North Carolina Early Education Coalition

DEDICATED TO ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION



NC Early Education Coalition Wednesday Update April 1, 2020

Message from Elliott

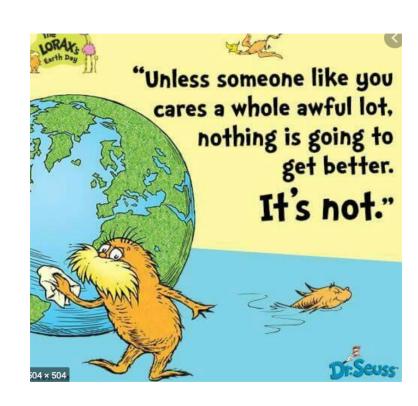


"There's a light at the end of the tunnel!"



Goals for Today

- Answer some of your questions
- Share information that we know now
- Highlight Federal and State action
- Coalition ECE advocacy



Self Care Poll - What are you doing to take care of yourself?

- Outdoor Play & Exercise
- Yoga, meditation, mindfulness
- Relaxing time naps, baths
- Reading books, listening to music
- Family & Friends E-Connect Time





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Early Childhood Education Breaking News



At the Federal Level

- Two major funding packages
 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act March 18, 2020
 - Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES)
- Child Care \$3.5B increase for CCDBG, NC to receive \$114M
 - Continued payments and assistance for decreased enrollment or closures
 - Encourages states to place conditions on payments to providers to use portion to pay for staff wages
 - Authorizes funds for child care for health care sectors employees, emergency responders, and other essential workers
- Head Start EHS \$750 million
 - \$500 M for non-competitive supplemental summary grants

Resources

COVID-19: How is
Congress Addressing
the Needs of Babies
and Families?
ZTT, March 30, 2020



At the Federal Level - Small Business Loans

Small Business Loans – child care programs eligible

- Under latest federal CARES Act \$349B emergency loans to small business and nonprofits
- Forgivable loans to cover operations, payroll and debt during the crisis available from local lenders.
- Conditions for Loans:
 - COVID 19 economic conditions make the loan request necessary to support ongoing operations
 - The borrower will use the loan proceeds to retain workers and maintain payroll or make mortgage, lease, and utility payments.
- Loan amount = 2.5 x Average total monthly payroll costs incurred during the year prior to the loan date

Resources:

- US Chamber Info Sheet
- Coming Soon –
 Coalition & Self Help
 Credit Union Resources



Federal Level – Economic Support for Families

Emergency Paid Sick Leave –

- Up to 80 hours for emergency paid sick leave to employees that cannot work because of Coronavirus
- Exemptions for businesses with < 50 employees
- Emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave Expansion (FFCRA)
 - Businesses with < 500 employees required to provide 12 weeks of PFML due to school closures, or lack of child care options
- Unemployment Insurance
 - For persons not eligible for regular UI or exhausted UI, or self-employed
 - Does not include individual who can telework ,receiving other leave, sick days.
 - Federal \$600 weekly increase April 4 through July 31st
- Direct Payments to Households and Individuals
 - Households with incomes up to \$150,000
 - Single individuals with incomes up to \$75,000
 - \$1200 per adult and \$500 per qualifying child

Resources – Unemployment Insurance 270,000 claims in two weeks!

- Unemployment Insurance
 Provisions under the
 CARES Act, -National
 Employment Law Project
- Gov. Cooper EO #118
- House Select Committee Economic Security Workgroup
- NC Division of Employment Security



Federal Level - And Much More

- Child Welfare
- Child Nutrition (WIC, SNAP, Emergency Food Assistance, etc.)
- Energy Assistance
- Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures

Resources

COVID-19: How is Congress Addressing the Needs of Babies and Families?

ZTT, March 30, 2020



In North Carolina - New Child Care Approach

DHHS/DCDEE -

- Child care providers who are interested in staying open or reopening must complete application by March 31st.
- Child care programs may continue to serve current families who are part of the essential workforce as defined in Governor Cooper Executive Order #121.
- If no application considered closed and not eligible for \$
 support.
- Child care programs will report daily on attendance and number of open slots.

Resources

- Executive Order #121
- DHHS COVID-19
 Emergency Child Care
 Operations and
 Financing Guidance



In North Carolina - New Child Care Approach

- Emergency Hot Line 888-600-1685 for essential workers to connect with available child care
- New Parents Complete Parent Application for Emergency Child Care Assistance
 - Parent provide application to the child care programs
- Parents must be:
 - Part of the essential workforce
 - Gross income below 300% FPL
 - State that they have no other child care option
- **Guidance to Child Care programs** not required to serve these parents but to extent possible, make temporary vacancy slots available to children of:
 - Essential workers
 - Homeless, unsafe or unstable living conditions
 - Child welfare



In North Carolina -New Child Care Approach

Financial Package for Providers – April and May

Subsidy

- Cover costs of subsidized families who are currently enrolled and working
- Will continue to pay subsidy at attendance rates for April and May
- For <u>new</u> parents who apply outside of subsidy
 - Flat rates based on age of child and type of program (center or homes)
 - DHHS covering the cost of all parent co-payments
 - Child care programs must waive all parent co-payments

NC Pre-K

- All NC Pre-K programs, regardless of site, or open or closed status will be paid through April and May based on February attendance
- Also coordination/administration rates



In North Carolina -New Child Care Approach

DCDEE Bonuses for teacher and staff – April and May

- Applies to both centers and homes
- Paid to staff through program's payroll service
- Rates -
 - Full time: \$300 per month for teaching staff; \$200 per month for non-teaching staff
 - Part-time 20 hours or less, \$150 for teachers; \$100 non-teaching staff

Other Support

- CCSA WAGES\$ and Infant Toddler AWARD\$ Program continuing April & May
- Local Partnerships brokering finding supplies in communities
- Office of Early Learning has Remote Learning resources for infants, toddlers, preschoolers
- CCR&R System tracking child care availability and referral services
- Small Business Loans coming soon

Resources

DHHS COVID-19
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DCDEE Information

Website has all the information –

https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Whats-New/Coronavirus-Information-for-Child-Care

Child Care programs with questions – contact your licensing consultants

https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/C/CCHC_directory_2020_03_16.pdf?ver=2020-03-16-142800-047



Governor's Education & Nutrition Workgroup

- Chaired by Susan Perry, DHHS and Dr. David Stegall, NC DPI
- Focus on Education/child care and Nutrition
- Child Care representation: Coalition, CCR&R, YMCA Association and a private provider
- Early Education News
 - Schools districts are opening school-age child care programs 8 programs in place now and 8 more considering it
- Nutrition News
 - All school districts have approved nutrition plans
 - USDA has launched texting tool for parents to locate the meal site closest to them Text "FoodNC" to 877-877
 - Call toll-free 1.866.3Hungry (1.866.348.6479) or 1.877.8Hambre (1.877.842.6273)
 - Visit the USDA's Summer Meal Site Finder at fns.usda.gov/SummerFoodRocks



Spotlight - Child Care Resource & Referral System

NC Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Respond to COVID-19

Working together to keep North Carolinians safe and healthy during the COVID-19 crisis





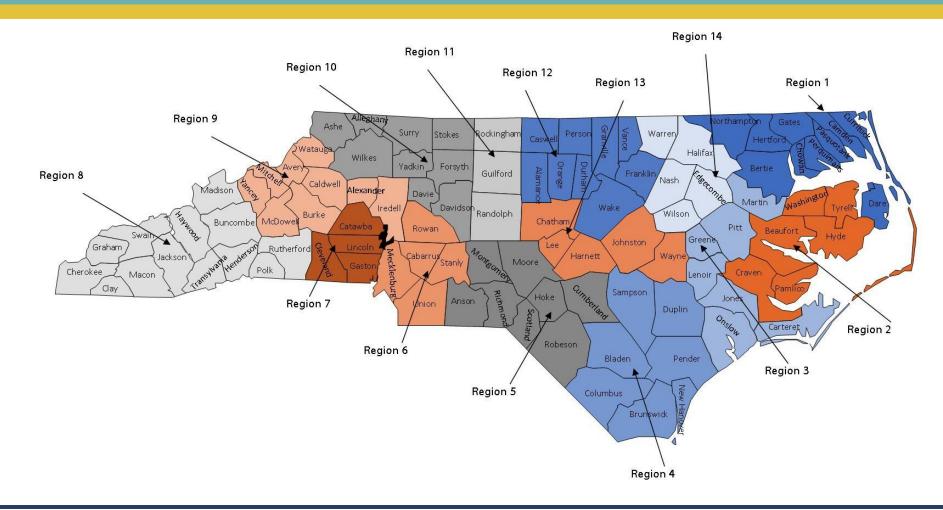


Council Structure

- CCR&R Council is comprised of 3 Council Management Agencies (CMA)
 - Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI)
 - Southwestern Child Development Commission (SWCDC)
 - Child Care Services Association (CCSA)
- Each CMA oversees services and funding distribution to 4-5 of the 14 CCR&R regions
- Each CCR&R region is led by a Regional Lead Agency which may sub-contract the delivery of core services with local agencies



CCR&R Regional Delivery System





Consumer Education and Referral services have shifted from regional to statewide collective services

CCRR's across NC are staffing a toll free child care referral call center

- Emergency Hotline for Essential Workers Who Need Emergency Child Care: 1-888-600-1685
- To address the child care referral needs of emergency and first responders and critical workers
- Counselors are working with parents to identify child care needs and are completing enhanced referrals by making vacancy check calls to open providers
- CCRR team members have been re-deployed where necessary to support the call center





Technical Assistance, Professional Development, and Support Services

- In local communities where redeployment of staff is not necessary to support the statewide call center, CCRR's have moved technical assistance support services to online and phone media
- Professional development workshops have shifted to live and recorded web based services
- Child and Adult Care Food program sponsors continue to support nutrition for children





Spotlight - Smart Start



Each Child. Every Community.



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Policymakers and Advocacy

NC General Assembly Action & Governor Cooper

NCGA

- House Speaker Moore created House Select Committee on COVID-19
 - Taking comments at https://www.ncleg.gov/RequestForComments/33
- Senate side collecting information via Sen. Berger and Sen. Blue
 - https://medium.com/@bergerpress/joint-statement-from-sens-berger-and-blue-on-covid-19-efforts-dc14ecc43e3c

Governor Cooper

Governor Cooper via <u>roy.cooper@nc.gov</u>





NC Early Education Coalition Action

Child Care Emergency Economic Support Proposal - \$125 Million Ask

- Emergency Child Care Assistance funding proposal to support early childhood education system now, during and after the crisis.
 - 1. Financial, programmatic and health care support for child care programs that stay open
 - 2. Funding for child care programs that close to pay staff and cover fixed costs through special grants and loans
 - 3. Rebuild and sustain child care industry into the future.
- Special emphasis on supporting the early childhood workforce
- Sent to Governor Cooper and State Legislative Leaders
- Action Center and Petition Drive
- Find out who your legislators are, look them up on our website or NCLeg.gov

Media Outreach - Close Child Care and Provide Emergency Relief



NC Child



- Major partner in our COVID-19 child care advocacy, including media
- Also covering range of issues + Early Childhood Education
 - Health and Medicaid Expansion
 - Food and Nutrition
 - Child Welfare, Foster Care System
- Powerful letter to NCGA 75 organizations signed on Read it at https://www.ncchild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4.1.20 FINAL HouseCmteLetterCOVID1 9.pdf



Action Center & Petition Drive Stories

"Our center is in crisis mode trying to stay afloat and doing our best to offer quality child care and education to all who are working on the front line of the current situation. We love what we do and love the families who trust us during these uncertain times."

"Child care centers like ours have been impacted by the Coronavirus by lack of student attendance. None of our students are attending. We have no income to pay our bills or employees."

"I hope the state has realized how important the early childhood programs are. We all desperately need your support during a time where my staff and myself are putting ourselves at risk to serve our community."

"It's sad that it has taken a pandemic for people to realize how crucial the childcare industry is to the economy and the people of this great nation!"



NC Early Education Coalition Action

- Coronavirus Section on Website https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/coronavirus/
 - All the latest resources and links
 - Place to share your stories





NC Early Childhood Education 2020 Advocacy Opportunities





Tuesdays for Tots starts next week!

It's time to #ThinkBabiesNC in April

April 7: Twitter Storm at 2pm

April 14: Webinar at 2pm – How to Be an Effective Advocate and How to Work with State Legislators (featuring Coalition lobbying team)

April 21: Webinar at 2pm – Making Kids Count in the 2020 Census (featuring Whitney Tucker, NC Child, and Cassandra Brooks, Little Believers Academy)

April 28: Child Abuse Prevention Month 2020 Digital Advocacy Day



Things you can do right now

- Take Action
 - Send a message to policymakers to support emergency child care funding
 - Sign a petition to support emergency child care funding
- Share Your Story with us and ZERO TO THREE
 - Share how this is impacting you, your family, or families you serve

https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/coronavirus/

Sign the Think Babies™ Petition

www.thinkbabies.org/sign-the-petition/



Questions?





Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.



