

## North Carolina Early Education Coalition

*DEDICATED TO ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION*



# NC Early Education Coalition

April 8, 2020



The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and in the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

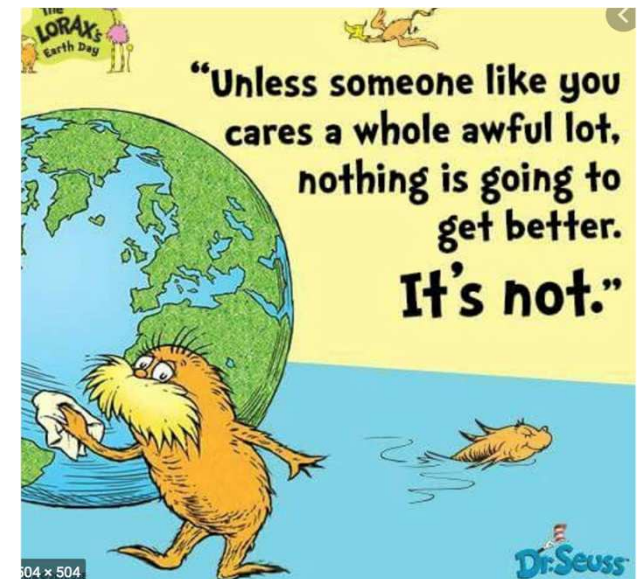
# Message of Hope from Elliott



“There’s a light  
at the end of  
the tunnel!”

# Goals for Today

- Highlight latest State Action
- Special Guests – Small Business Loans
- Coalition ECE Advocacy + Upcoming Legislative Action



# Let's Connect on Chat!

**Share one thing that you are grateful for during this crisis?**



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## Early Childhood Education Breaking News

# NC Current Status of Child Care Programs

## As of April 6, 2020 – based on applications submitted

- 2,608 centers (58% of all centers)
- 1,236 family child care homes (90% of all family child care homes)
- Programs can continue to submit applications to stay open and reopen.
- Application on the DCDEE website
- Must meet required health and safety guidelines.

### Child Care Dilemma

“I’m having a really hard time deciding whether to stay open or not.

My staff are scared but I feel I have a duty to our parents.”

“We have been open and serving our community for 23 years. We have so many parents out of work. I am so afraid we will not survive and have to shut our doors forever. I do not want to lose my staff, most have been with us 10 to 15 years.”

# In North Carolina – April 3<sup>rd</sup> Update

## DHHS/DCDEE COVID-10 Child Care Payment Policies

For the months of April and May –

- **Subsidy:** paid to all subsidized child care providers for March, April, and May service months, whether program is opened or closed. Payments consistent with March payment for Feb. services.
- **Copayments:** DCDEE covering the cost of all parent copays for April and May. Programs cannot collect fees from parents.
- **Payment schedule:** modified schedule – now every two weeks
- **Recertifications:** Recertifications during in March, April and May will be extended for 12 months.

### Resources

- [DHHS COVID-19 Child Care Payment Policies - April 3, 2020](#)

# Child Care for Essential Workers

- **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
  - Have no other child care option
- **Parent Application Required**
- **Payments to child care programs based on actual attendance**
- **New rate structure – see April 3 guidance**



# Bonuses for Child Care Teachers and Staff

## DCDEE Bonuses for teacher and staff – April and May

- Applies to both centers and homes, for staff working on site at the child care program.
- Paid directly to program
- Bonuses are subject to payroll taxes and made available to staff through program's payroll service
- Rates -
  - Full time - \$300 per month for all teaching staff; \$200 per month for non-teaching staff
  - Part-time - 20 hours or less, \$150 for teachers; \$100 non teaching staff

# Comments from the Field – Child Care Providers

- Mix of Programs Open and Closed
- Most programs face significant vacancies
- Difficult balance between protecting health of staff, children and families versus staying open to serve essential workers
- Guaranteed subsidy payment is very helpful, but some still losing money to stay open
- Big hole is private pay parent fees – some parents donating their fees
- Some able to continue salaries and benefits/others not able.
- Struggle to pay staff salaries and benefits – some furloughing to staff so they can collect unemployment insurance which pays better.

“I feel like I’m at war right now, like I’m on the battlefield. Every day you’re hoping you don’t have a teacher who gets it, praying that you don’t get it, that none of the children have it, and that the parents understand all the new guidelines. I want to stand up and help my state and essential workers, but on the other hand, what is the incentive for me to continue to risk my life and my staff’s life every day?”

Cassandra Brooks, Director  
Little Believer’s Academy

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

# 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



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## Small Business Loans

# Spotlight – Small Business Loans

## Special Guest Speakers –

- **Jessie Maxwell, Self Help Credit Union**
- **Patrick Rodriguez, Small Business Administration**

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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 [roy.cooper@nc.gov](mailto:roy.cooper@nc.gov)



# NC Early Education Coalition Action

## New Fact Sheet: 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.**
- **Two buckets:**
  1. Programs that are open to serve essential workers
  2. Programs that are closed and in danger of remaining closed
- **New Action Alert – today!**
- **Sharing the new fact sheet and petition stories with you all later today!**

# Coalition Action Center & Petition Drive Stories

## Thank you for Taking Action!

- Over **700** petition signers
- Around **300** people used the Action Center – sending **3668** emails to **xxx** legislators!



# House Health Workgroup – Thursday, 4/9, 9:30

- **House Health Workgroup Meeting on Thursday at 9:30**
- **Listen in**  
<https://www.ncleg.gov/LegislativeCalendar/>
- **Includes child care presentation by NC Partnership for Children**
- **Please Do more than the Action Center**
  - **Make the most of this opportunity**
  - **Send your representatives personal email today!**
  - **Call their offices as well**

## **Members**

- Rep. Josh Dobson, Chair
- Rep. Donny Lambeth, Chair
- Rep. Perrin Jones, Chair
- Rep. Donna White, Chair
- Rep. Carla Cunningham, Chair
- Rep. Becky Carney, Chair
- Rep. Gale Adcock
- Rep. Kristin Baker
- Rep. Mary Belk
- Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield
- Rep. Verla Insko
- Rep. Garland Pierce
- Rep. Larry Potts
- Rep. Wayne Sasser
- Rep. Larry Yarborough
- Rep. Lee Zachary

# Tuesdays for Tots

## It's time to #ThinkBabiesNC in April

### **April 14: Webinar at 2pm + Week of the Young Child**

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: Take Action**

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/](http://www.thinkbabies.org/sign-the-petition/)



# Questions?



# Thank you!

[www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org](http://www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org)

**For more information:**

**Michele Rivest**

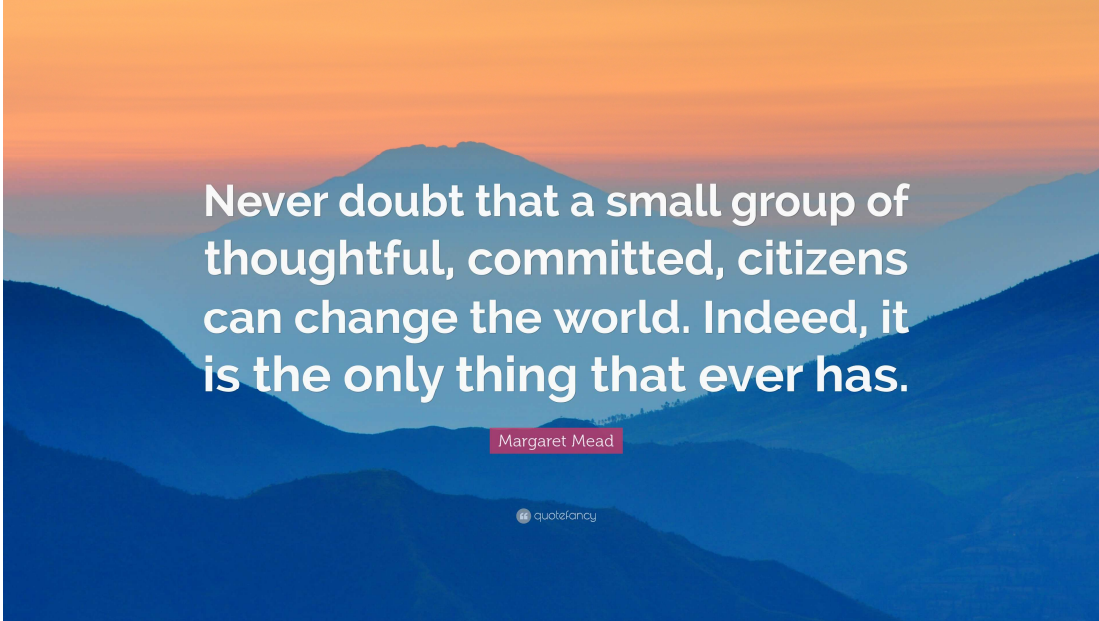
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

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