

EMERGENCY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

For Saving Minnesota's Child Care Sector in the Pandemic Era

Minnesota's Early Care and Education Crisis Workgroup



WHITE PAPER

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H\Yb`Wla Y`7CJ`-8!%`"-b`h`Y` fghei UfhYf`cZ&&\$žH`Y`7CJ`-8!%`dUbXYa]WV]g]g`Vi fg]hcbrc`h`Y`

"The achievement gap and child care shortage crises are intertwined and therefore must be addressed together. The COVID crisis is greatly aggravating both crises."

Two Crises, Aggravated By A Third Crisis

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cddcfh b]hYg'Zcf'ZJa]'Yg:k \Yb'h\YmgYY_'rc'fYh fb'rc'k cf_žZ fh\Yf'h\fcfh]b['ZJa]'Yg' bUbWU'

'X]ZYfYbWg]b''Yj Y'g'cZdfc WYbWria YUgi fYX'VYfk YYb'X]ZYfYbhfUMU'žYh.b]WUbX]bVta Y'[fci dg''

"55% of child care programs in Minnesota report they couldn't survive a closure of more than two weeks without public assistance."

The Impact of the Pandemic on Children

5g'dc`JMa U_Yfg`Wtbg]XYf`U`cb[``]ghicZ]a dcfHJbh'bYYXgž]hg'dUfh]W`Uf`m]a dcfHJbh'c`fY`YWicb`

Children Under Stress.

Zci bX'g][b] WbXhYhYf]cfUH]cb`]b`ZJa`]`ma`YbHU`^YU`h`i`bXYf`h`Y`ghfYgg`cZ]bWta`Y`WUub[Yg`UbX`

"These effects spill over into other domains, causing decreases in student test scores and, in the long run, lower college attendance among those who experienced community downturns during adolescence. All of these effects, both short- and long-term, are greater for disadvantaged populations, meaning health disparities and achievement gaps, already large, are likely to increase."

Children Growing Up In Poverty.

Low-income parents also struggle to provide the developmentally enriching books, toys, activities and early care and learning environments that are abundant in the lives of more affluent children.

Inadequate family income and economic uncertainty increase parent stress, which in turn can cause depression and anxiety and increase the risk of substance abuse and domestic violence, all of which compromise parenting. Although these problems are found in families at all income levels, they are more prevalent among low-income families, who have far less access to social supports and treatment options."

The Impact of the Pandemic on Child Care Supply

Federal Relief Challenges

kg]a dcfhUbhlc' bchY h\Uhg][b] WJbhZYXYfU' UbX'gtUHY'Ugg]gtUbWV'\Ug'VYYb'a UXY'Uj U]'UV'Y'rc'
ga U`Vi g]bYggYgZ]bWl X]b['W.]X'WfY'dfc[fUa g"i bZcfh bUHY'nāh\Y' fghfci bX'cZUgg]gtUbW']gb h

Conclusion: No Child Care, No Economic Recovery

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"Ignoring this pressing need would be devastating for Minnesota's children, parents, essential workers, taxpayers, employers, and economy."



Endnotes

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