Clayton Early Learning conducted a survey of child care programs in Colorado to learn the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their ability to deliver essential services in their communities. The voices we heard add value to many initiatives in the child care sector's long-term success, and the resulting data are being used to inform policy solutions directed at systemic improvement throughout the state. Results came from 172 provider responses in 29 counties across Colorado.

**Operational Status During COVID-19**

- **Remained Open**: 58.3%
- **Closed at Time of Survey**: 22.3%
- **Previously Closed, Reopened**: 19.4%

**Sources of Financial Support**

- 14% Private Philanthropy
- 17% Unemployment Insurance
- 28% Small Business Loan
- 48% Paycheck Protection Program

**Where Did Providers Find Support?**

- Local Early Childhood Councils
- Office of Early Childhood Licensing Specialists
- Child Care Health Consultants
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
- Colorado Shines
- Federal guidance and Small Business Administration

**Providers’ Challenges**

- Lack of Food
  - 13%
  - "Food costs are skyrocketing in our area."
- Rent/Mortgage
  - 21%
  - "Our rent is extremely high and due no matter my issues."
- Inability to Pay Bills
  - 31%
  - "...that left me with no paying bills or no food for the week."
- Private Pay Held Slots
  - 38%
  - "We provided tuition relief when requested, but the rest of the families have been paying tuition in full."
- Mental Health Concerns
  - 39%
  - "I am mentally worn-out because of the financial and health risks..."
- Money Driven Decisions
  - 41%
  - "I cannot afford to stay open without additional financial resources or without increased volume of kids."
- No Access to PPE
  - 56%
  - "We had to close. To reopen we need PPE supplies, disinfectant, non-contact thermometers..."

**What’s Next...**

- Long-term policy change will help sustain the child care sector.
- Reform for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) is supported by 62% of providers.

**Key Points**

- 95% of providers indicated that federal stimulus funds should be used to help providers through grants to reopen, provision of bonus pay, and funding for health and safety measures.
- The average amount of funding or increased funding needed for programs to remain operational is $12,545 per month.

**Additional Information**

For more information please contact:
Christina Walker, Director Policy & Advocacy 303-355-4411 x 266 cwalker@claytonearlylearning.org