House Early Childhood Education Committee Hearing

Ann McCully, Executive Director
April 16, 2020
COVID19 Response
Child Care Information for Families and Providers

Families
Information for Families

Providers
Information for Child Care Providers
Map of childcare providers for emergency workers

Available capacity: 35,037
Licensed capacity: 97,083
# of providers: 3,395
Percent available: 36%

Filter by County
(Use the dropdown to filter—uncheck "(All)" to clear the current ...)
(All)

Filter by City
(Use the dropdown to filter—uncheck "(All)" to clear the current ...)
(All)
Call Volume to Parent Aware 888- Number

CUMULATIVE TOTAL CALL VOLUME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.23.20</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.26.20</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.20</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>94.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.20</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>113.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14.20</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>120.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As part of their COVID-19 Response Supplemental Budget proposal, Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan proposed $30 million in funding for emergency grants for licensed child care providers serving essential workers during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Child care providers and educators themselves are expressly listed as essential.

There are approximately 420,000 children under the age of 12 who live in a household of an essential worker within a critical sector. Of these, the state estimates that, during this peacetime emergency, about 270,000 children will need care, and approximately 120,000 are likely to need and use licensed child care settings. Child care providers play a key role in enabling emergency and essential personnel to go to work.

The child care sector operates on small margins and has experienced financial strains prior to the emergence of COVID-19. These financial challenges are intensifying as revenue decreases with the governor's Stay at Home Executive Order. On March 26, 2020, the Minnesota Legislature passed the governor's proposal, and Gov. Walz signed it into law on March 28, 2020.

The Department of Human Services, Governor's Children's Cabinet, and Child Care Aware of Minnesota are working together to distribute these funds.
To receive a peacetime emergency child care grant, an eligible program must agree in writing to:

- Prioritize spaces in their program for children of essential workers, as identified in state guidance.
- Remain open and continue serving children for the period of the grant (one month with opportunity for monthly renewal) or until the peacetime public health emergency ends, whichever is first. There is an exception for service disruptions that are necessary due to public health guidance to protect the safety and health of children and child care providers requested by the Department of Human Services or Department of Health.
- Use health and safety practices that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a child care environment based on guidance created by the commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the commissioner of Health. This guidance is posted on [mn.gov/childcare/](http://mn.gov/childcare/), the Department of Human Services website, and accessible in other formats:
  - Summary of COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Settings
  - COVID-19 Screening Guidance for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Providers
- Not require fees from families whose children attended prior to the peacetime emergency but are no longer attending.
- Must re-enroll previously enrolled families who temporarily stopped attending their program during the peacetime emergency, provided there is sufficient capacity available and the families of the children have not violated the terms of the contract with the provider, other than terms related to the payment of fees and any required notification for disenrollment.
Applications by Geography

Child Care Emergency Grant Applications, by Geography

- 63% (3,285) - 7-County Metro
- 37% (1,913) - Greater MN

Legend: Red - 7-County Metro, Blue - Greater MN
Bringing Up What Matters Most

Ann McCully
annm@childcareawaremn.org