



## Arizona Home-Based Child Care Study Fact Sheet

**Project Description.** Home-based child care (HBCC) is the most common form of non-parental care for children 5 years or younger in Arizona<sup>1</sup>. To learn more about the current landscape of HBCC, Candelen has partnered with Harder+Company Community Research, a research and consulting firm, to conduct the Arizona Home-Based Child Care Study. This study aims to understand family engagement with HBCC across Arizona, its fundamental characteristics, and the full spectrum of home-based providers from the perspective of two populations through a self-administered electronic survey:

**Parents or guardians** who have children 5 years or younger either in Family Child Care homes, receiving regular child care from a family member, friend, or neighbor, or have hired child care help in their home.



**Home-based child care providers** including family child care home operators and workers, as well as family, friends, or neighbors (FFN) who provide regular care to children 5 years old or younger.

*Note: A secondary pathway was developed to capture information from 1) parents or guardians expecting a child and looking for child care and 2) parents and guardians with children 5 and younger not currently in home-based care but who are seeking new care options.*

In addition to surveying parents or guardians and home-based child care providers, the research team will also be conducting a small sample of brief interviews (n=20) with both populations to gather more detailed information about their experiences using or providing home-based care. This study will provide important information that will support decision-making about the best ways to support families and home-based child care providers across the state, toward improving outcomes for all children.

**Survey Topics.** The survey has two primary pathways that will collect data to answer the following questions.

### Parents or guardians:

- ▶ What are the characteristics of families and children who use home-based child care?
- ▶ What types of home-based care do families currently use and what does that look like (time in care, cost, type of provider)?
- ▶ What do parents or guardians report their “ideal” child care arrangement to be? How does that compare to the care they currently use?
- ▶ What are the most important factors parents/guardian consider when making child care decisions?
- ▶ How much do parent/guardians know about or have access to information and resources about child care?
- ▶ What is parent/guardian’s general experience with their current home-based provider?

### Home-based child care providers:

- ▶ What are the characteristics of home-based care among different types of providers? When and how is care provided?
- ▶ What are the characteristics of children in home-based child care settings (number of children, age, use of subsidies)?
- ▶ How do providers coordinate and engage with the parents/guardians of children in their care?
- ▶ What are the characteristics of home-based child care environments?
- ▶ What resources and supports are providers interested in for improving their knowledge and child care practices?
- ▶ What is the educational background and prior child care experience of current home-based child care providers?

### Project Timeline

Apr 2023 | Survey launched statewide  
Jul 2023 | Preliminary data analysis  
Aug 2023 | Survey closes  
Oct 2023 | Final results available



### Want to Learn More?

Lindsay Murphy, Candelen Public Policy Advisor  
[lmurphy@candelen.org](mailto:lmurphy@candelen.org)  
Sandra Hilliard, Harder+Company Project Director  
[shilliard@harderco.com](mailto:shilliard@harderco.com)



<sup>1</sup> Bishop, S. (2021) Home-Based Child Care: A Surprising Key to Keeping the Arizona Workforce Strong. <https://strongnation.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/1247/5c697f50-da58-4285-95bc-5d382b23f560.pdf>