Family Child Care Providers during COVID-19
Preliminary Data from Home Grown Emergency Fund Communities

In April 2020, Home Grown and its members created the Home-Based Child Care (HBCC) Emergency Fund with $1.2 million in funding to catalyze the development of regional funds that provide direct financial support to home-based child care providers, including both regulated family child care (FCC) providers and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers across the nation. To deploy funding, we partnered with thirteen regional organizations that designed and administered local emergency funds while securing an additional $1.2 million in matching funds. We are thankful for the partnership of these organizations and funders and their commitment to home-based child care.

The goals of the fund were

1 Sustain the supply of home-based child care
2 Ensure access to child care for essential workers
3 Stabilize the housing or economic status of providers and caregivers

We anticipate reaching approximately 770 FCC providers through the emergency fund.

From May–August 2020 Home Grown gathered data via an online survey of licensed FCC providers who received emergency funding. The data in this document reflects our preliminary analysis of data from 758 FCC providers who took the survey.

Our findings were both bleak and inspiring.
FCC providers continued to serve their communities: an amazing 87% of FCC providers in the survey remained open through the pandemic. However, program enrollment dropped significantly, meaning income decreased for many providers as well. As a result, FCC providers needed the emergency funds to meet basic expenses such as cleaning supplies, utilities, housing, and even food. The HBCC Emergency Fund proved vital in supporting providers to meet these fundamental needs. As the pandemic continues, public support is required to sustain the essential home-based child care sector.
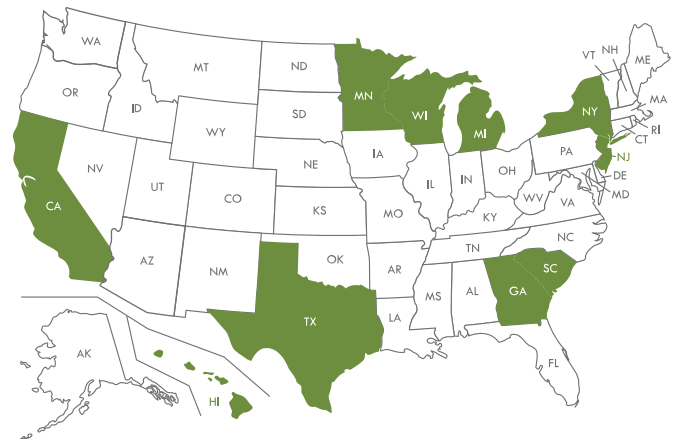
Grantee organizations funded to serve FCC providers were located in 10 states across the United States.

Who are the Family Child Care (FCC) providers?

The vast majority (86%) of FCC providers were small home providers, operated by a single provider with no other adult staff. Of the small percentage of group FCC homes (operated by two or more adults), most lost staff during the pandemic, suggesting that either they could no longer pay additional staff, or that staff left the program.[1]

1. The survey asked providers about race, ethnicity, and gender in the context of business ownership. This was an optional question and the majority of respondents declined to answer.

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What happened to FCC providers' businesses at the onset of Covid-19?

87% of FCC providers remained open during Covid-19.
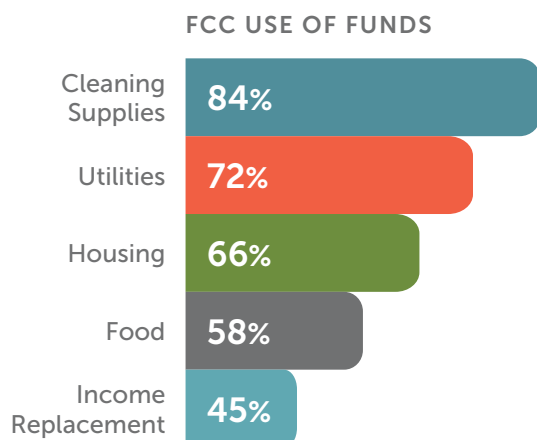
87% remained **OPEN**

Enrollment dropped for all caregivers, irrespective of their open or closed status. On average, providers lost four children during the pandemic, almost half of their pre-COVID enrollment.

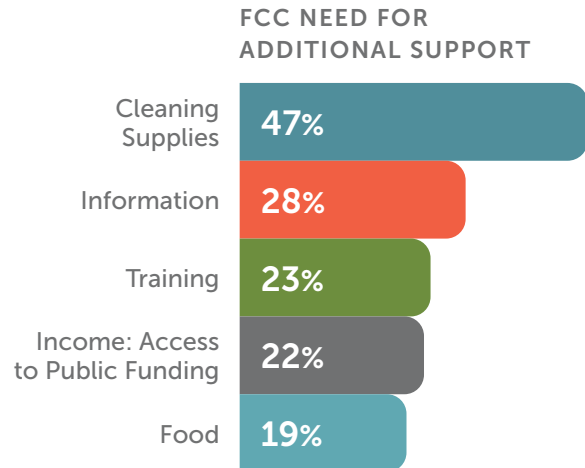**45**% decrease in enrollment

Pre-COVID | During COVID
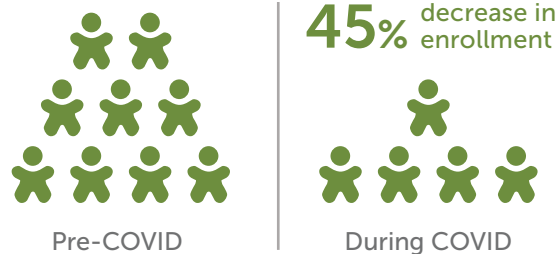
How are FCC providers using emergency funding?

More than eight in ten of FCC providers surveyed intended to use the funds to purchase cleaning supplies. High proportions indicated they would use the funds for housing-related costs as well as lost income from their child care businesses.

FCC USE OF FUNDS

Category	Percentage
Cleaning Supplies	84%
Utilities	72%
Housing	66%
Food	58%
Income Replacement	45%

What additional supports do FCC providers need?

Close to half of the FCC providers needed additional support with cleaning supplies, and a quarter with information and training.

FCC NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Category	Percentage
Cleaning Supplies	47%
Information	28%
Training	23%
Income: Access to Public Funding	22%
Food	19%

What are FCC providers' most common concerns?

In an open ended question we asked respondents to share their primary concerns. In our preliminary analysis,

33% of FCC providers reported concerns with finances and enrollment.

27% of FCC providers expressed health concerns, whether their own, their families' or the children for whom they cared.

Health concerns were more common for those providers who were closed.

What types of supports have been most helpful to FCC providers?

The most frequently cited support was the intermediary organization administering the grant, **indicating the importance of trusted networks**. The second most common support was other FCC providers, pointing to the **mutual support and community that providers create together**, informally.

For more information visit   homegrownchildcare.org/emergency-fund/

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