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# HOME GROWN

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**HOME-BASED CHILD CARE EMERGENCY FUND LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS AND PROVIDERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

*The Fund has Raised \$1,200,000 from Home Grown Members*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** -- Today, [Home Grown](#) announced the [Home-Based Child Care Emergency Fund](#), a \$1,200,000 relief program to address the needs of home-based child care caregivers and providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These providers are on the front line of the pandemic, risking their own health and safety to care for the children of essential employees such as healthcare workers and first responders. The fund will catalyze the development of regional funds to provide direct financial support to home-based caregivers for urgent needs arising from this unprecedented crisis, including obtaining cleaning supplies and services, providing paid leave for workers, and supplementing lost wages and income.

Surveys indicate that 83 percent of families struggle to find affordable, accessible, quality child care. For many of these families, home-based child care is the solution, serving more than 7 million children ages five and under—nearly double the number of children in center or school-based care (3.8 million).

Home-based care is often the most familiar, flexible, convenient, personal, and affordable option for families, and often is the best or only option available for care during nontraditional hours, like evenings, nights, and weekends. Providers of home-based child care are often low-income women of color and, given the closure of center and school-based child care in response to COVID-19, dependence on these providers is increasing.

These caregivers and providers are navigating complex public health decisions and contending with significant business disruption that threatens their continued operation. According to a recent survey by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), 63 percent of child care providers have less than a month of reserves to sustain their operations. While Congress authorized \$3.5 billion through the CARES Act to support child care, there is still uncertainty surrounding how it will be distributed, and it will not cover all providers.

Our society relies on a healthy and stable child care industry for parents to go back to work. Without immediate action to maintain the supply of home-based child care, near-term efforts to rebuild the economy may be stalled, and may impact young children's development in the short and long-term.

“As our nation faces this unprecedented pandemic, dependence on home-based child care providers is increasing. As we work to build an infrastructure for child care that best serves providers, children, and families long-term, philanthropy has the unique ability to catalyze immediate support,” said Natalie Renew, Director of Home Grown. “Home-based child care is the backbone of America’s child care system and we must maintain this child care option throughout this crisis and as we rebuild from it.”

Home Grown members, Heising-Simons Foundation, Klingenstein Philanthropies, MAEVA Social Capital, Imaginable Futures (a venture of The Omidyar Group), the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, have raised \$1,200,000 to catalyze the development of regional funds to provide direct financial support to home-based child care providers.

Home Grown will award and disseminate grants on a rolling basis to local philanthropic partnerships establishing their own emergency funds that are focused on home-based child care caregivers and providers. While Home Grown will provide technical and financial support in setting up funds, local organizations, who know their communities and caregivers best, will drive decisions regarding the distribution of their funds.

“Preserving and protecting the home-based child care sector through the COVID-19 pandemic is a top priority,” said Barbara Chow, Director of the Education Program at the Heising-Simons Foundation. “Child care is a necessity, and home-based child care providers keep essential workers working. In a crisis like this, quality child care holds us together. It will also be what is needed to get folks back to work and improve our economy. Home Grown is uniquely positioned to work with communities to fortify this essential infrastructure.”

In partnership with [Reinvestment Fund](#), Home Grown also created a [Home-Based Child Care Emergency Fund Toolkit](#) for applicants to use in designing their local funds. The toolkit offers operational and logistical guidance for deploying the funds.

These efforts are part of Home Grown's broad COVID-19 response work, which ensures that home-based providers, who play a critical role in supporting the American workforce, are represented in COVID-19 policy solutions. By meeting the immediate needs of providers, and connecting their needs to local, state and federal policy actions, we can help sustain the supply of home-based child care and prevent any sacrifices in quality of care. We must sustain safe and culturally appropriate settings that ensure the health of children and their ability achieve their full cognitive, social, and emotional potential.

“Most young children in child care in the U.S. are being taken care of by home-based child care providers, but these providers are consistently underrepresented and underfunded,” said Ashley Beckner, Venture Partner at Imaginable Futures. “It is to the detriment of the entire country that we let our childcare system reach the verge of collapse. We must act now to provide these vital workers with immediate and long-term support.”

Home Grown is also encouraging others to provide financial support to home-based child care providers to maintain the supply of child care for our workforce, particularly essential workers. A dollar to a home-based provider is a dollar toward the rebuilding of our economy. Home Grown would welcome conversations with providers, experts, funders or others in the field interested in discussing or engaging in this work.

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#### **About HOME GROWN**

Home Grown is a national collaborative of funders committed to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care. The members of Home Grown are collaborating to strategically invest in innovative approaches and scale what works in order to drive the most change as quickly as possible. The collaborative is backed by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Gary Community Investments, Heinz Endowments, Heising-Simons Foundation, Imaginable Futures (a venture of The Omidyar Group), Klingenstein Philanthropies, MAEVA Social Capital, Merage Foundations, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Pritzker Children's Initiative. More at [homegrownchildcare.org](http://homegrownchildcare.org).