

# Seward County, NE

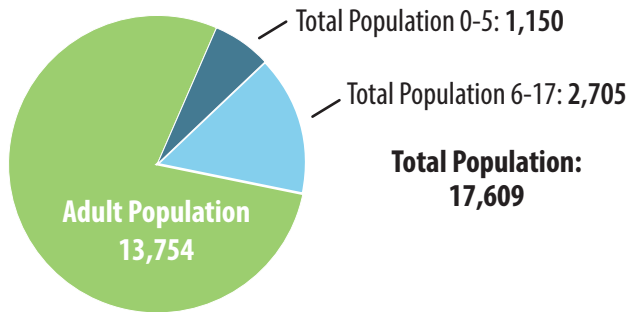
## Community Conversation About Early Childhood Programs and Services as of September 2022



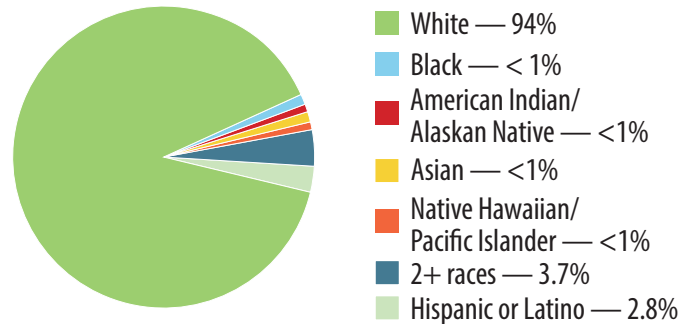
The Communities for Kids initiative was created in response to community requests for assistance with shortages of high-quality early care and education programs — shortages that both impact children’s optimal development and pose a challenge for communities hoping to attract and retain the viable workforces they need to thrive.

Communities for Kids partners with communities’ public and private entities to support and coordinate planning for access to high-quality early care and education for all children birth through age five. These partnerships are customized to address each community’s unique assets and needs — so each community can grow and prosper well into the future.

### Population Size



### Race and Ethnicity

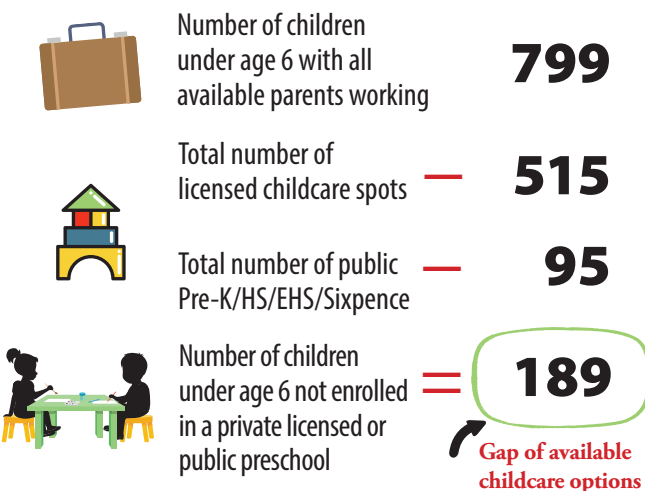


### Median Household Income



Estimated per capita income: \$32,367  
 Seward County population below poverty level: 7.2%  
 Nebraska population below poverty level: 9.2%

### Quality Childcare Availability



### Public Early Childhood Programs

Public Preschool Capacity	170
Head Start or Early Head Start	20
<b>Total Public Program Numbers</b> (Minus 50% half-day programming)	<b>95</b>

### Private Early Childhood Programs

Licensed In-home Childcare Providers	14
Licensed Childcare Centers (Calculated at 75%)	7
Licensed Preschool Providers (Calculated at 50%)	2
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>515</b>

### Comparison Rates and Outcomes

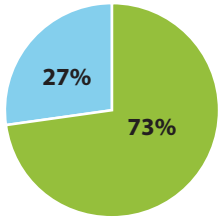
	SEWARD	ALL NEBRASKA
Mobility	8.87%	9.12%
Free/Reduced Lunch	24%	46%
High School Graduation Rate	97%	88%

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# Seward County Early Childhood Quality and Capacity Survey Highlights for Employers – Summer 2022

## Important Statistics:

Do you feel that there are enough child care options in your community?



**73% said NO**

On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the most important, how important is reliable child care that does not cause a work disruption to the community?

Weighted average of responses is:  
**4.6 out of 5**

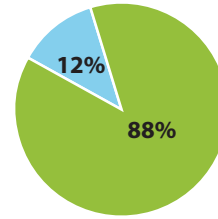


On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the most important, what priority would you give high-quality child care availability to the future growth and development of Seward County?

Weighted average of responses is:  
**4.5 out of 5**

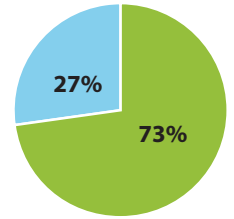


As a family utilizing child care, was it difficult to find child care locally?



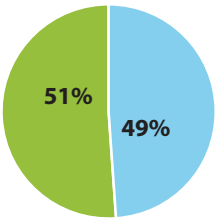
**88% said YES**

In the last 12 months, has a lack of child care caused you to miss work, be tardy, or cause a distraction at work?



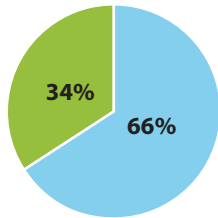
**73% said YES**

Has child care availability ever affected your ability to accept a position or maintain employment?



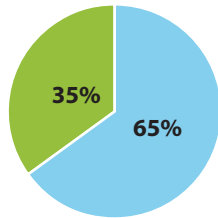
**49% said YES**

In the last 12 months, has a lack of child care caused your employees to be tardy, miss work, or cause a distraction at work?



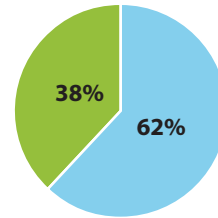
**66% said YES**

Has child care availability ever affected your ability to attain or retain employees?



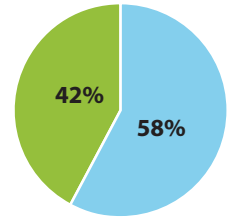
**65% said YES**

Has child care availability ever affected your ability to hire your candidate of choice?



**62% said YES**

Are you planning to retire or exit the field in the near future?



**58% of Seward County child care providers are planning to retire or exit the field in the next 5 years.**

“The options for infant/newborn is almost impossible to the point of being afraid to get pregnant because you won't be able to find affordable and adequate child care while being a working parent(s).”

“I am a mother in Seward county. We have not been able to find the type of child care we want for our girls. My husband takes off work to watch the girls when I go into Lincoln and do my office hours. I would love to work more hours but our children's health and well-being are top priority. I put my career path on hold to stay with them.”

“I have always worked full time and now have to stay home as child care wasn't available in Seward for an infant. In Seward parents have no options... forcing me to stay home.”

“Before and after school child care is needed to support the working families of Seward public and private schools.”

“I recently had to quit my teaching job because child care was too expensive and not of high quality.”

“Quit my job partly due to no child care options.”