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## Dear Colleague,

We are writing to encourage your participation in the 2024 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE). The NSECE will provide urgently needed information about all segments of the early care and education community. The NSECE is the only national survey of child care and early education use and availability; it has been conducted before at two different timepoints, first in 2012 and again in 2019, and we are now collecting a new round of information to learn what the current status of early care and education is. The NSECE is endorsed by the Early Care and Education Consortium, an alliance that represents over 6,500 child care programs.

Results of the NSECE could inform the development of child care and early childhood education policy, including policies that:

- 1) Support provider professional development and working conditions,
- 2) Help providers operate effectively within the marketplace and in ways that promote child development, and
- 3) Improve families' access to care that meets their needs and is respectful of their preferences.

The NSECE includes a provider survey, a household survey, and a child care workforce survey, based on nationally representative samples. Your program has been randomly selected as part of the provider and workplace sample. Your participation is critical to ensure the accuracy of the survey.

NORC at the University of Chicago is conducting the NSECE on behalf of Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You will be contacted by NORC with information on how to complete the survey. Data collected for this study will be used for statistical purposes only, so that no individuals or organizations will be identified directly or indirectly in research findings. All project materials include a toll-free number, (877) 390-3653, and an email address, <a href="mailto:nsece24prov@norc.org">nsece24prov@norc.org</a>, where you can obtain further information about the study. You can also visit the study website: <a href="http://nsece.norc.org">http://nsece.norc.org</a>.

We urge you to complete the survey to contribute to this important effort to improve knowledge of the use and availability of early care and education across the country.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important study.



Deputy Assistant Secretary, Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families