



Child Care Provider COVID-19 Survey Results – May 2020

Data collected between 5/15/2020-5/27/2020

Impact of COVID-19

Out of the 166 respondents, 52% (86) of their programs are currently closed

- 53% of centers are closed
- 44% of homes are closed

Reopening

- When asked, providers who are currently closed what the biggest barriers were to reopening, **concerns about health and safety of staff and children** was the most frequently ranked barrier.
- The need for **supplies, PPE and cleaning products** was a **lower concern** than expected. This might be due to Austin Public Health (APH)'s response to provider needs. Providers have been able to fill out a separate survey detailing supply, PPE, and cleaning product needs which have been filled whenever possible within a few weeks.
- Among **centers, finding families** to make it worth reopening was another highly ranked concern but was ranked lower for child care homes.

Note: the concerns of centers were more variable –which is likely due to range in type of care (e.g., nonprofit/for profit; church-based; school-based; etc.)

All Providers & Centers	
<i>Please rank the biggest barrier to reopening your program in order of priority:</i>	
1	Concerns about health & safety of myself, staff, and children.
2	Cannot afford to stay open with the reduced group sizes under current requirements.
3	Cannot find staff who are willing to work under the current conditions.
4	Cannot find enough families to be worth reopening program.
5	Cannot get supplies, cleaning products and (PPE).

Child Care Homes	
<i>Please rank the biggest barrier to reopening your program in order of priority:</i>	
1	Concerns about health & safety of myself, staff, and children
2	Cannot find enough families to be worth reopening program.
3	Cannot afford to stay open with the reduced group sizes under current requirements.
4	Cannot find staff who are willing to work under the current conditions.
5	Cannot get supplies, cleaning products and (PPE).



Small Business Administration Loans

- **70%** of providers **applied for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan**, such as Paycheck Protection Plan, or other support.
- **85%** of those who applied **were approved** for a loan.
- Of the providers who didn't apply, **77% do not plan to apply** for one.

Staff Reductions

- When asked whether the child care program had to reduce staff, benefits, or wages, 41% of all providers said they didn't have to do any of these. Thirty-nine percent of providers reduced hours (which resulted in less pay for teachers), 31% of providers furloughed employees without pay, 13% laid off staff permanently, and 7% reduced benefits.
- Home providers were more likely to not have to do any of these – with 70% indicating they did not have to reduce the number of staff, hours, or benefits compared to 36% of centers.
- 43% of centers, compared to 17% of homes, indicated that they had to reduce hours.
- Only 4% of homes had to furlough or lay off staff, and 8% reduced benefit. This makes sense given that home providers are more often solo providers with no additional staff.
- 36% of centers had to furlough staff without pay, 15% laid off staff permanently, and 7% reduced benefits.
- These patterns were even more pronounced for centers who serve children in the child care subsidy (CCS) system. Centers serving CCS children were more likely to reduce hours (49% vs. 33%), furlough (41% vs. 27%), and lay off staff (21% vs. 4%).
- Closed providers are a lot more likely to have to lay staff off permanently (16% vs 9%) in comparison to open providers. In contrast, providers who were open were more likely to have reduced employees' hours (48% vs. 29%).



Supports Needed to Sustain Services or Reopen

What are the supports/resources that your child care program would need in order to reopen or sustain services?

- **Funding to support social distancing and tuition replacement** were the most frequently cited supports needed to **reopen or sustain services**.

Looking forward to the next three or six months, what other supports or resources does your childcare program need to meet the needs of your staff and families served?

- Looking **3 – 6 months out**, funding and support for **PPE and health/safety supplies**, funding to cover **increased operational costs** and funding for **lost tuition due to ratios/group sizes** were reported most frequently.
- There was minimal difference between the responses of centers and homes in both questions.

Current and Future Sustainability Concerns

When it comes to the current and future sustainability of the child care program, what are you most worried about?

- The **highest ranked concern** was **paying staff** (or self if they are a solo provider). The second highest was **whether families will come back** after the pandemic is over
- **Centers** were also concerned with **making rent payments** and buying **health, PPE and cleaning supplies**.
- **Homes** were concerned with all of the above and also ranked **making utility payments** as a high concern. A notable difference between homes and centers was that home providers were least worried about whether families will come back after the pandemic is over.

All Providers	
<i>When it comes to the current and future sustainability of the child care program, what are you most worried about?:</i>	
1	Paying staff or myself as a solo provider <i>and</i> Whether families will come back after the pandemic is over
2	Making or missing rent or mortgage payment
3	Making or missing utility payment
4	Finding or paying for protective & cleaning supplies for staff/myself
5	Whether staff will come back after the pandemic is over
6	Paying for staff or own health insurance/other benefits



Respondent information

- **166 child care providers** responded to a survey distributed following the Austin/Travis County Child Care COVID-19 Task Force webinar on May 13, 2020.
- **84%** are from **licensed child care centers** and **16%** from **family homes**
- The majority (98%) are owners, site directors or executive directors/CEOs.
- **84%** of providers are in **Austin city limits**, **7%** in **Pflugerville** and the remaining providers are located in Manor, Bee Cave, Del Valle, Lakeway, Spicewood and Westlake.
- **54%** are **for profit** and **46%** are **nonprofit**
- **58%** of all respondents are currently contracted to accept **child care subsidies**.
 - 62% of centers and 37% of child care homes are currently contracted.
- **Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost half, 49%, served more than 50 children** and 21% serve 12 or fewer.
 - Out of centers, 59% serve more than 50 children.
 - Out of homes 93% serve 12 or fewer.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, 34% of centers, and 93% of homes continued to serve approximately the same amount of children. 45% of centers and 7% of homes served fewer children. 18% of centers served a lot fewer kids, while around 3% served more children than usual.
- 59% of respondents identify as Non-Hispanic White, 15% as Hispanic-White, 9% as Black or African American and 5% as Asian or Asian American.
- **English** is the primary language spoken in **73%** of programs; **Spanish** is the primary language spoken in **23%** of programs and **Other** languages are primary in **3%** of programs.
- 89% of providers served infants and toddlers (birth to three years old), 92% served preschool aged children (three to five years old) and 46% served school aged children (6 years and older) (

Ongoing Engagement

How are child care providers interested in staying engaged? (in order of most frequent responses)

- Additional webinars
- Virtual meetings
- Success by 6 Coalition newsletter
- In person meetings during the weekday (when permitted under public health conditions)
- In person meetings during the weekend (when permitted under public health conditions)
- In person meetings during the evening (when permitted under public health conditions)