Iowa's Road to Economic Recovery Depends on Child Care

The impact of COVID-19 has forced child care programs to close. Open programs are typically serving a tiny fraction of the enrollment needed for economic viability. At the same time, the availability of child care is critical to support parents returning to work.

Pre-COVID, Iowa Children in Working Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Children in Working Families</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3 years</td>
<td>87,296</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td>170,452</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12 years</td>
<td>223,618</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates

Pre-COVID Iowa Child Care Industry Center-based & Home-based Care by Revenue Source

- Share of Child Care Revenue Paid by Public Funding: 26.4%
- Share of Child Care Revenue Paid by Families: 73.6%

Child Care is a business. Temporary stabilization support is needed to ensure parents have access to child care.

Economic Recovery: COVID-19 has caused a loss of income for Iowa working families. Without access to child care, parents cannot return to work.

Iowa Households Experiencing a Decline in Income Since March 13, 2020 by Presence of Children

- Children in household: 50.7%
- No children: 37.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 18, Oct. 28 - Nov. 9, 2020

An Iowa Department of Human Services survey found that child care providers need:

- Masks, cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- No-touch thermometers, mini-grants for deep-cleaning and replacement of supplies
- Grants/stipends to cover fixed operating costs (rent, utilities, etc.) because of lost revenue

Sources: Committee for Economic Development (CED) of The Conference Board, Child Care in State Economies: 2019 Update (January 2019); U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 1 year estimates; U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 18, Oct. 28 - Nov. 9, 2020; Iowa Department of Human Services, July 2020.