



## COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



Child care is essential for working families, the education and healthy development of children, and our overall economic mobility and prosperity, especially that of families and child care providers. One of the biggest challenges that child care faces in 2021 is recovering from the severe impact of COVID-19. The severe impact is grounded in lack of wages and resources, social distancing challenges, increase in care for school-aged children, and health concerns for providers, many of whom are over sixty years of age and/or live with relatives who have underlying conditions.

In March 2020, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) and its ten-partner agencies quickly mobilized to support the child care needs across Los Angeles County. In the months that followed, we assisted essential workers in finding and securing child care for their young children by widely promoting our toll-free line and website built to assist families in finding child care in their communities. In partnership with the County and City of Los Angeles, we provided more than **\$25 million of federal CARES Act funds for child care vouchers** to low-income and essential workers. In addition, we continue to distribute much-needed provisions such as masks, diapers, thermometers, and cleaning supplies, as well as connecting providers to available emergency funds and grants.

In December 2020, we found that **69% of the family child care home (FCCH) providers are open** for business, compared to only **48% of child care centers in Los Angeles County** (data collected from countywide Resource & Referral agencies). Providers who have stayed open during the pandemic have accomplished extraordinary things, from caring for children of essential workers during night and weekend shifts, putting their own health on the line, to going into debt to care for a community they love.

Below is the COVID-19 impact and response for essential workers and providers across Los Angeles County:

### ESSENTIAL WORKERS

- Through the support of state and federal CARES Act funds from the County and City of Los Angeles, more than **4,300 essential workers** have been served since March 2020, which includes more than 6,000 children.
- About 39% of essential workers served are from **health care or emergency services**
- More than **17,000 child care referrals** have been made since March 2020.
- The primary type of care selected is family child care home providers and more than **60% of children served are ages 0-5.**

### PROVIDERS

- There are 8,700 licensed FFCH and center-based providers, **31% of FCCH and 52% of center-based providers have remained closed due to the pandemic**
- **\$11M+ spent in supplies** for child care providers, through SB 89 and generous donations from Baby2Baby, former Senator Holly Mitchell, Lakeshore Learning, Office of Emergency Management - LA County Chief Executive Office, Sesame Street in Communities, First 5 CA, IKEA, MRO Supply and many others.
- CCALA agencies distributed **more than \$9 million in one-time stipends** to child care providers

CCALA and our partner agencies are committed to working together to advocate from the local to the federal level, so that all children and families across Los Angeles County, especially those historically disenfranchised and under-resourced, have access to mixed delivery child care and early childhood education (ECE) systems that best meet the needs of the whole child and family and uphold and recognize the value of all ECE professionals.

## ACCESSIBILITY– Increase funding to restore and sustain continuity of care for families

- **Alternative Payment (AP)** – provide additional vouchers to serve all income-eligible families and those working nontraditional schedules, to ensure families access care that meets their needs
- **Mixed delivery system** - support the sustainability and growth of a mixed delivery system of child care to meet the healthy social, emotional, linguistic, and physical development of the whole child
- **Under-resourced Families** – increase child care access and investments in strength-based supports to under-resourced families (i.e. foster care, homeless and families living in poverty, trauma-informed care, and more)



## SUSTAINABILITY– Advance the capacity and sustainability of the child care workforce through just compensation that reflects true cost of care and a living wage

- **COVID Operating and Reopening costs** – increase investments to cover provider operating costs – especially during COVID - and support the reopening of center-based care through varied resources
- **Rate Reform** – provide adequate compensation and simplify rate structure for all subsidized care through rate reform based on the true cost of providing quality care and a living wage
- **Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care** - advocate for increased compensation and support the role of FFN in the child care system



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT– Uphold the professionalism and diversity of the child care workforce through enhanced resources and support

- **Resource & Referral (R&R) Impact** - expand the critical role of the R&R system as community-centered support for families, essential workers, and child care professionals
- **Quality Training** - invest in culturally, developmentally, and linguistically relevant training that promotes responsive and high-quality care and education for children
- **Workforce Capacity and Development** – advocate for child care provider recruitment, provide and expand resources and training founded on best practices to enhance capacity for all providers with a focus on trauma-informed care and other family strengthening initiatives



## INFRASTRUCTURE– Partner with local, state, and federal agencies to stabilize, recover and reopen child care and ECE systems responsive to the needs of disenfranchised and under-resourced children, families and child care professionals

- **CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) Administration & Local Government-** strengthen collaboration with and support CDSS and other key government agencies with the transition of child care programs to CDSS, while strengthening partnerships with local decision-makers and key stakeholders to increase local child care investments, resources, and visibility for child care as essential to economic recovery
- **Data Systems** – partner with state agencies to streamline systems and utilization of technology – electronic deposit, digital signatures for enrollment, payment, and service delivery – and champion the support and integration of the California ECE Workforce Registry to improve workforce data and support workforce professional development pathways and resources
- **Facilities** – advocate for additional investments to expand the quality and quantity of child care facilities and protect and preserve a mixed delivery child care and ECE system to best meet the diverse needs of children and families

