

From Zoning to Transit: City Strategies to Strengthen Child Care

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Child Care Aware® OF AMERICA

Connecting every part of the child care system to make it work for children, families, providers, businesses and communities across America.



- ✓ More working families access affordable, quality child care.
- ✓ More child businesses start, sustain and hire skilled teachers that stay in the field.
- ✓ Military families find care that meets their unique needs.
- ✓ Policymakers act on real-time child care data.

Together we make child care strong—and that makes everyone stronger.

Supporting the Workforce of Today

- 69% of young children live in households where all parents are working. (*KIDSCOUNT*)
- 85% of primary caregivers say problems with child care hurt their efforts at or time commitment to work. (*ReadyNation*)
- 58% of parents cite lack of child care as their reason for leaving the workforce altogether. (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce*)
- 32% of women say the need to be home to care for family members is a barrier to returning to work. (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce*)



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Growing Economies

- Lack of available child care for infants and toddlers alone **costs $122 billion in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue each year** (ReadyNation):
  - **Families lose $78 billion per year** in forgone earnings and job search expenses.
  - **Businesses lose $23 billion annually** due to child care challenges faced by their workforce.
  - **Taxpayers lose $21 billion each year** in lower federal and state/local tax revenue.





Supporting the Workforce of Tomorrow

Brains are built, not born.

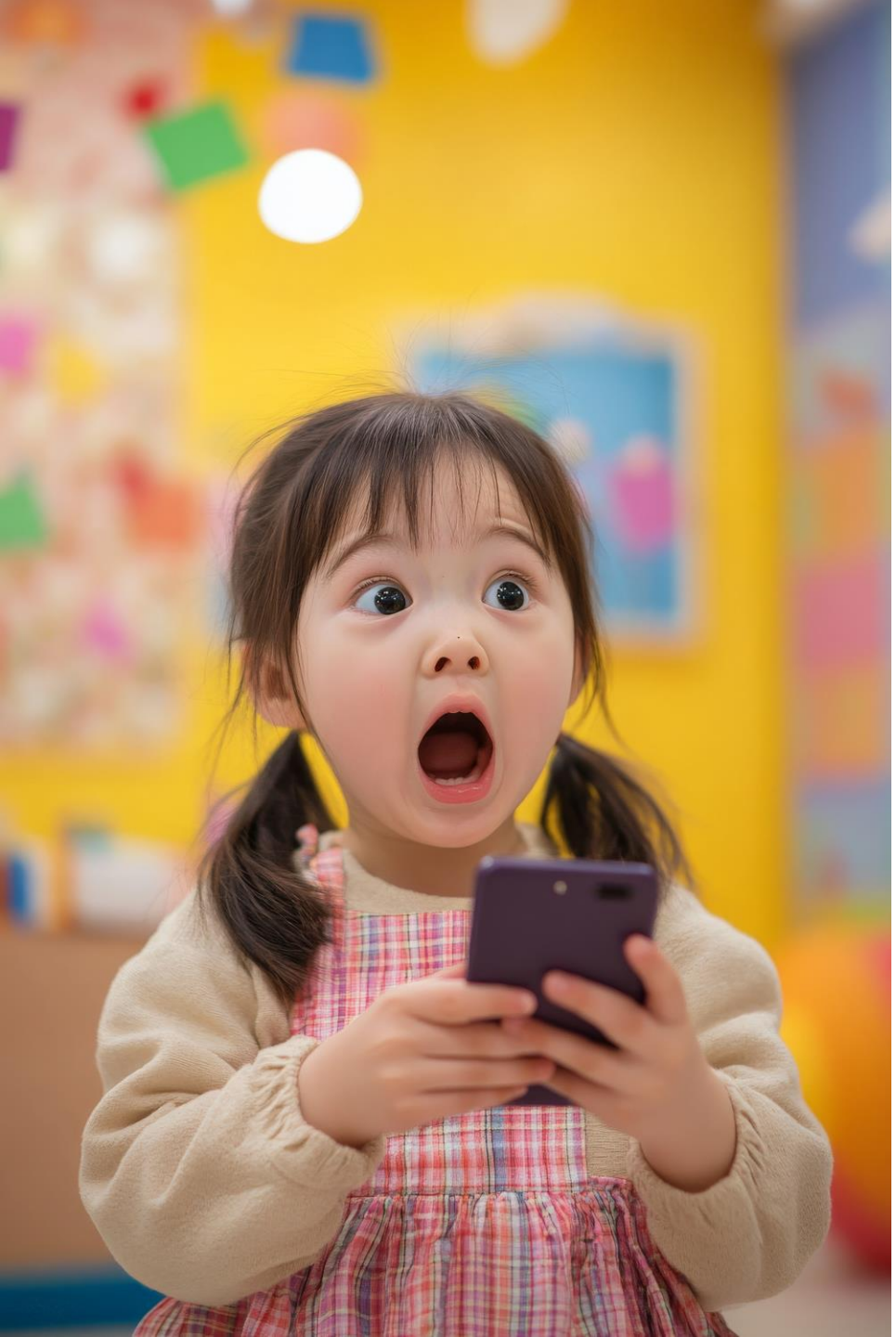
Early experiences are built into children's bodies—shaping brain architecture and impacting how biological systems develop.

Every experience a baby has forms a neural connection in the brain at a rate of more than a million synapses per second in the early years.

The benefits of quality child care last a lifetime:

- ✓ Increases school readiness
- ✓ Increases future employment rates
- ✓ Reduces grade repetition
- ✓ Reduces reliance on social services

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Unaffordable Prices for Parents

- $13,128—the average national price of child care annually in 2024
- $15,500—the average national price annually for infant center-based care
- In 45 states and D.C., families pay more for child care for two children than they do for their mortgage.

  (Child Care Aware® of America)



Struggling Child Care Businesses & Teachers

- Child care businesses operate on very thin margins – as little as 1% (US GAO)
  - Child care is **labor intensive** to keep babies healthy, safe and learning 10+ hours per day.
  - Facility and insurance costs are rising.
  - Parents can only afford to pay so much.
  - Teacher turnover is expensive.

- Teachers can't afford to stay
  - Nationally, teachers earn less than $15 per hour. CSCCE
  - Only 21% receive health insurance through their employers. EPI
  - 16% access SNAP and 23% get health care through Medicaid. CSCCE

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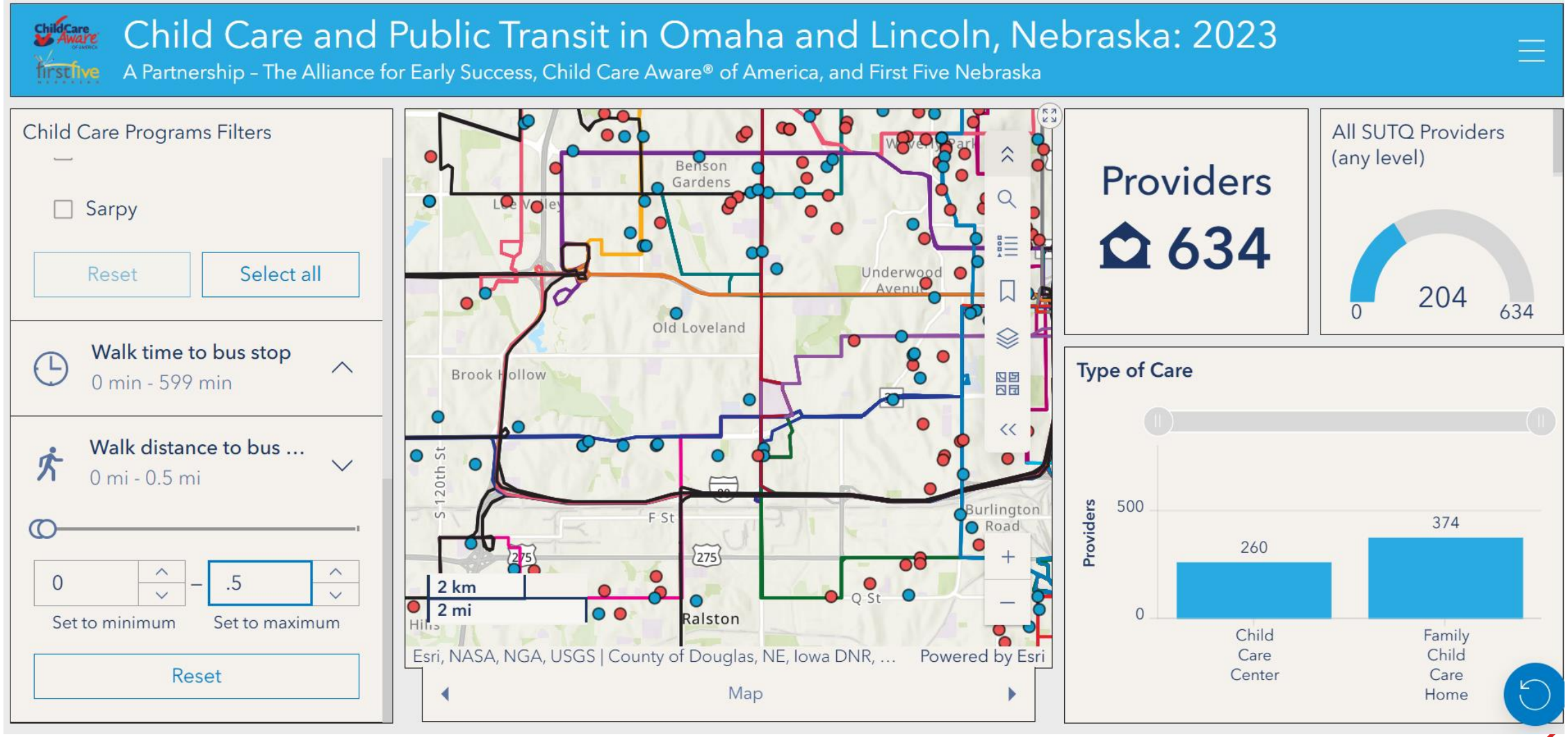
Fixing It Together

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Review local zoning regulations

- Some local regulations make it difficult for child care providers to operate a their businesses, but make no concessions on the health and safety of children and staff:
  - Restrictions on hours programs may operate or require programs to obtain costly permits or business licenses
  - HOAs may prohibit child care programs from opening
  - Parking restrictions
- Recommendations: modify zoning codes to treat home-based programs as residences for zoning, fire, safety, and building code purposes; prohibiting HOAs restrictions; reducing or waiving off-street parking requirements for child care facilities

Address transportation barriers



Key Takeaways

- Hold community dialogues and convene relevant early childhood stakeholders to understand what the challenges are, and what would be most helpful for providers, families, businesses, and community members
- Use available data to make the case and drive conversations around improving child care (mapping! surveys!)

We Are Here to Help!

Learn More

Contact your CCR&R

Contact Us!