

Dear Community Member: November 2023

I am writing to share information about the 2024 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), funded by the Administration for Children and Families, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The NSECE is the only national survey of child care and early education, use and availability. In 2012, the NSECE provided the first national profile of early care and education (ECE) services in more than 20 years. We repeated the NSECE in 2019 to document how the ECE landscape had changed in the intervening years. We are now collecting updated, nationally representative information through the 2024 NSECE about all segments of ECE and families' needs for ECE services. We learned an enormous amount about families who use ECE, as well as about those who provide ECE, such as ECE programs, teachers and caregivers, and individuals who regularly care for children who are not their own through the 2012 NSECE and 2019 NSECE. We are excited about the possibility of learning how recent policy and program changes and the COVID-19 pandemic affected providers and the availability of ECE services since 2019.

A key aim of the 2024 surveys is to describe all households that use ECE in U.S. and provide updated profiles of programs and individuals providing ECE. For this reason, it is essential that we are able to collect data from every community that is scientifically selected for this study. The 2024 NSECE includes center and home-based provider surveys, a household survey, and a child care workforce survey, all based on nationally representative samples. Households and providers in your local area have been randomly selected as a part of the 2024 sample. It is important for us to include households and providers in your area to get a complete picture of the current availability and use of ECE services. All the information that they provide will be used for statistical purposes only. The identities of programs and individuals will not be disclosed.

NORC at the University of Chicago, along with its partners, is conducting the NSECE on behalf of HHS. NORC staff will follow up with you to answer any questions you may have. You may also contact the NSECE project team at nsece24prov@norc.org or the Federal Project Officer, Ivelisse Martinez-Beck in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S Department of Health and Human Services, at (202) 690-7885 or Ivelisse.martinezbeck@acf.hhs.gov.

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.

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

Sincerely.

Katie Hamm

Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Early Childhood Development **Administration for Children and Families**

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 06/30/2026. 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