

Sherman County, NE

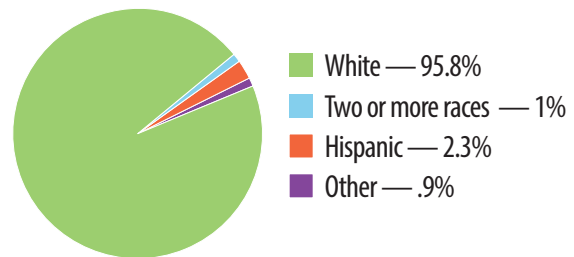
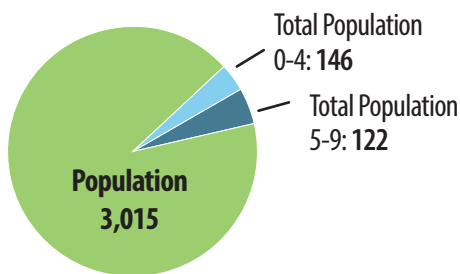
Community Conversation About Early Childhood Programs and Services



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 aims to partner 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 eight. These partnerships will be customized to address each community’s unique assets and needs — so each community can grow and prosper well into the future.

Sherman County, NE Demographics

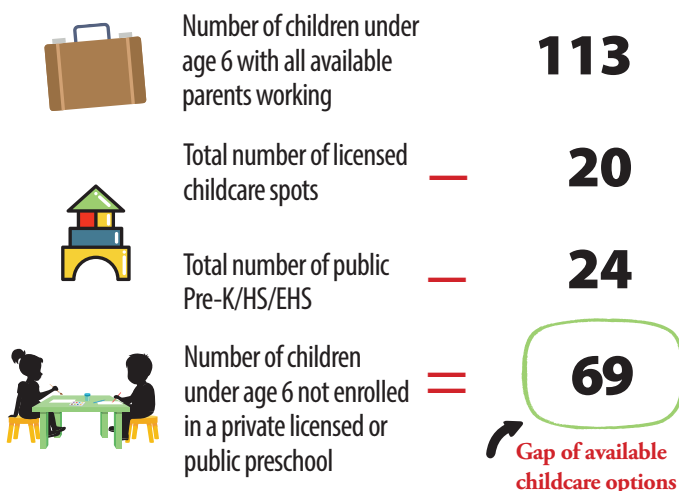


Median Household Income



Estimated per capita income	\$60,964
Sherman Co Population below poverty level	10.1%
Nebraska Population below poverty level	10.4%

Quality Childcare Availability*



Public/Headstart/Private Preschool Programs

Public School / Head Start Preschool	2
Total Preschool-Based Spots <small>(Part-time 50% capacity)</small>	24

Private Early Childhood Programs

Licensed In-Home Child Care Providers	2
Total Full-Time Capacity (ESTIMATE)	20

Comparison Rates and Outcomes Average

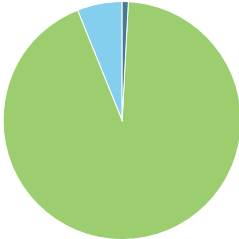
	SHERMAN CO SCHOOLS	ALL NEBRASKA
Mobility	10.91%	9.12%
Free/Reduced Lunch	46.51%	46.33%
High School Graduation Rate	97.7%	87.56%
Language Spoken Other Than English at Home	2.4%	11.8%

The Sherman County Community for Kids team developed a survey to identify the community’s understanding, support, and needs surrounding quality early childhood care in Sherman County and the surrounding area. The group then created and implemented a distribution plan of this survey to gather as much data as possible from local residents. 197 responses were gathered through the SurveyMonkey platform. Through these responses, the Sherman County Community for Kids team will engage the community with their reflection of the data, implement strategies to provide quality early childhood care and education opportunities for Sherman County families, and identify long-term sustainable resources to support the strategies taken.

ALL RESPONDENTS

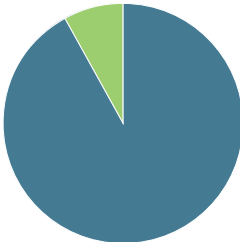
LOCAL PARENTS

Do you think there are enough child care options in the community?



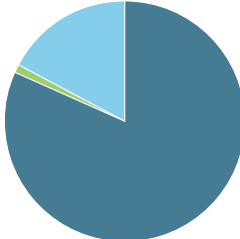
■ Yes - 1%
 ■ No - 93%
 ■ I don't know - 6%
 ■ N/A - 0%

If an early childhood center-based program was developed in our community, would you support it? *Support can include using the program for child care, donating to the program, volunteering, promoting the program, etc.*



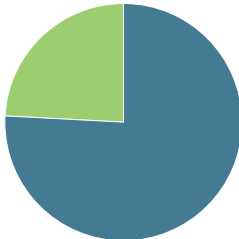
■ Yes - 92%
 ■ No - 8%

Was it difficult to find child care locally?



■ Yes - 76%
 ■ No - 24%

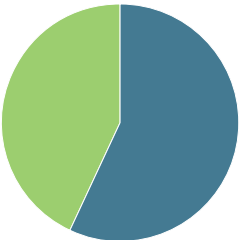
In the last 12 months, has a lack of child care caused you to miss work, arrive late or leave early, or be distracted at work?



■ Yes - 64%
 ■ No - 36%

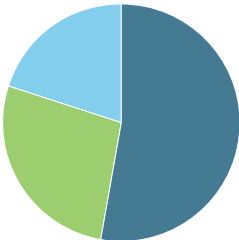
LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Has the lack of available child care for potential employees affected your ability to grow your business?



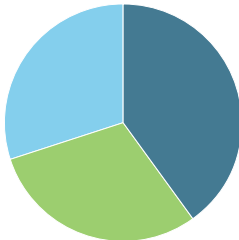
■ Yes - 57%
 ■ No - 43%

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



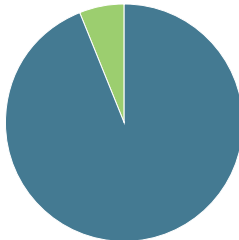
■ Yes - 53%
 ■ No - 27%
 ■ Unknown - 20%

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



■ Yes - 40%
 ■ No - 30%
 ■ Unknown - 30%

How important is the availability of child care in the Loup City / Sherman County area to you as an employer?



■ Very important - 94%
 ■ Neutral - 6%
 ■ Not at all important - 0%

The Sherman County Community for Kids team is working to address the following priorities. We encourage community members to reach out to the team to provide your knowledge, skills, and experience in supporting these priorities with combined efforts.

1. Collaborate with local entities, educational programs, and early childhood care providers to increase access to quality early care and educational opportunities.
2. Provide support, resources, and funding to early childhood care providers in our area.
3. Invest in the future of Sherman County by improving opportunities for children and families to grow and thrive.