Measuring Emergency Funds’ Impact in COVID-19

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Presenters

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Today’s Session

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FFN PROVIDERS</th>
<th>Pre-COVID</th>
<th>During COVID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Pre-COVID FFN Providers" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="During COVID FFN Providers" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>FCC PROVIDERS</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Pre-COVID FCC Providers" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="During COVID FCC Providers" /></td>
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How are HBCC providers using funds?

- **Cleaning Supplies**
  - FCC: 84%
  - FFN: 49%

- **Utilities**
  - FCC: 72%
  - FFN: 55%

- **Housing**
  - FCC: 66%
  - FFN: 38%

- **Food**
  - FCC: 73%
  - FFN: 45%

- **Income Replacement**
  - FCC: 4%

**FCC**
- 84% Cleaning supplies

**FFN**
- 73% Food
What additional supports do FCC providers need?

FCC NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Cleaning Supplies: 47%
- Information: 28%
- Training: 23%
- Income: Access to Public Funding: 22%
- Food: 19%
What additional supports do FFN providers need?

- Food: 53%
- Cleaning Supplies: 47%
- Training: 28%
- Information: 15%
- Other: 24%
Concerns

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

**FCC**

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

**FFN**

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
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Panel
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 26th
- 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
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
La Red Latina de Educación Temprana
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.
Pre-COVID

During COVID
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

La Red FFN use of funds

Utilities: 86%
Food: 72%
Housing: 62%
Cleaning supplies: 62%
Training: 18%
Others: 23%
Need for Additional Support

FFN Need for Additional Support

- Food: 63%
- Training: 55%
- Cleaning supplies: 54%
- Information on ECE: 32%
- Accessing public funds: 10%
- Legal assistance: 3%

LA RED LATINA
DE EDUCACIÓN TEMPRANA
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
Julieta
FFN Caregiver

I have around 10 years caring for children in my home.
Policy Implications
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 taken 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
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Question and Answer
Thank You
homegrownchildcare.org