



Parent Input Needed on Child Care in Perry

Child care serves two critical community functions. First, it is an economic driver allowing parents to work and earn income, while at the same time creating jobs. Second, since the children that attend child care full-time typically spend between 35 and 50 hours per week with a caregiver who is not their parent, child care prepares children for school and life at a critical stage of their development.

The City of Perry has received a Rural Child Care Market Study grant through the Empower Rural Iowa initiative, a program administered by the Center for Rural Revitalization, a division of Iowa Economic Development Authority. The funds are being used to contract with First Children's Finance (FCF) to complete a child care study to analyze the supply and demand for child care in the area including the community's child care gap, which details the number of child care spots that would be reasonable to meet the community's workforce needs.

The research being conducted by FCF includes a survey of parents that are currently using or want to use child care in Perry, to learn about their child care preferences along with child care challenges they may be facing. The survey focuses on learning from working parents, as well as those not working due to child care challenges. Questions get at the challenges working families face finding child care that meets their needs. The survey for parents can be accessed online through November 15, 2023, at:

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



or

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



If you have questions or would like more information about this project, contact Sven Peterson, City Administrator at sven.peterson@perryia.org.