



Early Childhood Education in CT

COVID-19 CHALLENGES



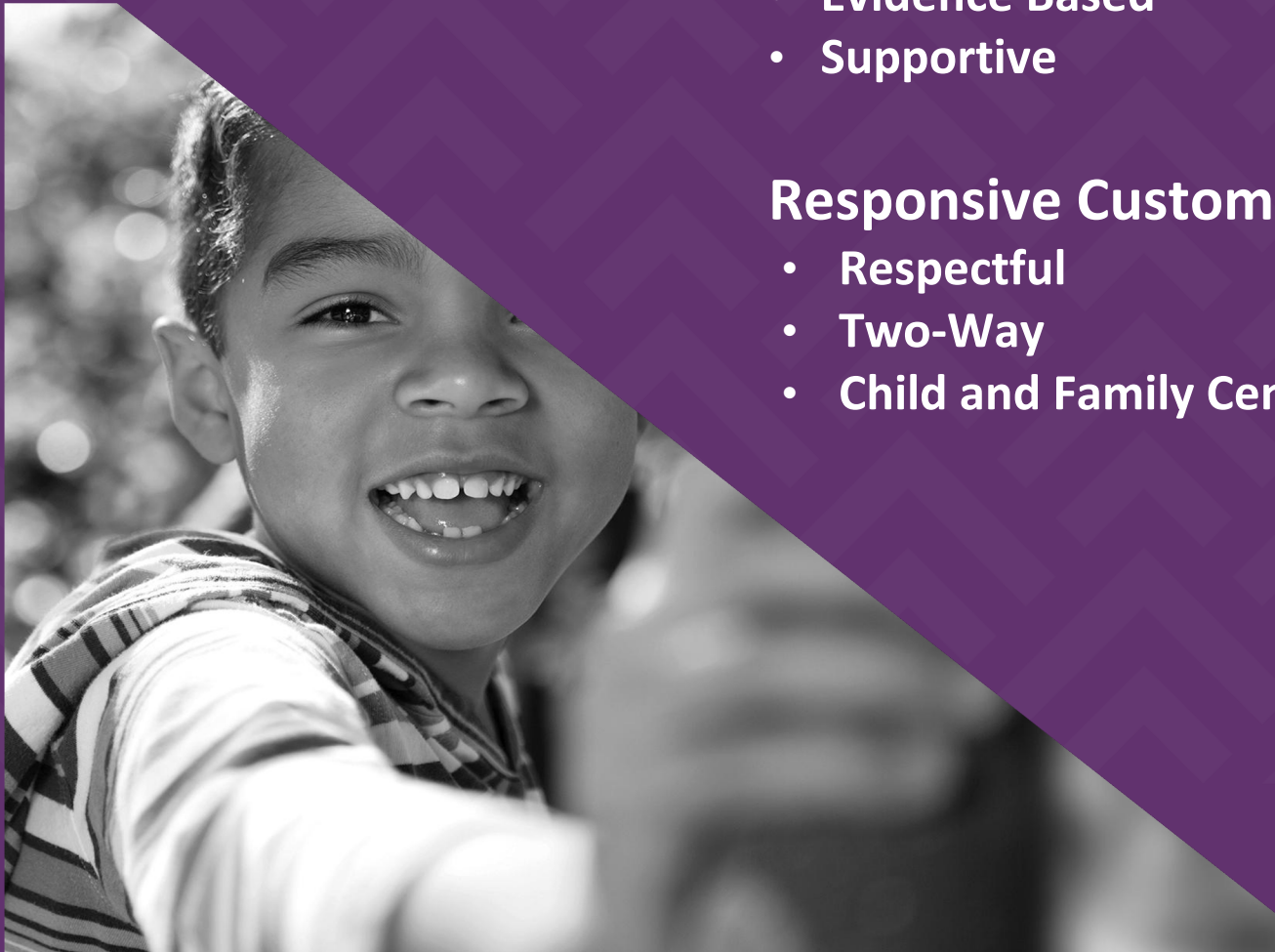
Our Ethos for Children & Families

Safe, High-Quality Programming for All

- Accessible
- Equitable and Inclusive
- Evidence Based
- Supportive

Responsive Customer Care

- Respectful
- Two-Way
- Child and Family Centered



In This Together, National Challenges, CT Challenges

NAEYC



Lauren Hogan



Rhian Evans Allvin

“Our nation’s early childhood education programs have been navigating structural cracks and financial cliffs for decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put programs into free fall. If our economy is to recover, it will require a reimagined approach to financing and structuring the systems that support high-quality child care. The child care crisis will not be solved by simply reopening child care. The math speaks for itself: public health guidelines that rightly require smaller group sizes, stronger ratios, and increased spending on sanitation—combined with lower enrollment and the same fixed costs—will equal financial insolvency, and, in the absence of additional investment, program closure.” <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/theres-no-going-back-child-care-after-covid-19>

In This Together, National Challenges, CT Challenges



Georgia Goldburn

“The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified how the child care industry serves as the economy’s footstool, undergirding healthcare workers, first responders, bankers and all the other essential businesses in the U.S., which accounted for more than 50% of Hope’s parents. Yet, even before this health crisis, the child care system had significant challenges making it particularly vulnerable to this pandemic. Structural inequities, due to chronic underfunding and benign neglect of this critical pillar of the nation’s economic infrastructure, are more evident than ever.”

COVID-19: OEC's Response

LAST UPDATED MAY 20, 2020



Child Care and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

LAST UPDATED MAY 22, 2020

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GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE

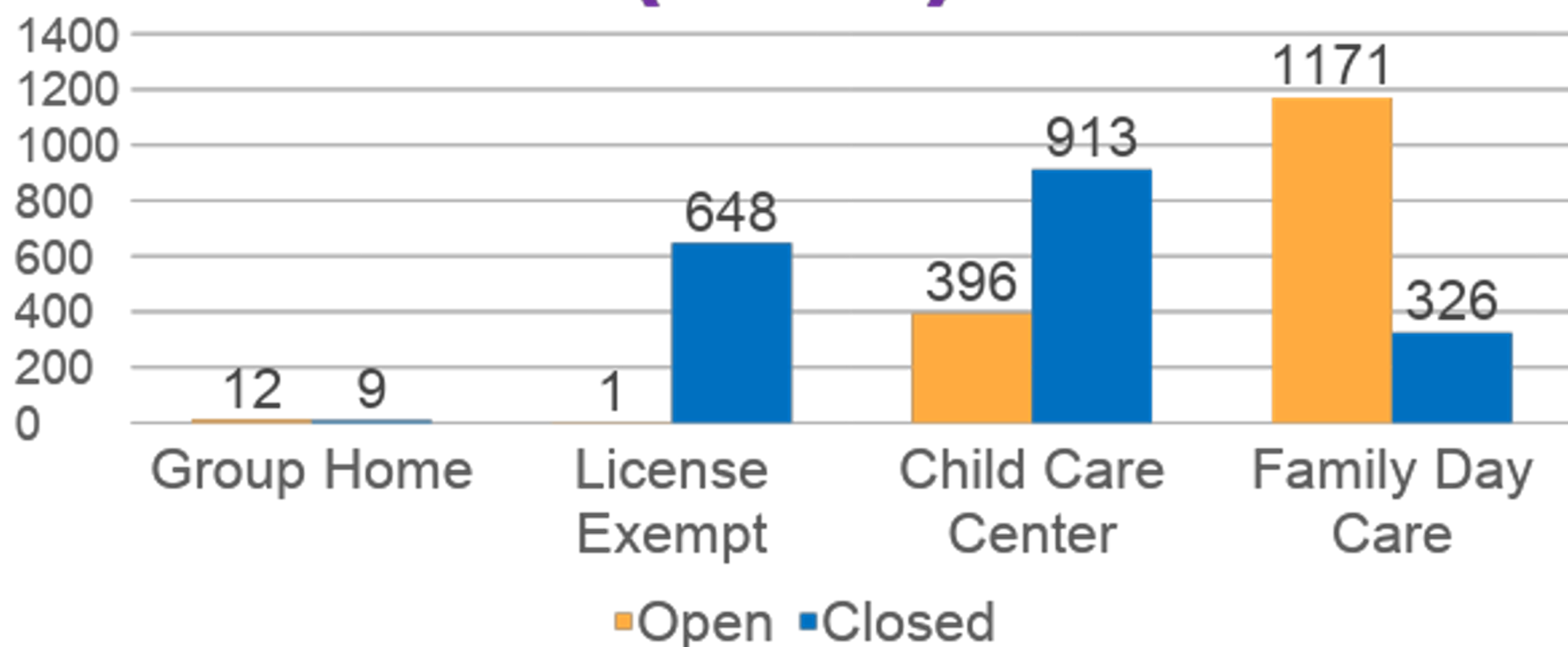
During COVID-19



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

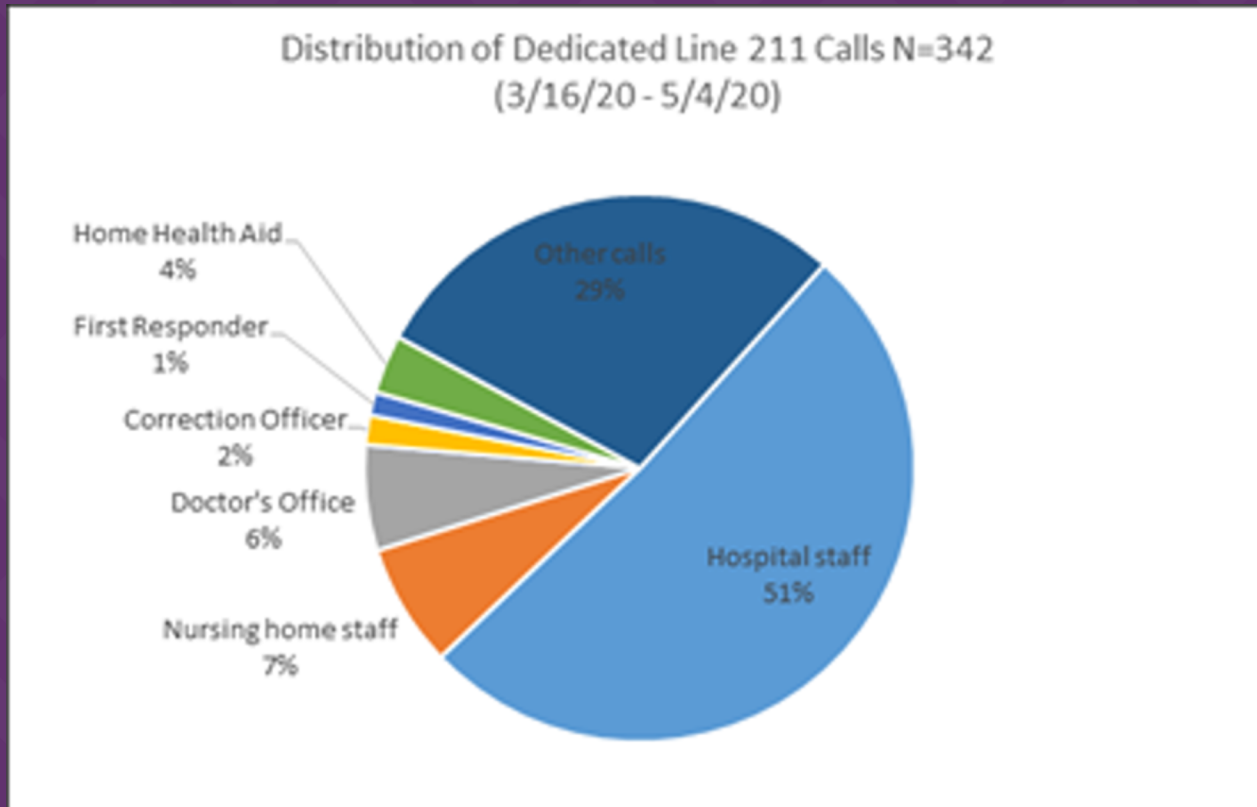
5.29.2020

Open & Closed Child Care Programs by License Type (5/26/20)



FRONTLINE WORKERS

CALLS TO 211 CHILD CARE



OEC & OPM COVID-19 RESPONSE TO STABILIZE CT FUNDED PROGRAMS



CTCARES

State Funded Programs funded through June 30th regardless of enrollment status of the child or open/closed status:

- CT supported its School Readiness, Child Development Centers, Smart Start, Head Start and Even Start - fully funding programs through June 30, 2020.
- CT funded all programs that were accepting Care 4 Kids with the payment amount from March - through June 30, 2020.
- Total funding of state funded and C4K funding to programs = ***\$78 million.***
- OEC will use state ECE funds to stabilize programs, accounting for the significant fiscal challenges of new public health guidelines, and considering if children and families are being served with ECE programming. Information forthcoming very soon.



CT'S USE OF CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING & STATE/PHILANTHROPY SUPPORT

CTCARES

CTCARES for Hospital Workers: Emergency child care for hospital employees. **\$3.5 million.** Philanthropy funded and state funds

CTCARES for Child Care: Funds for child care programs caring for essential workers' children. Supports for smaller classrooms size requirements, enhanced staff wages. **\$5 million.** Federal and state funds

CTCARES for Frontline Workers: Helps frontline workers find/pay for child care. **\$10 million.** Federal and state funds

CTCARES for Family Child Care: Helps licensed family child care providers during the emergency. Connects providers with a Family Child Care Network for funding, quality improvement and other resources. **\$850,000.** Philanthropy and state funds

CTCARES for Child Care Businesses: Coming week – 1. grants allotted to private programs (<50% of funding from OEC programs) to sustain/restart. 2. Supply grants available to all programs. Total **\$9 million.** Federal funds



CTCARES



Child Care Businesses



CTCARES for Child Care Businesses is here to support your child care program. Funds are now available to pay for a variety of items you need to operate during COVID-19 and recovery. Early childhood programs are similar yet different. You decide what you will use.

EXPENSE KICKSTART:

Funding for a variety of program expenses.

SUPPLY SUBSIDY:

Offsets your cleaning supply expenses... We're cleaning more than ever!

HEALTH TRAINING SUBSIDY:

Expands Thrive to coordinate First Aid / CPR / medical admin training to programs statewide.

BACKGROUND CHECK SUBSIDY:

Covers the cost for those new to hire or expiring.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Free online training via Registry account, and scholarship for credit and degree coursework.

BUSINESS SUPPORT:

Group and individualized business coaching and training, funding application support, and incentives.

PROGRAM QUALITY SUPPORTS:

Statewide quality improvement support via Accreditation Quality Initiative Supports (AQIS) for centers, and Staffed Family Child Care.

COMMUNICATION MATERIALS:

Share-able documents and training to help providers and families navigate child care in COVID-19.

CT CARES PROGRAMS:

Recognizing child care for key populations in these special circumstances.



CTCARES

State and Federal Funding Through June 30th, Then What?

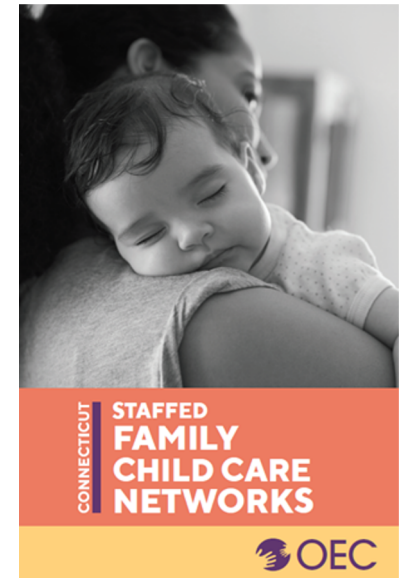
- \$105 million of state and federal funds through to help keep programs viable through the pandemic, and support frontline worker child care.
- > 90% of newly allocated Federal funds will run out by June 30, 2020.
- OEC still working on how to best maintain supply of state funded programs using state funds in 2020, and meet families' ECE needs.
- These efforts will support only 25% of programs, and these programs will still face significant challenges.



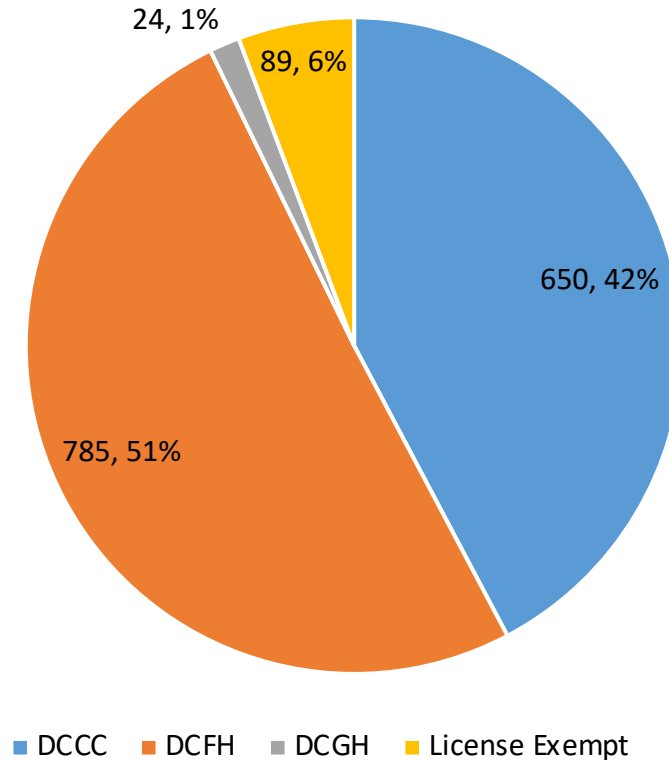
PreCOVID-19 Challenges

Over the past 15 years, the number of child care providers in the U.S. has dropped by 30%, [according to the Dept. of Health & Human Services](#).

Home-based providers have been hit particularly hard, with about half closing up shop. CNBC, 2/11/20

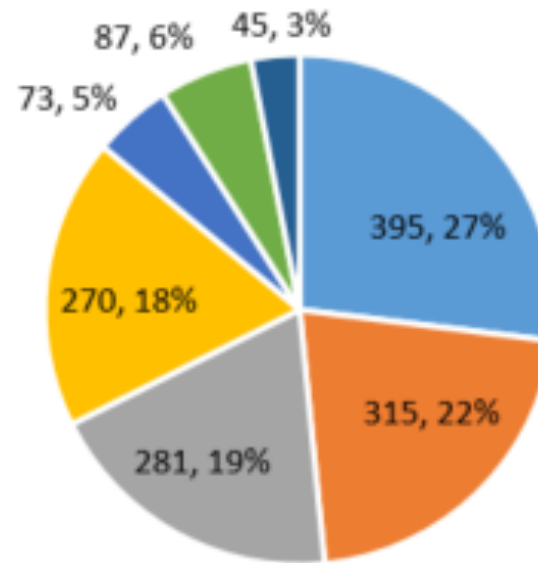


Respondents: Program Type (n=1548)



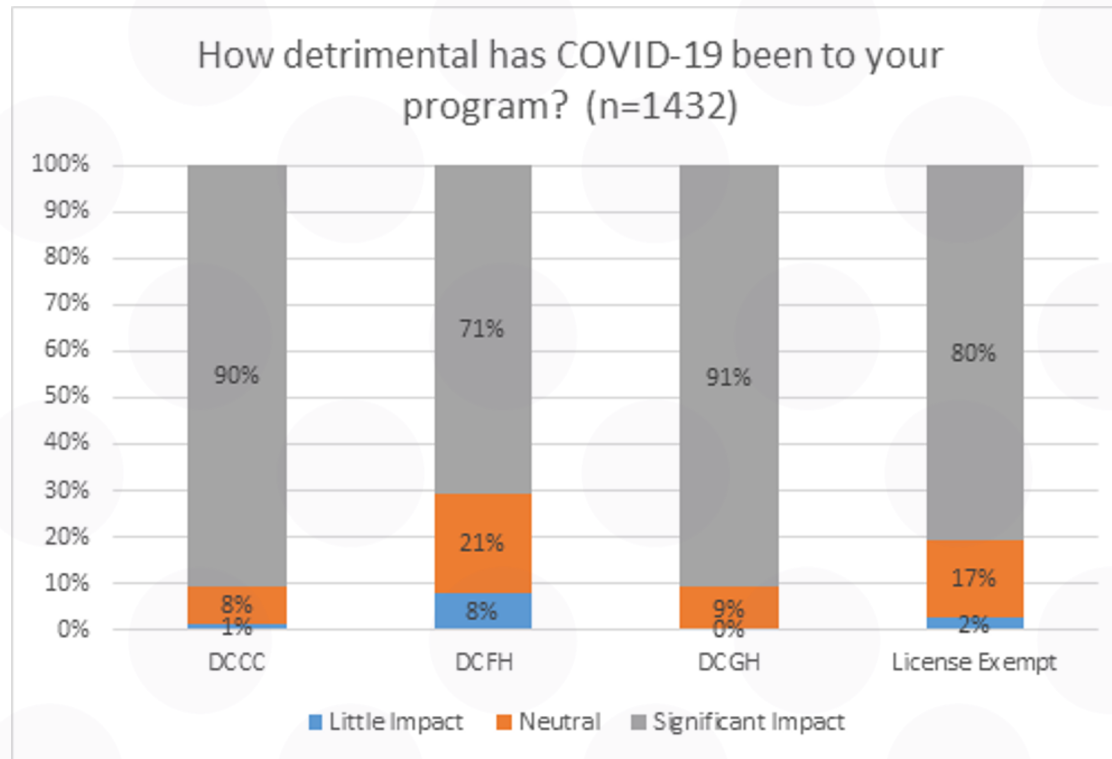
1548 programs at least partially responded to the OEC Business Needs survey. This is a survey response rate of 39%. Of these responses, 785 (51%) were Family day care providers (DCFH). Another 650 (42%) respondents were Child care center providers (DCCC). The remaining providers were 89 (6%) License Exempt providers (LE) and 24 (1%) Group Home providers (DCGH).

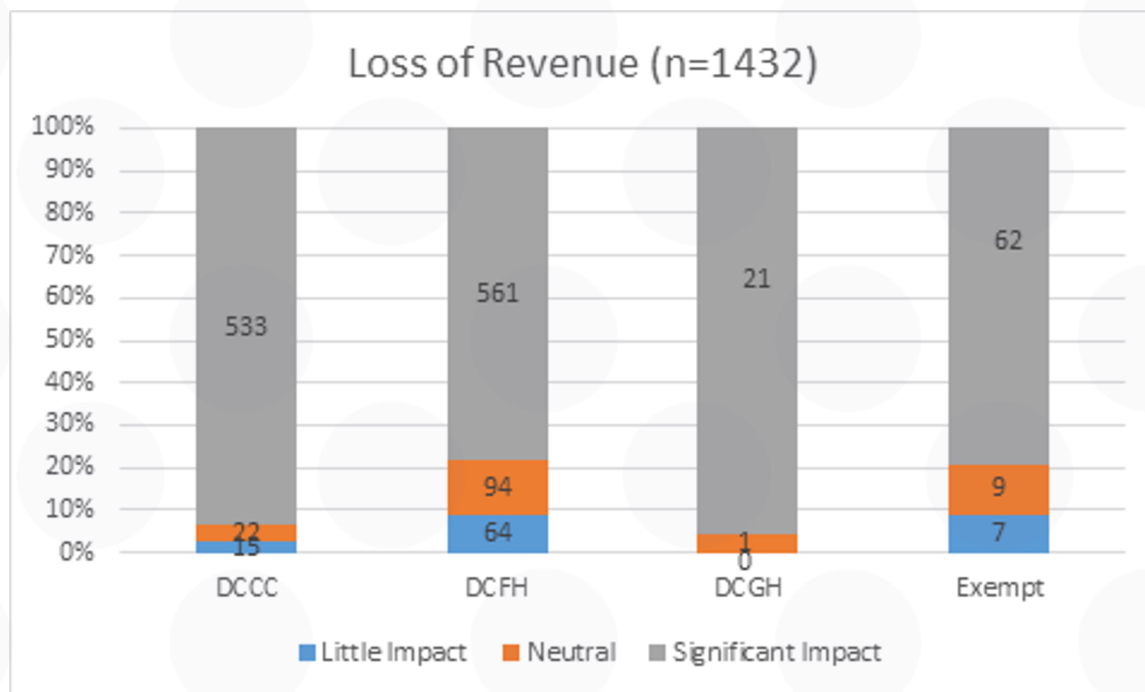
Respondents: Type of Organization (n=1466)



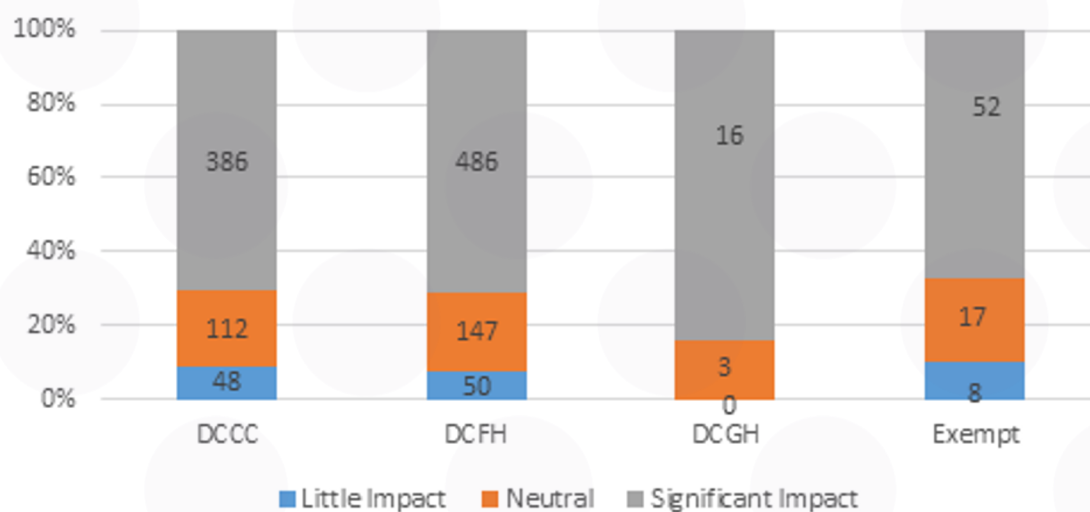
- Self-employed
- Nonprofit
- Sole Proprietorship
- Limited Liability Company
- S Corporation
- Other
- Unsure

OEC Provider Survey, April/May 2020

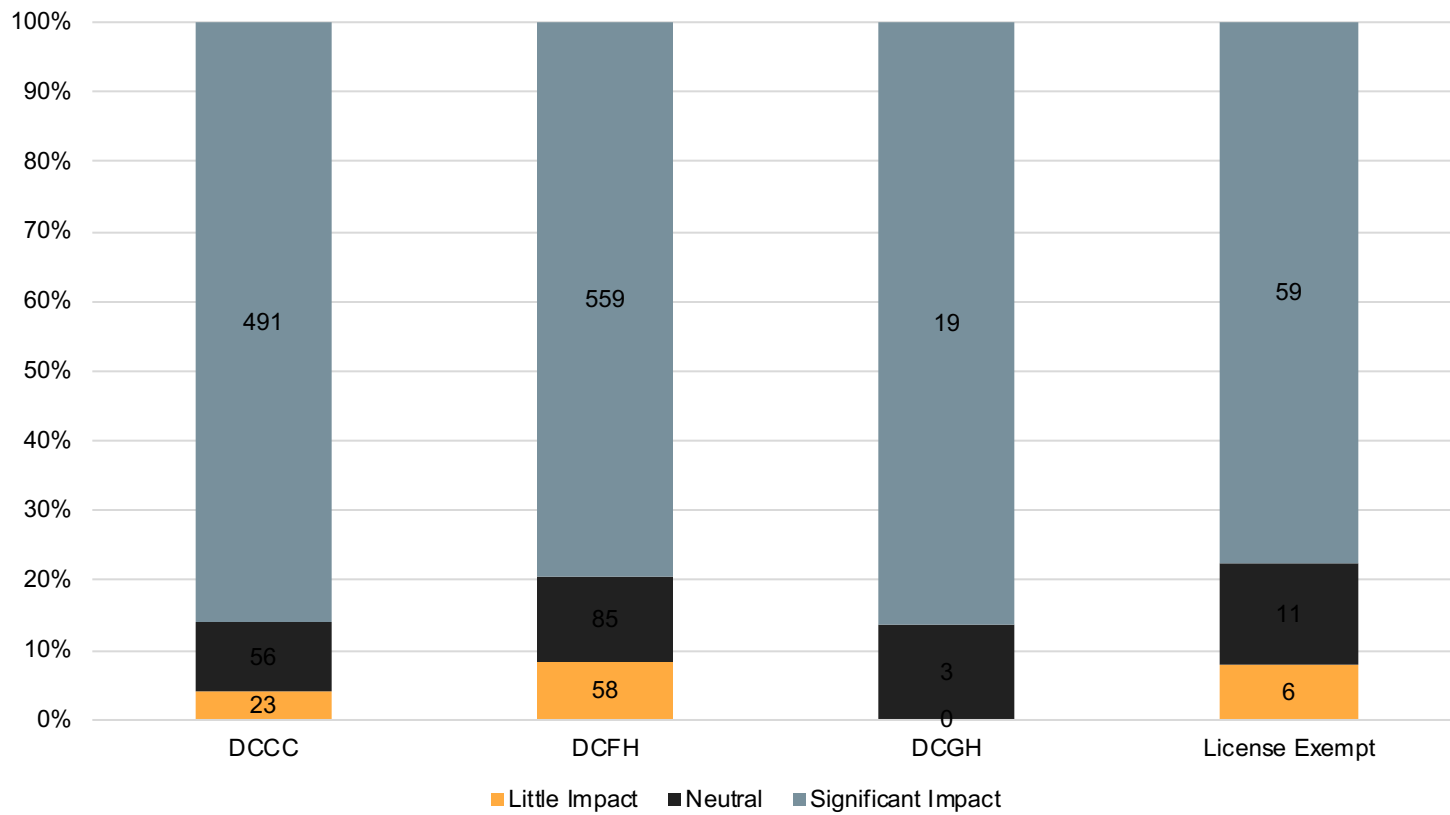




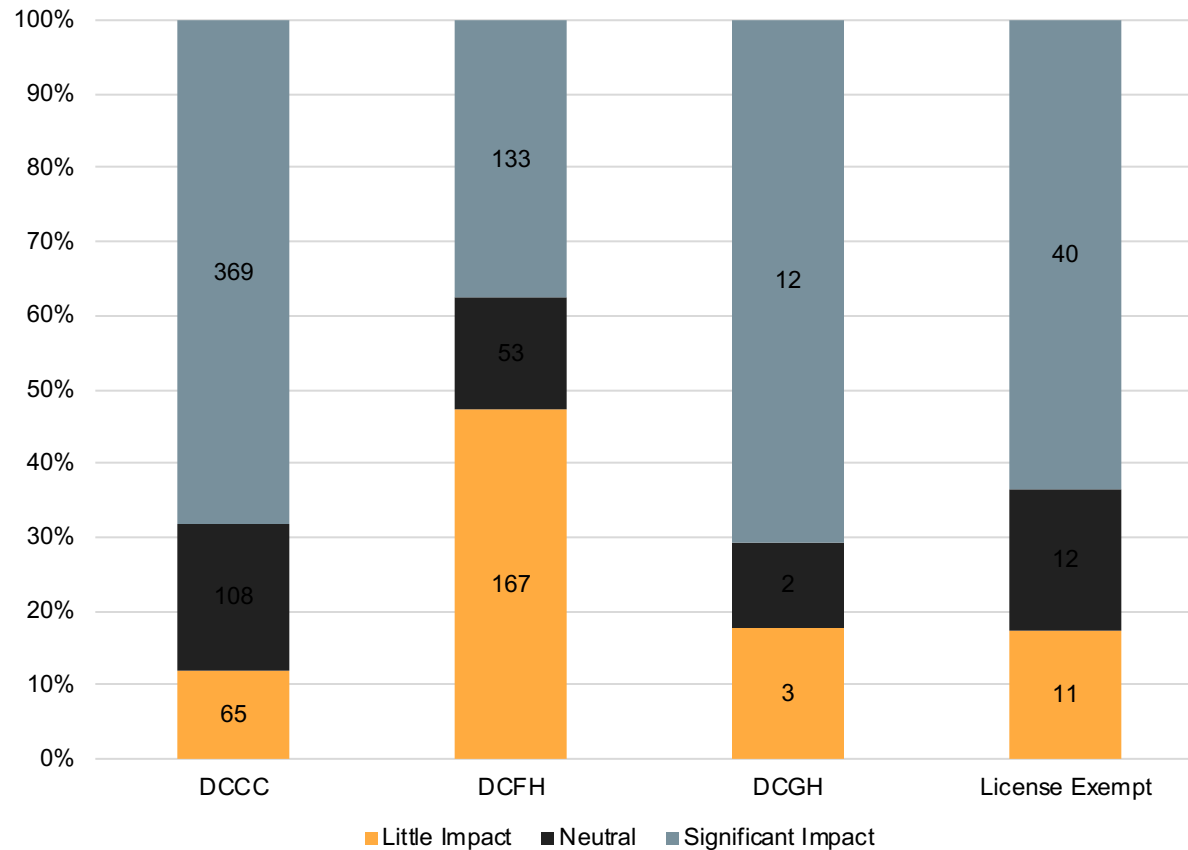
Finding and Purchasing Personal Protective Equipment or Cleaning Supplies (n=1432)



Worry: Families Returning After Covid-19 (n=1432)



Worry: Staff Returning After COVID-19 (n=1432)



CTCARES

- Child Care providers will face severe budget challenges with smaller group sizes, cost of cleaning and safety supplies, and parent hesitancy to return to child care.
- The vast majority of providers cannot last 2 months without additional supports.



CTCARES

A [recent survey](#) of child care centers and homes, conducted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), found that:

- 11 percent of providers could survive a closure of an indeterminate length of time without government support.
- 27 percent could survive a closure of a month.
- Center for American Progress concluded that CT could lose more than 45,000 licensed child care spaces, in a state already short 50,000 infant and toddler spaces for families who need to work.



<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/>

CTCARES

Ready Nation Report

- Productivity challenges affect employer & employee.
- 86% of primary caregivers said problems with child care hurt their efforts or time commitment at work.
- 20% have been reprimanded, 8% have been fired, and 10% have been demoted, transferred or fired.
- Employers lose \$12.7 bil. annually in productivity due to child care challenges faced by their workforce.



THANK YOU