

CHILD CARE AT A GLANCE*

3 LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
Total capacity of 36 children, ages 6 weeks to 13 years

At least **39** CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 ARE WITHOUT CARE OPTIONS
Demand for licensed child care still exceeds the supply

73% OF LOCAL EMPLOYERS EXPRESS THAT IN THE PAST YEAR, A LACK OF CHILD CARE HAS CAUSED EMPLOYEES TO...
miss work, be tardy, or cause distractions at work

90% OF BRAIN GROWN OCCURS FROM BIRTH-AGE 5.
Neural connections are formed through the interaction of genes and a baby's environment and experiences.



PARTICIPANTS IN HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION = LOWER RATES OF INCARCERATION.

(46% reduction) and are less likely to have received government assistance (26% reduction)

“

My daycare has a current wait list of 18 months for a newborn if I would like to have another child.”

—Burwell Resident

OUR HISTORY

In the fall of 2019, a group of individuals which would later become the initial board members of Sandhills First Steps began to notice the number of expectant working mothers in Burwell compared with the number of available child care spots. As the board brainstormed ways to serve the community's child care needs, the most natural place to start was with existing child care providers. While some providers were willing to consider expanding their current capacity, there are many challenges that come with expansion. Additionally, even with current providers increasing their capacity, there would likely still remain a gap of available child care spots. Thus, the idea of building a new child development center emerged.

In January of 2020, Sandhills First Steps applied and was accepted to be a Communities For Kids (C4K) community through the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. This partnership opened the door to network with child care experts across the state and provided startup funding to begin educational efforts and hire community coordinators to conduct further research and feasibility studies. The C4K partnership also allowed Sandhills First Steps to gather a broader scope of data and in July of 2020, a C4K survey of Burwell and the surrounding area was conducted, validating the original concerns of lack of child care in the community.

CONTACT US

Sandhills First Steps Board

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PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

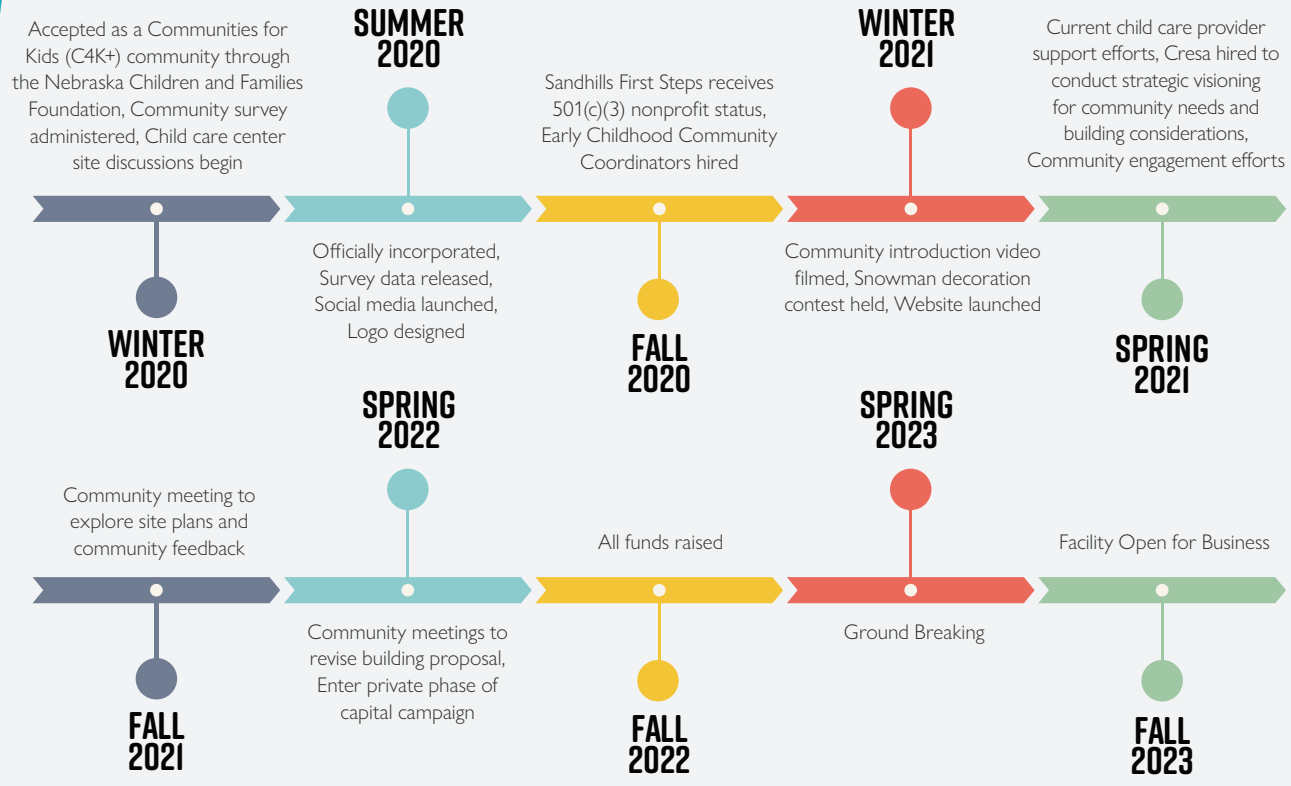


**SANDHILLS
1ST STEPS**

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SANDHILLS FIRST STEPS PROGRESS



OUR VISION

Sandhills First Steps will support the entire early childhood landscape of the greater Burwell area.

“Children’s experiences, interactions and environments in the first three years form the bedrock upon which all future development is built. It is simply the best time to steer children toward lifelong learning, health and success.”

—First Five Nebraska

OUR MISSION

Sandhills First Steps is a nonprofit organization that aims to support the healthy development of children and families by expanding child care options and connecting current child care professionals with community members, businesses, and early childhood development resources.

QUICK FACT*

75 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 WITH ALL AVAILABLE PARENTS WORKING

FUTURE OF BURWELL SPOTLIGHT

The Doyle Family

After welcoming two beautiful children, Joshua and Lilyanna, came the decision to come back to the Sandhills and relocate in a central location for extended family. Once housing was secured, the search for child care began which led to many challenges such as a closing daycare and an influx of children at existing daycares. After many phone calls and searches they were able to decide on their first choice but it was a challenge. They are happy to be in the Burwell community and look forward to many more years here.



*Data taken from a 2020 study of Garfield County Residents Conducted by Communities for Kids, an initiative of the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation and from First Five Nebraska.

“

With the opportunity of trying to realize a new facility in town, I think as a community we do need to rally around that and try and make that happen.”

—Dr. Tim Garner, Business Owner