

ELECTED OFFICIALS COVID-19 UPDATE



Supporting Child Care Providers Supporting Employers

Thank you for all that each of you are doing to keep Ohioans safe and to manage an unprecedented crisis. We are immensely grateful for your leadership.

Child care programs' challenges inevitably impact our employers who need their workers back on the job. The issues they face include:

- Programs are desperately concerned about the safety of children and their employees – **they don't have adequate PPE.** Social distancing is not possible with small children.
- **Some programs will not re-open.** They could not meet their fixed costs during the shutdown. We won't know for some time how much less capacity Ohio will have.
- **Our most marginalized and disadvantaged families will be most severely impacted** by COVID-19 fallout related to child care as well as their other needs.
- **Child care capacity will get more urgent** as businesses start receiving Payroll Protection Plan loans; they **MUST** bring their workers back to have their loans forgiven.
- With K-12 closed for the rest of the school year and "blended learning" being discussed for the Fall, **families' child care needs likely will increase.**
- Child care providers are preparing for new health and safety regulations – which they support. But regulations increasing the required number of staff, and limiting the number of children in classrooms, will significantly raise costs – **many programs will not have the revenue to afford these new costs, forcing additional providers to close.**
- Ohio's current Publicly Funded Child Care assistance (available only to families earning at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level) were insufficient before COVID-19. **Those reimbursement rates will not cover the costs of new regulations.** Economies of scale have been virtually eliminated.
- **Private-pay families will likely see already costly child care costs go up** – to pay for the additional staff required at their child's program.
- **Finding new staff – willing to work for an average of \$11 per hour in a high-risk environment – will be immensely difficult,** particularly if other businesses continue to pay premium pay to their low-wage workers. When state and federal unemployment benefits are combined, laid-off child care workers are earning more than they did on the job.