Update on Child Care Supply Pre & Post COVID-19

Presentation to House Human Services
Miriam Calderon, Early Learning System Director
Alyssa Chatterjee, Governor’s Policy Advisor
May 27th, 2020
How has COVID-19 pandemic impacted child care?

- Supply problem is worse – 60% of providers have closed and the majority are unlikely to re-open.
- Likely that much of the workforce has detached from child care.
- Underscored lack of real-time information to make informed policy decisions.
Timeline of Emergency Child Care (ECC)

- **March 8:** Governor Brown declares State of Emergency in response to COVID-19

- **March 23:** Executive Order 20-12 closed child care from March 25 through April 28th
  - Established Emergency Child Care
  - Prioritized child care for essential workers

- **April 23:** Executive Order 20-19 extending closure of child care

- **April 24:** Temporary Order
  - Standards Applicable to all ECC providers (Group Size, Priority, Social Distancing, Expedited Training, Emergency Background Check)
  - Closure of Pop-up and School-based Emergency Care by June 30th

- **May 15th:** New Guidance on Statewide Standards for Child Care Operations
Governor’s Child Care Guidance

- Prioritize Essential Workers but allowing programs to serve other families as well
- Maintain stable group size of no more than ten children with stable teacher and staff
- Guidance on cleaning & sanitation
- Daily health checks
- Daily logs to support contact tracing
- Maintaining social distancing during pick up and drop off
# ECE Program Responses to COVID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) Policy Changes</th>
<th>Preschool Promise, OPK &amp; Healthy Families Oregon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Eliminated Copays for all families</td>
<td>➢ “Virtual” Home Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Increase income eligibility to 85% SMI/250% FPL</td>
<td>➢ Food boxes for families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Expanded absence &amp; closure payment policy</td>
<td>➢ Providing parents with supports for home-based educational activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Care Supply and Capacity before and after COVID-19

BEFORE: Total Licensed Providers: 3,835  Total Capacity: 128,819
AFTER: Total Licensed Providers: 2,278  Total Capacity: 23,748

Current Child Care Slots
Capacity: 23,748

- Vacant: 8,143
- Filled: 15,605

Source: The State of Early Care & Education and Child Care Assistance in Oregon (2019)
The EEC workforce analysis consists of 7,625 individuals who work directly with children were included in the analysis: directors, site directors, head teachers, teachers, aides, assistants, and large and small home-based providers.

Source: Race/Ethnicity & Languages of Oregon’s Emergency Care Workforce (April 2020), Oregon State University
Child Care Enrollment & Capacity: Keeping Pace during Reopening

Capacity Trend by Date

Date
- 4/24/20
- 4/27/20
- 4/30/20
- 5/3/20
- 5/6/20
- 5/9/20
- 5/12/20
- 5/15/20
- 5/18/20

Number of Child Care Slots

- 0
- 5000
- 10000
- 15000
- 20000
- 25000
- 30000

Estimated Enrollment
Total Emergency Capacity
COVID 19 Child Care Provider Survey

What is the biggest barrier to reopening your program (n=893*)?

- Affording reduced groups: 27%
- Supplies & PPE: 7%
- Finding staff: 5%
- Finding enough families: 12%
- Health & Safety Concerns: 49%

*Excludes respondents who selected still providing care
Themes from open ended questions

- Concerned about the health and safety of the children and families they serve, their staff and themselves
  - My house is small, and we utilize 100% of the space for child care. The children who attend are mostly toddlers and clearly have no understanding of social distancing or germs. They eat at my table, sit on my couch, touch every toy my children use, sleep in our bedrooms, and use our bathroom. There is no safe space that my family can return to at the end of the day that would be free from exposure.

- Need access to testing, PPE, thermometers and cleaning supplies, as well as clear instructions on what to do if they suspect a COVID case
  - Testing, testing, testing!

- Financially at-risk with additional requirements, lowered group sizes and reduced demand
  - We are currently open but normally operate with 70 children per day, currently only have 15 to 20 children. I find the biggest problem is parents are out of work themselves and need to feel safe to return to childcare.
Child Care Provisions of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

- $38 million in additional federal funding through CCDF to:
  - Provide assistance to child care providers (decreased enrollment, closures, additional operating costs)
  - Support child care needs of essential workers
  - Support Emergency Child Care

Phase #1 Grants Eligibility ($8 million)

- Currently operating an open Emergency Child Care Facility, and Operated a Licensed or Recorded child care program on February 29, 2020;
- Submitted the application to be an Emergency Child Care Provider by April 8, 2020 and committed to staying open through July 2020;

OR

- Regulated subsidy or relative care provider receiving ERDC, currently open serving children of essential workers and committed to staying open through July 2020.
# CARES Act Grants - Round #1

## Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>ECC Grant Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulated Subsidy and ERDC Relative Care</td>
<td>1167</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Family</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Family</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Center and Recorded Program</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of eligible providers</strong></td>
<td><strong>3244</strong></td>
<td><strong>62%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Amount Awarded to Date

- License Exempt, $218,462
- Certified Family, $1,938,643
- Registered Family, $979,992
- Certified Center & Recorded, $2,578,680

**TOTAL AWARDED: $5.7 M**
CARES Act Grants– Round #2 ($10.5 million)

Providers who meet one of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Certified centers, certified families and registered families operating as an approved ECC provider;
- Certified centers, certified families and registered families that submitted an ECC application as of June 15;
- Operate as a Regulated Subsidy provider, who are open and caring for a child of an essential worker;
- Closed licensed providers must have plans to reopen and operate child care through September 2020 as an emergency child care provider. ECC applications must be approved prior to receiving a grant award.
A New Vision for Child Care in Oregon

Requires a fundamental values shift toward **child care as a public good**. A greater state role is necessary to guarantee that services will be **accessible, affordable, and high quality**, especially for our most vulnerable families.
Considerations for First Steps

- Simplify regulatory language
- Create economies of scale for child care businesses
- Build networks to support high-quality child care providers
- Centralize child care enrollment for families
- Enhance business technical assistance
- Develop long-term approach to unifying financing for child care/early care and education for low-income families
- Leverage contracting directly with providers to build and sustain supply