

Michigan Child Care Provider Virtual Town Hall

April 15, 2021

Comment, Open-ended Question

Opening

Good evening, I am in Isabella county and I have an in home daycare. (We are on quarantine right now as our assistant tested positive last Friday. I have had my 2nd shot last Wednesday, but... I am not fully vaccinated until 14 days after my second shot. Anyway, just making sure this webinar is for 'all' of us or is this region based? Thanks, Cay Marchiando

Asking for a provider in Kent County: "I am super interested in how the state plans to make it equitable for subsidized and private pay providers. When private pay have no one paying for "holding spaces" when vacant and we certainly can't raise tuition for families putting our businesses at a disadvantage.

How do they propose offering equal stabilization to the providers who are not protected by the extension to assure state pay subsidies regardless of attendance?"

Will new grant opportunities be 1099 this year as well? Or tax free?

Family child care provider, Kent county as well as advocate

I'm both a center and home provider

Especially helpful for businesses that are struggling financially — please can you share asap what grant funds are scheduled/dates/rules/amounts...it was so "heavy" for round 6 but more equally distributed through the year would have been more helpful and allow time to spend on program expenses and not be so heavily taxed.

We need more people like Kristen Sobolewski in Kent County to help walk providers through these funding opportunities . GSQ is in place Statewide and should have that in their scope - why are they not doing the job intended and federal dollars for the block grants require we have a quality support system for ALL providers on need of support?

Overview Federal Funding

Thank you for the opportunity to hear to this great information.

My comment: I feel the CDC subsidy program needs to have income levels like the CACFP program does. Right now I have 80 children attending and only 3 qualify for CDC subsidy. I feel the middle class families are not getting the help they so desperately need.

So it sounds like no money this year?

I think looking at what just passed in Portland Oregon could really be informative. It's important to support families, by things such as a sliding scale for families that goes up into the working and middle class, and a mechanism to support childcare workers to make a true living wage commensurate with K-12 teacher pay. In the short term COVID is affecting centers that must be partially enrolled and pay increased costs in PPE, HVAC, renovations, etc. Support should be provided for all types of programs, private, public, state sponsored, home based, etc. Finally, there should be a program to help programs that are thriving and high quality to expand, improve facilities, etc.

Can you please provide us a list of emails to send letters to?

Whatever is done needs to be sustainable into the future! It cannot be a one time expenditure!

How do we push for faster decision making?

How will the grant be allocated?

Is there anyone that can draft one email that we can forward on, similar to Change.org?

YES! Many programs are struggling and may not make it if this money is tied up for years. The grants that came in the fall kept us open and staff employed in spite of low enrollment/forced low class size.

If the funds aren't obligated/spent by the due dates must they be returned?

This is off topic, but will there ever be a program that will allow us home providers to buy into a group insurance?

Will this be stipends for parents or will it go to providers to help with costs

Is this funding guarantee'd or is this funding going back to the Federal Gov if it isn't spent?

Is there funding for those in homes that closed and want to reopen ?

Supplemental can't help until funds are disbursed. Spent by 2024...how many programs will close by or before September 2021?! #Frustrating

Will the FEDERAL funding this time go to ALL licensed providers or will star rated programs once again get more than their fair share.

IN home child care programs that want to get into a building ?

Can these funds be used to establish/ create childcare centers or expand services in areas that are lacking adiquit childcare?

I'm not sure if this will be addressed. We are in a great need of child care employees, are there any funds allocated towards salaries and benefits?

What other groups? Is there a way to combine forces and talk to the legislators?

I am concerned with rural regions not always having daycares in place let alone for third shift hospital workers

I have not been able to find any funding to start back up after covid forced me to close down.

How would it be calculated for different day care in home / centers?

Does the legislature and governor understand how much damage has been done to the industry and how it is affecting working families??

What is the disagreement in detail??

All providers should be able to receive grants not just providers that have State paid Children. If we are helping families with this money they should all be able to be helped, last year I had parents in tears when they found out they were receiving help with payments. I feel all Providers should get 2,00.00 per month for 1 year and Insurance. Was very grateful for the grants of last year but shocked at the amount of taxes that were due any way to less than that amount

This is exciting for families. Are these taxable dollars. From last year we all have worked so hard to help parents and now are being blown away by having to pay tax on these grants

What are your biggest challenges TODAY?

One of the critical components to serve vulnerable families is access to subsidies. This continues to be a barrier as many families struggle to navigate the rigors of DHHS. Providers do not want to accept subsidy-eligible families due to navigating these same processes. I am the program manager for a program in Kent County that supports licensed home-based childcare businesses operated by culturally/language-diverse adults. Ninety percent of the families they serve are subsidy-eligible. One of the biggest barriers continues to be navigating DHHS for these subsidies. Many providers lose thousands of dollars in income while serving families who are waiting for approval yet cannot afford to pay cash until subsidies are approved. It is a broken system that need to be prioritized. Additional staffing at DHHS that is dedicated specifically to subsidy approval would be a good start.

I am a group child care provider in the thumb and we are being hit hard with covid. 3 of my families are in quarantine and 1 left on an early maternity leave due to covid. This leaves me with 2 children in care right now. I cannot ask those parents to pay for their spots as they are not being paid from their employers while off work with their children. Are there going to be any rounds of grants for providers and parents to help us through this crises?

Paying an assistant and keeping that person takes \$\$\$.

Stabilizing us

Finding staff

Finding qualified staff

Staffing

funding due to low enrollment

enrollment

staffing

long term.... would be individual insurance

1. Finding staff

Employees, Covid-19 in the building, shutting down

Staffing: Finding qualified lead and assistant teachers.

Making sure I have enough money for payroll

Not being able to budget

Staffing and paying quality staff.

Low enrollment! Haven't fully recovered with full time families

enrollment

Lack of staff (so many quit because of COVID) and less enrollment.

Finding high quality staff. No one is applying, no one wants jobs!

My biggest challenge is staff retention. It is extremely hard to recruit candidates.

Reduced enrollment

trying to pay staff \$15/ hour

staffing

Having to work so hard and apply and distribute these grants. Now having to pay on these grants through our taxes

The ability to stay open due to positive covid tests! We cannot pay our bills if we cannot keep the doors open!

Thank You.

Staffing. Hiring has been very difficult and retention has felt so challenging

children not returning to care, income at 50% off

Low enrollment

Hiring staff at a competitive wage and/or benefits. Needing substitute help!@

PPE

Difficulty finding qualified staff

Hiring

staff do not want to work because they make more money on unemployment

As a Group daycare provider it is finding good help. paying a decent wage to attract help. Food costs

Cost and energy it take to make sure facility is safe and covid-free.

I am really trying to stay open, but it is difficult when I have children getting exposed to Covid and having to quarantine every other week.

having to charge our parents so much.

Finding great staff

TRying to start back up after I closed down due to COVID. I am trying to apply for funding to start back up in a small center.

staff

Understaffed and low numbers of children

In my area there is not enough daycares available

BIGGEST issue is no staff.

funding, staffing, low enrollment

Because of low reimbursement rates, parents aren't able to always afford child care.

Flexible hours, low enrollment

staffing

Finding great staff and being able to pay enough to retain them. Making budgets work when forced to have low enrollment

Trying to pay rent

built in support for when I am sick

staff training

Staff issues

star rating

Balancing subsidy parents exhausting their absence hours with all the seasonal sickness and unable to pay the difference

Substitute staff

Children with special needs

Quality staff

I would like to get more reimbursement for food cost. the food cost ate on the rise

Once challenge that center-based providers have is the difficulty of finding substitute caregivers. The licensing requirements, especially regarding licensing's rules about training hours.

Low attendance

Getting funding to bring my family only care up to home care status so that I can bring unrealed children into my care for the children that I'm losing

Enrollment, pricing, teachers, rent

Underpaid staff, teachers do not want to stay or get more education for early childhood

finding staff and low enrollment.

Low enrollment

Low enrollment

Daycare need funding to be able to weather the huge increases in the cost of running a business. food insurance health insurance. costs are crazy high right now

I have a long waiting list and can't take anymore children. The ratio per adult should be extended

1. Low income due to parents/families off in quarantine.

Finding qualified staff to meet the demand of families needing care

2. Charging enough to pay staff a livable wage

Sustaining employees, shutting down because of the virus, need to be paid enrollment not by attendance

Finding qualified staff who are willing to work.

The cost of providing services far outways the revenue received through tuition. Governmental support is critical to long term sustainability.

Qualified staff

help and money to pay them

Staffing

Keeping up with pay rate- staff can get better pay elsewhere

Staffing issues are huge and always have been - what we are able to pay staff is absurd

We are operating a stand alone preschool program that enrolled at 25% capacity this fall. I still have operating costs, which was supported for by the set of grant funds that were given in 2020.

low enrollment, low wages,

Parents are all private pay - and I can't in good conscience raise rates to help cover increased expenses. Why can't there be a program set up similar to the cacfp with daily reporting that kicks back a monthly check to help cover daily expenses all through the year?

I'm unable to enroll more children because the lack of staff.

Low enrollment, exposure to COVID. Closing, staff staying in compliance

Parents hesitant to enroll due to covid

Staffing, low enrollment, infrastructure

low enrollment and staffing

Overly stressed and overwhelmed staff due to worries about the pandemic.

Keeping staff due to the lack of being able to offer a package of benefits to employees. If we had the ability to offer competitive benefits, it would make the difference.

cpr training

Consistant enrollment and wages. More and more requirements required from us but no help in funding these.

staff would rather be on unemployment because they get more money.

Parents not bringing their children because they are scare-covid.

Staff issues

Finances not coming in

transportation preventing families to have good attendance and impacts enrollment

Pay for employees

Finding more money for daily operation during a time when we have unexpected closures due to Covid

If my childcare has to be closed, parents may or may not pay b/c of my closure during quarantine.

CPR training

Each community is unique in terms of their needs and demographics. The state needs to expand funding for innovative practices at the regional level and for specific populations. Don't address the crisis as a one-size-fits-all. Support innovation and programs at the local level that address the specific needs for their respective communities.

missing pay when a child is absent due to covid

high cost of PPE and additional cost of health and safety

no staff to work kids going out on quarantine

My biggest challenge was having to 'cut' some families because I have to have full time per cdc guidelines. I lost so many families who were part time

Low enrollment

There is a huge lack of substitutes

The increased expense of covid operations!

My biggest challenge last year was to be able to find staff. I had to offer higher pay to find someone so payroll was hurt

can we increase ratios/capacity?

pay for high quality staff

payments from dhs when children do not attend but take a fulltime slot

NO one wants to invest in the infrastructure of more space without staff

can't compete with unemployment funding

Many parents don't get subsidies so if eligibility could go up then more children would get subsidies and enrollment would go up

Not enough providers to start most are staying home, no transportation

fingerprinting background checks

Need to offer competitive wages

Costs of training staff, higher education for higher quality.

pay rent

Low enrollment. Closures due to COVID

I'm on this call at the request from a provider who could not make it here today these are their barriers: when I received covid monies I was shocked by the taxes associated with that grant; can these taxes be waived for home center? rents are so high to keep out center open how can this money be used for that?

First Thanks for listening to us. Our DHS needs to work with us. They need to process the clients within 10 days when they apply for childcare. They take 45 days or more to process,

losing staff due to too many restrictions with fingerprinting and childcare 16 training hours

As a home provider competing with preschools and having enough kids to fill the spots available because of the ages we are allowed

When schools close due to outbreaks, no room for those virtual learners.

Maintaining cleaning supplies on low income

It is difficult to find quality staff.

on the brink of closing

Offering free trainings to all providers not just Star Rated Providers

Keeping Enrollment

Low enrollment - families can't afford high cost of quality child care

pay for the children on DHS, adding more children to be able to care for

I want to offer my unique program to a diverse group of families but if I want to pay my staff a living wage, the cost of tuition is only possible for the wealthy.

The mask requirements for mixed age classrooms is difficult and does not make sense.

need help to pay the rent

longer working hours and lower enrollment.

More cooperation from CDC (DHS) with the ability to bill for absence hours during shut downs

Lack of time available to implement curriculum due to intense cleaning schedules.

in terms of improving the facilities to compete with suburban and chain centers

mi registry pay for the training

paying staff good pay and not having the families cover the cost of workers

we are one of the only States that are only allowed 6 children for family, and 12 for group. I hope they will up our limit some especially with the shortage of childcare providers.

Staff is hard to keep. Daycare is the one most important job I believe in keeping our children safe. Yet it is one of the most difficult jobs to do with all rules and regulation. We have to charge so much for care just to get employees.

childcare staff are paid the lowest but expected to do the most

Paying staff a livable wages our wages are low

qualified staff to keep quality programs

Continually turning parents away due to no open slots.

The cost of unqualified staff has increased as well

Our enrollment is very low for this year but looks like it is picking up for next year

Getting the children to wear masks all day!

I have been closed for 12 now needing to be closed for an additional week due to covid. I can continue to pay my staff per DHS they can't keep

I can find staff.

What ideas do you have about how these funds could most effectively support child care providers and business owners right now?

Please go back to the Grant Structure!

pay rent

Having parents steal the check after I have watched their children in no one can do anything can we get the check in our own name?

Outdoor classroom setups

Increase subsidy amounts

It's difficult to find staff that is willing to work and stay on during this time.

A staffing pool would be helpful.

Need money to pay the rent

Hazard pay for staff working through the pandemic.
Increase subsidy reimbursement rates
childcare staff are the backbone of the country
Some families would love their child to attend full time but cannot afford to do so - they don't qualify for subsidy
Offering higher wages and incentives
Pay us by enrollment not attendance
sorry can't continue
health insurance and business insurance and food jumped up this year. business costs jumped up. need help to stabilize business.
Supplies such as gloves and a mask cleaning products it's very expensive
but not respected via pay
We need the funds now!!!
money to go for staff pay
help with paying for qualified staffing
Increase the hourly rates from DHS for children that we are billing for
Better ventilation
making subsidy easier to qualify for
a worthy dollar amount per enrolled child
Universal childcare stipend for families
Being able to give a % to parents to help cover the cost of child care would be very helpful
bonuses for all staff who are working, subsidies to help us pay staff more
possibly have a list of qualified substitutes similar to what the school uses .
Use funds to increase wages and pay for the required training or certification for people to work and stay in the field
They would help us provide more learning supplies
Offer funding directly to care providers to help with other needed issues
Be able to hire qualified staff
funding for staff and training
training can be expensive
Provide support to child care centers for lost revenue
please pay for the background checks and fingerprinting
The fall grants were pretty effective, but very stressful not knowing if we would receive them, when they would stop, and how long it actually took to receive the funds
The grants that we received to help us to pay rent and utilities helped the most.
Increase subsidy amount for daycare
continued subsidy for the children that were enrolled.
Increased funding would provide opportunities to have more equitable pay for staff.
offer paid CPR trainings
funds could be used to encourage staff to go to school, and once their CDA or degree is complete, they get a raise
grants that easily understood. the last grants ended up very stressful for us all. all
and one of the providers let me know she needed capital improvement monies so she can open more slots. She needs money to keep her center open
and expand to 24 slots from 12
hazard pay
Hazard pay
I think being able to have funding to support payroll and business expenses
Continuation of the Childcare Relief Grant to cover operational expenses like payable.
If a staff member has more than 10 years experience in childcare, lessening the training hours to 10 hours
a stable amount monthly for at least one year
providing our own ppp is very costly
exposure to COVID, no hazard pay
Hazard pay! More grants for both us and the families. That was so helpful last year. We may not make it financially without it.
more grants
without child care centers, we can't get parents back to work either.
Funds dedicated for hazard pay. K - 12 teachers were provided this but not early childhood professionals.
Please, hazard pay for staff
hazard pay
2. Grants for providers and parents would be a huge relief
Paid by seat
help with income when our enrollments are low, also supplies to run a quality program
How can we align the mandates for early childhood with credentials and compensation.
Help us cover Mortgage & utilities, or flat payroll to cover for covid exposure closures
Childcare has not been open here in schools
Giving funding SSto help us pay for
Health insurance hazard pay
funding for families who need childcare
Would help with qualified staff
Good quality program for children

We've remained open the entire time without closure, it is extremely hard to keep the momentum up.

We need grants that are TAX FREE! Taxes killed us.

hazzard pay, grants, money to help with closures when quarantined.

Hazard pay for staff or grants specifically for bonuses and funds for staff

Pay coverage for loss of work due to temporary closures due to covid exposure staff

Help those get back on their feet to hire quality staff and rent.

Funding to support new programs - operational costs to start up new programs

Help me to expand my business! Stop the 6-month provisional license if you have been a high quality provider simply because you change addresses.

The loss of subsidy funds for six months could be brutal.

Increase eligibility for cdc subsidies. Grants for providers. Extra pay for staff

Grants to implement safety precautions or redesign spaces for COVID safety measures

Q2: provide a means to pay qualified personnel and give subsidies to parents when we have to close.

K-12, GSRP, and Head Start were able to get the Mi Heroes grant, child care workers were not

are we suppose to get hazzard pay right now? This would be great.

need funds for emergency funding for closures

Being able to bill for all children enrolled for care regardless of attendance because in addition to low enrollment some children may miss 10 consecutive days and then we're no longer able to bill

Including relative care in some of the funding

a path to help providers stay in business in the long run

The biggest challenges I am facing today are low enrollment, finding and retaining staff, closure for Covid-19, paying qualified staff, and access to

We are having more closures now than ever.

Right now--revamp the CDC subsidy system. It is not working and families are falling through the cracks. It is arcaic in terms of how it operates.

Continue to look at the benefits of paying providers on enrollment vs. attendance long-term.

Emergency funds to cover losses and funds to pay bills.

create very high quality training and fund it so it's no cost to providers.

Help with trying to keep business open.

The grants that we received last year were very helpful! We need to be able to pay more to our staff with less enrollment.

What about something about a positive message going out about childcare

low enrollment due to social distancing smaller group sizes so revenue coming in is less than expenditures going out

As a Non exempt provider

Previous grants have been used to keep our business open. Teachers and preschool staff have received hazard pay but nothing for daycare staff who have worked thru all of this.

Leniency with licensing rules given the circumstances with Covid exposure

I have had 4/5 star program. I've had staff attend college with TEACH, complete a degree with a BA in early childhood education, however our budget cannot pay them what they deserve. Other states have implemented the W.A.G.E.S. Program. Michigan doesn't offer this. How can we implement a way to offer benefits and decent wages/hazard pay to continue to provide us with what we need? We desperately need this in order to prevent a large increase in tuition.

Public service announcements

DHS is a major issue with the process,

if I knew funds were coming I could raise wages and offer new staff member more at hire. Hazard pay would help. Child care workers can make more at fast food.

Need more than hazard pay. There are far less people entering the field to work, and certainly even more who do not stay in the field.

Money to help parents with Co-Pays to our centers that they can't otherwise afford

funds to increase the minimum wage of childcare providers

Will there be a question at all regarding precovid challenges that may have been exacerbated by covid and will exist long after covid? Or is the federal funding earmarked for covid relief only?

Consistent approvals for DHHS subsidy like one year approval during COVID. Rather than families being kicked off and waiting 45 days to get back on.

A better subsidy system in general less difficult to bill and quicker ways to know if families qualify

Information is also needed on how to report. Are these funds taxed?

low enrollment has equaled low income for the center, which means cutting hours and also having difficulty purchasing materials for the classrooms, providing quality training for staff, etc

Maybe a group health retirement plan - something like a union benefit.

Paying my staff 11.00/ hr. I would like to pay them more but I only make 4.00/ hr I do not know how to make it work

Will licensed faith based programs be allowed to access funding?

Please have all PD on Miregistry free, the staff cannot afford to pay

Fix the subsidy system. Continually doing the DHHS worker's systems job, because I have to fight for the parent's right for funds, is hours away from the children.

Grants for teacher training including Montessori teachers to help with recruitment of highly trained teachers.

Will you provide the link to apply for funding?

last year's distribution was fairly done. It kept us afloat.

Funds should be used to help hire staff and pay for the background checks, CPR /first aid and training.

help the earlychildhood professionals acquire free trainings

schools are funded by tax payer dollars....Would it be completely wrong if we ever made licensed daycare homes, centers, etc..partially funded by that? I know we have subsidy available to income based families but I am talking as a whole.

The expectations for EC professionals have increased over the past 10 years, yet the credentials were lowered and the compensation has not increased to keep up with the demands. This is only perpetuating the problem of high demand and low compensation.

help pay to keep quality staff

Sharing for a provider in Kent County: unstable income due to attendance, we need per spot funding for all spots in all programs.

more pay per hour for child care subsidy (we are one of the lowest paid states) being able to offer a livable wage for staff

the childcare grants were very helpful.

Subsidy pay on a bridge card?

CHild Care staffing wa an issue prior to COVID, we cannot look at the funds to only offset due to COVID, but for long term sustainability.

please provide tax free funding to support my business

Staff not wanting to work more hours as enrollment increases due to under employment and extra weekly COVID money.

I have been seeing a lot of information going out about finding nursing home staff and having a public campaign. We are in the same boat as they are,

can we get a state wide talent pool going that isn't just for NAEYC programs

funds tp improve thecquality of the program and building amenities

Is there funds available to help pay the rent?

childcare grant round 6 was helpful because it didn't have many restrictions.

Question 2 pay to train staff. At another meeting we had discussed having classes at the local highschool or college for people who might be interested in part time aid positions. There is so much with fingerprinting, background checks hours of training etc that people aren't willing to go through so much for a part time,low income job

Is any of this Money allocated to Montessori Schools?

Head start and GSRP received a 500.00 hazard pay

2 times, in the fall and in December

can I use money left from last year's distribution for hazard pay now?

support staff were not included like bus staff or kitchen staff

Neither have Early On or Early Childhood Special Education personnel

The grant \$ we rec'd last year was SO helpful in keeping my daycare open and available. With the Covid virus not going anywhere soon in Michigan....I have big concerns on how this summer will go. There is a constant need for supplies and equipment in daycares. Things do wear out. Additional \$ is always so beneficial for our daycares to buy equipment. Especially at this time when there is not extra \$ in our budget to buy these things.

we need to get rid of the false dichotomy between K-12 and early childhood in terms of pay and benefits!

I think Angela is referring to the HEROES GRant not Hazard Pay.

Isn't the hazard pay only available for non-profits?

why is K-12 provided hazared pay and earlychildhood has been working the whole time to provide love and education to the young children???

is there a reason why child providers have not been included in harzard pay

also, I remember seeing after school grants available. I am an in home daycare group and I have, obviously, after school peeps and summer children.

Do I have to be licensed as an after school group?

So that the communication can be consistent can a dear colleague letter be composed and provided so that it can be sent to our legislatures.

Why has childcare workers been considered essential workers but have not had the opportunity for hazard pay?

YES! To once they get their bachelor's they leave for better paid jobs.

YES! STaff that get degrees and certification leave to schools. There is NO WAY to compete with this.

YES YES YES

Yes! I agree with the current speaker.

We need officials to help with SBA loans. A lot of Home daycares didn't qualify for PPP loans and business don't have to pay those back. But daycares are struggling severely and we have to pay back the money we needed to survive.

We need grants to help us pay for bills. Childcare needs to be stable. So many workers rely on us. Tax Free

AWESOME SUGGESTIONS

I agree with childcare healthcare program. Our healthcare is extremely high.

YES! This person from Creative Child I second a thousand percent. Everything she is saying is true. How about funds for housing in addition to group health and other benefits!!!

We help get the teachers through the Teach program, they get their Bachelors then they are taken by MDE

ok, thanks....and I love who is talking right now...very valid points....

Yes, a thousand times yes!

I also have staff that would like to use the TEACH program to take ECE classes. I have sponsoresd a staff member in the past but that means I would have to raise thier pay by 3% at the completion. Could we have that reimbursement come from somewhere else? Just as the current gal is speaking is statingwe cannot afford to pay to improve our professionals.

ECE educators subsidize the cost of child care. This has to stop. Subsidize 0 to 3 care like K12 programming.

As an authentic Montessori school, we can't reconcile the Montessori educational philosophy with a High Scoppr based PQA. This keeps us from participating in the star rating system.

We need help to pay rent

hiring and retaining staff due to fear of COVID

Can someone respond to the last question?

Dhs is so hard for parents to get. The criteria for people to be approved is so difficult. Already parents have issues paying for quality care. It should not be so hard to get approved. We should be helping more families. You help families with care that is one less stress they will have to handle as a family.

If you give money to programs based on stars system please consider those of us who do not have stars but have bachelor's degrees in child areas. I have a bachelor's degree in education. If you depend funding on stars then consider bachelor's degrees and a teaching certificate.

Yes! \$15 min wage would end my program. We'd have to raise our rates and we're barely breaking even as it is.

We need to think about ways to increase capacity, especially since so many centers have closed or are facing closure mandate all care is licensed. Children are worth it!!!

True when the autism program came out bachelor employees launched to start this and before and after school programs could no longer offer full time benefits to their employees.

Our local hospital is accessing the extra \$2 for direct care workers in home health care and nursing homes for their child care workers. I cannot compete as a stand alone with respect to wages and benefits normally. They pay 17 and I pay 15. Then with the additional 2 per hour they are paying 19. I will have no workers.

Agreed! In order to work in Early Childhood, you have to be married and have your partner work and carry the insurance to cover your family. I just lost a staff member of 14 years because of her divorce. She had to go work in a factory for the health and retirement benefits for her and her 7 year old son.

Wonderful ideas. Creating pathways and grants to support unlicensed providers to secure home-based licensing and support to improve quality with the ability to serve more children in light of the many closures.

There needs to be funding for non stars too. We all are struggling.

The Grant program worked perfectly, in respect to helping the provider and helping the parents during this difficult time.

I agree with the caller who asked about health insurance possibilities. Can health insurance plans be funded for early childhood workers? My staff members who get their degrees while working for me leave me to take jobs with benefits.

Not only benefits but education training for children with special needs or with behaviors.

I would like to know why is it that some states have a cap of 8 or 12 children per one adult and Michigan has a low number of six?

Yes, us too.. we cannot maintain full time enrollment because we don't have enough staffing.

I agree, attracting qualified staff and retaining them is not feasible, regardless if you have a star-rating or not.

Yep. Executive Director here in the classroom, covering breaks and keeping things going when people are out sick, quit bc they are stressed out, etc.

Being in day care business for 35 years, taking care of children....

staying opening during the covid, and still continuing to be

should receive a bonus, and covid pay...

Day care is here to stay and help would be appreciated !!

As being a day care provider for over 35 years...and hopefully can continue with the business....

Just a few comments I would like to share.....

The grants have been helpful to the parents, but now the providers

have to pay taxes on them, which really didn't help

us in the long run....

I would like to use the additional money if granted to us to do improvements ...that have been

on hold like new siding on the house (day care home).

Extra supplies, outside equipment are also on the list, but because of the covid these type of

things have been put on hold, hopefully the day care business can and will continue....

Thank you for taking the time to listen....and any type of funding would be appreciated.

I am finishing up my degree and would like to open up a small center later this year or early next early Spring 2022.. Will there be any funding to help with reopening as a center from an in home? With all of my kids home from the pandemic pauses, my husband and I feel starting back up outside of the home would be the best way to reopen. I am also holding off a bit due to the pandemic surge. It sounds like most providers are still struggling to stay open.

I had some time to really think about the needs of our programs. With the shortage of staff, we went through the stars evaluation and are awaiting our PQA observation. We were a 4 star prior to COVID and now sit at a 3 star. The reimbursement rate has affected our program and think we shouldn't be penalized for the circumstance of losing a couple of degree'd staff due to the pandemic.

With this new mask mandate for 2-4 year olds, we have already had parents resign their child from our program. Parents simply do not want their child to be forced into wearing a mask. Now we have 3 openings that we did not have yesterday. We have to be full in our toddler and infant classrooms to break even.

I mentioned last night that our preschool, stand alone program, located in the Montague area early childhood building is currently operating at 25% capacity. With the previous grants, we had decided to continue to stay open this school year. The funds for safety and overhead/teacher costs have been exhausted, as of February 1st. We are currently operating that location in the red. Some states are paying for slots that the programs are licensed for- we are at 54 children per day, while we are licensed for 67. This isn't a great time to be discussing long term, while we are dealing with these short term problems. I pray everyday that there is a light at the end of this.

I had also mentioned that if we hadn't gotten our PPP loan forgiven, February 1 would've been the date that we would've had to close our doors for good. Although we are seeing some enrollment, our costs have increased. Our program teeters between being eligible for the CACFP (must have 25% of enrollment DHHS subsidy paid), which has fluctuated. We open our doors to everyone, it just happens to be the area where we are located that prevents us to grow that number. Since the pandemic began we were either limited to bulk food purchases or saw the costs for food increase. I'm just wondering if there's anything that can be done with the CACFP to allow more flexibility at this time. We are in need of operating cost support, like in several other states it has been labeled JUST that.

Lastly, the wages in this field are an embarrassment. We cannot afford to pay more and price families out of programming. There has to be something in the future that aligns education with wages and program support and grants to the star rating. There's simply has to be a better way to support the efforts of these very special teachers, that continuously come to work with the next world leaders.

Thanks again for hearing me. We are going on a long week of additional closures and staff out with contacts. It's so hard to work 40+ hours a week and advocate on top of that. We are all tired and frustrated.

A major concern in our opinion was never brought up. We need for the DHS to be our partners when it comes to applying and processing our childcare. They are authorized 45 days to process a case to see if the parents qualify for the services. We have process cases and it has taken over 3-6 months or even longer before we know anything. We were also informed that once a family was considered eligible for the services, we will have them for at least one year. This did not occur to many of our families.

However, when a parent is seeking childcare they need the services immediately or at least within a week or two. Why cant this process be shorten? We loss out on more children waiting for them to be added on or even to know if they are qualified. This is another reason why our enrollment is low. Can you please address this matter moving forward. This is a real issue in the Detroit Area. Thanks for helping us feel like we matter.

What are your biggest challenges LONG TERM?

We need the ability to set up our staff up with a career, opposed to a stepping stone for staff

Facility improvements. We spend a ton of money on maintaining our facility that could be used to pay our staff better. Could we see grants to help with the day to day cost of maintaining a center(toys and supplies) and/or the building itself?

Wisconsin is a great state to look at as far as what they are doing for their providers.

Start-up funds to support the start-up of new home-based businesses would be a game-changer in terms of expanding capacity. Our program has done this with foundation funds and I have shared this information and related start-up costs with one of the legislators on this call. This not only allows the provider to meet licensing requirements in terms of what is needed, but also puts them in a good position to quickly obtain a high quality rating. Home-based businesses are more economical and better able to meet the needs of infants and toddlers where we are seeing the most critical care needs in our state. They are also the ones serving vulnerable families who often work non-traditional shifts.

If we group together as a state with all childcare facilities to have group healthcare insurance and business insurance then we wont have to pay the individual rates that are tremendously high. If we group then our business costs could come down.

Us providers need hazard pay ourselves!

We need Tax free grants a lot of home daycares had to pay back so much of the money we received. And we need these funds to help us to stay open. Especially with enrollment being down.

Give us one or two additional spots so we can increase our own income.

what about changing our ratios? other states allow higher ratios.

As a home provider I currently am closed another week, this is the second week due to me testing positive for COVID. Finding quality substitute care is a need. Also, I would like other resources to update toys and playground equipment. I currently purchase toys to try and stay current for all ages. A financial burden at times.

Are there funds to help pay for Background checks and CPR/first Aid training.

We need grants to cover business expenses. Tax Free

I have an empty building that was previously a child care center prior to COVID, but cannot open it due to lack of staff in our area and staff who stay in the field for all the reasons the ladies have been suggesting to this point in the calls. In our area, there is a long wait list for children in need of care. It would be great to see the staffing shortage be addressed, not just during COVID but long term for this field as child care was a crises prior to COVID. Thank you.

Its hard to get employees when Unemployment exceeds their wages.

I have had employees pass out. They cannot keep their mask on and do the work that entails to keep our children safe with Health issues. We are being told by the state we are not able to wear a face shield without a doc note. No doc will write a note for asthma. I lost an employee because they could not wear a mask without their face burning and blistering. No letter would be written by a professional for a face shield. I have lost this employee. I understand that masks are important, but how can we do our jobs if we have people with health issues unable to breathe correctly through full face mask.

We need a stable cash flow per student allocation would stabilize the funding each month.

We need more grant dollars to pay our staff hazard pay

I don't know how these funds that came from COVID could help create lasting change. Perhaps use it to fund changes with the hope that they would be so successful they would be voted in permanently. Or maybe there's a way to invest some of these funds to generate a longer lasting funding stream...

The number of licensed, home-based child care providers has dropped dramatically in the past decade+, and we need them!!! so many families need non-traditional hours/days, and there are so many benefits to these AMAZING settings (small groups, mixed ages, neighborhood access, continuity of caregivers, I could go on and on!). What can we do to recruit AND support licensed, home-based providers in Michigan?

LARA needs to change the rules for overnight or late night care! We could utilize our buildings fully in the evening but we cannot put beds in them! funding

I'm so sorry to hear Kimberly's story.

End the extra unemployment benefit

Make grants untaxable so they are worth the work of our providers

I can't find staff.

Also I just want to point out that in order to pay assistants extra I had to take a pay cut myself for a while and then was forced to raise my daycare cost in order to survive. So with the minimum wage being raised it has been difficult to compete. I also feel nervous about my future as well. Survival has become the game unfortunately

Since I can only have 10 children in my preschool classroom, it would be helpful to have funds for capital improvements to create a new classroom or expand.

If we had even right now another large release would be great right now

Funding for PPE supplies and again finances to keep our program going

We need compensation now not later!

What is the State doing about illegal providers in the community?

My waiting list is HUGE! And I have nowhere to put them, and need staff to teach them

LARA could reduce the number of staff provided!

The short term issue is we can't hire until we have funds to raise wages. We can't increase enrollment if we can't hire. I am turning away families for lack of staff.

We need qualified substitute staff that do not need to have the same training hours as regular staff.

Yes it's very hard to buy in bulk

****will funds be available to help licensed child care facilities continue to offer quality child care*****

I would have had a very difficult time surviving last year without the grants. I'm very grateful

I think it needs to be easier to provide my former daycare families whose children are now schoolage a school pod

How about giving incentive for people who send their children and incentive for teachers who stay at the same center for the entire school year

YES. DHS is too hard to qualify for.

HELLO, THIS IS A LONG TERM ISSUE. WE NEED DHS TO PROCESS OUR CHILDREN WITHIN A TIME SHORTER TIME FRAME. THEY TAKE 45 DAYS AND MORE AND EVEN SOMETIMES NEVER PROCESS A FAMILY FOR OUR SERVICE. WHY CAN'T THIS PROCESS TAKE 10 DAYS OR LESS.

The naptime ratio rule change by LARA caused an increased need for staff at a time when it's nearly impossible to get staff.

I have no problem with inspections and with needing to meet all the qualifications, but going through the process takes too much time to serve the families' needs'

++++Can we have a campaign to rid our profession of the word "day care" we actually care for children in a professional manner+++++

I agree, I have had so many families cut off from DHS funding if they worked overtime. Don't we want people to work hard?

We are getting killed at tax time!!!!

Five year olds in childcare should not be wearing masks.

We shouldn't have teachers running ragged for when we could have full time teachers and full before and after schools running. The daycare rating reimbursement rate is less than half of what schools are charging

We need TAX FREE Grants!!!!!!

Can we have it regulated where child care is the same across the board? Hence, back to the question to ratio.

I agree with the speaker...having to pay taxes on grants

Grants for outdoor classroom improvements, not just limited to mortgage and utilities... covid and fresh air... is the recommendation

yes we are taxed on the grants so heavily that many of us owed thousands in taxes.

I agree 100% with what many are saying. I have the same issues. The funding is GREAT, but is needed sooner than later to help before it's too late for many providers.

Yes look out for the providers and not just the parents..

I would have lost several families from my program if all children ages 3-5 years had to wear masks this school year.

Our profits are dwindling because of taxes!

Send families money directly rather than making providers manage reimbursing them

I would love to see some tax 'credits' for daycares who accept subsidy payments. Or if they could even 'take taxes out' for us?

Paying taxes will put me out of business

I live in a very rural area and therefore cannot charge my families what daycares in more populated areas do. I have the same amount of expenses as other daycares do. I have had a home group daycare for over 30+ years. As I have always tried to keep my tuition lower so that daycare is affordable to families in my area. It seems like there are more and more requirements for licensed daycares and the desire for us to strive for more professional environments. This all takes extra money. I don't know how to address the difference in wages across the state. I do know how much the \$ we received last year in grants was so helpful in many areas of my daycare. I'm sure the needs are different in all daycares....it was so helpful to be able to use the \$ for my daycare in the areas needed.

Increase the wage reimbursement for Dhs and providers....an average day care charges 4-5 per hour the reimbursement rate is less than that and parents are forced to choose between daycare and not daycare especially healthcare workers making 11.00 an hour

A Market rate needs to be established and then the enrie slot funded at the market rate.

I agree that subsidy payment rates need to increase

I agree, more absense hours are needed for families receiving subsidy.

The subsidy funding should be based on enrollment and normal tuition cycles (weekly or monthly), not hourly. Parents aren't billed hourly.

is there any funds available to help childcare centers pay for rent?

since this virus seems to be long term maybe having a long term program that will cover absent hours due to civid related absents should be looked at. This (taxes) brings up a good point. Providers need to be connected to business resources (tax experts, CPA, financial planners) that have information specific to the unique financial implications of operating a home-based childcare business. Many of the tax issues could be avoided with knowledgeable professionals to provide assistance. The business side of child care has been largely ignored. There has been recent efforts to improve on this area, but much of the assistance coming from the state level has been geared towards centers vs. home-based businesses. This is another reason to give local communities flexible funding that can support local initiatives. We operate as a shared services model to support providers holistically, including with business concerns.

It would be amazing if part of the grants can be used for a retirement account such as 401K. We providers just do not have any type of benefits unless we do it ourselves which is difficult especially we need to buy our own health insurance etc

I see that expansion grants are available for businesses, are business expansion grants going to be available to centers as well?

Finding and being able to retain staff

Finding facilities has been an issue for us.

people that still are not back to work full time

you all could help by seeing what the revenue was at this time before the pandemic so that you can help see how far off we are overall.

In the next six months.....I think enrollment may still be an issue.

BABY BOOM

to have the financial support to keep qualified employees

recovering after a financially challenging year. how to rebound from the budget problem

Parents being able to afford the increased cost of care that providers have to implement because of covid.

costs of food and cleaning supplies

continuing to have to close and/or have children out long term because of testing positive

Staff turnover is always an issue. As we are not looked as a career.

Losing more children due to parents staying home and working the split shift

Not having enough childcare places left for parents to attend as schools may have to close now as they can't afford to remain open

We are afraid we will not be able to pay the rent

enrollment, cost of doing business such as taxes and insurance

HELP WITH RENT PLEASE! IF WE DO NOT HAVE A BUILDING WE CANNOT OFFER QUALITY CHILD CARE

I think more families want part time care now. The parents don't actually drive to work. I don't know how to keep my ratios with the demand for part time care

Being able to make updates to our buildings, materials in classrooms, keeping up on new practice through training

we are losing money because of kids staying home just because of symptoms

Businesses not surviving the pandemic

More continuing education

If we have to have lower enrollment in Sept 2021 bc of COVID guideilnes, that will hurt enrollment and the bottom line through summer 2022, regardless of if those guideilnes are lifted, so support needs to be continued for the duration of the 2021-22 school year

1)Revamp the CDC subsidy system--including better staffing at DHHS that is dedicated to childcare subsidy

i anticipate that my staff will leave and we will have to close

Maintaing staff

Healthcare as a group

Keeping busy going....

Paying for health insurance for myself a group plan would be great

how to pay bills and utilities

I am very worried about increase in minimum wage. Could there be a hourly subsidy for staff hours

Paying taxes on the funds received from grants.

How to cover lost revenue due to low enrollment and/or children out/program closed due to illness

no being able to keep my server parents due to thier shifts

inability to find child care assistants is a real concern; I know of three programs who cannot find help -- one has decided to close/retire (just this week -- a beautiful home-based child care with a perfect licensing record), one has been closed for most of the past year and is unsure if she'll re-open, and one might have to drop from 12 to 6 children (and she's fully enrolled at 12). wages are low, of course (even for providers/owners), and applicants tell providers that they can earn more on unemployment, so no-thanks for the job offer.

Very concerned about taxes shutting me down! Unaffordable!

Cost of supplies

Healthcare

Cost of PPE - gloves alone are 6x what they used to cost.

we work hard and so unappreciated and under paid

Maintaining families

many of the issues discussed were present before COVID. staffing is huge.

need free highscope training please

we are short staffed and if anyone leaves we will have to close our doors

supplies

with a bunch of daycares closing there could be an issue with enough places to help every family with the current ratio

Continued rising cost of child care creating a bigger issue of affordability for MI families

Non vaccinated children and parents putting my staff at risk

Not cost effective to stay open.

Facility management

Increased demand for care as parents return to work and finding staff and space to meet the needs

Spending directed to the center's directly to help improve the quality of care for the long term.

Ongoing grants for all families distributed directly to the child care based on enrollment size.

Permanent subsidy payment increases that align with current expectations of the SOM for staff qualifications and center requirements

Expansion of the qualified pool for state subsidies with higher income levels qualifying for these subsidies.

Pay us for seats

Healthcare

Healthcare for staff.

Raise the ratio of children/caregiver by 1 or 2 children to help us get more money to keep prices down

i agree with the vast difference in the subsidy pay from infant/toddler to preschool age

If you have a job daycare should be included especially for single moms this will keep them out of the domestic shelters

no hourly rate for child care reimbursement. Try to do a full time/part time reimbursement. similar to Ohio

Maintaining good help that meet guidelines from state level while dealing with fears of getting COVID from staff. Closing at last minute once COVID has been detected, waiting on approval from parents with limited DHHS staff on COVID hours have been such a chore. Parents pull back that are getting UIA benefits that use this as a resource for income.

universal preschool which I support will take away the most profitable population from our child Care centers. our infant and toddler care will become more expensive

I am still waiting for a family to return from taking the last 6 months off because of Covid.

being overwhelmed in my waitlist

Not enough space for school age children, give us another school age spot

1. It would be a great help for parents if DHS raised the income qualification for state subsidies, and raising the amount of money the state pays for them.

subsidy for when children are sick - parents whose children are quarantines can't afford to still pay daycare, we can only afford to give a certain amount of unpaid time off without raising rates

very concerned that parents might not be willing to send children to daycare since they haven't had to and figure something else out with family

I would like to increase my space by doing some wall removals, building a large daycare area. Can I get funding to help me do this?

Structure enhancements for licensing requirements

Cant afford staff, cant afford insurance, cant afford hazard pay

I am anticipating to have issues with expansion. There aren't many resources as far as being able to continue to have children in care especially in low income area. Resources or a Liaison who can assist with resources to expand.

What ideas do you have about how these funds could most effectively support child care providers and business owners over the next year?

maybe trust us to spend them accordingly.

It's hard to think about long term, when we are finding no resolve NOW! Where is our immediate relief? When will we be acknowledged as front line workers?

Support staff directly

Faith based programs need to have access to all future grants as well. My program applied, however funds were exhausted.

Sustainability for low enrollment! Funding to cover building expenses while we gradually return to our full capacity.

children w/o were delayed in starting or who have been home for a year or more will have difficulty coming in. We will need to operate at a lower ratio when we help anxious children.

A base pay per month

For a Kent County provider: further instability and closures.. Inconsistent income continuing. Further tax complications.

subsidizing cost of child care and making that subsidy more accessible

realistic that revenue has to meet expenditures and grants have been a wonderful asset, however we have to remember that will end and the plan we make has to be real and not crash businesses down the road.

Creating a transition program for families who make slightly over the poverty level. There is no support for those families who are the "working poor" Families who are at 152% of the poverty level receive not support/relief for child care.

having trained mental health workers that are available to come in and assist with the children that will be having social and emotional problems at NO cost to the provider and low to no cost to the families

Helping high quality providers expand and open new sites

Funding for PPE equipment and CDC/DHS payments changing policy

Funding for additional easily cleaned items

more toys so they can be rotated out a day or two to be sanitized.

a supplement pay towards staffing costs, supplies

All staff should be trained in CPR/first aid blood borne pathogens gentle teaching working with children with MI/DD

Allow providers to be considered Early Childhood Schools. Take away property taxes.

We would like to make major improvements to our staff and center but are not confident to make these changes due to uncertainty with how we would pay for the improvements. If we increased our pay structure to a more competitive pay scale, would we be able to afford this extra payroll over the long term? If we made improvements to our curriculum, play ground, and center facilities, would we get a return on that investment? We worry that the pool of qualified candidates does not exist in the State of Michigan and no matter how much we are willing to pay, we will continue to struggle to find any qualified candidates.

Monthly stipends for providers so we can stay open.

Monthly incentive

building updates for ventilation or air purifying machines, funds for PPE, funds for extra cleaning

to be able to be used on any supplies or updating items that need to be fixed or replaced

Allow us to use them on our needs. Toys PPE upgrades on our facilities

PPE

Help us expand in rural areas, uplift those in kinship care to group

Funds to support purchase of fresh local produce, dairy, meat, and eggs

Medicare for all so that providing healthcare to staff is not an issue

change the limit for parent eligibility

Paying staff: keeping staff. being able to attract staff and compete with other industry by paying staff what they deserve.

Building and grounds improvements and staffing costs. We don't need more toys. Re-vamp the Subsidy system.

2. Hazard pay for home providers because we are in contact with the public as we try to keep our families and children we care for healthy

Worried that this pandemic will keep continuing!

In the Upper Peninsula there is little to no Early Child Education. The Universities do not offer. And so we do not have a work force for early childhood care.

Outdoor playground

Mental Health Consultants (yes)

trauma informed care training

Staffing, Funding, Employee Retention,

support for designing and creating outdoor classrooms.

Obviously any \$ to help with Wages and equipment, supplies, toys

up keep

Taxes are a huge problem!! Especially with grants

outdoor classroom funding

Building renovation / remodel including new playgrounds. Wages for staff

I think it's difficult to answer what we need for the future when we need funds now to stay open.

taxes...

Facility and equipment upkeep is very costly. It is highly needed to remain safe and clean for families.

Help me pay for rent so I can continue operating a quality program

please provide access to pay the bills

better outside equipment or even being able to do an outside environment

help with mortgage

retaining high quality staff and giving them a livable wage

As far as after school....would our ratios ever change so we can accept more ages between, let's say, 8-12?

Changing the MDE/CDC payments to be paid by the enrollment and not by the hour. This would eliminate the issue of running out of absence hours due to illness and/or COVID exposure

funding to improve indoor ventilation

being able to update the inside of the day care home and playgrounds. also being taxed on this is hard as well

can we provide a tax break for childcare providers like we do for large bus?

yes yes yes expanding need more room

It would help to have taxes removed from Grants so it isn't such a wallop at tax time

Regular stipends per spot would help cover a lot of relief for private pay parents and providers who don't feel we can raise rates.

training staff related to trauma informed care based on the pandemic trauma experienced by staff, children and families.

Daycare improvements. Reimbursements for CPR/first aid classes.....maybe even all classes.

SO TRUE. Infant care is nonexistent.

Block stabilization grants allowing providers to use the funds to best meet their individual needs

can we reevaluate the ratio of children to providers

The space (square footage) for infants limits us. The cost for infants in a center does not break even. I agree! In our Muskegon area, we have very limited infant spots. Our program is wait listing until 2022 currently.

Increased costs for providers to operate

Double staff and double the amount of ratio of what is allowed for providers monitor by lara

All the training hours to stay open are, I understand keeps us in mode but it takes a lot of time, also in the grants it seems they are finding reasons to pay it back. I used it for my actual supplies and was told it wasn't to be used for my needs, which at the time was chromebooks.

I would like to see us be able to care for 8-10. I understand the ratios for the 30 month and under and agree with. I do feel we could care for more ages from the 3 and up

Cant afford to pay staff because of the infant ratio

The problem is that MDE stripped the profit out of our industry by taking all the 4 year olds and young 5.

I agree about making more room for babies. We have 6 covid babies but only one slot open. the other families are stuck for at least a year when I get another opening.

Provide mental health provider grant to support children, staff and families. WE NED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The problem is that there isn't enough staff to add more programming. We need to raise the wage to bring in more dedicated ECe professionals.

Staff is scared of Covid. We need to pay the better

raising ratios is not the answer, I would argue that they should be lowered for quality care

YES. My infant-toddler program is overflowing with a wait list two pages long. I want to expand to another classroom but there are many hoops to jump through with city and licensing requirements. Helping successful programs expand would be great!

I wish 'the state' would have staff available for our newborns. Even to give parents an extended maternity/paterni leave- Offer 24/7 daycare in all counties for hospital employees and cleaning employees that go into after five pm for the schools...

So I just needed to know why if you followed guidelines you end up repaying the state.

Many programs are closing due to licensing regulations. I agree that we need to have safe places for children, however many of the rules make it difficult to maintain a program without being placed in a provisional status with the threat of closure.

It would be nice to offer an incentive for those that might start up daycares. I get so many calls each day for childcare. We desperately need more daycare in our area.

Grants for home improvements to improve daycare. Examples: bathrooms built for children, sinks, and changing tables, carpeting, paint for the walls, outdoor mud suits/ winter snowsuits for all, playgrounds and playground mulch. The list can go on and on!

Currently kids who are 3 years + are not able to even talk. However the parents are not realizing that sending their child is critical for the social development of the child. How do we change the mindset of the parents who are trying to save money by not sending their child to the childcare / Montessori center and save for rainy day fund

grants to be tax-free

Grants to help keep the center maintain financially because of low enrollment due to many closures due to COVID

I have a concern on the zoning requirements given to our cities. I used to be a group home for 15 years in one city & had to switch to a home child care when I moved to another city within the same county. Is it possible to consider changing the rules re: our ability to be a home or group childcare?

Probe what costs centers are using in supplies for reimbursements from the federal and state as well as offer tax breaks In our home centers for the star employees

I agree with the infant/toddler gap!

Our food costs are soaring!!

I feel like I read three articles a week on the topic of the financial unsustainability of early childhood care. They all cite the same issues which I experience daily. I feel like we know what the problems are - we need solutions!

subsidize programs! create high-quality, relevant, continually-updated online training that we don't have to pay for! offer grants for equipment and improvements! give more \$ to programs that offer infant care and non-traditional days/hours!

and last if I go do all and more to get my star rating up, why does the rating not stay and allow to build them up?

All of the funding in the world won't keep centers and homes open if licensing rules, regulations and consultants are making it difficult to run their program. The pay and funding doesn't off set the emotional strain and low pay.

I was only able to do this as I was making more than 20.00 an hour without child support when I went off and drove 150000 miles they considered me off medical support and over nights were not included

I live in Port Huron Michigan I am currently a family day care. I want to go to a group daycare however the city of Port Huron will not allow me to. The demand for daycare is through the roof here. no before or after school programs. parents begging me to take their kids. i do not have the room to take the school age siblings. big big mess

My liability insurance more than doubled for 2021!!

Allow parents to write off their childcare expense!

More folks will use UNlicensed care when centers/homes close doors.

Hazard pay is a must for all providers

If long term, we are anticipating Universal Preschool, what does that look like for

Childcare providers? We can't afford to run a center with just infant and toddlers, the overhead alone barely breaks even.

Yes I agree with this Director. No Hazard pay like teachers, etc.

I agree with Jeannine

Wow!! what if we could have organized insurance for daycare providers? OUR littles are SO important and yes, please let's look at the long term...

I have received grants this year for the first time and have so much anxiety over worrying about if I've spent the grant money right. and as a single income family daycare I've been stressed to the point of depression and going to the Dr's tomorrow for the second time this year due to covid and grants being so confusing I'm overwhelmed with worrying about how much I will need to pay in due to grants. It will be all the easier if it was given to us for our daycare operation and if the parents portion could be paid separately like round 6 was. I'm so sorry for rattling on and sitting here in tears just thinking about if I did every thing right. so sorry but so depressed. I do appreciate the help given with only making \$15,000 in income this year and would of had to shut down after 22 years of family daycare if it wasn't for the grants. again so sorry..

I completely agree. The child care industry has remained open during a time when everyone else had the option to work from home. 0-5 is a critical stage and we would love to be viewed as professionals in our field.

Then cut back hazard pay in a tier after COVID...

Please tell her thank you for expressing so passionately and eloquently..

The hourly subsidy rate needs to increase substantially in Michigan; the current rate is the lowest throughout the Midwest, unfortunately

Business trainings for in home and center providers needs to a priority too!

The educational requirements are high, however the pay does not match the cost of education needed to be a director or lead teacher.

Preschool 2.5-5 allow us to stay open. We have to support the staff that have been fully committed to young children during this pandemicZ

Please have the STARS program in sync with licensing. The licensing consultants have excellent knowledge for quality programming and are in the centers. Please consult them prior to awarding "STARS". Thank you for upholding the quality of our profession.

Shouldn't be double shuffling our staff

Thank you Gineen!!!!!!

Yep. Janine speaks the truth. What is going to happen when this money runs out?

I agree that I am concerned if I raise pay based on current funding what happens if it goes away?

What will happen with the funding? How do we apply??

The grant \$ that I was able to pass on to my parents for tuition reimbursement was very helpful for a few of my parents but there were some who did not need the extra help. I do think it was a nice benefit for the parents with the option of doing a donation back to the daycare.

childcare burnout when you work 12 hours a day

Gap in services for Early On from 3-5 until they reach preschool. For parents that are working full time, simply cannot get their child to an appointment mid day.

When giving out the grants providers should have to sign something stating that they will stay open for a certain amount of time after accepting a grant and if not they should have to repay it!

We are Day Care Providers because we love our job and have a great love of children! BUT! We need financial help

Where do I apply for the funding?

Programs can only charge parents so much before they price themselves out of business. However, where will the money come from to pay staff a liveable wage.

I am afraid that it will be one extreme or the other. it will be there will be so many kids who need daycare and not enough places for them to go. Or they will be afraid to send their kids to daycare since they didn't do it for so long.

i couldn't agree more with this speaker on the funds given out

I agree, star-rating should NOT be tied to funding.

Agree!!! Federal funding should not be associated with the "STAR" program!!!!

my friend who is not star rated did receive grants

TOTALLY AGREE IT SHOULDNT DEPEND ON STAR RATING...All of us need help. I agree with this woman talking.

I agree.....how about a tax credit for the grants? or "forgiveness"

Please provide tax relief on the grant funding

Shellie has a concern for real. While we are on our way toward our star rating, it should not matter.

Tax relief would be most helpful

Maybe there is a way to offer additional funding for programs willing to be "safe havens" for children who have family members who tested positive for COVID OR places for children who may have been exposed. Right now, programs are shutting down entire programs when there is one parent related to someone who tested positive. Those families still need to work. Many colleges are quarantined spaces that help students to still remain on campus. This could be difficult to orchestrate care for the children. But it could be helpful to figure out some strategy for families who are in flux due to child care closures.

Totally agree also about taxing. unemployment was forgiven but taxes killed us with the grants last year.

I agree should not be taxed on the grants as we stayed open the whole time for essential workers.

I am wondering if there is a budget that exists where the decision makers can show us based on DHS, private pay and other income, how we can afford to pay wages, mortgage/rent, benefits, utilities, etc? Has anyone truly crunched the numbers?

Taxes are very high for people who are self-employed.

we are a Montessori center which typically has higher fees as compared to childcare based on the teaching method. Now, we have to lower our fees just to compete and survive and that is messing up the fundamentals of our business

Yay yes crack down on the unlicensed!!!!!! make it hurt

Many schools and Cmhc's is not in place at all in the rural regions

There are no repercussions for unlicensed providers

There is no need for licensed exempt providers

Agreed

Everyone is working from home even though schools are open

Perhaps some of the funds should go toward developing model/pilot type programs that could help other providers in the future come up with innovative funding strategies. Like toolkits for how to start a co-op or sliding scale program. Use funds to start large group health and benefits plans that any childcare worker could buy into.

how about helping the unlicensed not punishing them

make them prove they are related, dont just take the word of the parent and person providing care

childcare is a great need for families

Opening up homes for people that have disabilities to be licensed to take at risk kids with CmH staff

I agree with the woman speaking right now....after school children should not count on our ratios....Schools can have 20 children in their classroom and I know that would be ridiculous but how about 5 over ratios? Our after school children are amazing and I wish I could have more. I totally understand the ratio with the infants!! It's the after school children that should be relaxed, thanks!!

Agree with the comments regarding long term planning, taxes, star rating participation remaining optional with no penalty to those that choose not to participate.

I would like to add some ideas to your list please.

When parents need to detox and be in treatment programs and not in jail no matter what regions

I keep losing families because when they have children in school I dont have room for them because i will be over my 6 kids so in return I have families that need to find after school programs to stay in daycare for their younger children. I wish that we could have up to 2 kids after school extra without being over.

MELBA should be FREE!

Campaigns in public broadcasting giving the public an understanding about what early childhood professionals are. Seeing the profession in a positive light

She is correct. The wages in the field wont keep our qualified team members.

I so agree, it is heart breaking!

Hazard pay for our staff

Stipends for teachers based on their education.

yes, unlicensed programs are a problem in so many communities -- what will the state do to crack down?

That's because education is 60000 for bachelors and add a 200000 house with two children and be single at 13.00 you can't make it

Access to counseling for children, outdoor playgrounds, and assistance with funding

Is ther funding to pay pay our childcare centers rent?

You can go to a resturant Taco bell and make 14 an hour Some how we need to be able to pay our employees better so we have more care available for our children.

More PPE money for larger purposes such as a better filtering system in programs that in basements.

The grant funds were very helpful for day care parents, but now I have to pay taxes on them...could this change ?

Get the funds into the hands of the programs with few "rules" and if possible tax free. We can't help support children and families if we close — and raising tuition especially for private pay families is just out of the question. We need reliable and sustainable funding.

Special education consultants and parapro education.

It would be nice to allow family home providers to have 7 children as opposed to 6 children. In the central Michigan area there is a huge need for child care and not enough spots. Many home providers have closed their doors.

family homes dont seem to get the extra funding or grants that group homes or centers and we need the extra support and grants also. Thank you for all the help that has been offered this year.

How to start something instead of doing nothing

Amen

Provider grants to be used as their personal needs might me.

be.

Yes! Blended classrooms of gsrp and other students!

Many providers cannot offer benefits to there employees. because of the cost. So we cannot get the employees that want to provide for there families without offering what most jobs anywhere offer

If the GSRP slots increase, will the private sector still have 20% of the spaces allocated.

Funds to pay for curriculums for daycares would be nice.

Offering staff other incentives such as a classroom library, tablets for lesson planning and training and professional services

Fund the child. Not the program.

Yes! To pay GSRP as individual funding to include into our existing classrooms.

funding for over all operations

I've been holding off to see if anyone else brings up unemployment, but the extended benefits are paying more than providers can afford for some staff. I feel this is one of the main reasons it is challenging to find employees right now, and it was difficult and very competitive before the current environment.

i think there needs to be a grant to help increase the wages of childcare workers ..

Continuity of care is key, how can we keep programs open

To help be able to hire higher quality staff we need to pay more. It is hard to pay what our staff deserves on the current rates that cdc pays us. That needs to increase. Also if some of this money can be used to subsidize payroll for daycare staff that would be great. The problem would come when this money runs out. It would need to continue. I also worry greatly about minimum wage going up

I love Jack! Such an awesome fighter for the people of Michigan!

I think we need to turn to private companies to help the early childhood field, such as offering child care as a benefit to their employees, contribute to a grant fund to assist providers and centers with the cost of inspections, equipment, etc.

I have had to deferred payments on car and use COVID deferment plans to maintain bills during close time due to COVID exposure. This have been troubling times and very uncertain. We as child care providers are left with the unpredictable futures and uncertain enrollment. This is beyond stressful. Can we please get immediate help without the red tape and paper work and delays?
Universal childcare stipends for parents. Each parent gets so much per child for childcare and they can take the voucher at and licensed program they would like to use.

Will we receive any information on the funding availability?

We could sustain increase of income with more children able to attend, school age.... do a chart of each state and their ratios... see how low mi is...been that way for 30years or more according to other wiser experienced providers I'd spoken with

when schools shut down due to Covid I have families that have no where to send their school age kids because of our limit of 6 kids. could it be changed only while schools are closed due to covid ?

Thank you for including us providers in this and listening to us.

Please provide assistance without tax penalties

I have a question. I'm partners with CACS and the question is they have received a lot of grant money but have not delegated any to us. The only thing we have received is the monies form attendance for slots we have. Is there a reason that partners do not receive assistance with the grant monies.?

How can we as Un licensed provider protect our check from getting stolen by the parent and I reported them to there case worker and they did nothing to try and get them to pay the check to it's right owner? Can we discuss putting the check on our name?

Closing

Thank You!

Yes!

Thank you so much! We are really trying.

Thank-You for links!

The grant monies received have bee most helpful.. We need assisatance with tax incentives, help with rent for continueing offering quality child care for children and families. Will there be a follow up??

How do we find out how the funding will be used??

thank you

????thank you

will it have the break down of fund amount

Hello, will my comments be seen by legislature? I really want to asdvocate for our littles and help with anything I can for our future!!

Is there a sript we can have for when we make the call?

THANK YOU ever so much for making this virtual Town Hall available.

thank you for every thing

Thank you for taking the time for us. It is greatly appreciated!

Call me Jack....or better yet, stop by! (989) 289-9932 Cay's daycare. I want to help!!!

YES!! Michelle is amazing!!

yes -- yay, Michelle Richard -- a real advocate for us!

This is great to hear!

Thank you for listening!!! Cay Marchiando DG370306320

Yes! Rep. O'Malley has been made him self available to early childhood professionals.

thank you for this!

Good night :)

Thank you!

Thank you

thank you