



**NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

Tuesdays for Tots: It's Time to Take Action

June 2, 2020



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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.

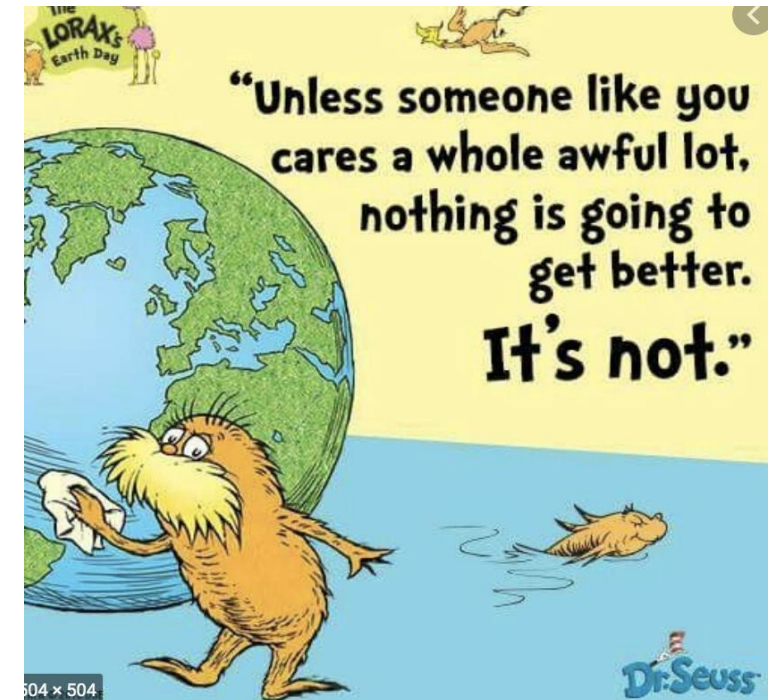
Message of Hope from Elliott



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

Goals for Today

- Review status of child care in NC and child care policy solutions and priorities
- Update on state and federal legislative action
- Advocacy tips and strategies



Status of Child Care

- Reopening as the state reopens, changing picture daily
- No longer “essential” child care only
- Child care programs need to apply if not previously open
- All programs must meet CDC guidelines
- Operating grants available to support programs
 - Automatically given by DCDEE to child care programs open in April, May and/or June

Status of Child Care

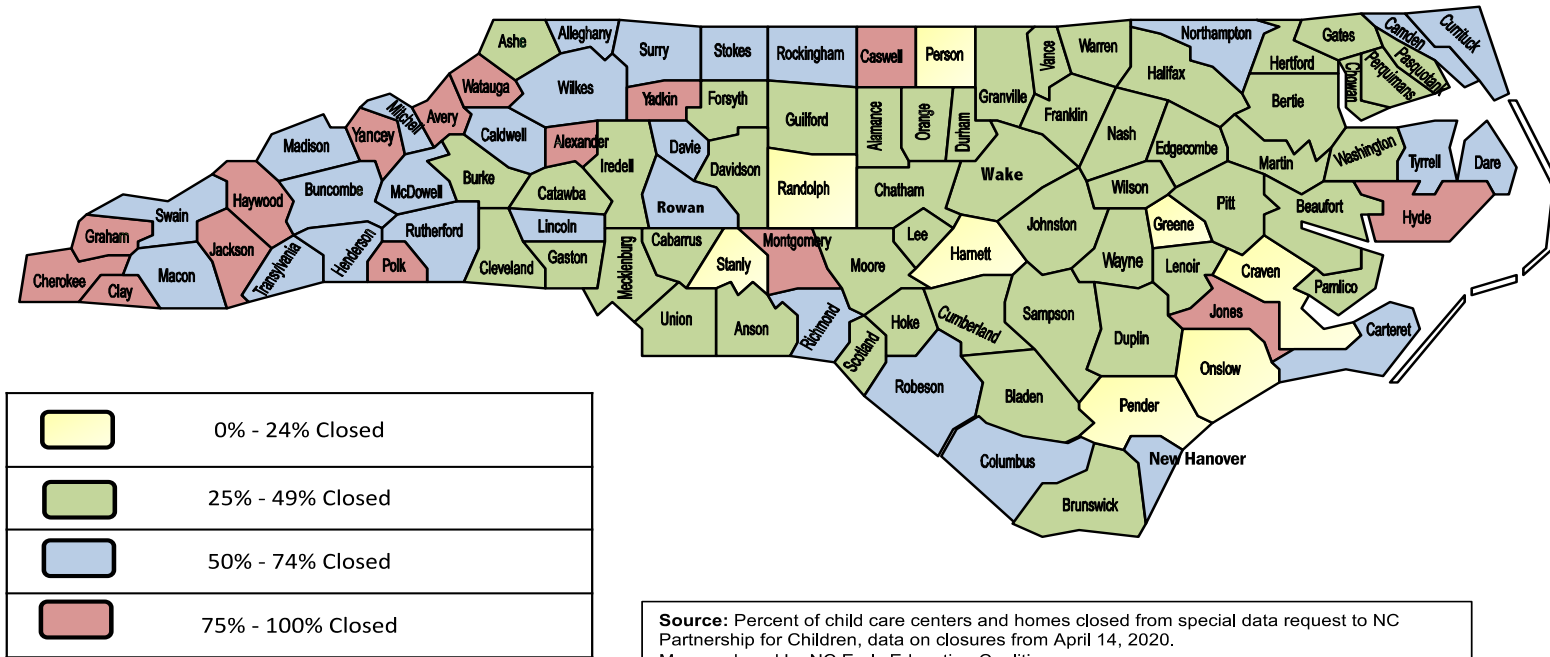
Number of Open/Closed Programs

	Centers	Homes	Total
Total Facilities	4,412	1,354	5,766
Total Open	2,221 (50%)	1,189 (88%)	3,410 (59%)
Total Closed	2,191 (50%)	165 (12%)	2,356 (41%)

*Data as of 5/12/2020

Closed Programs by County

Closed Child Care Programs April 2020



New Coalition Brief – NC's Child Care Crisis During COVID-19

Policy Solutions and Priorities:

- Continue Bonus Payments for ECE Teachers and Staff
- Support Working Parents through Waiving of Parent Co-Pay Fees
- Continue Essential Child Care Subsidy Assistance Program with Expanded Income Eligibility
- Expand Access to Child Care Health Consultation, Training, Technical Assistance



Federal Action

- U.S. House passed the HEROES Act
 - \$3 trillion relief package
 - Includes \$7 billion for child care through CCDBG
- Democratic bill in US Congress House and Senate – Child Care Is Essential Act
 - Would create a \$50 billion Child Care Stabilization fund through CCDBG
- Republican resolution in Senate
 - Calls for a \$25 billion investment in CCDBG
 - Letter of support for child care signed by Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis

NC Legislative Short Session Overview

- So far:
 - **Federal Relief Funding Allocated - \$1.6 Billion**
 - Included \$118 million for child care relief from CARES Act
 - \$19 M for pot that includes food banks, protective services, shelters, NC CARE360, technology and child care
 - Also appropriated \$48 M (\$36M child care subsidy and \$12M child care quality)
 - \$125M in small business loans through the Golden Leaf Foundation – child care can apply
 - **Federal Relief Funding Remaining - \$1.5 Billion**
- Still primarily focused on COVID-19 issues
- Predicting \$5 billion budget shortfall
- Leandro case – court could order more funding for early education through NC Pre-K and Smart Start

Bill to Watch

- HB 1117: Protect Child Care Workers/COVID-19 Pandemic
- Sponsored by Reps. von Haefen, Belk, Fisher and Hunt
- Provides funding for:
 - Increased bonuses for childcare teachers and staff
 - Health and sanitation supplies, PPE, and deep cleaning services
 - Out-of-pocket health costs for COVID-19 testing
 - Additional child care health consultants
- Referred to House Appropriations Committee

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H1117v1.pdf>



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Advocacy Tips and Strategies



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The Power of Advocacy

- Elected officials want to represent the best interests of their constituents who live in their counties and districts.
- Help your own state legislator understand the child care crisis and what is happening in your own community.
- Don't assume they know – they don't unless you tell them.
- Educate and activate!

New Early Education COVID-19 Advocacy Toolkit!

- Tips for sharing your story
- Talking points
- Sample email to policymakers
- Phone script for calling policymakers
- Social media messages and graphics
- Sample Letter to the Editor for providers
- Contact information for key policymakers



Focus on Key Messages

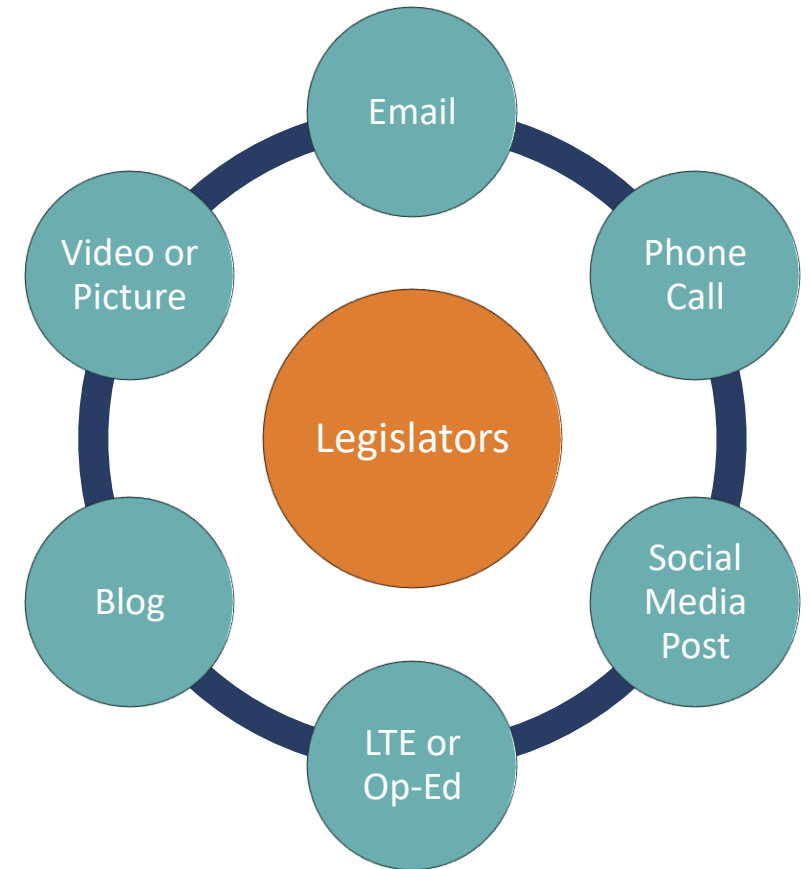
- Support and stabilize the child care industry and ensure the availability of high-quality child care for working families
 - North Carolina can't reopen without child care
 - Child care programs and teachers need resources to stay safe and healthy
 - Child care programs are small businesses and need support to survive
 - Families need access to affordable child care



Sharing Your Story

A Surround Sound Approach:

- Send an email to your legislators
- Call your legislators
- Post a message on social media – and tag your legislators
- Record a short video or post a picture on social media – and tag your legislators
- Write a blog or newsletter article and share it online and with your network
- Write an LTE or Op-Ed for your local newspaper
- Share a story with us through our [Action Center](#) that we can use in our conversations with policymakers



Key Policymakers

House HHS Appropriations Committee

Rep. Potts, Chair (Davidson)	Rep. Bumgardner (Gaston)
Rep. White, Chair (Johnston)	Rep. Cunningham (Mecklenburg)
Rep. Brisson, Vice Chair (Bladen, Sampson)	Rep. Farmer-Butterfield (Wilson)
Rep. Dobson, Vice Chair (Avery, McDowell, Mitchell)	Rep. Insko (Orange)
Rep. Lambeth, Vice Chair (Forsyth)	Rep. Jarvis (Davidson)
Rep. Alston (Durham)	Rep. Jones (Pitt)
Rep. Baker (Cabarrus)	Rep. Smith (Sampson, Wayne)
Rep. Belk (Mecklenburg)	Rep. Terry (Forsyth)

Senate HHS Appropriations Committee

Sen. Krawiec, Chair (Davie, Forsyth)

Sen. Bryan (Mecklenburg)

Sen. Burgin (Harnett, Johnston, Lee)

Sen. Hise (Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey)

Sen. Lowe (Forsyth)

Sen. Murdock (Durham)

Sen. Perry (Lenoir, Wayne)

Sen. Robinson (Guilford)

Sen. Van Duyn (Buncombe)

Other Key Policymakers

- Your *own* legislators
- Not sure who your legislators are? Look them up here:
<https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/take-action/who-represents-me/>
- Executive branch – Governor and state officials

Make a Commitment

- Make a commitment to take action between now and June 12th

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECEcovid19advocacy>

- Let us know what you plan to do and if you need additional resources
- Let us know what you have already done so we can work together on next steps.

We're here to help!

Tuesdays for Tots

Coming up next week:

Tuesday, June 9:

- Early Education Telephone Town Hall – Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 pm
 - <https://www.nearlyeducationcoalition.org/events/early-childhood-telephone-town-hall/>
- RSVP to attend the release of ZERO TO THREE's *State of Babies Yearbook: 2020* on June 11th
 - <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2647-state-of-babies-yearbook-2020>



Questions?



Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

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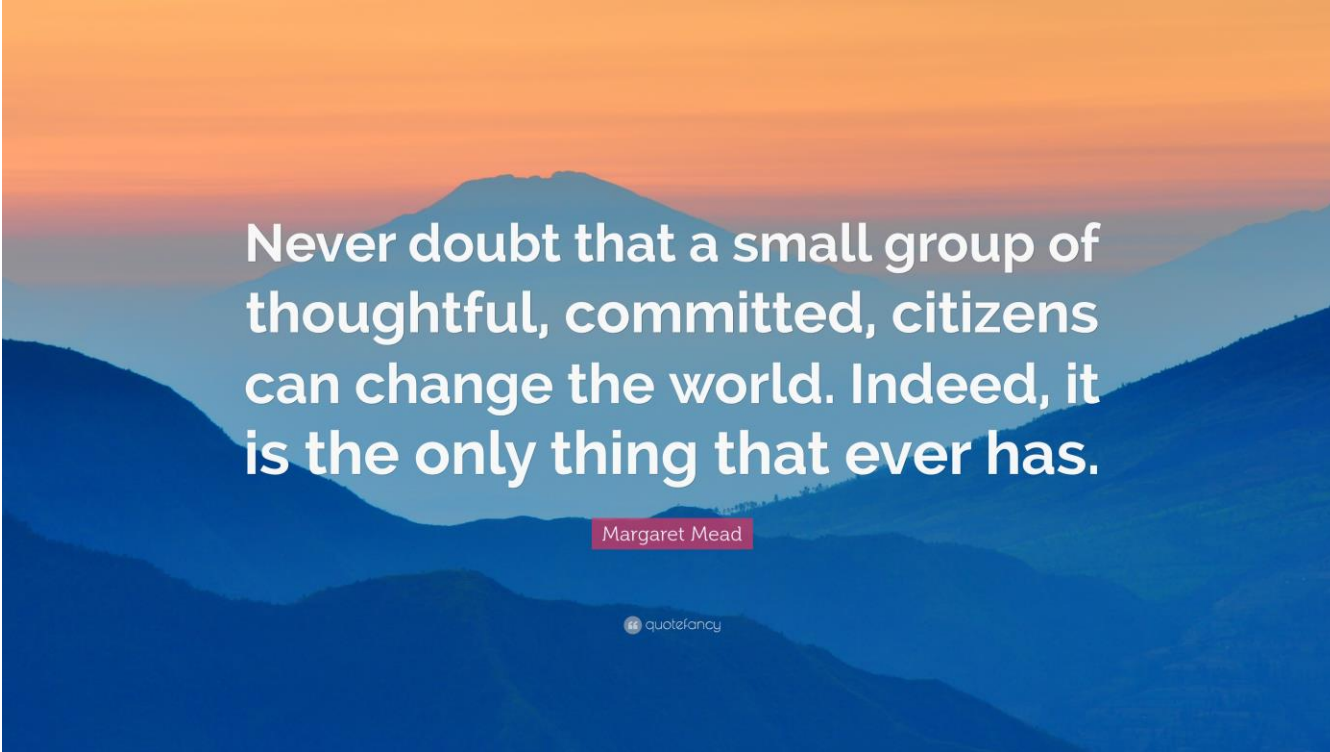
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

quote fancy