

# Child Care Study - We need your input

## Parent, Provider and Employer Input Needed on Child Care in Washington County.

WASHINGTON, IA (September 6th, 2021) -- Child Care is a workforce/business issue, not just a family issue! It's estimated that one third of the US workforce (50 million workers) had a child under the age of 14 in 2020. It affects how we work, when we work, where we work and for many, why we work. Washington County is one of many counties competing for workforce/talent. WEDG decided it was the ideal time to take inventory.

Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) (in collaboration with the Cities in WA County, ECICOG, Alliant Energy and the WA Chamber of Commerce) has contracted with First Children's Finance (FCF) to complete a childcare market study. The study will include research and analysis on: the needs of local families and children, the current supply of regulated child care, parents' current and preferred child care, effects on employers caused by lack of child care, and child care providers' challenges operating during COVID. The report will include the key findings of the research and analysis; the community's childcare gap; and a recommendation on the number and type of childcare spots that would be reasonable to meet the community's needs.

The research being conducted by FCF includes a survey of **parents that live or work in Washington County** to learn about their childcare preferences, along with child care challenges they may be facing. The survey can be accessed online through **September 30, 2021** at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WashingtonIAChildCare>.

"Child care solutions are vital to continued growth and expansion in our business and industry sectors in Washington County. This study will be a valuable tool to help navigate the challenges and explore solutions surrounding this vital service. We look forward to the completed report in November." Mary

Audia, WEDG Executive Director.

If you are an **Employer**, please fill out this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WashingtonEmployer>

If you are a **Child Care Provider**, please fill out this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WashingtonProvider>

If you have questions or would like more information about this project, contact Mary Audia with WEDG at [wedg@washingtioniowa.org](mailto:wedg@washingtioniowa.org) or 319-653-3942.

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