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# Measuring Emergency Funds' Impact in COVID-19

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October 14, 2020



# Presenters



**Barbara Chow**, Director of the Education Program, Heising-Simons Foundation

**Natalie Renew**, Director of Home Grown

**Eva Simonsson**, Director of Communications, Outreach and Public Relations, Community Resources for Children

**Jacqueline Wisniewski**, Owner of Soaring Wings Child Care & Preschool

**Ana Isabel Gabilondo Scholz**, Program Evaluator, La Red Latina de Educación Temprana

# Today's Session

- Introduction
- Emergency Fund Overview
- Preliminary Data
- Panel
- Policy Implications
- Question and Answer





# 01

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## Emergency Fund Overview

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# Home Grown



- Home Grown is a national collaborative of funders dedicated to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care (HBCC)
  - Inclusive of Family Child Care (FCC) providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers
- Home Grown Members:
  - Bainum Family Foundation, **Buffett Early Childhood Fund**, Gary Community Investments, Heinz Endowments, **Heising-Simons Foundation**, **Imaginable Futures**, **Klingenstein Philanthropies**, **MAEVA Social Capital**, Merage Foundations, **the David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, and **the Pritzker Children's Initiative**
  - **7 members** invested in Home Grown's COVID response initiative



# Home-Based Child Care

- Nationally 7 million children receive care in a home-based setting
- HBCC serves in larger proportions:
  - Children from low-income families
  - Black and Latino families
  - Infants and toddlers
  - Children in rural areas
  - Children with special needs
  - Families with nontraditional hours care needs
- Many HBCC providers struggle to remain open
  - Average annual income for a licensed FCC provider is \$29,377 working 10-12 hour days
  - Informal FFN caregivers earn \$7,420 on average



# Emergency Fund and Toolkit

- In April 2020 Home Grown created and launched:
  - Emergency Fund Toolkit
  - National Emergency Fund to deploy \$1.2 million dollars through regional organizations
- Goal was to catalyze the development of regional funds to:
  1. Maintain the supply of HBCC
  2. Ensure access to child care for essential workers
  3. Stabilize the economic and housing status of HBCC providers and caregivers



## Why This Approach

- Need for philanthropy to act boldly and quickly
- Dire situation for HBCC providers and caregivers
  - At the onset, fear and confusion over health & safety, open/closed status, and public subsidy & funding
  - Data from CSCCE Berkley's [survey](#) of 2,000 child care providers in CA:
    - 77% of open child care programs lost revenue from families
    - 75% of FCC felt their family's health was at risk
    - 49% of FCC providers have been unable to pay themselves at some point
    - 34% took on credit card debt for program expenses
    - 22% missed rent or mortgage
  - Public supports largely inaccessible to providers (less than 15% were able to access the SBA Paycheck Protection Program)





## Why This Approach

- Toolkit offered a roadmap for regional funds
- Leveraged matching funding
- Elevated the profile of HBCC
- Aimed to serve as a bridge to relief and reform efforts for sustainability

# 02

## Preliminary Data



# HBCC Emergency Fund

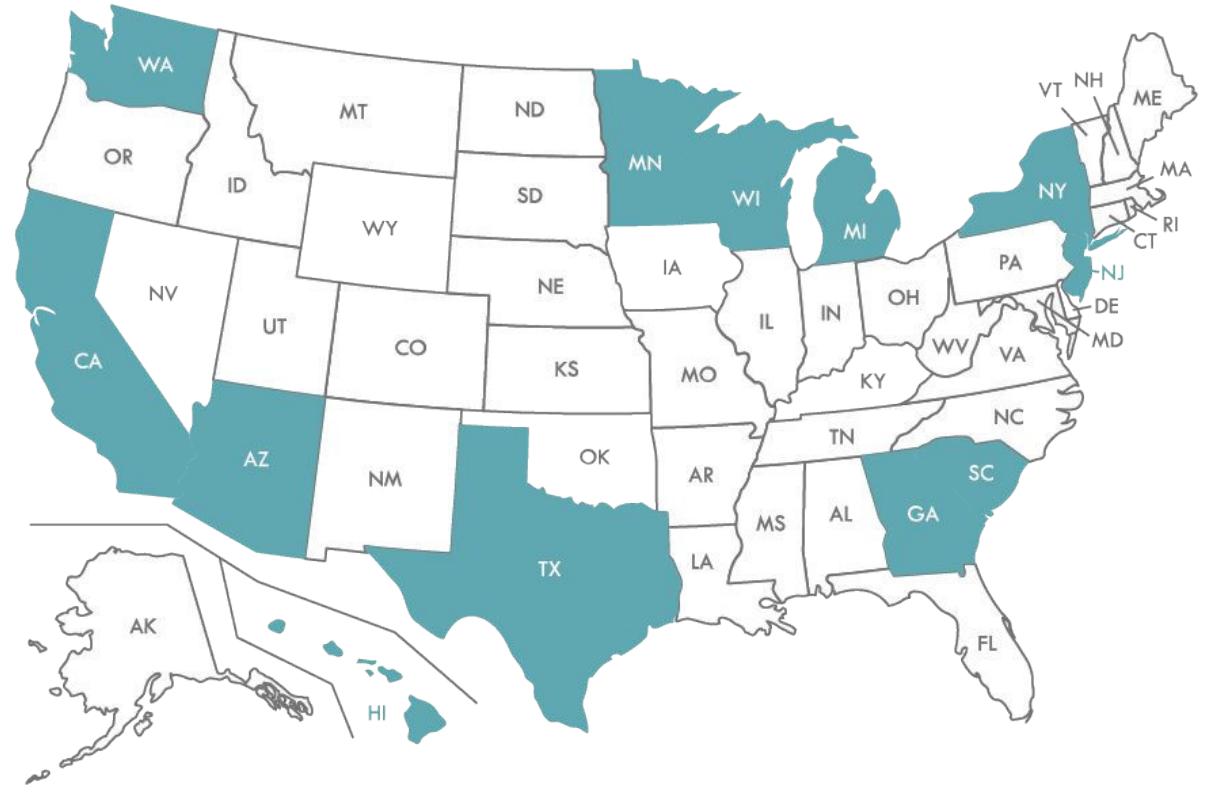


\$1.2 million awarded to  
13 regional organizations  
across 12 states

Additional \$1.2 million in matching  
funds at the time of award

Anticipated reach is upwards of:

- 1850 providers and caregivers
- 8100 children





## Preliminary Findings

- Survey data from 1247 providers and caregivers from May-August 2020
  - 61% of respondents were FCC
  - 39% of respondents were FFN
- Survey was administered in English and Spanish.
- Grateful for our partner organizations' work in helping us collect this data
- Produced three short reports summarizing preliminary data:
  - HBCC
  - FCC
  - FFN



## Who Are the HBCC Providers?

- Family Child Care (FCC)
  - 86% were small home providers, operated by a single provider with no additional staff
- Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN)
  - 43% cared only for family members
  - 19% cared for friends or neighbors
  - 38% cared for a mix of family and friends





# What happened to HBCC at the onset of Covid-19?

Of our HBCC emergency fund recipients:

## FCC PROVIDERS



**87%**  
remained  
**OPEN**

## FFN CAREGIVERS

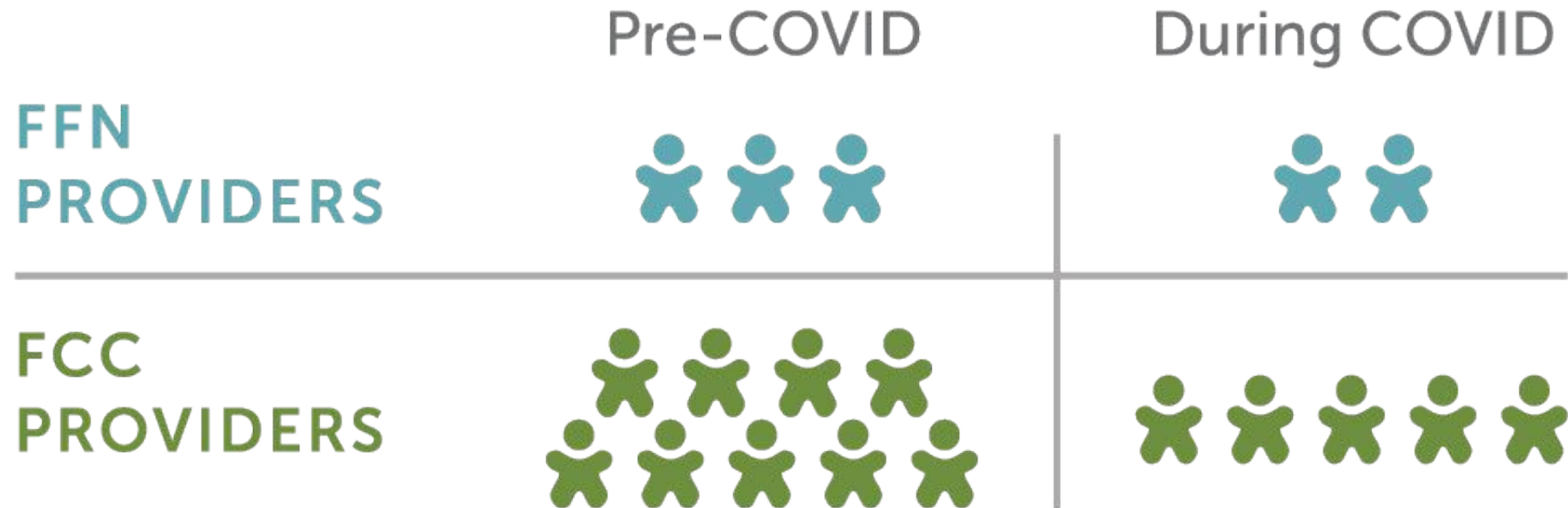


**65%**  
remained  
**OPEN**

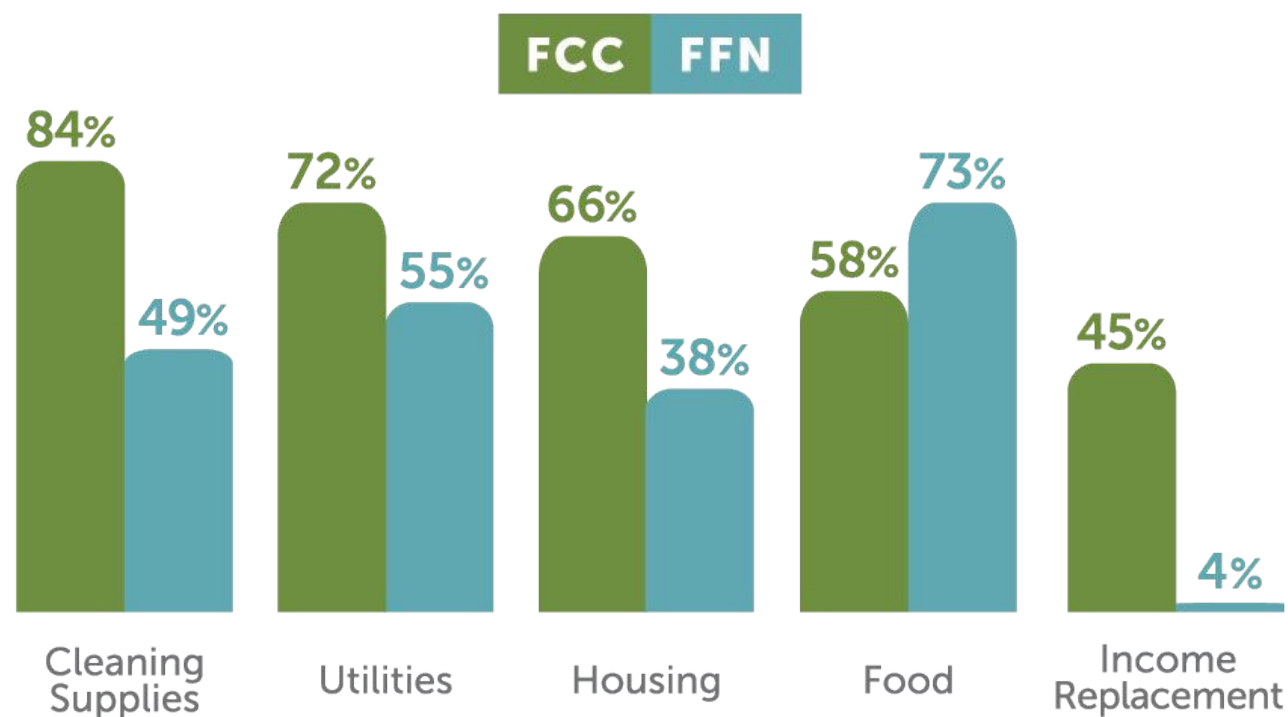
For comparison, nationally **79% of FCC providers** and 65% of child care centers and remained open as of July 2020

(Child Care Aware of America, *Picking Up the Pieces: Building a Better Child Care System Post Covid-19*, September 2020)

# Enrollment



# How are HBCC providers using funds?



**FCC**



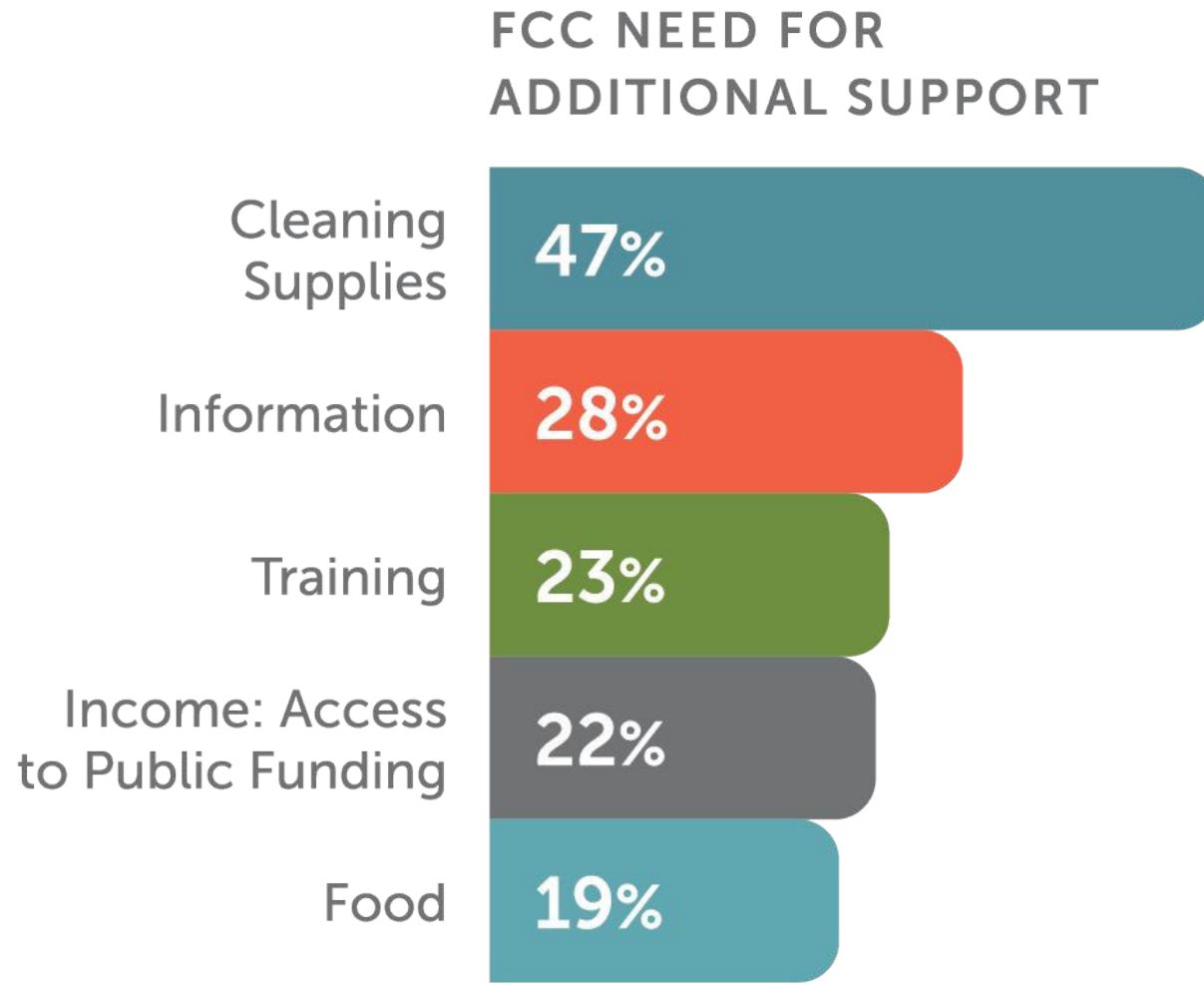
**84%**  
Cleaning  
supplies

**FFN**



**73%**  
Food

# What additional supports do FCC providers need?



# What additional supports do FFN providers need?







## Concerns

The survey included an open-ended question about providers' primary concerns.



**33%** of FCC providers expressed concerns about finances and enrollment. 27% expressed concerns about health.

- Providers who were open more often expressed concern about finances
- Providers who were closed more often cited health



**39%** of FFN providers expressed concerns about health



# Supports

- The **intermediary organization** administering the grant and **network staff** were the most frequently cited supports.
  - True for both FCC and FFN
- FCC providers also found support from:
  - Other providers
  - Licensing and subsidy systems
- FFN, who are legally-exempt or unregulated, were less likely to receive support from licensing or subsidy systems

# 03

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## Panel

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## Panel

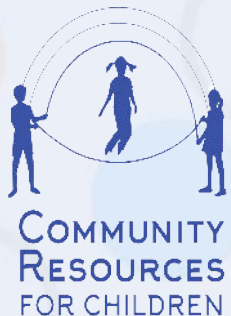


### **Eva Simonsson**

Director of Communications, Outreach and Public Relations,  
Community Resources for Children

### **Jacqueline Wisniewski**

Owner of Soaring Wings Child Care & Preschool



**Providing children in Napa County with the best possible start by empowering the adults who impact their care and education.**

## **Programs that Strengthen Families, Caregivers & Child Care Providers**

- Professional Development webinars
- Quality Improvement Programs
- School Readiness Programs
- Toy Library & Early Learning Center
- Ages & Stages Developmental Screenings
- Talk Read Sing Bilingual Playgroups
- Parent/Caregiver Café
- Resource & Referral
- Alternative Payment Program





# The Status of Child Care in Napa County, California

## The Napa County Landscape

- 8,300 children ages 0-5 (declining)
- 50% Spanish speaking in the home
- 3,100 licensed child care slots
- 24% have subsidized care
- 1 in 4 children under age 12 have slot
- Child care deserts within County
- Hospitality & viticulture are main employers
- Heavy reliance on FCCH care for weekend and after hour care

## Recent Events affecting Child Care

- COVID-19 – DL since March 13, 2020
- School hybrid in-person starting October 26<sup>th</sup>
- Wildfires – 2 sites gone, 17 evacuated



## Emergency Relief Fund

\$100,000 in grants distributed to 52 FCCH providers. Funds enabled them to stay open. 1 closed due to health reasons, 1 due to having to home school own children.

100% are women owned businesses  
50% are minority-owned businesses

96% of FCCHs who received emergency funds remained open

### Additional supports and programs:

- Advocacy – secured CARES Act funding
- Leveraged \$700,000 more in funding
- Professional development webinars
- Wellness calls – connect to resources
- PPE & Cleaning Supplies



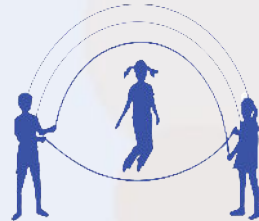
**52**

**FCCH providers  
received emergency  
relief funding**



**315**

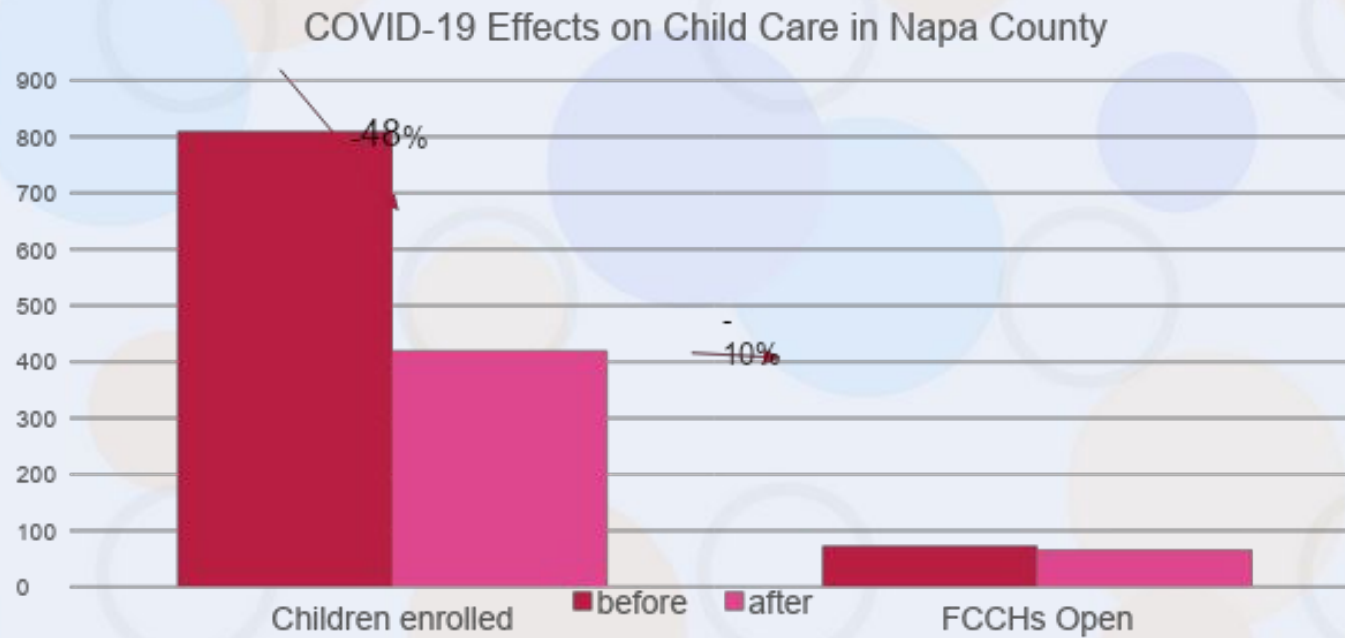
**children  
supported**



COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES  
FOR CHILDREN

## Challenges facing Child Care Providers in Napa County

- Enrollment down 48%
- HBCC providers mostly open but not sustainable - asking where the children are?
- 47% report having to close within 5 months with no further relief – many have maxed out credit cards
- HBCC providers are exhausted, isolated and needing emotional support
- Experienced barriers & challenges applying for government programs like SBA PPP





# Jacqueline Wisniewski

Soaring Wings Child Care & Preschool  
Napa, California

- Owner of Large FCCH
- Quality Counts Participant
- Advocate at the state and local level

## Emergency Funding helped Jacqueline:

- Stay open during COVID-19
- Care for children of essential workers
- Hire an assistant
- Advocate at the Board of Supervisors meeting!

## Current Needs and Challenges

- Emotional support
- Finding time for self-care



# Panel



**Ana Isabel Gabilondo Scholz**

Program Evaluator for

La Red Latina de Educación Temprana



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# La Red Latina de Educación Temprana



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# Family, Friend, and Neighbor in Minnesota



- In Minnesota, nearly 40% of children age 2 and younger, and 25% of children age 3 to 5 are estimated to be primarily in FFN care.
- FFNs lack access to education, resources, funding and support. Most available resources are currently aimed at formal/licensed childcare centers and at parents.
- La Red Latina de Educación Temprana is working to eliminate the systemic barriers that FFN childcare providers face by providing quality trainings, educational opportunities and leadership development to their members.



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## Pre-COVID



## During COVID



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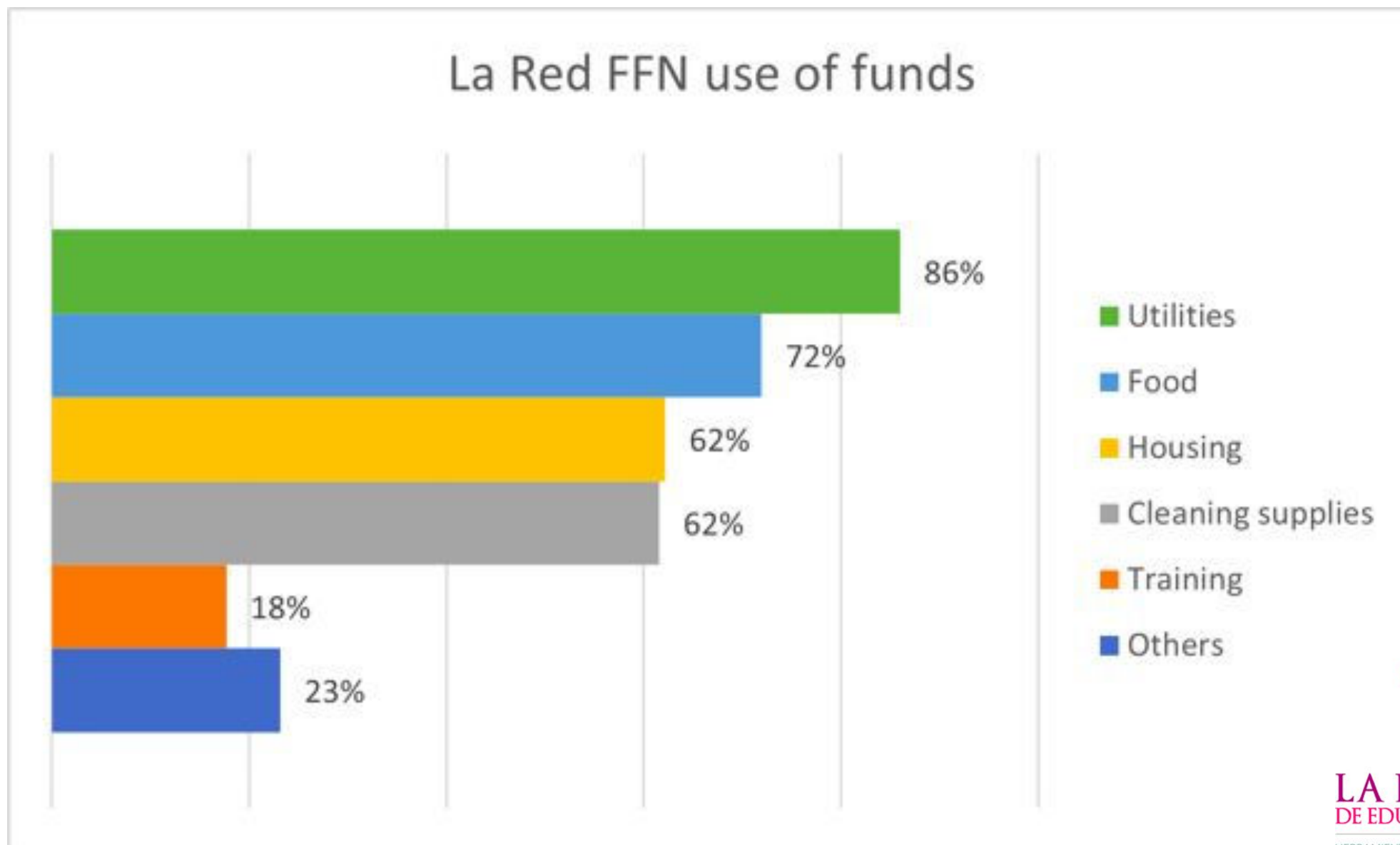


# Home Grown Distribution of Funds

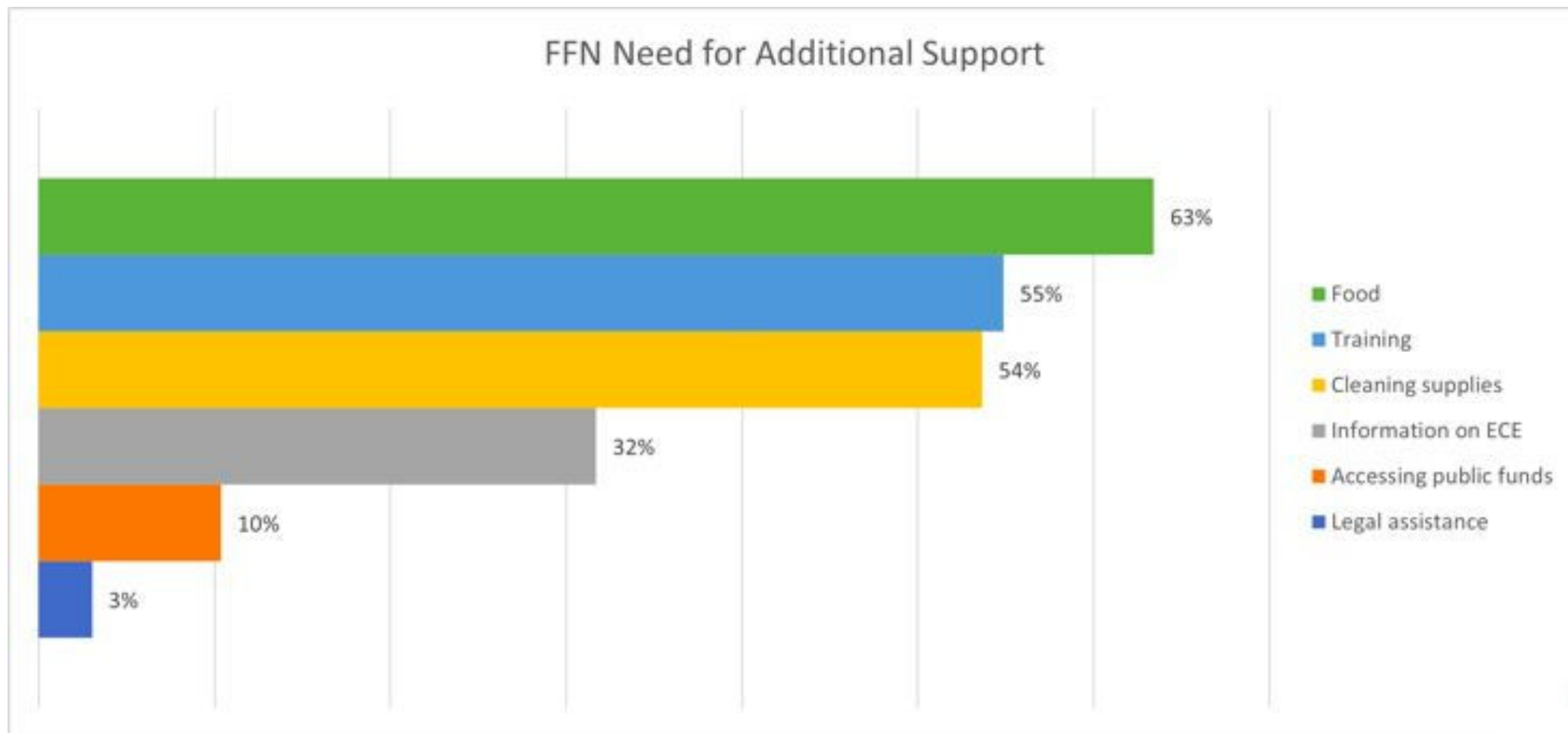
- Distributed funds to 163 FFNs childcare providers at \$500 each
- Conducted survey in Spanish via phone
  - Virtual survey training
  - 8 La Red leaders
- Distributed the funds via gift cards and 4 money orders
- Similar to overall FFN findings:
  - The average number of children they care for is 3 children
  - A little over half (55%) remained open after COVID (65% overall)
  - 41% cared for a mix of family and friends (38% overall)
  - 33% cared only for family members (43% overall)
  - 26% cared for friends or neighbors (13% overall)



# Use of Funds



# Need for Additional Support







# Major Concerns

- Their health:
  - Get COVID and not be able to work
  - Get COVID from the parents of the children they care for
  - Scared to get the virus, infect their families and not be able to isolate
- Reduce work hours:
  - Parents are not back to full-time work
  - Some are unemployed – not able to go back to work or go back to caring for children
  - Some have not been able to pay rent for months, others are afraid they will not be able to pay rent in the future



# FFN Childcare Provider Julieta Baxin Pucheta



- La Red leader
- Julieta currently lives in Minneapolis, MN
- Julieta is a passionate, loving and qualified childcare provider



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# Julieta

## FFN Caregiver



# 04

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## Policy Implications

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## Demand for HBCC

- Prior to the pandemic, the number of HBCC providers was declining.
- National survey of parents conducted in partnership with Winnie in August 2020 revealed:
  - During the pandemic, reliance on HBCC **increased** from 10% to 13%
  - Reliance on other forms of care decreased during this time
  - For 20% of families, HBCC is their preferred form of care
- Reliance on relative care is increasing
  - Bipartisan Policy Center: 21% pre-covid to 32% post-covid

# Policy Implications



- **State action**

- Some states have take administrative action to support HBCC, e.g. assessing subsidy payment on pre-COVID enrollment
- Several states have relied on emergency fund intermediaries to distribute CARES stimulus funds to HBCC
- State and local governments have created new initiatives to meet child care needs (care finding, grant programs, etc)

- **Federal support and funding needed**

- Significant additional funding needed (\$57B House proposal)
- Increase payments to providers to sustain their operations & serve more families
- Build essential infrastructure for them in the form of networks



# 05

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## Question and Answer

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A close-up photograph of two young children's hands reaching into a wooden box filled with colorful crayons. The child on the left is wearing a blue and yellow striped shirt and a yellow wristband. The child on the right is wearing a blue denim dress with red floral patterns. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Thank You**  
[homegrownchildcare.org](http://homegrownchildcare.org)