

Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA

2020 Program Evaluation for Supplement Recipients

20 of 26 returned - 76.9%

County: Buffalo (3), Cedar (1), Custer (1), Dawes (1), Douglas (2), Gosper (1), Holt (1), Lancaster (4), Nemaha (1), Nitchcock (1), Pierce (1), Platte (1), No Answer (1).

The staff of the Child Care WAGE\$® Program at Nebraska AEYC has been:

Very helpful & pleasant	15	75%
Somewhat helpful & pleasant	3	15%
Somewhat unhelpful & somewhat unpleasant	0	0%
Not helpful or pleasant at all	0	0%
I have not had the opportunity to speak with the staff	2	10%
No Answer	0	

Would you like to comment on your interactions with the WAGE\$ staff?

- Interactions were very brief and initiated by myself.
- When I email I always get a prompt response.
- Julie is awesome and knows her stuff!
- I normally communicate through emails and have not had any issues.
- Always answer questions promptly.
- Prompt in responding to emails, answering questions.
- She always explains things if I'm confused - no matter how many questions I ask.
- Easy to work with.
- The staff has been very available for questions and have always been able to point me in the right direction and take care of my needs quickly! Very impressed.
- The staff is very helpful.

Have you noticed any of the following benefits from receiving the WAGE\$ supplement?

WAGE\$ helps me feel more satisfied with my job.

Yes	18	95%
No	1	5%
No Answer	1	

WAGE\$ is an incentive for me to seek additional education and/or it helps make pursuing coursework more financially feasible.

Yes	15	79%
No	4	21%
No Answer	1	

The WAGE\$ supplement helps ease financial stress.

Yes	20	100%
No	0	0%
No Answer	0	

WAGE\$ encourages me to stay with my current program.

Yes	16	84%
No	3	16%
No Answer	1	

My WAGE\$ supplement helps provide more resources for my program.

Yes	18	95%
No	1	5%
No Answer	1	

The WAGE\$ supplement makes me feel more appreciated & recognized for my work.

Yes	19	95%
No	1	5%
No Answer	0	

Please list any other ways you believe Child Care WAGE\$® Program has helped you.

- I have never had a “bonus” with this job; I consider WAGE\$ a bonus.
- It’s helped me improve my FCCH1 even faster than originally planned.
- More money helps with sub.
- During COVID things financial have been tight. My WAGE\$ check filled in the gap.
- It has helped in providing additional funding for resources for my program. I am able to buy supplies and equipment without worrying if I’m spending more than I can afford.
- It has helped guide me with my drive with my last 6 classes to graduate.
- Very helpful last year with financial instability through COVID.
- [It] has helped me to dream BIG and improve the quality of care I provide my clients.
- My husband thinks more about the importance of my career.
- In a field that is not paid well, financially can get an extra wage, like a bonus for all the hard work I have put in during the past 30 years.
- With COVID occurring the help from the WAGE\$ allowed me to not stress about the impact that this has had on me having to shut down daycare for around a month last year due to quarantines. Huge blessing!
- To finish school.

If you have not noticed any benefits, please explain why you believe the program has not yet helped you.

- The program has begun to be a benefit, but only receiving half of the supplement for 2020 has been a challenge.
- It’s made me want to stay in daycare longer than planned.
- Additional education I have a master’s it would not help with anything other than in-service or cont. ed.

How has the WAGE\$ supplement made an important financial impact on your life?

I have been better able to pay my bills (electric, water, phone, etc.).	12	15%
I have been better able to address the basic needs of my family (food/housing).	11	13%
I have been better able to address the transportation needs of my family (gas, auto insurance, car payments, car repairs, etc.).	7	9%
I have been better able to address the health needs of my family (medical bills, insurance, medication).	7	9%
I have used my supplement to help pay for child care costs.	3	4%

I have been better able to pay for school for myself.	4	5%
I have been able to help pay for school for my child/ grandchild/other family member.	2	2%
I have used my supplement to provide additional resources for my child care program.	15	18%
I have used my supplement to help pay for family recreation, gifts for others, or personal rewards.	7	9%
I have used my supplement to start/add for my savings.	10	12%
I have not found the supplement to be a financial benefit.	4	5%
No Answer	0	

If the supplement has financially benefited you in other ways, please share those.

- I put the money in savings and then when needed pulled it out for expenses. I had much more confidence that the funds were there.
- My supplement came in the middle of this pandemic, giving me a little more added security during these times.
- It helps to recognize that my education is valued in my career choice.
- Helped me to pay my self-employment taxes.
- Putting the money into retirement too!
- I am currently in school earning my Early Childhood Education Degree and I am planning to student teach in the spring of 2021. This program has allowed me to have less stress about the financial impact of having to pay subs to watch my daycare when I am student teaching.

If you have not found the supplement to be a financial benefit, please explain why.

- Again, when applying with this program I thought there would be the full year supplement dispersed in 2020. As of now I have not received the second supplement for 2020.

As an overall evaluation of the Child Care WAGE\$® Program, I am

Very satisfied	17	85%
Somewhat satisfied	2	10%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1	5%
Dissatisfied	0	0%
No Answer	0	

If you are dissatisfied with the Child Care WAGE\$ Program, please explain why.

- The new program growing pains with a pandemic and poor communication all add up to dissatisfaction. This can be improved I'm sure.

Do you have any questions about the Child Care WAGE\$® Program or how it works?

Understanding your questions may help us improve our communication and outreach.

- Are there plans to incorporate this WAGE\$ project with a continuing education program such as TEACH for providers who may be seeking further education past bachelor's programs?
- Is the money received from the program designed to be used in a specific way? Only for work related stuff? I thought that was what it was for.
- It would be nice to see a breakdown of how our level is decided and what level we are. I am taking classes that are suggested for ECE but unfortunately many of the options through CSC cover primary grades too so many of my classes don't get me as much ECE credit so it would be nice to see.

- It would be helpful to know when checks/funds will be available, more of an exact date.
- When do I have to acquire more education to maintain my benefits?

Why do you think the Child Care WAGE\$® Program is important? What has it meant to your life, to the children in your care, and/or to the early childhood community?

- Recognition
- I think this program is very important for our early childhood professionals who are or have put in the education and time into this profession.
- This has given me confidence that I am in the right profession. My needs are being met and I am also looking at adding classes to my schedule.
- I consider it an unexpected bonus for me.
- Yes, it helps bring recognition to a very important career.
- I think many times we feel under paid and appreciated. It has filled that need.
- It's important to me because it allows me to be able to buy extra material, equipment for the children to use. Many times there are things we need or would like to offer but decide to hold back because of the money and now we don't have to.
- It is an incentive to improve ourselves and our programs and we need more quality child care programs out there.
- It helps recognize those early childhood professionals that want to further their education. The children in my care have received new educational materials.
- Great way to keep educated providers in the early childhood field.
- The only way a family child care provider can earn more in wages is to increase the tuition that families pay. WAGE\$ give providers an increase without burdening families.
- Yes, has helped be able to afford more things.
- This program meant a few extra past due bills got paid. Because of short holiday/snow day paychecks. In addition it helped add some groceries to the fridge and some craft supplies to my program.
- It encourages us to improve our education and quality of care. It lets us know we are important and do deserve to be compensated for our improvements without having to put the burden on our families who often struggle to pay child care despite our lower fees.
- WAGE\$ helps raise the wages of child care workers to match their education and experience, makes us feel appreciated and essential, and provides a little breathing room to purchase non-essential materials.
- Yes, a provider can use this to help in so many ways! It's a win/win for the early childhood field.
- I believe that this program is important to ensure that we have quality providers in the state. I have first hand seen the impact of these extra funds helping my family and also my childcare program. I know there are so many changes in the childcare industry and a lot of quality providers that are starting to retire. Childcare is a huge need, but quality care is the key to our future generations. The WAGE\$ program is a big incentive for childcare providers to become more quality providers.
- To help me pay bills and school.

The funds for Child Care WAGE\$® supplements are provided by the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative and the Nebraska Department of Education. What would you like to tell them about the supplement?

- Thank you.
- This supplement is a greatly appreciated and much needed addition to the early childhood educators in our communities.

- Thank you! Thank you for understanding that child care is an important profession and helping to make it rewarding for me.
- Along with a “thank you”, I would like to say they have helped a field that was definitely in need of financial help.
- This has helped me be able to provide quality care and helped me support my family.
- Thank you for recognizing that child care is not something we do for the pay, but rather because we are passionate about it, and giving us that extra support we need to be able to fulfill that position.
- This is a wonderful program that actually allows dedicated staff to improve and stay with early child care.
- Thank you for seeing what we do as important and thank you for always advocating for Quality Family Child Care.
- Thank you.
- Thank you!
- I completed my Bachelor’s degree in July of 2020. I spent 8 yrs completing that degree. It is rewarding to see some financial gain for all the time, hard work, and expense I put in to my education.
- That this is an amazing program and incentive for retention. Like many stressful work places burnout due to high stress and low wages is detrimental to the needs of our families.
- Thank you! You have helped me and my child care families have a better year and future.
- Please, don’t stop. Please make these funds available to all child care workers who are under paid.
- Thank you! When you give your all and breakdown the month, you find the min. wage you make and could use a supplement.
- With COVID happening and with being in school trying to earn my Early Childhood Degree this program couldn’t have come at a better time for me. I have not had as much stress keeping my program safe and closing due to quarantine. I am also able to continue to better myself to be a more quality provider for the families that I service. This has been a huge blessing for my family!
- It was a great help.

Are you familiar with the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program? (T.E.A.C.H. provides scholarships to help early childhood educators increase their education, and possibly move up the WAGE\$ scale. If you would like more information about these scholarships, please call 402-858-5143 or email teach@nebraskaeyc.org to request T.E.A.C.H. materials.)

- Yes, I have been told I am on the list for consideration if Master’s degrees are ever considered.
- Thank you so much for all you have done for me and my program!
- Yes I am, thank you for all that you do.
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, I am an active participant!
- Yes
- Yes! It would be wonderful if TEACH scholarship was available to work on Master’s degrees.
- Yes, I have used it in the past.
- Yes
- Yes familiar-shared it with my staff who is attending college to see if she could use it.

- Yes-without this program I couldn't have afforded the college education I am currently working on that has helped me to move up the WAGE\$ scale. Thank you!
- Yes.
- Will remember.
- I am currently enrolled in TEACH. These are two amazing opportunities that our state offers!!
- Yes