

LB485 Impact Study: Community Stakeholders

LB485, passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2021, changed the income eligibility requirement for child care subsidy from 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 185% FPL and changed transitional child care from 185% FPL to 200% FPL, allowing more families the opportunity to enroll in the child care subsidy program. The legislation also requires DHHS to collaborate with a non-profit to study the impact of the changes. First Five Nebraska and partners are conducting this impact study. [Learn more.](#)

Impact of Child Care Subsidy eligibility changes on the community

Access to affordable, high quality child care has a broad range of impacts on a community. The child care subsidy allows families who could not otherwise afford the high costs of care to enroll their children so they are able to work or pursue their education.

We want to know if and how recent child care subsidy changes impact communities in Nebraska. We are talking to [child care providers](#) and [families](#) about their experiences, and we also want to hear from those who may be impacted indirectly – employers who rely on a workforce with consistent child care and community members who see child care as a part of community vitality and growth. During our discussions we will ask about:

- The impacts of child care subsidy on your community’s workforce
- Community access to child care generally and for families enrolled in the child care subsidy program
- The connection between child care subsidy and economic independence

What can you expect if you participate?

Anyone who is interested in participating should sign up, selecting session dates that work for you. [Sign up here.](#) We will try to accommodate as many people as possible, but may not be able to include everyone.

If you are selected to participate, you will receive an email with a short follow-up questionnaire. This will allow us to use your time wisely and tailor questions based on those joining the conversation.

Everyone who participates in the conversation will receive a \$35 gift card.

What will we do with the information and how will we keep you updated?

Anything you share with us will be confidential – we will report our findings, including the use of direct quotations, but will not include names.

We will use this to study the impact of LB485. This will be shared with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Legislature. We will keep you informed along the way.



The Impact Study Timeline

1. Conversations will take place in the spring and summer of 2023.
2. One to two weeks after the conversation, we will email all participants a summary for their feedback. We want to make sure we represented you correctly, and this is your opportunity to let us know if we misunderstood or if we need to incorporate more information or context.
3. After all family conversations are finished, we will send you a summary of all the conversations and what we have learned from them. This will happen during late summer/early fall of 2023.
4. We will be talking to child care providers, families, then community members. If you know someone who would provide an important perspective, please help us spread the word. All conversations will conclude in early fall of 2023.
5. In addition to conversations with providers, families, and communities, our research team is looking at the data relevant to subsidy in order to measure economic impacts of child care subsidy.
6. Analyzing data from the conversations should end by the winter of 2023/2024.
7. DHHS will review the analysis and a report will be submitted to the legislature. Once the report is approved and submitted, everyone who participated in the conversations will receive a copy and an update on what will happen next.
8. Based on the findings of the impact study, we expect there will be a hearing and potential legislation.



If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact First Five Nebraska's Data and Policy Research Advisor, Dr. Katie Bass at kbass@firstfivenebraska.org or call 402-261-9671.



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