

CCSA's COVID-19 Relief Fund PHASE I



In March 2020, as North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued a stay-at-home order for all but those deemed essential workers, and many people began working from home, child care programs in N.C. were called upon to serve the children of these essential workers. In the two months of the stay-at-home order, health care professionals and other essential workers with children depended heavily on child care programs to keep their children safe and healthy, yet child care programs were struggling.

These child care programs that were supporting North Carolina's essential workers had to decide between risking their own health to care for children or possible permanent closure. Many programs had to cut employee hours, lay off employees or give up on other vital resources. Some closed their doors temporarily. As the state opened and more child care programs also opened, parents and child care programs have struggled, leaving parents in some cases with few options for child care and forcing them to choose between work and their children. Child care is the backbone of our economy, and these programs must be protected.

To do just that, in March 2020, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) partnered with Smart Start to create the CCSA COVID-19 Relief Fund, supported by generous contributions from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, the PNC Foundation, the Truist Charitable Fund, ChildTrust Foundation and other private donors. In Phase I of the Relief Fund, CCSA distributed grants of \$100-\$200 each to child care programs that stayed open during the statewide shutdown, depending on their qualifications. The goal of the CCSA COVID-19 Relief Fund Phase I was simple: to help keep child care programs open through the pandemic.



“Our enrollment has decreased because of the pandemic, [which has caused] our funding to decrease. We are desperately in need of gloves, masks and sanitizing materials. To assist our children with their school work, we are in need of paper, markers, erasers and writing tablets for our five-year-olds. Thank you [to CCSA] for all of your support during the years.”
— *Girls Inc. of the Albemarle, Pasquotank County*

“Unfortunately, the pandemic has caused our enrollment numbers to be really low, which in turn has caused our program to cut employee hours. We have all been taking days off without pay, and also working less hours per day. It is very difficult for some of our staff who are single parents and rely on their income from the center to make ends meet. Additional funding would secure more hours for our employees.”
— *New Life Center, Stokes County*

“Our enrollment has only changed by a few children, however only the essential children are paying tuition. So my numbers of children are at an average of 20 daily. We have made all [of the] cuts that we can make [while staying] with license requirements. We desire to try and continue to serve essential workers' children but can't continue to take weekly [losses] remaining open.”
— *Long Shoals Wesleyan Childcare, Lincoln County*

FIG 1 Programs that Received Funding

703



FIG 2 Counties with Programs Funded

78

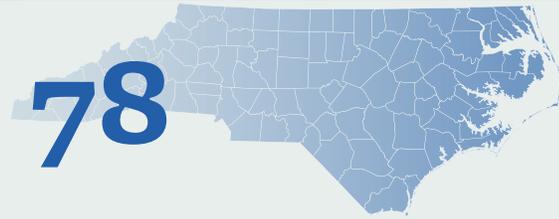


FIG 3 Types of Programs Funded

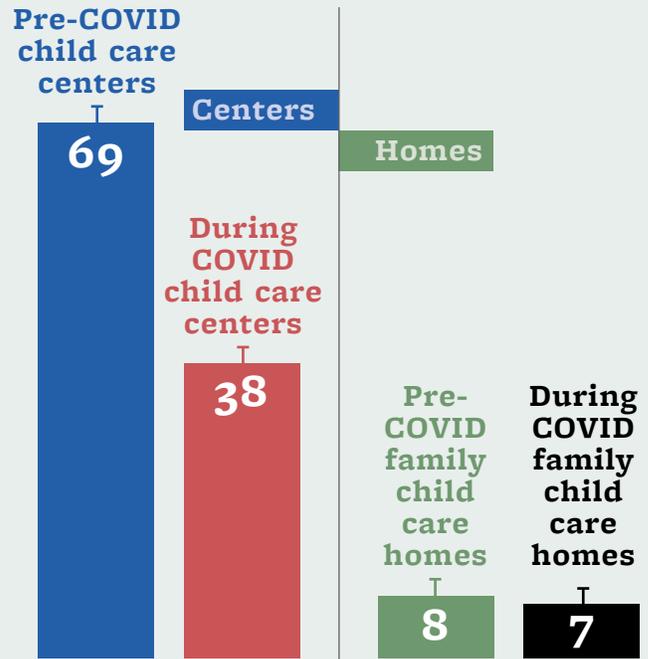
Child Care
Centers
465

Family Child Care
Homes
238



FIG 4 Average Enrollment Pre+ During COVID*

Child care programs had to change the way they operate during the stay-at-home order because of drastically reduced numbers of children attending.



(Averages have been rounded up to the next whole number)

*As of April 2020

Pollockville Presbyterian Child Care opened its doors to essential workers so they can perform their duties during this pandemic. Essential workers are the backbone to our nation during the COVID-19 crisis. At a time when many centers are closed or struggling to survive, we are open to our essential worker community. This funding will allow us to purchase much needed supplies, such as diapers, wipes, bedding, and cleaning supplies to ensure [that] our center is in compliance with all health and safety requirements.”

—Pollockville Presbyterian Child Care, Jones County

This funding will help me continue to keep my children and family safe. [I have been] able to buy Lysol spray, hand sanitizer, gloves, Clorox, etc. Help me [continue] to buy supplies and resources needed to help the children learn and play while being safe. Help me to not have to [use] my bill money to buy cleaning supplies. The impact of this pandemic has been [scary], because you have to wonder if any of your children [or parents] have been exposed, [and you have to distance] them as much as possible. [You have to wonder] whether when they sneeze or cough is it the coronavirus or not.”

—TLC Tender Loving Care, Edgecombe County

On behalf of CCSA and all the child care programs across the state, we offer our most sincere gratitude to the donors, Smart Start and everyone who played a part in this effort to support child care in North Carolina during these challenging times.



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