

# North Carolina Early Education Coalition

*DEDICATED TO ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION*



## COVID-19 Child Care Updates & Legislative Session Report

May 5, 2020



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

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

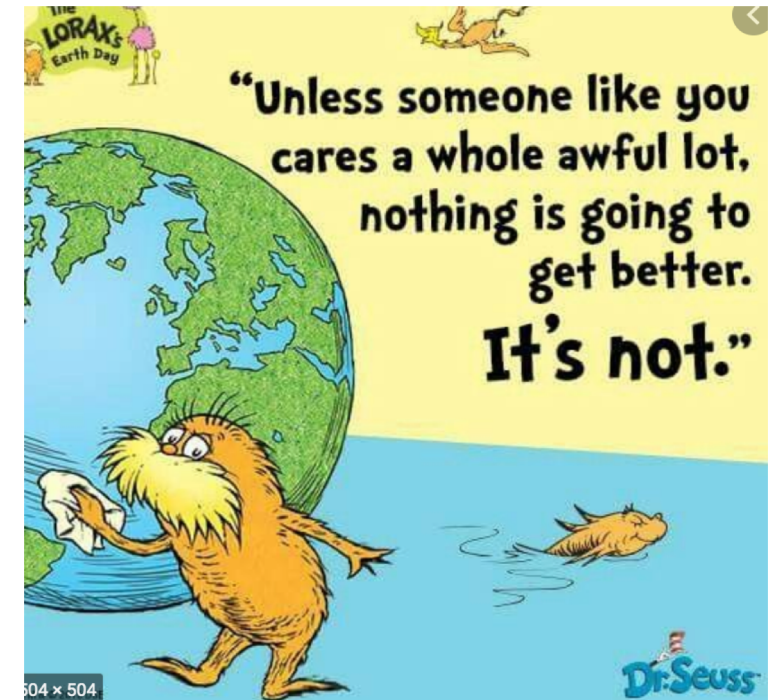


“There’s a light  
at the end of  
the tunnel!”



# Goals for Today

- Latest Child Care Policies
- 2020 Short Session Review with special guest Scott Laster, the Coalition's lobbyist
- Effective advocacy tips and strategies

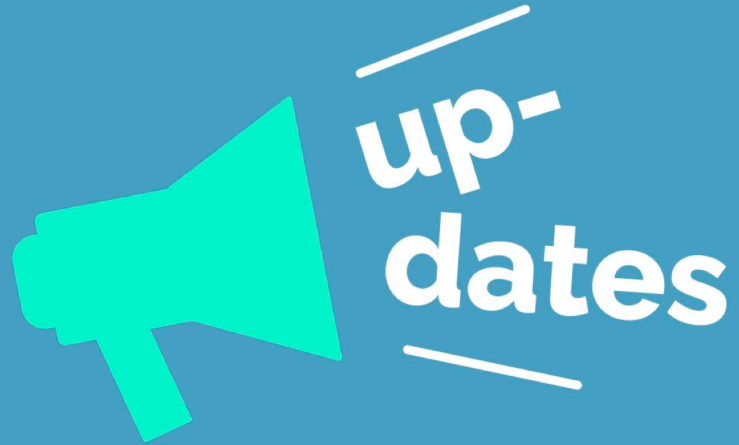


# Let's Connect Poll and Chat!

**As you think about the state reopening and families going back to work, what's the most important issue to pay attention to for child care to be able to operate successfully?**

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## COVID-19 Child Care Updates



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# Status of Child Care

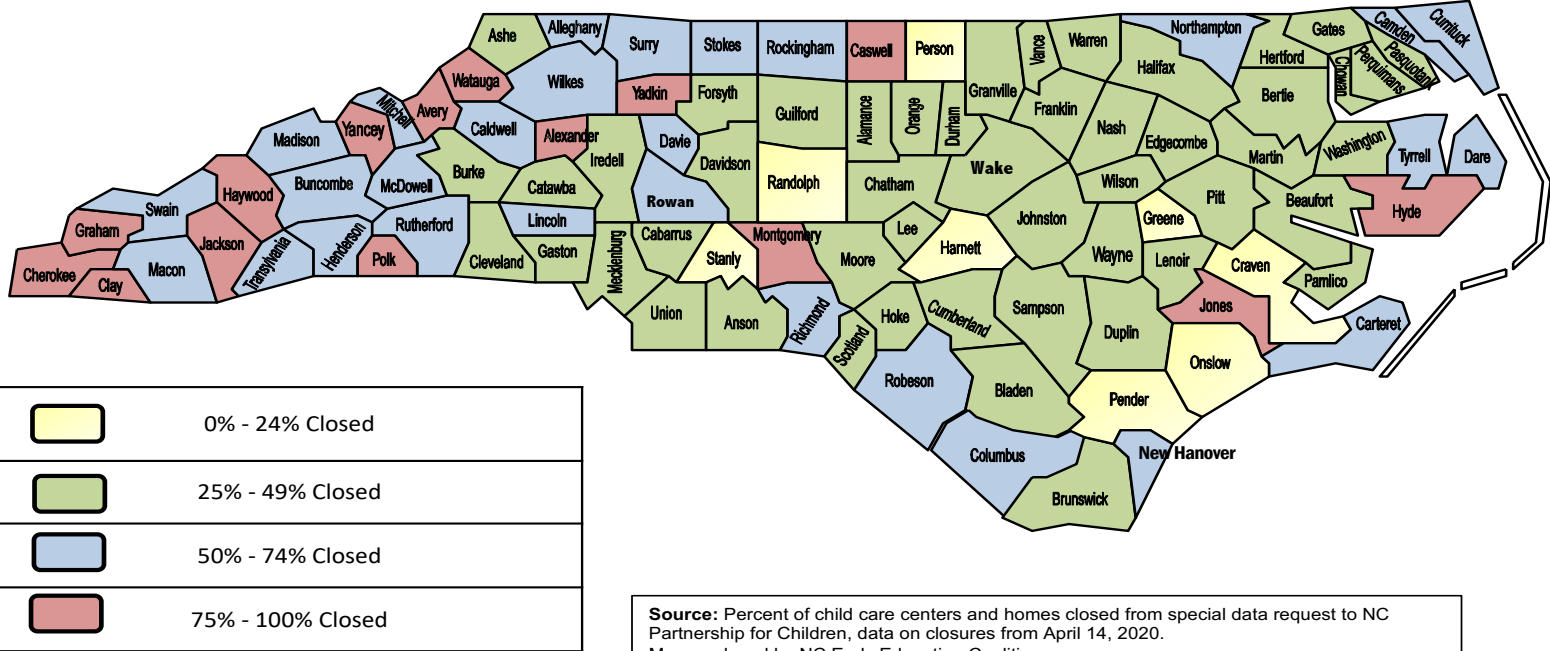
OPEN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS			
	4/6/20	5/5/20	Change
Centers	2608 (58% of all centers)	2194	18% decrease
Homes	1236 (90% of all homes)	1185	4% decrease
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,844 programs</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>467 programs (14% decrease)</b>

- 19,657 children served through the emergency child care subsidy programs
- 20,462 employees received bonus payments



# Status of Child Care Closed Programs by County

## Closed Child Care Programs April 2020



**Source:** Percent of child care centers and homes closed from special data request to NC Partnership for Children, data on closures from April 14, 2020.  
Map produced by NC Early Education Coalition

# DCDEE COVID-19 Policy Action

- **Updated Rates: Expanded ECE teacher and staff bonuses! (4/28)**

	Full Time Employees	Part-time Employees
Teaching Staff	\$950/per teacher/month	\$475 per teacher per month
Non-Teaching Staff	\$525 per staff per month	\$262.50 per staff per month

- **Providers receive additional 10% on top to cover costs associated with payroll taxes and other administrative costs.**
- **Still only applies to April and May**
- **Teachers and staff cannot be absent for more than 10 days.**

# DCDEE COVID-19 Policy Action

- Mental Health Support Available for Child Care Teachers & Staff
- Partnership between DHHS and NC Psychological Foundation
- New HelpLine – Hope4Healers Helpline – (919) 226-2002
- English and Spanish

NORTH CAROLINA

## Child Care Professionals

**Do you or your family members need FREE emotional support from being on the COVID-19 front-lines?**

*NC Licensed Therapists  
are ready to listen!*

NORTH CAROLINA HOTLINE

HOPE  4 HEALERS

**(919) 226-2002**

In partnership with the NC Department of Health and Human Services  
and the North Carolina Psychological Foundation

NC Department of Health and Human Services • [www.ncdhhs.gov/](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/) • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. • 4/2020

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# NC General Assembly COVID 19 Updates and Short Session Summary



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# NC Early Education Coalition Ask

## 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.**
  - Programs that are open to serve essential workers
  - Programs that are closed and in danger of remaining closed
- **New fact sheet and petition stories on our website**

## Updated to \$183 Million Ask

- Health and sanitation supplies, equipment and cleaning services
- Increased bonus pay for early childhood teachers and staff
- Parent copayments waived and paid by the state
- Lost revenue grant program for child care programs

# Special Guest – Coalition Lobbying Team

## Scott Laster, Kairos Government Affairs



# Short Session Overview

- **Focused only COVID-19 related issues**
- **Passed Two bills – HB 1043 and SB704**
  - **Money Bill - \$1.6 Billion**
    - Included \$118 million for child care relief
    - \$19 M for pot that includes food banks, protective services, shelters, NC CARE360, technology and child care
    - Also appropriated \$48 M (\$36 child care subsidy and \$12M child care quality)
    - \$125M in small business loans through the Golden Leaf Foundation – child care can apply
  - **Policy Bill**
    - Delays 3 year fingerprinting requirement to 5 years
    - Designates child care providers as priority population for PPE equipment, antibody testing



# What's Next?

- **May 18<sup>th</sup> – House returning....Senate?**
- **Focus could be?**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Round COVID-19 still \$1.5 billion left to allocate
  - Regular Short Session budget
- **Late Summer –**
  - Could be Short Session Budget, after revenues are known
  - Now predicting \$1.5 - \$2B shortfall





# Questions with Scott?



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## Effective Advocacy



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# Focus on Key Messages

- Support and stabilize the child care industry and ensure the availability of high-quality child care for working families
  - Federal funding is helpful, but it's not enough
  - Significant state funding is necessary to keep the system from collapsing
  - Emergency child care policies need to continue for the duration of this crisis
  - Keep pushing for what else is needed!

# Next Coalition Policy Proposal

## **Extend funding and policies for duration of COVID-19**

- Health and Sanitation Supplies, Protective Equipment, Deep Cleaning Services
- Continue Bonus Payments for ECE Teachers and Staff
- Parent CoPayment Fees Coverage
- Expanded Income Eligibility for Essential Workers
- Health Care and Paid Sick Leave for ECE staff
- Lost Revenue Replacement for Child Care Programs





# Keep Up the Great Work!

- Action alert, petition and story collection
  - <https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/take-action/>
- Media outreach
  - Letters to the Editor
  - Op-Eds
  - Blogs, newsletters, websites
- Social media
  - #FundChildCare

# Tuesdays for Tots

## Coming up:

### Tuesday, May 12:

- Let's #ThinkBabiesNC! How is this crisis impacting babies and their families?

### Tuesday, May 19:

- Legislators will be back in session - take action for early education!



# Questions?



# Thank you!

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

**For more information:**

**Michele Rivest**

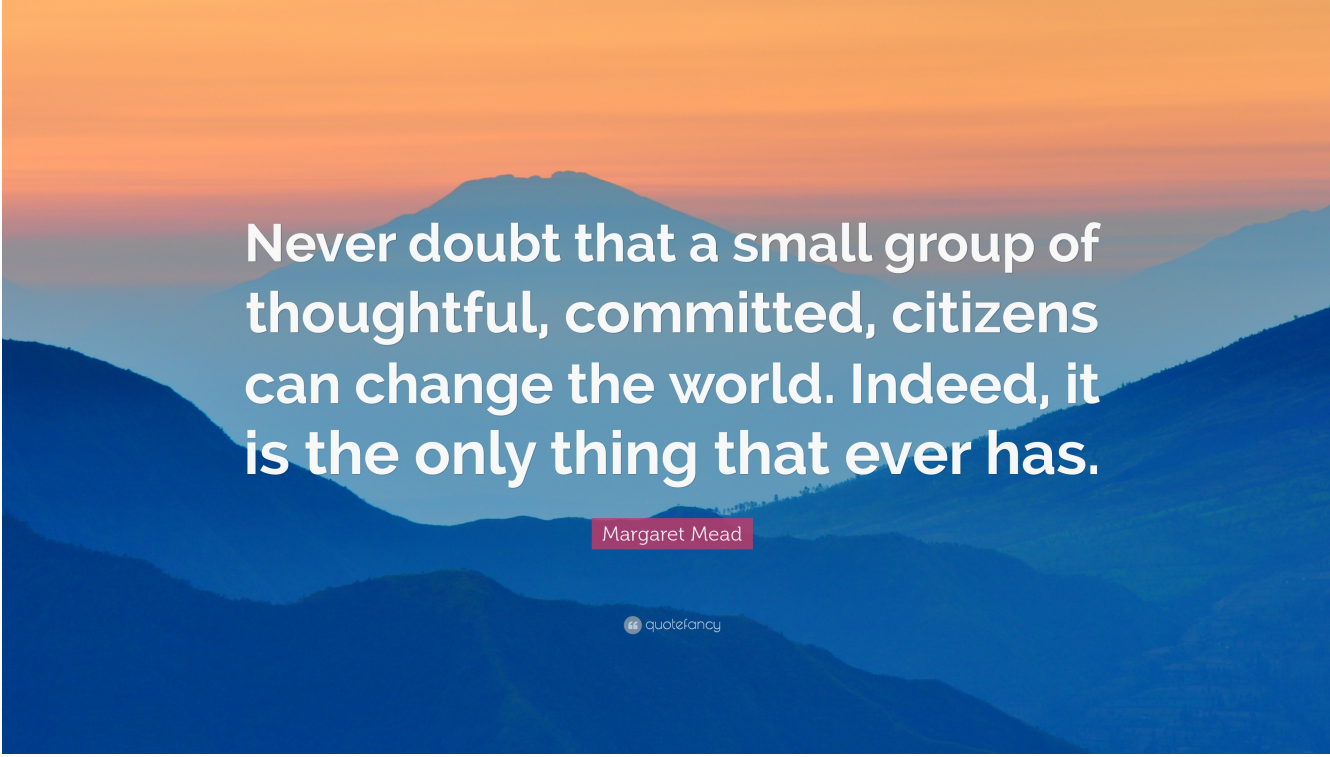
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

 quote fancy