**Why was I selected for this survey?**

Your household was scientifically selected from all of the household addresses in the U.S. to participate in this study. It is important for us to hear from every selected household to get a complete picture of the availability and use of early care and education (ECE) in your area. You represent many other households like yours across the nation and cannot be replaced.

Your participation will help the nation’s policy-makers and local agencies get a clearer picture of families’ need for child care and how to better support working families that rely on these services.

**Will my responses be private?**

Anything you tell us will be used only for statistical purposes; identities of individuals and programs will not be disclosed except as required by law. All project staff who handle the information collected for the study must sign a privacy agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if privacy is breached.

The NSECE has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services in order to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC cannot be forced (for example by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.

**How can I participate?**

Participating in the NSECE is easy. NORC interviewers will work with your schedule to find a convenient time to reach you in person or by phone. Contact us at nsece19@norc.org or at 1-877-778-2973 and we can help you set up an appointment.

**Questions about NSECE?**

nsece19@norc.org or 1-877-778-2973

Participation is voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0391 and the expiration date is 10/31/2019. Please send comments regarding the time required for this survey or any other aspect of the described information collection to NORC at the University of Chicago, 55 E Monroe St. Ste 3000, Chicago, IL 60603 Attention: A. Rupa Datta.
What is the NSECE?
The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families, and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

The NSECE was last conducted in 2012 when we heard from almost 11,000 households with young children across the United States about their needs and choices for child care services and from more than 2,000 caregivers who looked after young children in a home setting. This much-needed information helped policy makers and government agencies get a more complete picture of both families’ need for affordable, flexible child care, as well as understand what child care services were available to them. We are now collecting new information to inform policies and programs that support both families in need of early care and education for their children and the individuals who provide these important services.

What is ACF?
The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (child care subsidies) programs, and sponsors early care and education (ECE) research. ACF works to help children in low-income families access high-quality care and helps coordinate efforts across Head Start, child care, pre-K, home visiting, and other early childhood development programs throughout the Federal Government. The NSECE will assist ACF in its overall mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

Why is the NSECE so important?
With responses from almost 11,000 households with young children, the 2012 NSECE helped policy makers and government and local agencies better understand how parents managed complex work and family schedules with child care arrangements, and whether households with young children had access to high quality and affordable child care.

We know that nearby family, friends, and neighbors also play a critical role in helping families meet their child care needs, so we are interviewing them as well to get a complete picture of who is looking after children and how parents manage to fill in gaps in care.

Since 2012 new laws and programs have been introduced to better support families’ and caregivers’ needs and help improve the quality of care provided. These changes make it a critical time to collect updated information so we can examine the changing child care needs of families with young children and the caregivers who support them.

Who are you surveying?
So that we can measure how well families’ child care needs match the early care and education resources available to them, the NSECE will be interviewing both households and caregivers in selected communities. Within households, the study will collect information from:

- **Families with children.** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their early care and education use and needs. The survey will take about an hour.

  Questions will cover:
  - Child care usage and schedule
  - Parental employment and school schedule
  - What parents look for as they search for care
  - Types of care parents prefer to use
  - How parents pay for their children’s care

- **Individuals who regularly look after others’ children under age 13 in a home-based setting.**

  This group includes:
  1. Individuals like grandparents, other relatives, neighbors, or baby-sitters, who may not consider themselves as child care providers. This survey will take about 20 minutes.
  2. Regulated, licensed, or registered home-based providers. This survey will take about 40 minutes.

  Questions will cover:
  - Number of children individuals look after and how often
  - Reasons why they look after children
  - Activities they do with children in their care
  - Support and other resources for providers
  - General attitudes toward caring for children

To round out the picture in each community, the NSECE will also interview **center-based providers, schools, and other programs as well as staff who work in these classrooms.**

Why should I participate?
By collecting information from both parents and caregivers in selected areas across the nation, the NSECE will be able to describe community by community how well the supply of child care and early education meets the needs of families. This description can help national, state, and local governments, as well as other organizations to identify gaps and areas where families and providers may be mismatched. Some questions the NSECE will address are:

- How do parents balance work and school with child care?
- How do parents choose providers, people, or organizations to care for their children? What decisions do parents make as they seek this care?
- What types of early care and education do parents most need? Is this care available in their area? Is it affordable?
- How do parents at different income levels pay for their children’s care? What kind of help do they need?
- Which families use care provided by family, friends, and neighbors most often and why?
- How can we better support these types of caregivers and offer opportunities to help them improve the care they offer children?