Maine's Road to Economic Recovery Depends on Child Care

The impact of COVID-19 has forced child care programs to close. Open programs are serving a small 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, Maine Children in Working Families

- **47,499** Children under age 6 with all available parents working
- **65,850** School-age children (6-12) with all available parents working
- **113,349** Total children potentially needing child care

Note: Pre-COVID, working parents did not pay child care fees during the hours their children were onsite in school. Remote learning and hybrid options for public school instruction have resulted in unprecedented challenges for working parents of elementary school children.

### COVID-19: Maine Child Care Program Closures

- **44.9%** May Program Closures
- **32.9%** July Program Closures


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

### 3 OUT OF 4 PARENTS

say they can't pay for child care as school districts move to virtual or part-time lessons

Source: Bipartisan Policy Center Survey, August 26, 2020

### Child Care is a business.

Temporary stabilization support is needed to ensure parents have access to child care.

### COVID-19: Maine Economic Impact

Households Experiencing a Decline in Income Since March 13, 2020

- **53.2%** Children in household
- **35.8%** No children

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 14, Sept. 2-14, 2020