

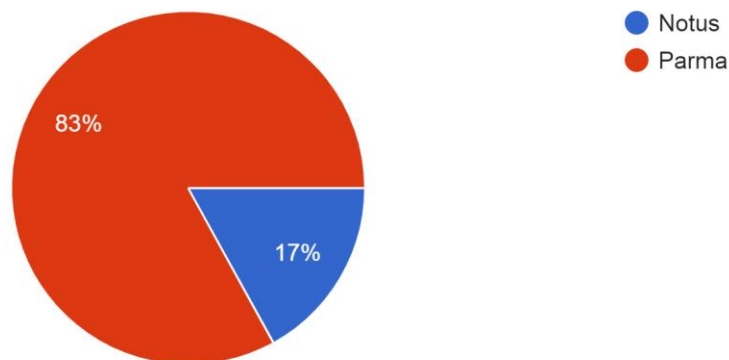
Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

Notus and Parma Community Preschool and Childcare Survey and Needs Assessment

The ELAC determined the questions that the committee would ask parents in an attempt to understand their perspectives, needs, and existing preschool options in the Parma-Notus region. We had 106 responses, with proportional representation between the two cities. See the figure below:

What community do you live in? ¿En qué comunidad vives?

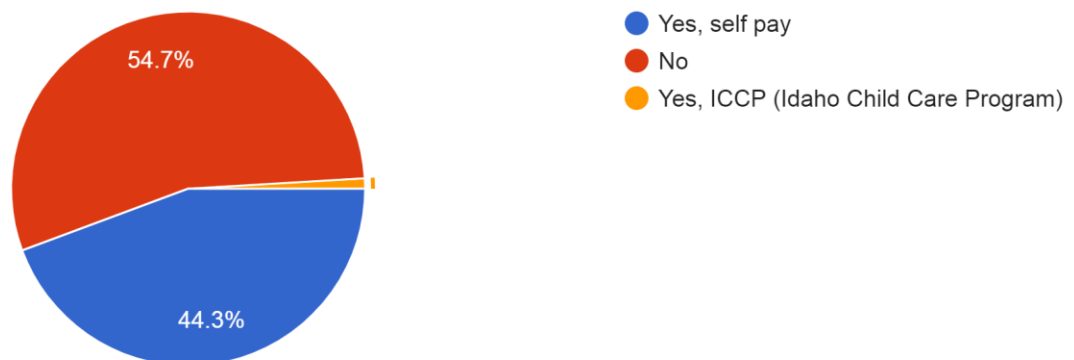
106 responses



Of those surveyed, nearly 55% did not pay for childcare, of which the majority cited that either a parent or family member was taking care of the child. The only other reason survey respondents reported not paying for child care was that it was not affordable (22% of the 55% that did not pay could not afford to). Only one respondent reported participating with the ICCP. See the figure below:

Does your family pay for childcare (birth to age 5)? ¿Su familia paga el cuidado de los niños (desde el nacimiento hasta los 5 años)?

106 responses

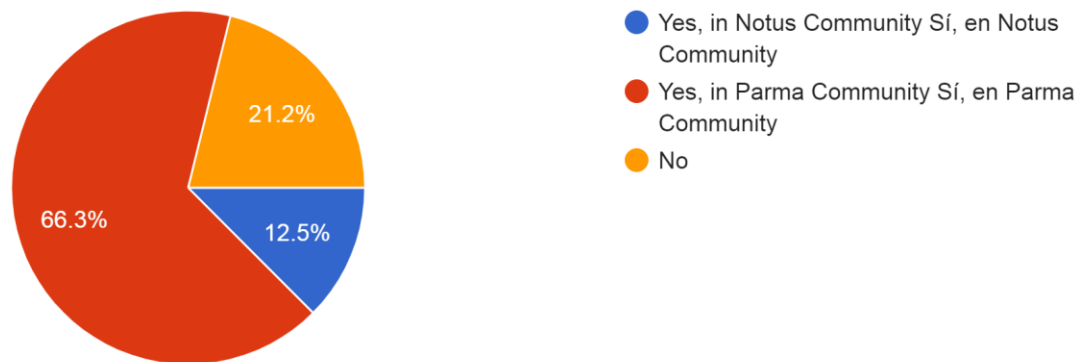


Of those that do pay for child care, it was most often reported they were paying local friends or family members to baby-sit or “nanny” for their children. The majority that reported using childcare centers were traveling to Caldwell or further for services. Roni’s House was the only formal child care center mentioned in the two cities.

The majority of respondents acknowledged a need for additional child care services in Parma in particular. There is currently not a single formal center in the city. See the figure below:

Do you see a need for additional childcare facilities in your area? ¿Ve la necesidad de instalaciones adicionales para el cuidado de niños en su área?

104 responses



Notus has only one center, Roni’s House, which consistently has a waiting list for at least a dozen students. Roni’s House has a capacity of 12, and there are barriers to the facility growing, according to the owner, because certification and licensing costs increase and make it cost prohibitive, especially when working with ICCP. It is not known how many families could potentially qualify for ICCP services, but as the only provider in the two towns, it is important for those that do to have a local option. The center offers a self-developed curriculum that includes assessment and parent engagement opportunities. The owner/provider has a BA in child development and frequently attends ECE on early childhood education. The center does not participate in Steps to Quality, USDA, or IEP programs.

“Desperately need a small child care facility in the Notus area. I have been on Rhonda's waiting list for years and the surrounding town options are either large, unsafe, unclean or require a very long commute. This has been our family's number one challenge since living in the Notus/Parma area.” - *referring to Roni’s House*

Head Start through WICAP technically includes Notus and PARma in their Wilder service area, and offers bussing to their center in Wilder. Priority is given to students in order of financial need, behavioral risk, and location to the center. There is consistently a waiting list of Wilder families for the Head Start, so Notus and Parma families have found it impossible to get in. If Head Start could expand into the Notus, Parma area, this would help address some need for quality preschool and child care options.

“Would actually like to see pre-k added to the Parma area. Wilder is not a great option for us for just a couple hours. And 4 seems a little young to send on a bus that far.” - *referring to Wilder Head Start Preschool*

Notus school district, through the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency (COSSA) provides developmental preschool services and has worked through an Idaho the Preschool Way Grant to open up a preschool to local families based at Notus Elementary for the first time this school year. Growing capacity with this preschool collaborative and/or duplicating it in Parma may also be helpful in addressing the need for preschool activities in the communities of Notus and Parma.

The lack of child care and preschool options in the Notus-Parma area have an impact on the economics of families in the area, and prevents many from participating in the workforce. We heard multiple people say they have sacrificed income and career opportunities due to the lack of services.

"I would love to be able to work if I had reliable childcare close by!"

Overall, there is a need for both new infrastructure, and expanded capacities of existing resources, in order to address the pervasive need for quality childcare and early education options in the Notus-Parma region. It is best voiced in some of the additional comments we received from this survey.

"Our family has to work opposite schedules in order for us to take care of our children because there is not adequate childcare available in our area."

"This area is growing, the need for another/more certified daycares is in demand. It's hard having to drive so far out of the way for child care, especially when it's already so expensive. I have 2 children in daycare. It costs me 1/3 of my paycheck weekly! My husband and I work hard for our money, we want the best care for our children, but it's definitely tough trying to feed, clothe, and provide a roof over everyone's head."

"There is a very high need in our area for child care that is affordable for families. This could and should include learning programs and bilingual if possible. This should be affordable for all families, even if you don't qualify for ICCP."