

# Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA

## 2021 Program Evaluation for Supplement Recipients



29 of 34 returned - 85%

**County:** Adams (1), Buffalo (4), Cedar (1), Custer (1), Dawes (2), Douglas (4), Gosper (1), Hall (1), Hitchcock (1), Lancaster (7), Nemaha (1), Pierce (1), Platte (1), Sarpy (2), York (1) No Answer (1)

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

Very helpful & pleasant	29	100%
Somewhat helpful & pleasant	0	0%
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	0	0%
No Answer	0	

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

- Excellent communication.
- Julie always able to answer questions if I have them.
- Julie has been very helpful the whole time that I have been in the program.
- They have helped me understand all my questions.
- Julie is great to work with.
- I always get answers to my questions quickly and all interactions have been great!
- Always helpful.
- Always answer my questions quickly through emails. Always willing to help.
- Julie is extremely responsive and helpful.
- Keep things simple and advocate for us providers.
- Julie is awesome!
- "Total Awesomeness" is the definition of "The WAGE\$ Staff".
- Julie is always prompt at answering my emails.
- Just grateful for the opportunity to receive this financial benefit.
- Always very pleasant and answer questions in a timely manner.
- Julie is always 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	29	100%
No	0	0%
No Answer	0	

WAGE\$ is an incentive for me to seek additional education and/or it helps make pursuing coursework more financially feasible.		
Yes	22	81%
No	5	19%
No Answer	2	

The WAGE\$ supplement helps ease financial stress.

Yes	28	100%
No	0	0%
No Answer	1	
WAGE\$ encourages me to stay with my current program.		
Yes	27	96%
No	1	4%
No Answer	1	
My WAGE\$ supplement helps provide more resources for my program.		
Yes	27	96%
No	1	4%
No Answer	1	
The WAGE\$ supplement makes me feel more appreciated & recognized for my work.		
Yes	29	100%
No	0	0%
No Answer	0	

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

- Appreciated
- Motivation to keep going.
- Helps supplement when finances get tough.
- WAGE\$ has been a wonderful benefit and a valuable tool for my program.
- Thirty years in business, this program makes me feel valued. It's a benefit!
- It has made me see how much education is important!
- All but one above unless you count continuing ed hours.
- Helped me in making a larger space doable financially.
- I have been able to purchase extras for my child care.
- With an advanced degree in family child care, there is no way that clients could afford to pay me what I would earn in the public school or other private sector.
- I consider WAGE\$ as a bonus; something this profession usually doesn't offer.
- Keeps me motivated to continue education.
- To gain my education.

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

No responses.

**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.).	18	62%
I have been better able to address the basic needs of my family (food/housing).	18	62%
I have been better able to address the transportation needs of my family (gas, auto insurance, car payments, car repairs, etc.)	14	48%

I have been better able to address the health needs of my family (medical bills, insurance, medication).	13	45%
I have used my supplement to help pay for child care costs.	7	24%
I have been better able to pay for school for myself.	7	24%
I have been able to help pay for school for my child/grandchild/other family member.	7	24%
I have used my supplement to provide additional resources for my child care program.	24	83%
I have used my supplement to help pay for family recreation, gifts for others, or personal rewards.	16	55%
I have used my supplement to start/add to my savings.	16	55%
I have not found the supplement to be a financial benefit.	0	0%
No Answer	0	

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

- Peace of mind
- Financial security-a back up if/when needed.
- The supplement has been a huge help for me medically and whatever is not spent I saved it for when I have more medical expenses.
- Used it to cover my tax increase on my house this year.
- It allows me to have a more comfortable buffer in case something changes.
- Love the ability to use the money how I need or want to.
- Although this is no longer an expense I have, my monthly student loan payment I paid for years would have been paid for by this stipend. There were times I had a difficult time paying the loan payment in the past, so this would have been a welcome assistance!
- Able to pay substitutes.
- I am more able to pay my staff the wages they deserve.
- It has helped with my retirement and taxes.
- Helps fill in gaps in Months of Disbursements!
- I am able to purchase quality items for my child care.
- I can hopefully continue to gain my degree in ECE.

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

- This has helped me out tremendously because I am not as stressed or worried about how I'll pay for doctors visits.

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

Very satisfied	29	100%
Somewhat satisfied	0	0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0	0%
Dissatisfied	0	0%
No Answer	0	

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

No responses.

**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.**

- No
- None
- No
- None
- How often do I need to send transcripts in and is it only EC credits or do gen ed credits toward an ECED degree count too?
- None
- No
- When its tie to fill out the income statement... it would be nice to add in the email, a reminder on the WAGE\$ program goals. Or simply update us on the program happenings.
- Doing great!
- No
- One thing that would be helpful would be some sort of written schedule for when payments may be coming so that individuals can better plan for what to expect the funds.
- No questions at this time.
- No-Julie already helped explain why I was not at my correct level for that last year.
- Nope, staff is very helpful with any questions.
- I am not sure how long it takes to receive your first supplemental check. I am new to this program.

**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?**

- It is so nice to be recognized and compensated for our higher educational efforts
- Given me the opportunity to further my education while raising a family without causing financial problems.
- Yes I do believe it is important. Sometimes as child care providers we get discouraged especially when financially it is not the best paying job and we put so much effort in what we do. It feels nice to get recognized and compensated.
- It rewards us with help after all our hard work and our want to keep learning and caring for our community
- It has been an incentive for the extra work I put forward and it feels good to receive extra recognition.
- Child care workers make very little and work long hours. Earning a little extra through WAGE\$ makes me feel seen and appreciated. It allows me to do something for myself, have a buffer in case something changes, and allows me to "reinvest" more into the children I care for.
- At a time when we all need a boost, this has been very much appreciated.
- Allows me to provide quality care without charging families an unreasonable amount. It helps supplement the difference. It also gives me a sense of accomplishment and recognition for the work I do.
- Providing this stipend opportunity to ECE professionals is one helpful incentive for workers to enter, stay, and pursue additional education in early childhood. To myself, the WAGE\$ program is a welcome additional income to help with any short-falls or emergency needs.
- I feel like the schooling I have gotten was worth it.
- Helps me be able to continue my education with the added payments to cover substitutes and additional expenses.
- This supplement has helped me realize how vital my role is and has helped my husband realize that it is a critical career path. He takes my job more seriously

- Encouragement to continue the higher education.
- I feel like I stated this on the front of paper.
- It helped me go to college - getting my master's degree!
- I believe WAGE\$ is important because it provides just the right boost to fill in my gaps in the months it is dispersed its always arrived just when I was in a crunch most. In my child care it boosts my ability to donate supplies we would otherwise not afford.
- It has helped me be able to attend to offer a curriculum and new learning materials for my child care.
- I feel more of a professional being recognized for my education in this field.
- I think it is very important. It made me feel valued having a degree and doing something for work that doesn't require one. It even encouraged me to go back to school. WAGE\$ and TEACH are both amazing programs I have been sharing with my provider friends.
- It gives us daycare providers extra money. This helps us so much. Being able to purchase items for child care or pay some bills that we have been stressing over.
- It is a fantastic way to promote excellence in early childhood. Individuals who are taking the extra time and making the extra effort to advance their education should be rewarded!
- WAGE\$ is very important for the ECE profession. Although this is not applicable to my situation at this time, if I had WAGE\$ available earlier in my professional career, it would have paid for the student loan payments I was making. Meaning it would have covered the payment each month for the year.
- The WAGE\$ program encourages individuals to better themselves through education. The program did just that for me. The children in my care are benefitting from the result of my education. "They" are being taught, because "I" was taught.
- As a provider I do not get bonuses and sometime struggle to pay for all our needs. This shows me that I (and my education accomplishments) am/are important, needed and valued.
- Yes, keeps me motivated to gain more education.
- It have pay for school and help you with your expenses with child care.
- It is important because it not only helps supplement child care workers' wages, which we know are extremely low, it also encourages and incentivizes the workforce to further their education which increases the quality of care that children will receive.
- When I learned of this program, it came at a great time. I am working with a step up to quality coach.

**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!
- Would be nice to see a perk added for being a step up to quality child care. That was hard work too. Promoting "Step up" would be great.
- Thank you for everything that you do for us. Your support makes all the difference.
- Thank you for all your hard work in providing funds for us!
- It has allowed me to greatly improve my program by enabling me to purchase new items for the children.
- I look forward to receiving my stipend and I enjoy knowing I can plan something extra for my program knowing I am receiving the stipend.
- What I stated in #8 but also just thank you! I love how there are different tiers so that we can see how much we could earn and how to work up to the top.

- Thanks!
- I'm so thankful to have a program like this. Child care is a hard unrecognized job. It's nice to be recognized for the job I do, and education I have to do it.
- Simply-THANK YOU! This is a benefit I greatly appreciate and I hope it can continue for the early childhood workforce.
- This is a great program. Very rewarding.
- It is extremely important and beneficial to my needs.
- Thank you for helping early childhood educators making a living wage.
- They are doing great things for us! We need new providers, but those who would have been in the field need to be appreciated. One way to do that is with money and recognized.
- This improved my daycare. My education has made many changes here I am getting my masters now!
- Thank you, it has been an amazing blessing and I hope we can keep it going and benefit more providers!
- Thank you, it is benefiting children in Nebraska.
- Thank you for supporting those that have felt undervalued and underappreciated for years! Your contributions are making a difference.
- Thank you so much! This helps me become a quality provider with out having to worry about money.
- WAGE\$ is helping promote the public awareness showing the traditional low wages and long hours that so many individuals put into their small business. The WAGE\$ payments help boost the morale of these individuals, knowing that the extra efforts they have put into their education is paying off!
- WAGE\$ is an essential tool or benefit for those ECE staff who have put in the education effort and this is a "bonus" that is earned through those efforts.
- I would like to give a big "thank you" to both the NECC and the Dept. of Ed. for this program. This program has helped me tremendously in providing a good learning environment for my children. I hope this program will be able to continue.
- Thank you! Many parents struggle to pay child care so raising rates is a burden on them. This supplement helps me to not have to make a hardship for them or for my family
- Very appreciative of the financial assistance.
- It helps me to keep going to school
- Thank you for funding this! The funds helped push me to finish my Bachelor's Degree.
- Thank you for seeing us home providers as the educators of young children that we are.

**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@nebraskaaeyc.org](mailto:teach@nebraskaaeyc.org) to request T.E.A.C.H. materials.)**

- Yes
- I have heard about it but don't know much yet but I am interested in it.
- I am aware and one of the recipients, I actually graduate this Spring.
- Yes and have asked many of questions to figure out what my next steps could be.
- Yes, another program I'm thankful to be a part of.
- Yes--if the TEACH program would expand to masters programs, I would be very interested.
- Yes, I am already receiving help.
- Yes

- Yes, I was a T.E.A.C.H. student and so appreciated all who helped me get my Associate Science Degree. I do not plan to move up to the next level.
- Yes Have recommended it to my student aides.
- Yes! On my first semester and happy to be back learning more!
- Yes, I am a part of the program and this has brought my dream of going back to school a reality.
- Yes, years ago I was a TEACH recipient.
- Yes I am familiar with TEACH and would be interested if Masters Programs are ever considered, yes I will keep asking.
- Yes, I am familiar and very thankful for the program!
- Yes-I am using it to get my Early Childhood Classes so that I can move up in WAGE\$ and Step Up to Quality.
- Yes, I use this opportunity too.
- Yes
- Yes