



## Local County Child Care Needs

Child care is a national issue, but a group of researchers are looking at the issue at the county-level to see what can be done to meet the challenge locally. Researchers at Nebraska University and Kansas State University are working together to better understand these local needs. Together with local county Extension Educators, they have put together four surveys for county residents to complete. These surveys will help collect data on the availability, affordability, and accessibility of child care.

Two of the surveys are geared to adults with children --one survey will be for those looking for childcare, the other for those currently with childcare. A third survey is aimed at the childcare providers working in the county and the fourth is for community members who do not fit these other categories.

With these surveys it is hoped that they will get a good picture of the local childcare situation in terms of what is working well and what are the challenges. One of the common challenges experienced by our providers is the huge problem with turnover which hurts labor costs and in turn impact the bottom line for providers. Some centers are barely able to break even. This has an effect on how much child care is available. Lack of child care also affects the economy of an area.

If you want to share your experiences with your county's availability, accessibility, and affordability of childcare, complete a survey today. Surveys can be taken in several ways –

**1. Hard paper copies** available at the Adams County Extension Office.

**2. Computer:** on-line Links to the surveys can be found at: <https://go.unl.edu/ruralchildcarene>

**3. Cell phone and QR code listed here:**



**QR cards** will also be available at various locations around the county for those wanting to take the survey on their phones.

## Focus Groups

In addition to the surveys, the UNL research team, and your local Extension Educator, Lynn DeVries, will be hosting four focus groups in the month of May. We welcome you sign up to be a part of these opportunities. Focus groups will last approximately 60-90 minutes during an evening that is convenient for you.

Focus group participants will receive \$15.00 for participation.



- **Families who are currently seeking childcare**
  - We want to learn about your experience searching for affordable, accessible, high quality childcare in your area
- **Families living in rural Adams County who are currently using childcare**
  - We want to learn about your experiences using childcare for your children
- **Childcare providers or Early Childhood Administrators**
  - We want to learn about your experience providing affordable, accessible, high quality childcare
- **Community Partners and Businesses**
  - We want to learn about your experience with childcare accessibility, availability and needs in your area

**To sign up or get more information, contact Holly Hatton Bowers, PHD at [Hattonb@unl.edu](mailto:Hattonb@unl.edu) or Lynn DeVries at 402-461-7209 or [ldevries6@unl.edu](mailto:ldevries6@unl.edu).**