South Dakota’s Economic Recovery Depends on Child Care

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children under age 6 with all available parents working</th>
<th>50,420</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School-age children (6-12) with all available parents working</td>
<td>63,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children under age 6 with all available parents working</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of school-age children (6-12) with all available parents working</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COVID Impact on Child Care Programs

- 1 out of every 4 SD providers closed or were only open for essential personnel
- 1 out of every 3 providers served less than half of their total enrollment
- Low child enrollment and increased costs for PPE, disinfectant, and sanitizer threaten the economic viability of child care as a business

### Child Care Supports 2 Generations

- 28,698 children under age 3 (82%) in SD have working parents.
- Research shows that the earliest years are when the brain is developing the fastest - setting a foundation for all future learning (social, emotional, and cognitive development).
- Early Learner South Dakota is working to support a list of home-based child care providers so that all providers can receive information related to safety and child development activities.

Email info@earlylearnersd.org for more information.

### Pre-COVID South Dakota Child Care Industry (Center-based and Home-based Care) by Revenue Source

- **Share of Child Care Revenue Paid by Public Funding**: 16.4%
- **Share of Child Care Revenue Paid by Families**: 83.6%


### Child Care is a business funded largely by parents.

Temporary stabilization support, PPE and sanitizing help is needed to ensure parents have access to child care and providers, children and families are safe.

Parents need and want to go back to work. Economic recovery depends on working parents.

### SD Households with Difficulty Paying Bills in the Last 7 Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families with Children</th>
<th>37.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Children</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, September 29 - October 11, 2021

Stabilization costs based on child care program data from the SD Department of Human Services, the Census Bureau Economic Survey, and CED estimates based on anticipated open and closure status of programs in the next year.