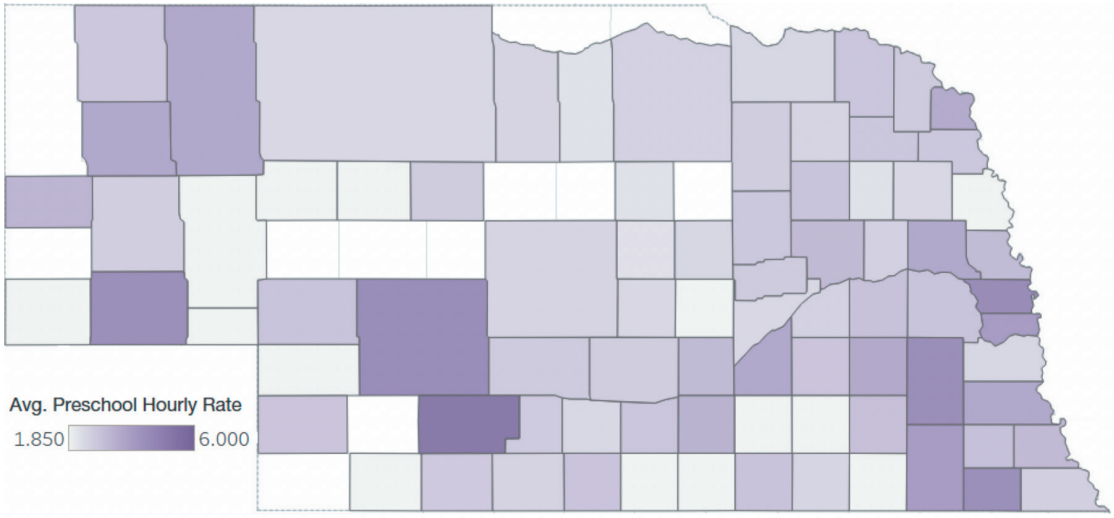
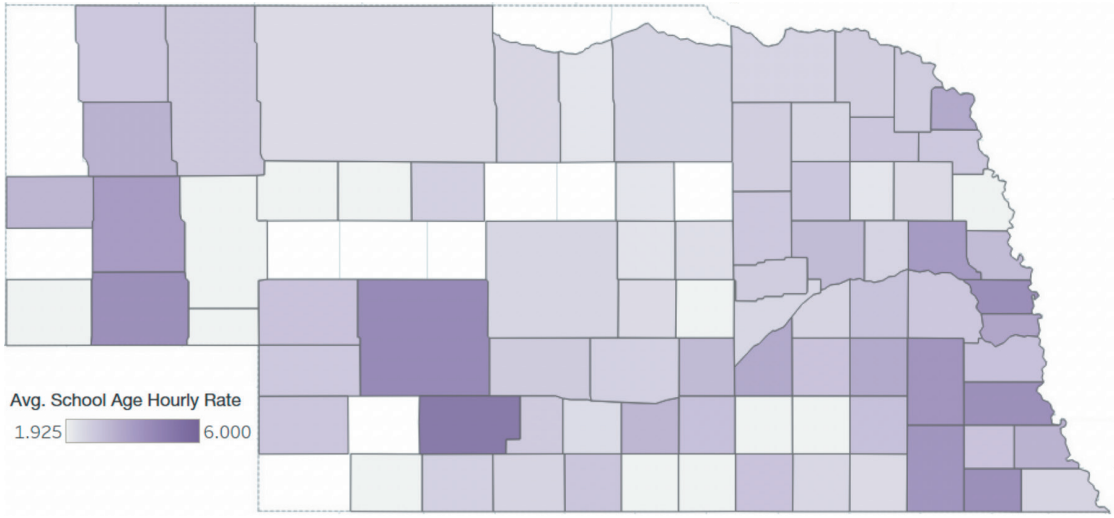


FIGURE 3D. | AVERAGE AVERAGE SCHOOL AGE FULL-TIME HOURLY RATES BY COUNTY



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

This section includes information on (1) current enrollment; (2) accreditation; (3) funding; (4) staffing; (5) operational hours; (6) enrollment fees; and (7) child care subsidy agreements.

Current Enrollment

Table 7 presents the average number of children enrolled per site by geography and provider type for the programs affiliated with the survey respondents. Overall, there are more children enrolled in Home I & II in rural than in urban settings. The number of children enrolled in Center-based care is about the same in rural and urban areas, with

slightly more in rural settings; interestingly, there are more children in Center-based care in urban settings per site, on average. There are more children enrolled in School Age care in urban than in rural settings.

TABLE 7. | AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED PER SITE BY GEOGRAPHY AND PROVIDER TYPE

GEOGRAPHY	PROVIDER TYPE	MEAN	SD	N
Urban	Home I & II	8.95	4.51	403
	Center-based	86.34	52.21	214
	School Age	122.21	185.44	78
Rural	Home I & II	10.61	5.16	683
	Center-based	56.04	48.30	223
	School Age	70.78	63.35	27

Accreditation

Providers were asked about their current accreditation status. Accreditation is also available via licensing records. Table 8 indicates accreditation status and affiliations based on self-report from the MRS survey. 1,536 (90.62%) providers reported accreditation with at least one association.

TABLE 8. | CHILD CARE PROVIDERS' ACCREDITATION BY PROVIDER TYPE

ASSOCIATION	HOME I & II[a]	CENTER- BASED[b]	SCHOOL AGE[c]
National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Program (NACECEP)	72 (6.58%)	16 (3.59%)	3 (2.65%)
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	79 (7.21%)	51 (11.43%)	5 (4.42%)
National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)	76 (6.94%)	14 (3.14%)	2 (1.77%)
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)	85 (7.76%)	3 (0.67%)	1 (0.88%)
Association Montessori International (AMI)	2 (0.18%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
American Montessori Society (AMS)	1 (0.09%)	6 (1.35%)	0 (0.00%)
National After School Association (NASA)	3 (0.27%)	3 (0.67%)	9 (7.96%)

Note: The result is based on self-report. [a] Number of funded providers divided by the total number of Home I & II providers, n=1,095; [b] divided by the total number of center-based providers, n=446; [c] divided by the total of school age-only providers, n=113.

Funding

Overall, there were 1,130 providers (66.67%) out of the 1,695 respondents who reported receiving funding from at least one of the following: Head Start, Early Head Start, Sixpence, Step Up to Quality, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska. Table 9 presents the number and percentage of programs receiving each category of funding.

TABLE 9. | CHILD CARE PROVIDERS' REPORTED FUNDING SOURCES

FUNDING	HOME I & II[a]	CENTER- BASED[b]	SCHOOL AGE[c]
Head Start	11 (1.00%)	22 (4.93%)	0 (0.00%)
Early Head Start	6 (0.55%)	11 (2.47%)	0 (0.00%)
Sixpence	17 (1.55%)	21 (4.71%)	0 (0.00%)
Step Up to Quality	163 (14.88%)	155 (34.75%)	0 (0.00%)
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	802 (73.24%)	196 (43.95%)	32 (28.32%)
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA	45 (4.11%)	70 (15.70%)	0 (0.00%)

Note: [a] Number of funded providers divided by the total number of Home I & II providers, n=1,095; [b] divided by the total number of center-based providers, n=446; [c] divided by the total of school age-only providers, n=113.

Staffing

Among the 1,695 providers, 1,141 (67.32%) providers responded on the number of employed part-time staff and 1,410 (83.19%) providers responded on the number of employed full-time staff. Table 10 presents the means and standard deviations for staff by provider type and geography. On average, there are more full-time staff per site for both Home I & II and Center-based care than part-time staff, regardless of geographic location; however, there are more part-time staff per site for School Age providers than full-time staff, regardless of geographic location. Overall, there are more full-time staff per site for Center-based care than Home I & II.

TABLE 10. | AVERAGE NUMBER OF PART TIME AND FULL-TIME STAFF BY PROVIDER TYPE AND GEOGRAPHY

	PART-TIME STAFF		FULL-TIME STAFF	
PROVIDER TYPE	*URBAN* MEAN (SD)	*RURAL* MEAN (SD)	*URBAN* MEAN (SD)	*RURAL* MEAN (SD)
Home I & II	0.39 (0.73)	0.51 (1.01)	0.70 (0.60)	0.98 (6.28)
Center-based	7.64 (12.39)	5.96 (7.95)	12.73 (13.83)	7.32 (11.72)
School Age	18.90 (39.76)	5.28 (4.00)	3.50 (7.17)	2.71 (3.24)

Operational Hours

On average, the hours constituting full-time care per week were 44.35 hours reported by 1,211 providers (71.45%). On average, the hours constituting full-time care per day were 9.36 hours from 1,233 providers (72.74%). On average, a weekly rate for full-time care covers 4.91 days per week (M = 4.91, SD = .57) from 1,313 responses (77.46%). Table 11 presents the average hours constituting full-time care per week and full-time care per day by provider type and geographic location.

TABLE 11. | MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF HOURS

PROVIDER	FULL-TIME HOURS PER WEEK				FULL-TIME HOURS PER DAY			
M(SD)	*URBAN*	*n*	*RURAL*	*n*	*URBAN*	*n*	*RURAL*	*n*
Home I & II	46.85 (22.81)	351	44.23 (12.97)	538	9.87 (3.68)	353	9.55 (4.17)	542
Center-based	47.95 (16.79)	130	40.73 (29.54)	125	9.67 (3.62)	131	8.68 (6.50)	129
School Age	28.30 (17.65)	37	24.23 (16.32)	11	5.43 (3.38)	43	5.48 (5.76)	16

Enrollment Fee

A total of 619 (36.52%) out of the 1,695 respondents reported on the enrollment fee. Among them, 600 (35.40%) out of the 619 providers charged an enrollment fee. Table 12 presents the means and standard deviations of the enrollment fee by provider type and geographic location. Results indicate providers in urban areas charge a higher enrollment fee than providers in rural areas. Home I & II providers charge a higher enrollment fee than Center-based care providers, regardless of geographic setting. Center-based care providers charge a higher enrollment fee than School Age providers, regardless of geographic setting.

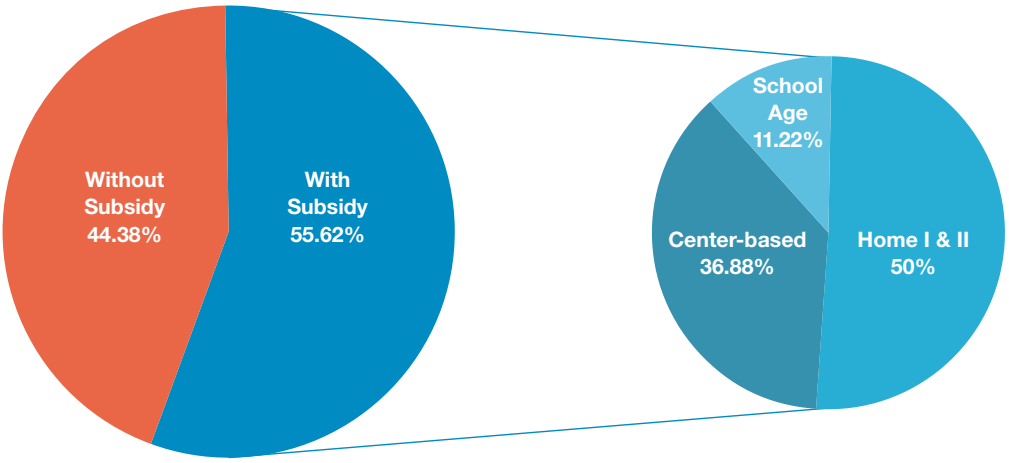
TABLE 12. | MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR THE ENROLLMENT FEE BY PROVIDER TYPE AND GEOGRAPHY

	URBAN		RURAL	
PROVIDER TYPE	*N*	*M* (SD)	*N*	*M* (SD)
Home I & II	109	$80.56 (75.03)	91	$72.89 (58.00)
Center-based	192	$63.47 (44.58)	135	$38.97 (23.67)
School Age	60	$36.52 (23.75)	11	$27.27 (8.47)

Child Care Subsidy Agreements

Out of 1,695 providers who responded,1,370 providers (80.83%) addressed whether they had a Child Care Subsidy agreement with NDHHS at the time of the survey. Among this group, 608 providers (44.38%) did not have a Child Care Subsidy agreement, and the other 762 providers (55.62%) had an agreement (see Figure 4). Specifically, 381 (50%) Home I & II providers had an agreement; 281 (36.88%) Center-based providers had an agreement; and 86 (11.29%) School Age providers had an agreement (see Figure 4).
A total of 1,461 providers (86.19%) responded to the number of children their program currently receives subsidy payments for from NDHHS at the time of the survey. On average, providers currently receive subsidy payments for 4.69 children (M=4.69, SD=12.48). A total of 1,591 providers (93.9%) responded on whether they accept subsidy as payment at the time of the survey. Among this group, 836 out of the 1,591 providers (49.3%) did not accept subsidy as payment at the time of the survey, and the other 755 providers (44.5%) did accept subsidy as payment at the time of the survey.

FIGURE 4. | DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY AGREEMENT FROM RESPONDENTS



SPECIAL POPULATIONS: CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, MIGRANT CHILDREN, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

A total of 1,634 (96.4%) providers responded whether they had children enrolled with diverse backgrounds at the time of the survey. Among them, 801 (47.3%) of the 1,634 indicated they had children enrolled with diverse backgrounds. Specifically, 737 (45.1%) providers serve children with special needs (medical and/or behavioral); 380 (23.26%) providers have English Language Learners (ELLs) enrolled; 216 (13.22%) providers have migrant children enrolled; 199 (12.18%) providers have homeless children.

Table 13 presents the percentage of providers who reported currently enrolling children with diverse backgrounds by provider type and geographic location. The highest percentage of sites serving diverse children are Center-based providers, followed by Home I & II. The percentage of providers serving diverse children in urban areas is higher than that in rural areas regardless of provider type for both Center-based providers and School Age providers. This pattern reversed for Home I & II providers.

TABLE 13. | PERCENTAGE OF PROVIDERS WITH CURRENTLY ENROLLED CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, HOMELESS CHILDREN, MIGRANT CHILDREN, ELLS

	CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS[a]		HOMELESS CHILDREN[b]		MIGRANT CHILDREN[c]	
PROVIDER TYPE	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*	*URBAN*	*RURAL*
Home I & II	117 (15.88%)	212 (28.77%)	24 (12.06%)	37 (18.59%)	33 (15.28%)	36 (16.67%)
Center-based	146 (19.81%)	150 (20.35%)	43 (21.61%)	38 (19.10%)	50 (23.15%)	39 (18.06%)
School Age	68 (9.23%)	22 (2.99%)	40 (20.10%)	7 (3.52%)	42 (19.44%)	8 (3.70%)

Note: Percentage is calculated by dividing the number of providers within each cell by the total number of each child type ($N_{specialneeds}$=737; $N_{homeless}$=199; $N_{migrant}$=216; N_{ELL}=380).

Provider Perspectives: Expanded Responses

To further examine issues related to participation in the Child Care Subsidy program, providers were offered opportunities to expand on their survey answers in writing. Over 800 (n=808) distinct licensed child care providers responded to open-ended survey questions. Table 14 provides the number of unique responses across all open-ended survey questions for the Family Child Care Homes I and II group as well as the Child Care Centers and Preschools group.

TABLE 14. | NUMBER OF UNIQUE RESPONSES ACROSS ALL ADDITIONAL WRITING QUESTIONS

Family Child Care Home I and II	909
Child Care Center and Preschool	329
Total	**1,238**

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PARTICIPATION

Providers were asked to describe reasons about subsidy participation in a series of three questions:

Why do you not accept Child Care Subsidy (Title XX)?

Why would you not accept a child that is utilizing Child Care Subsidy?

Why do you not accept Subsidy as a payment now?

Answers to these questions were thematically coded into categories (Guest, MacQueen, Namey, 2012) and then analyzed across these three questions. Of the providers, 808 (47.7%) of the responses were codable answers that were interpretable in the context of the questions. Licensed Family Child Care Home I and II providers supplied the majority of responses, 77.6% (n= 627), and providers from licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools supplied 18.3% (n=148) of the responses. Across all types of providers, 15.2% (n= 204) indicated multiple reasons for not accepting children funded by child care subsidy, including payment issues, administrative issues, not being interested in participating, and/or negative past experiences were often listed together. Responses were coded into eight distinct categories: no need for subsidy, subsidy not applicable, issues with subsidy payment, administrative issues, not interested in accepting subsidy, negative past experiences with subsidy, logistical issues, and no knowledge of subsidy.

No perceived need for subsidy. Across all provider groups, 39.9% (n= 322) responded that they did not perceive a need for child care subsidy. Comments in this category included: parents had not asked providers for subsidy to be accepted, enrollment slots were full (with or without a waiting list), providers served populations that could afford current rates, providers had been enrolled in the past but let their agreement lapse, and providers offered scholarships to the children they served.

Awareness and applicability. Over 13 percent of the providers (13.3%, n=107), reported that they either did not know about the subsidy program (1.0%; n=8) or that the program did not apply to them (12.3%; n=99).

Payment issues. Some providers (9.3%; n=75) described issues with the payment for the care they provided to children funded by subsidy, including reductions in payment when children were not in care, and the time lag between submitting paperwork and payment, the methods for payment, and the infrequent pay schedule. Providers shared that they could not make enough money if they accepted children funded by subsidy.

Administrative issues. Some providers (6.1%, n=49), described administrative difficulties with subsidy, such as problems with communication and receiving notifications from DHHS. Administrative difficulties included perceptions that the amount and complexity of the necessary paperwork was too intensive and a “hassle”.

Lack of interest. Other providers, (4.8%, n=39), stated they were “simply not interested” in participating, with some indicating that it was their personal preference or right to operate their business as they so choose. Of these providers, some had “heard bad things” about the program, but most reported that they were not interested in participating.

Negative experiences with subsidy. A few providers, 1.2% (n=10) described negative past experiences with accepting subsidy. Examples of negative past experiences included negative interactions with parents regarding payment of the parent portion of the fees, uncertain drop-off and pickup times, short notice when terminating care, and providers feeling “taken advantage of.”

Logistical issues. Less than half a percent (0.2%; n=2) of the responding providers reported issues related to computer use—not having or understanding how to operate a computer.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Providers were asked about barriers preventing them from participating in the child care subsidy program in the following question:

> ***As a provider, please tell us any barriers you have experienced with the Subsidy program.***

Over half of responded providers (56.1%; n=950) provided codable entries. Responses were coded by themes, and licensed Family Child Care Homes provided the majority of responses (65.2%; n=619), while over a quarter of the statements, 26.3% (n=250), came from licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools. Responses were coded into 10 categories: no need for or experience with the subsidy program, not applicable, not interested, negative past experiences with subsidy use, payment issues, administrative issues, logistical issues, miscellaneous, and no barriers.

Just over three percent (3.3%; n=31) of providers indicated that they had either ***no need for or no experience*** with the subsidy program. Ten percent (n=95) of providers indicated that the subsidy program was ***not applicable to their provider type***. A small segment of providers 1.4% (n=13) indicated they simply were ***not interested or had heard negative things about the program***. Over six percent (6.4%; n=61) of providers indicated that ***negative past experiences with subsidy use*** was a barrier to participating in the subsidy program. Some responses in this category included comments indicating friction in the relationship between the provider and parents.

Payment and administrative issues often appeared together in the responses. Just over 12 percent (12.2%; n=116) of providers indicated multiple barriers to their participation in the program. Notably, over a quarter of providers (25.3%; n=240) possessed no barriers to participating in the child care subsidy. Some providers offered compliments to the program on its ease of use.

Almost one quarter of providers (23.7%; n=225) indicated ***payment issues*** were a barrier to participating in the subsidy program. Responses in this category included reporting lost revenue due to children's lack of attendance. Just over half of the providers who responded to the barriers question (51.6%; n=166) specifically mention subsidy rates as a barrier to accepting children funded by subsidy. In the Family Child Care Home group, 46.9% (n=100) of these providers mentioned subsidy rates as a barrier. In the Child Care Center and Preschool group, 60.2% (n=50) of these providers mentioned subsidy rates as a barrier. Responses in this category include those subsidy rates or pay being too low, private pay rates being higher than subsidy, and losing

money/budget problems due to the difference between their private pay rates and subsidy rates.

Furthermore, 16% (n=152) of providers indicated administrative issues as barriers, especially difficulties with paperwork. Just over one percent (1.1%, n=10) of providers described logistical problems (e.g. computer and staffing issues).

Miscellaneous (low frequency) responses (.7%, n=7) included parents not paying the family fee or co-pay, the need for parents to request subsidy in order for providers to qualify for it, and the (lack of) value of the subsidy program.

LIMITS TO PARTICIPATION

When asked about the limits to the number of children funded by subsidy they would accept into their program, 13.3% (n=226) of providers answered the following question:

> ***What are the limits you have to the number of children you will accept who participate in the Subsidy program?***

Of the respondents, 77.4% (n=175) were licensed Family Child Care Homes I and II, and 19% (n=43) were licensed Child Care Centers or Preschools. Providers most frequently specified a number of children they would accept, which were recoded into ranges and described subsequently. Across all provider types, 31.4% (n=71) indicated they were willing to enroll between one and five children funded by subsidy, 30.1% of providers (n=68) indicated they were not willing to enroll any children funded by subsidy, 7.5% (n=17) indicated they were willing to take six or more children funded by subsidy, and 3.1% (n=7) indicated they did not limit the number of children they enrolled who were funded by subsidy.

Among providers in Family Child Care Homes, 36% (n=63) were willing to take between one and five children, 33.7% (n=59), stated they were not willing to take any children funded by subsidy, 6.9% (n=12) were willing to take six or more children funded by subsidy, and 1.7% (n=3) indicated they did not have a limit. Providers in the family child care home settings sometimes also indicated the reason they will not enroll children funded by subsidy, or only take between one and five children funded by subsidy, is due to low pay compared to what they generally charge ("can't take that kind of loss each week," "income restrictions," etc.).

Among (combined) Child Care Center and Preschool providers, 18.6% (n=8) indicated they were willing to enroll between one and five children funded by subsidy,

11.6% (n=5) indicated they were not willing to enroll any children funded by subsidy, 11.6% (n=5) indicated they were willing to enroll six or more children funded by subsidy, and 9.3% (n=4) indicated they had no limit to the number they were willing to enroll. Some providers in the combined child care center and preschool group stated they would take none or only up to five children due to the loss of income ("don't pay enough," "all my budget allows," etc.).

Across provider types, some providers choose to answer the question in ways that did not directly specify the number of children funded by subsidy they were willing to enroll in their programs. For example, six providers gave a percentage (ranging between 25% and 50%) of their total children, while others indicated that they were only willing to take children in specific time slots or age ranges. Still others said it depended on their current income or budget. These additional responses indicate that providers use a variety of strategies for determining how many children funded by subsidy they are willing to enroll and provide care for.

Overall, the written responses allowed for a more thorough examination of the reasons and motivations for subsidy use among child care providers across settings. Learning these perspectives may allow program and policy teams to better understand how the child care subsidy program in Nebraska can be improved to better serve children, families, and child care providers.

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Appendix A: 2019 Nebraska Market Rate Survey

2019 Nebraska Childcare Market Rates Survey

Section I: About Your Program

1. **Which of the following best describes your program?**
   - ◯ Family Child Care Home I (Licensed)
   - ◯ Family Child Care Home II (Licensed)
   - ◯ Child Care Center (Licensed)
   - ◯ School-Age-Only Center (Licensed)
   - ◯ Preschool (Licensed)
   - ◯ Other, please specify: _____

2. **Does your program serve infants (up to 18 months)?**
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No → **Go to #5**

3. **How many infants are currently enrolled in your program?** ☐

4. **What is the minimum age you allow infants to enroll in your program?** ☐

5. **Does your program serve toddlers (18-36 months)?**
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No → **Go to #7**

6. **How many toddlers are currently enrolled in your program?** ☐

7. **Does your program serve preschool-age children (36 months – school-age)?**
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No → **Go to #9**

8. **How many preschool-age children are currently enrolled in your program?** ☐

9. **Does your program serve school-age children (kindergarten-age and up)?**
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No → **Go to #11**

10. **How many school-age children are currently enrolled in your program?** ☐

11. **Are you accredited with each of the following?**

	Yes	No
a. National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Program	◯	◯
b. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	◯	◯
c. National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)	◯	◯
d. National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)	◯	◯
e. Association Montessori International (AMI)	◯	◯
f. American Montessori Society (AMS)	◯	◯
g. National After School Association	◯	◯
h. Other, please specify: _____	◯	◯

12. Do you participate in, receive funding for, or offer any of the following?

	Yes	No	If yes, please describe the extent to which you participate.
a. Head Start	○	○	
b. Early HeadStart	○	○	
c. Sixpence	○	○	
d. Step up to Quality	○	○	
e. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	○	○	
f. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA	○	○	
g. Other, please specify:	○	○	

13. Please answer the following questions about your hours of operation.

	Are you open for each of these days in a week? Yes	No	If yes, what are your normal hours of operation? Open Time	Close Time
a. Monday	○	○	:	:
b. Tuesday	○	○	:	:
c. Wednesday	○	○	:	:
d. Thursday	○	○	:	:
e. Friday	○	○	:	:
f. Saturday	○	○	:	:
g. Sunday	○	○	:	:

14. Does your program provide evening care?
○ Yes
○ No → **Go to #17**

15. What is your hourly rate for evening care?
$. per hour

16. Approximately how many children in your program receive evening care?
Children

17. Does your program provide overnight care?
○ Yes
○ No → **Go to #20**

18. What is your hourly rate for overnight care?
$. per hour

19. Approximately how many children in your program receive overnight care?
Children

20. Does your program provide weekend care?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #23**

21. What is your hourly rate for weekend care?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

22. Approximately how many children in your program receive weekend care?

[ ] Children

23. Does your program provide drop in care?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #26**

24. What is your hourly rate for drop in care?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

25. Approximately how many children in your program receive drop in care?

[ ] Children

26. Does your program provide emergency care?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #29**

27. What is your hourly rate for emergency care?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

28. Approximately how many children in your program receive emergency care?

[ ] Children

29. Does your program provide care during school breaks?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #32**

30. What is your hourly rate for care during school breaks?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

31. Approximately how many children in your program receive care during school breaks?

[ ] Children

32. Does your program provide care during the summer?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #35**

33. What is your hourly rate for care during the summer?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

34. Approximately how many children in your program receive care during the summer?

[ ] Children

35. Does your program provide care during the holidays (except major holidays)?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #38**

36. What is your hourly rate for care during the holidays?

$ [ ][ ] . [ ][ ] per hour

37. Approximately how many children in your program receive care during the holidays?

[ ] Children

Section II: Child Care Rates and Fees

38. What rate do you charge?
- ◯ Full-time
- ◯ Part-time → **Go to #47**
- ◯ Both full-time and part-time

39. Do you charge each of the following types of rates for full-time care?

	Yes	No
a. Hourly	◯	◯
b. Daily	◯	◯
c. Weekly	◯	◯
d. Monthly	◯	◯

40. How many days per week does your full-time weekly rate cover?
- ◯ 1 day
- ◯ 2 days
- ◯ 3 days
- ◯ 4 days
- ◯ 5 days
- ◯ 6 days
- ◯ 7 days

41. How many hours are included for full-time care per day?

☐ Hours

42. How many hours are included for full-time care per week?

☐ Hours

43. What is your standard full-time rate for infants (up to 18 months)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

44. What is your standard full-time rate for toddlers (18-36 months)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

45. What is your standard full-time rate for preschool (36 months-school age)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

46. What is your standard full-time rate for school age (kindergarten and up)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

If full-time only, go to #55. →

47. Do you charge each of the following types of rates for part-time care?

	Yes	No
a. Hourly	○	○
b. Daily	○	○
c. Weekly	○	○
d. Monthly	○	○

48. How many days per week does your part-time weekly rate cover?

○ 1 day
○ 2 days
○ 3 days
○ 4 days
○ 5 days
○ 6 days
○ 7 days

49. How many hours are included for part-time care per day?

☐ Hours

50. How many hours are included for part-time care per week?

☐ Hours

51. What is your standard part-time rate for infants (up to 18 months)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

52. What is your standard part-time rate for toddlers (18-36 months)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

53. What is your standard part-time rate for preschool (36 months-school age)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

54. What is your standard part-time rate for school age (kindergarten and up)? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

55. For school-age children, do you charge a different rate for before and after school?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #58**
- ◯ Our program does not have school-age children

56. What are your before school rates for school-age children? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

57. What are your after school rates for school age-children? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐
b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐
c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐
d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

58. Do you charge an enrollment fee?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #60**

59. How much do you charge for the enrollment fee?

$ ☐☐.☐☐

60. Do you charge a fee for being wait-listed?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Section III: Child Care Staff

61. How many staff are employed at your program?

a. Full time: ☐

b. Part time: ☐

62. Do each of the following pay for required Health and Safety trainings of your staff (e.g., Pediatric First Aid/CPR, fire safety, and mandatory reporting of suspected abuse or neglect)?

	Yes	No
a. Program	○	○
b. Individual staff	○	○
c. Other, please specify:	○	○

☐

63. Approximately how much do you spend <u>per month</u> on required Health and Safety trainings of your staff?

$ ☐☐.☐☐

○ I do not pay for trainings of my staff

Section IV: Diversity of Children

64. Does your program serve children with any of the following charateristics?

	Yes	No
a. Children with special needs	○	○
b. Homeless children	○	○
c. Migrant children	○	○
d. English-language learners	○	○

65. Do you provide care for children with <u>behavioral</u> special needs? (Examples may include but are not limited to: Reactive Attachment Disorder, Autism, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Dissociative Disorder.)

○ Yes

○ No → **Go to #69**

66. For children with behavioral special needs, do your rates vary based on the child's severity of needs?

○ Yes

○ No → **Go to #68**

67. What are the rates for children with behavioral special needs? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly $ ☐☐.☐☐

b. Daily $ ☐☐.☐☐

c. Weekly $ ☐☐.☐☐

d. Monthly $ ☐☐.☐☐

68. How many children with behavioral special needs are enrolled in your program?

a. Infants (up to 18 months) ☐ Children

b. Toddler (18-36 months) ☐ Children

c. Preschool (36 months-school age) ☐ Children

d. School age (kindergarten and up) ☐ Children

69. Do you provide care for children with <u>medical</u> special needs? (Examples may include but are not limited to: C-tube, seizure disorders, diabetes, severe allergies requiring Epi-pen.)

○ Yes

○ No → **Go to #73**

70. For children with medical special needs, do your rates vary based on the child's severity of needs?

○ Yes

○ No → **Go to #72**

71. What are the rates for children with medical special needs? Please fill in only the boxes that apply to your program.

a. Hourly rate $ ☐☐.☐☐

b. Daily rate $ ☐☐.☐☐

c. Weekly rate $ ☐☐.☐☐

d. Monthly rate $ ☐☐.☐☐

72. How many children with medical special needs are enrolled in your program?

a. Infants (up to 18 months)	☐	Children
b. Toddler (18-36 months)	☐	Children
c. Preschool (36 months-school age)	☐	Children
d. School age (kindergarten and up)	☐	Children

73. Do you accept Child Care Subsidy (Title XX)?
- ◯ Yes → **Go to #75**
- ◯ No

74. Why do you not accept Child Care Subsidy (Title XX)?

→ **Go to #77**

75. Do you currently have a Child Care Subsidy agreement with DHHS?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #77**

76. How many children do you currently have enrolled that are utilizing Child Care Subsidy?

☐ Children

77. If you had an open enrollment spot, would you accept a child that is utilizing Child Care Subsidy?
- ◯ Yes → **Go to #79**
- ◯ No

78. Why would you not accept a child that is utilizing Child Care Subsidy?

79. How many children in your program do you currently receive Subsidy payments for?

☐ Children

80. Do you have limits on the number of children you will accept who participate in the Subsidy program?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Go to #82**

81. What are the limits you have to the number of children you will accept who participate in the Subsidy program?

82. Have you ever provided care for children on the Subsidy program in the past?
- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

83. Do you accept Subsidy as a payment now?
- ◯ Yes → **Go to #85**
- ◯ No

84. Why do you not accept Subsidy as a payment now?

85. As a provider, please tell us any barriers you have experienced with the Subsidy program.

86. Which of the following is the greatest influence on the rates you charge to families?

- ◯ Child care rates in the community
- ◯ Staff salaries and training costs
- ◯ Overall operating costs
- ◯ Child Care Subsidy/CCDF reimbursement rates
- ◯ Profit level desired
- ◯ Parents' ability/willingness to pay

87. Which of the following is the second greatest influence on the rates you charge to families?

- ◯ Child care rates in the community
- ◯ Staff salaries and training costs
- ◯ Overall operating costs
- ◯ Child Care Subsidy/CCDF reimbursement rates
- ◯ Profit level desired
- ◯ Parents' ability/willingness to pay

88. What other factors impact your rates for children?

89. Please explain if you feel this survey does not apply to you.

90. Would you like to have a copy of the final report emailed to you?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → Go to End

91. Please provide the email address you would like the report sent to.

Thank you!

We greatly appreciate the time you have taken to complete this survey. For your convenience, please use the postage-paid return envelope included in your survey packet to return your questionnaire.

Questions or requests about this survey can be directed to:
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
907 Oldfather Hall
PO Box 880325
Lincoln, NE 68588-0325

Phone: 1-800-480-4549 (toll free) E-mail: bosr@unl.edu

Appendix B: Communication Materials

UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln

BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Department of Sociology
907 Oldfather Hall
P.O. Box 880325
Lincoln, NE 68588-0325
(402) 472-3672
FAX (402) 472-4568
1-800-480-4549
Email: bosr@unl.edu

DATE

[Provider name]
«Street» «Apt»
«City», «STATE_ABBR» «ZIP»-«ZIP4»

Dear [Provider name],

We are writing to ask for your help with the 2019 Nebraska Market Rate Survey, referred to as the MRS. We mailed the survey to all licensed Child Care Providers in Nebraska. The purpose of the survey is to obtain private pay child care rates and private pay child care rates for children with special needs across the state. Results from the MRS will set the 2019-2021 Child Care Subsidy reimbursement rates for Nebraska.

The enclosed survey is conducted by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Buffett Early Childhood Institute is an institute of the University of Nebraska dedicated to transforming the lives of children by improving their learning and development. In order to help with this effort, the Buffett Institute and DHHS have asked the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to conduct this survey. This effort can only be successful with your help. We ask that **the director of your child care program** complete the survey. This survey should only take 10-15 minutes of your time to complete. It is intended to represent the prices currently charged for child care across Nebraska, which will be used to determine the 2019-2021 Child Care Subsidy reimbursement rates for Nebraska, affording equitable access to child care for all young Nebraskans.

Your participation is voluntary, and your licensing status will not be affected by your responses. You will not be penalized in any way for your participation or withdrawal from participation. A postage paid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. All responses will be kept strictly confidential. No identifying information will be available in any format in the final report.

We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the survey. You may contact the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at (800) 480-4549 or bosr@unl.edu with any questions in regards to filling out or returning your survey. If you have questions about the purpose of the survey, you may contact Dr. Greg Welch at (402) 554-2211 or gwelch@nebraska.edu, or Elizabeth Svoboda at (402) 554-3566 or esvoboda@nebraska.edu.

Thank you for taking the time to answer this brief survey. Please accept the $1 token of appreciation for your consideration. We truly appreciate your time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Witt-Swanson

Lindsey Witt-Swanson
Assistant Director
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

907 Oldfather Hall / P.O. Box 880325 / Lincoln, NE 68588-0325 / (402)472-3672 / 1-800-480-4549 / bosr@unl.edu

«ID»

Nebraska UNIVERSITY OF Lincoln

BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Department of Sociology
907 Oldfather Hall
P.O. Box 880325
Lincoln, NE 68588-0325
(402) 472-3672
FAX (402) 472-4568
1-800-480-4549
Email: bosr@unl.edu

DATE

Nebraska Resident
«Street» «Apt»
«City», «STATE_ABBR» «ZIP»-«ZIP4»

Dear [Provider name],

A few weeks ago we asked your child care program to complete the 2019 Nebraska Market Rate Survey (MRS). We have not yet received your program's completed survey.

The survey is intended to represent the prices currently charged for child care across Nebraska, which will be used to determine the 2019-2021 Child Care Subsidy reimbursement rates for Nebraska, affording equitable access to child care for all young Nebraskans. We ask that **the director of your child care program** complete the survey.

To complete the survey, please answer the questions and return the survey in the enclosed return envelope. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes. Your participation is voluntary, and your licensing status will not be affected by your responses. All responses will be kept confidential. Your answers will be combined with other people's answers in all reports, papers, presentations, and other analyses so nobody can tell who gave which answers. No identifying information will be reported. Thus, there are no known risks to participating.

We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the survey. You may contact the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at (800) 480-4549 or bosr@unl.edu with any questions in regards to filling out or returning your survey. If you have questions about the purpose of the survey, you may contact Dr. Greg Welch at (402) 554-2211 or gwelch@nebraska.edu, or Elizabeth Svoboda at (402) 554-3566 or esvoboda@nebraska.edu.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Witt-Swanson

Lindsey Witt-Swanson
Assistant Director
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

907 Oldfather Hall / P.O. Box 880325 / Lincoln, NE 68588-0325 / (402)472-3672 / 1-800-480-4549 / bosr@unl.edu

«ID»

University of Nebraska Lincoln

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Bureau of Sociological Research

907 Oldfather Hall
P.O. Box 880325
Lincoln, NE 68588-0325

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
UNL

Dear [Provider],

Last week I sent you the MRS survey. If you have already done it, thank you! If not, please do so. I really need your help. Remember to have **the director of your child care program** complete the survey so the results will be valid. If you need another copy, please call 1-800-480-4549.

The survey will be used to set the Child Care Subsidy rates for 2019-2021 in Nebraska, affording equitable access to child care across the state. Your participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept completely confidential.

Thank you for your time.

Lindsey Witt-Swanson
Assistant Director
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute
at the University of Nebraska

2111 S. 67th St., Suite 350
Omaha, NE 68106
402.554.2924
buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu

University of Nebraska