



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Office of Child Care



## **2024 National Survey of Early Care and Education Now Collecting Data in All 50 States and D.C.**

November 2023

Dear Early Care and Education Colleague:

We have some exciting news to share with you. *Data collection for the 2024 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is currently under way* in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The NSECE is the only national survey of early care and education (ECE) use and availability. We initially conducted the NSECE in 2012, creating the first national picture of early care and education (ECE) in over twenty years. We repeated the NSECE in 2019 to document how the ECE landscape had changed in the intervening years. These studies helped us learn an enormous amount about families with young children who use ECE programs and about ECE programs and providers. We are collecting updated, nationally representative information about all segments of early care and education and families' needs for ECE services, which include child care, Early Head Start and Head Start, and prekindergarten programs through the 2024 NSECE. We are excited about the possibility of learning how recent policy and program changes and the COVID-19 pandemic have affected providers and the availability of ECE services since 2019.

The Administration for Children and Families has contracted with NORC at the University of Chicago to conduct the 2024 NSECE. NORC has sent mailings to selected providers and households throughout the country, inviting them to participate in the study. *NORC field interviewers will be visiting providers and households in person and calling them by telephone to encourage participation in the study.* We are writing you to ask your support for this critical data collection effort. If you are contacted by providers, households, teachers and caregivers, or other members of the general public, *please emphasize and reassure those individuals that the 2024 NSECE is a legitimate and vital effort* for our programs and our ability to help all our nation's children get access to high-quality ECE programs.

NORC has a variety of resources for respondents *to verify the legitimacy of the study.* Interviewers visiting in person will have a NORC badge with a hologram on the back. Respondents may visit <http://www.norc.org/WorkingWithNORC/Pages/survey-participants.aspx>, where the option "How To Identify NORC Interviewers" will allow them to type in the NORC interviewer's ID number to see a photograph of the interviewer. All NORC staff members have signed legally binding pledges of privacy and must abide by a strict code of professional conduct. All project materials will also include a toll-free number, 1-800-390-3653, and an email address, [nsece24prov@norc.org](mailto:nsece24prov@norc.org), if you would like to obtain further information about the study.

We have included additional NSECE resources and information below. Please do not hesitate to contact the NSECE study team with questions or concerns about data collection efforts in your communities. Because the study is being fielded with a statistics-based design, participants need to be contacted by NORC; the NSECE cannot accept volunteers who were not statistically selected.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important study.



**Ruth Friedman**  
**Director**  
**Office of Child Care**



**Khari Garvin**  
**Director**  
**Office of Head Start**



NATIONAL SURVEY OF **EARLY CARE & EDUCATION** | 2024

### **Information about the 2024 NSECE**

A key aim of the 2024 surveys is to provide updated profiles of individuals and programs providing ECE and to describe ECE use in households across the United States. The 2024 NSECE includes center- and home-based provider surveys, a household survey, and a child care workforce survey, all of which are based on nationally representative samples. It is important for us to include a wide range of providers who were scientifically selected, including federal and local agencies. This information will give us a more representative sample that will better inform policies that affect ECE programs and practices. All data provided by households and providers will be used only for statistical purposes, and the identities of individuals and programs will not be disclosed.

More information about the survey is available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/national-survey-early-care-and-education-2024>. There you will also find reports and fact sheets based on the 2012 and 2019 NSECE surveys about the characteristics of the 121,000 center-based programs, 1.4 million teachers and caregivers working with young children in those programs, and 1 million paid and about 4 million unpaid individuals who regularly care for other people's children at home. In addition, you will find insights into the ECE experiences, choices, and perceptions of the parents and guardians of young children in 2012 and 2019.