Nebraskans see a child care crisis—and they want it fixed.

A recent statewide public opinion survey of registered voters in Nebraska commissioned by Nebraska Extension and We Care for Kids reveals a child care and education crisis that is hurting families, employers, and Nebraska’s reputation as a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Majorities of those surveyed have either experienced or know someone who has experienced this crisis. **Over 80% say the lack of child care in Nebraska is a problem that will not solve itself, want Nebraskans to come together to solve the problem, and believe Nebraska should support child care and early learning like it does K-12 schools and higher education.**

Of Nebraska voters believe that the lack of quality, affordable child care and early learning is a serious problem in Nebraska. The child care crisis is seen as on par with the cost of housing and crime.

Nebraskans are experiencing a child care crisis that also affects employers and the state’s economy:

- **49%** say the availability of quality and affordable child care has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic.
- **58%** have either experienced or know someone who has had to miss work because of the problem.
- **49%** have either experienced or know someone who has had to cut back on other household essentials to pay for child care.
- **32%** have either experienced or know someone who has refused a job opportunity because it would increase child care expenses.
- **31%** of parents of children five and under said that they left the workforce because they couldn’t find affordable child care, as did **23%** of all parents.

**84%** say that low wages for child care workers, early childhood teachers, and preschool teachers is a serious problem. Of that number, nearly **50%** believe it is extremely or very serious.

**84%** say the lack of child care in Nebraska is a problem that will not solve itself, and want Nebraskans to come together to solve the problem and invest in solutions.
84% say that Nebraska should support child care and early learning like it does K-12 schools and higher education.

88% support the state investing in ensuring more working families have access to affordable, quality child care and early learning.

81% say access to quality, affordable child care is essential or very important to strengthening Nebraska’s economy—nearly half say it is essential. They see a link between access to child care, helping workers provide for their families, and keeping businesses strong:

- 78% say it will be hard for Nebraska to attract new business to communities that don’t have access to quality, affordable child care and early learning.
- 74% say the lack of child care and early learning options is making it hard for Nebraska businesses to hire new employees and grow.
- 92% believe affordable, quality child care and early learning is an important part of keeping Nebraska a great place to live and raise a family.

It’s time to solve the child care crisis in Nebraska. Join We Care for Kids to learn more.

Visit NebraskaCaresForKids.org and sign up today.