

Urban and Rural Nebraskans Speak About Early Care and Education

March 24, 2017



Purpose



- Understand Nebraskans' attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about early childhood care and education.
- 2. Inform our investment in early care and education.
- 3. Gather opinions about the state's support for young children at greatest risk.

Early Childhood Institute **Main Report** Findings

Long-Term Impact



68% of Nebraska residents say early care and education has a lot of impact on the long-term success of students in school and in life.



Affordability and Availability



Only 6% of Nebraskans

strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is **affordable** for every family in Nebraska.

Just 11% of residents strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is **available**.



Quality



Just 15% of Nebraskans

are very satisfied with the quality of early childhood care and education programs in the city or area where they live, while 31% are satisfied.



High Priority



Two-thirds of Nebraska residents

strongly agree or agree that the state should make early care and education a higher priority than it is today.



Low-Income Children



The majority of Nebraskans

agree that the state should provide early care and education for all children from low-income families who choose to use it.



Main Report Takeaways

- 1. Early care and education is important to Nebraskans.
- 2. More affordable and available high-quality child care is needed.
- 3. Nebraskans believe the state should invest more in early care and education.
- 4. Nebraskans voice strong support for children in greatest need.





Research Questions



Do residents of counties with an **urban core**, counties with a **large rural town**, and counties with a **small rural town/isolated rural area** differ ...

- 1. On what life is like for young children in Nebraska?
- 2. In their views about the value, accessibility, and affordability of high-quality early care and education in Nebraska?
- 3. In their opinions about the importance of the state's investment in early care and education?



Concern for the Future





Child Care Affordability





Child Care Availability



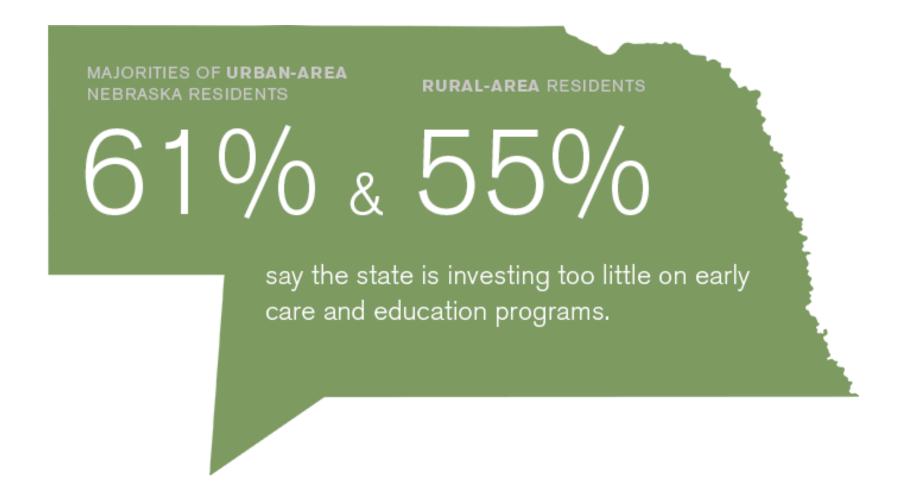
more rural RESIDENTS than urban RESIDENTS

say availability is the greatest challenge families face in getting high-quality early care and education for their young children.



Support for Increased Investment





Support for Increased Investment



Nebraskans say the best way to fund early childhood care and education programs for children from low-income families is

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FUNDS FEES PAID BY THEIR FAMILY

76% 24%



Urban/Rural Takeaways

1. There is widespread agreement among Nebraskans, no matter where they live.

2. Nebraskans have concern about children's future.

3. There is consensus among residents across the state about the need for greater state investment.





Thank you!

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