Why was I selected?
You have been selected for participation in this study from a list of providers in your area based on geographic and program criteria. It is important for us to hear from you to get a complete picture of the availability of early care and education services in your area. You represent many other providers across the nation. Your participation will help to ensure that the nation’s policy makers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation’s early care and education landscape.

Will my responses be private?
All data provided by you and your staff will be used only for statistical purposes; identities of programs and individuals 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.

Questions this study will help to answer:
• Who is caring for and teaching America’s children when they are not with their parents?
• What are the characteristics of home-based care available to families?
• What sources of revenue do home-based providers rely on, and how are those sources related to the care offered?
• How can we better support the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities to help them improve the care they provide children?

Questions about NSECE?
nsee-prov@norc.org or 1-800-487-4609

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.

OMB No. 0970-0391

How can I participate?
Participating in the NSECE is easy. The survey will take about 40 minutes to complete. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your interview. Contact us at nsee-prov@norc.org or at 1-800-487-4609 and we’ll find the best option to suit your schedule.
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 ECE research. ACF is helping more children in low-income families access high-quality care and supports coordination efforts across multiple early childhood development programs throughout HHS and across the Federal Government. Through its direct work and in coordination with others, ACF supports efforts to build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to help ECE professionals pursue better training and higher education, moving up career ladders to higher compensation. The NSECE will assist ACF in its overall mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

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.

In 2012 the NSECE collected vital information from home-based providers and other caregivers to create the first national profile of early care and education (ECE) services in more than 20 years. This much-needed information helped inform funding decisions and other initiatives designed to improve early care and education across the country. In January 2019, we will be contacting over 5,000 home-based providers across all 50 states to collect updated information and learn how the ECE landscape has changed since that time and how government agencies might better support providers.

Why is the NSECE so important?
With responses from more than 5,000 home-based providers, the 2012 NSECE helped administrators, policy makers, and government agencies understand how many home-based providers were providing care across the nation, what motivated them to look after children, and what kinds of care they offered (hours, prices, etc.). This study also helped illuminate what a vital role home-based providers play in their communities, for instance, by serving a significant portion of low-income families and by offering flexible schedules to families who work non-standard hours. Finally, the 2012 study showed how diverse home-based providers are, making it critical to create support programs that can be tailored to providers’ unique circumstances.

Since 2012 new legislation and initiatives have been introduced to better support home-based providers and help improve the quality of care they offer to families in their area. These changes make it a critical time to collect updated information so we can examine what impact they have had on ECE services in general and on home-based providers in particular.

Who are you surveying?
The study focuses on early care and education providers and workforce, as well as the working families they support. We will implement four integrated surveys of:

1. Providers of home-based care: Individuals who provide care for children under age 13 (who are not their own) in a home-based setting will be surveyed. Participants will include:
   - Regulated, licensed, or registered home-based providers (such as family day care). This survey will take about 40 minutes.
   - Individuals who provide informal care at home, for example, grandmothers, other relatives, neighbors, or baby-sitters who regularly watch children under age 13. This survey will take about 20 minutes.

2. Centers, schools and other programs: The survey will sample all types of organizational providers including license-exempt providers, Head Start and providers in school-based settings, and for-profit and non-profit community-based pre-school providers.

3. Classroom staff: Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in ECE classrooms will be selected to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.

4. 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.

Why should I participate?
Your survey responses will be combined with others’ to produce a rich data source that has the potential to benefit federal, state, and local or community-level child care policies. The data collected from this survey will be used to:

- Create a comprehensive description of the range of home-based care across the country, including how many children are served and hours they provide care, and what motivates them to look after children.
- Provide detailed information on the ways in which home-based providers operate - like what curriculum they use, how they staff and organize groups of children, and what they charge.
- Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.
- Better understand the experiences of the ECE workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.