



Family, Friend, & Neighbor Caregivers 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

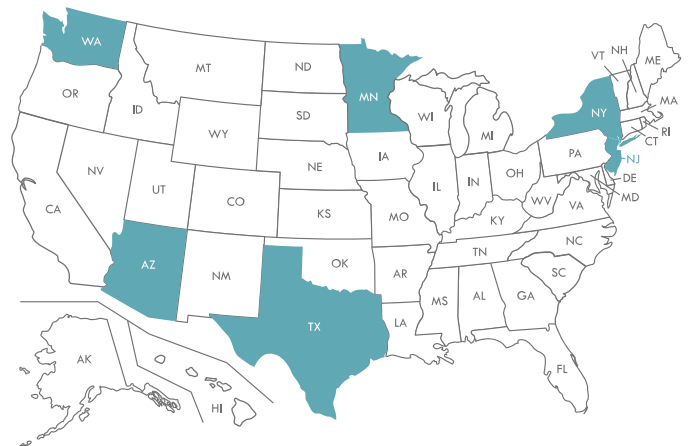
- 1 Sustain the supply of home-based child care
- 2 Ensure access to child care for essential workers
- 3 Stabilize the housing or economic status of providers and caregivers

We anticipate reaching approximately 1080 FFN caregivers through the emergency fund.

From May–August 2020 Home Grown gathered data via an online survey of FFN caregivers who received emergency funding. The data in this document reflects our preliminary analysis of data from 489 FFN caregivers who took the survey.

Our findings were both bleak and inspiring.

Despite great concerns for health—their own, their families, and children’s—two thirds of FFN providers continued to care for children through the pandemic. They used the emergency funds to meet basic expenses, in particular food and utilities. The HBCC Emergency Fund proved vital in supporting caregivers to meet these fundamental needs. As the pandemic continues, public support is required to sustain the essential home-based child care sector.



Grantee organizations who served FFN caregivers were located in 6 states across the United States.

Who are Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers and who are they caring for?

Our sample of FFN caregivers was evenly distributed between English and Spanish speakers. They were divided among those who are family and cared only for relatives, those who cared for a mix of relatives and non-relatives, and those who are friends and neighbors and cared only for non-relatives.

On average, each caregiver served approximately 3 children (average of 3.3)



What happened to FFNs at the onset of Covid-19?

Two thirds of FFN caregivers continued to care for children during the pandemic.

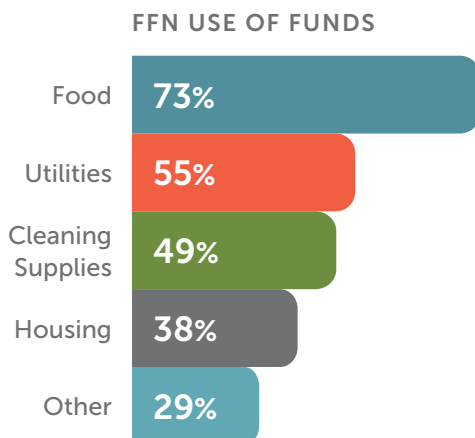


FFN caregivers experienced drops in enrollment, irrespective of their open/closed status.

On average, FFN caregivers' enrollment dropped from three to two children.

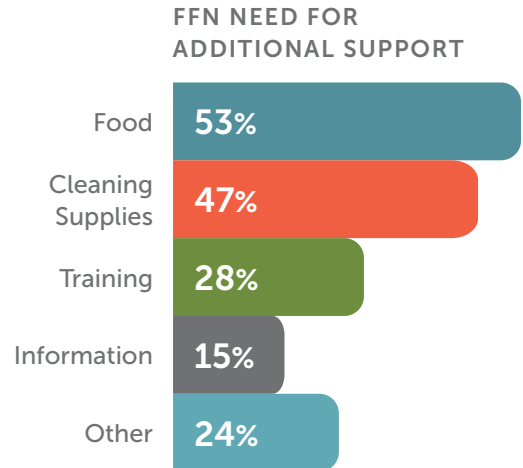
How are FFN caregivers using emergency funding?

The majority of caregivers intended to use the funds to purchase food, a basic necessity. Approximately half also planned to use the funds to pay for utilities and to purchase cleaning supplies.



What additional supports do FFN caregivers need?

Despite FFN caregivers' intentions to use funds to purchase food, more than half of caregivers needed additional support with this issue, and close to half needed additional supports to purchase cleaning supplies.



What are FFN caregivers' most common concerns?

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

39% More than a third of FFN caregivers reported that health—their own, their families' or the children for whom they cared—was a primary concern.

21% Nearly a quarter cited income or enrollment as an issue.

These two issues combined dwarfed any other concerns.

What types of support have been most helpful to FFN caregivers?

The most frequently cited support was the intermediary organization administering the grant, indicating the importance of trusted networks.