

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker, Chair

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair

House Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Early Childhood
Delegate Eric Ebersole, Chair

Agenda
June 22, 2020
11:00 am
Virtual Briefing

Impact of COVID-19 on Childcare

Maryland State Department of Education

- ***Dr. Karen B. Salmon***, State Superintendent of Schools
- ***Mr. Steven R. Hicks***, Assistant State Superintendent, Early Childhood Development

Maryland Family Network

- ***Mr. Steve Rohde***, Deputy Director, Resource & Referral Services
- ***Ms. Laura Weedreyer***, Executive Director
- ***Clinton MacSherry***, Director of Public Policy

Service Employees International Union

- ***Travis Simon***, Political Director

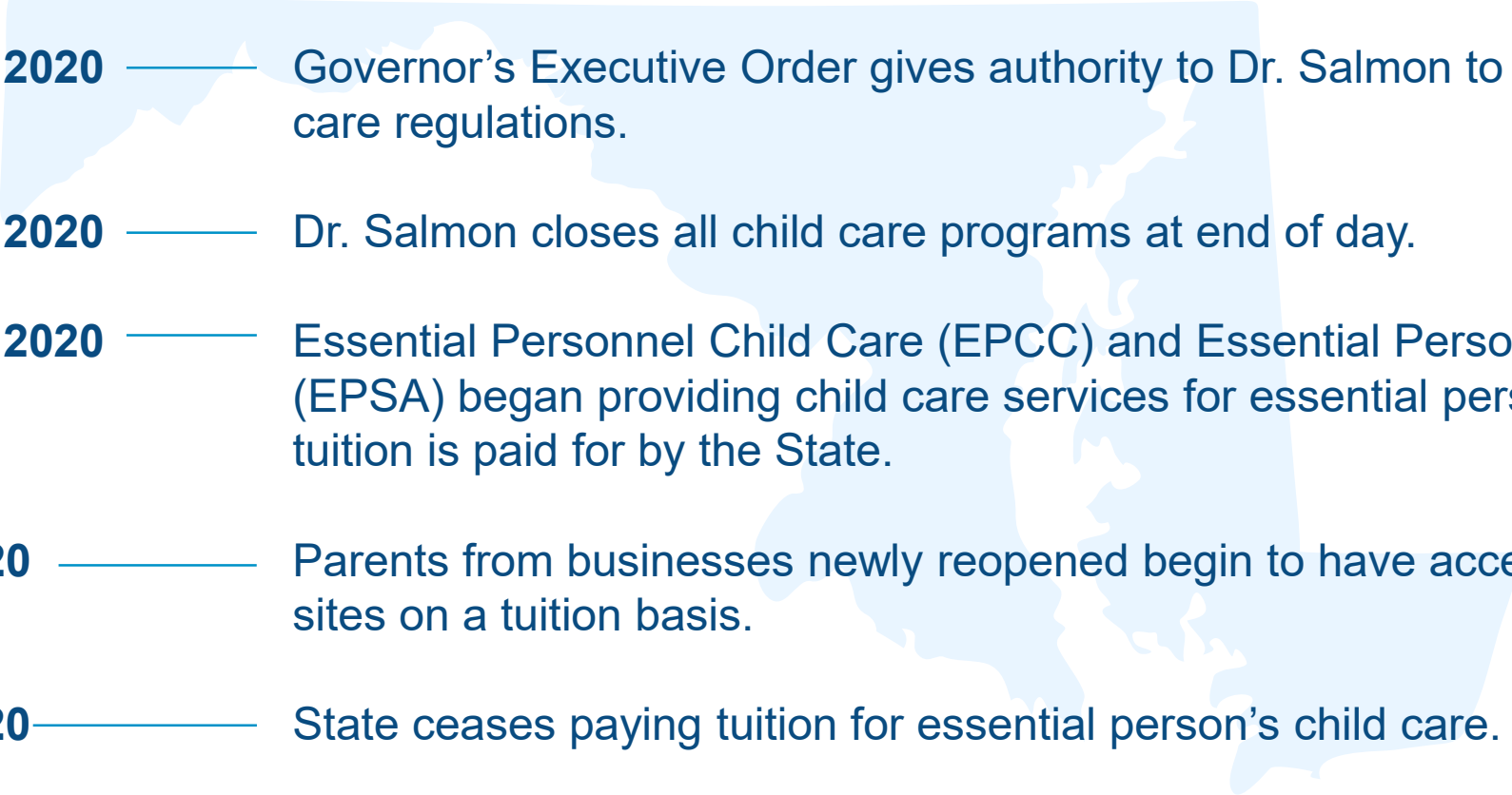
The State of Child Care During COVID-19



Senate Budget and Taxation, House Appropriations, and
House Ways and Means Committees
June 22, 2020

Presented By
Dr. Karen B. Salmon
State Superintendent of Schools

RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC TIMELINE

- 
- MARCH 5, 2020** — Governor Hogan declares a State of Emergency.
- MARCH 13, 2020** — Governor's Executive Order gives authority to Dr. Salmon to suspend certain child care regulations.
- MARCH 27, 2020** — Dr. Salmon closes all child care programs at end of day.
- MARCH 30, 2020** — Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) began providing child care services for essential personnel only. Child care tuition is paid for by the State.
- MAY 16, 2020** — Parents from businesses newly reopened begin to have access to EPCC and EPSA sites on a tuition basis.
- JUNE 5, 2020** — State ceases paying tuition for essential person's child care.
- JUNE 10, 2020** — Child Care now open to all parents.

PRE-RECOVERY

- ✓ Child care operated in each jurisdiction and **was restricted to children of essential persons.**
- ✓ Cost of child care **for essential persons was paid by MSDE.**
- ✓ **Child Care Subsidy payments were based on enrollment,** rather than attendance and paid to participating providers even if closed.
- ✓ **PreK Expansion programs were paid while providing distance learning –** two providers closed and will continue over the summer.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES



All programs follow health and safety guidelines developed with the Maryland Department of Health.

Temperature checks

Ongoing cleaning and sanitizing

Social Distancing

Local local health departments and licensing specialist contacted if a COVID-19 case occurs

FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES

\$85 million

CARES Act and Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) provided financing

\$250

reimbursed per school-age child

\$800/\$1,600

grants paid to child care providers for cleaning, sanitizing, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

\$350

reimbursed per child under 3 years-old

\$2,000 grants

to paid to child care providers serving essential persons to help with lower capacity

MARYLAND TOGETHER: MARYLAND'S RECOVERY PLAN FOR CHILD CARE



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND THE PATH FORWARD

STAGE 1

MSDE expands definition of essential persons to include parents working in businesses opened by the Governor.

- Additional child care programs reopen
- Providers begin serving parents working in businesses newly-opened by the Governor and collecting tuition.
- Eligible parents may apply to the Child Care Scholarship program and receive vouchers, which helps meet the cost of child care.

STAGE 2

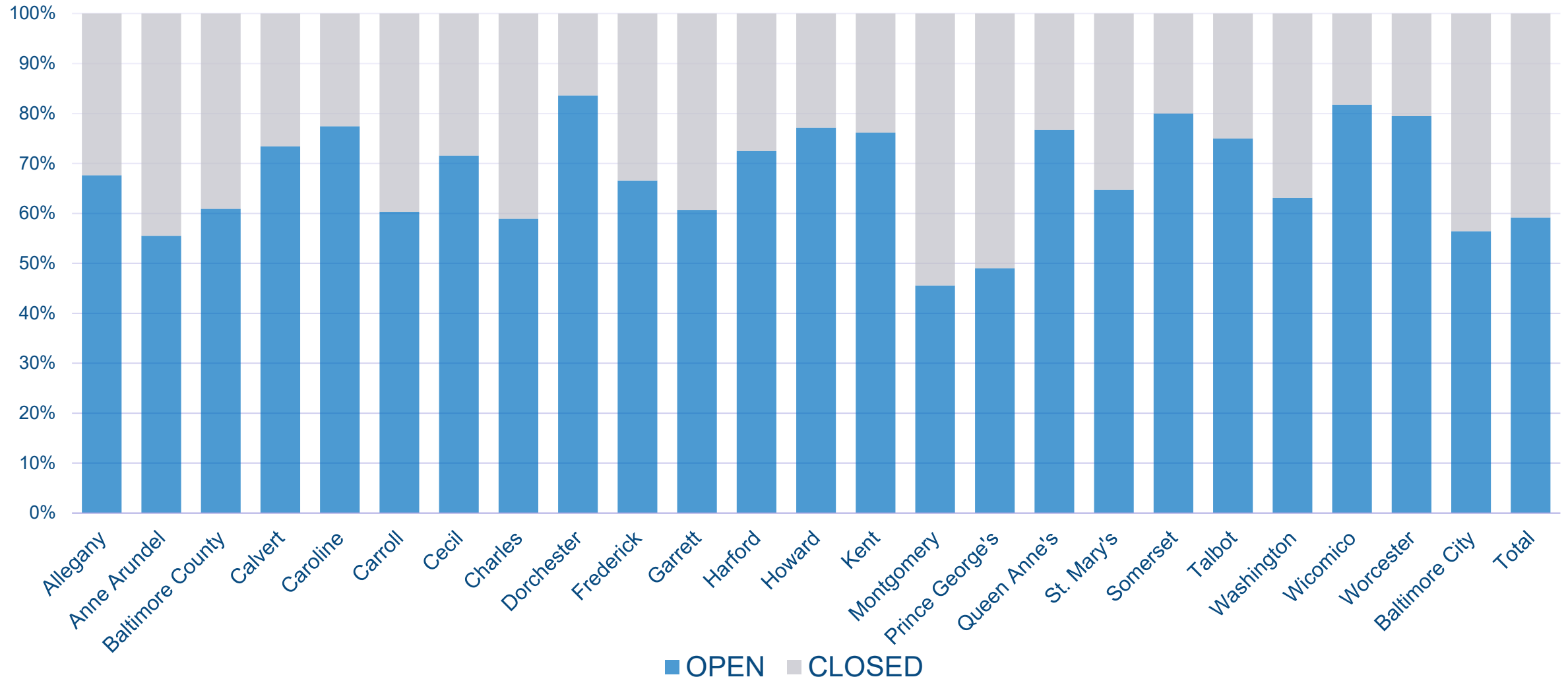
MSDE continues expanding the number of child care providers as the State transitions through recovery.

- Licensed child care providers continue to open
- Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) sites will close so they can provide their summer programs.
- Providers transition from invoicing MSDE for essential persons served to collecting tuition.
- All parents are eligible to access child care.

BY THE NUMBERS

	March 27, 2020 (Programs Close)	March 30, 2020 (Approved Programs Re-open)	June 17, 2020
Number of Operating Licensed Child Care Programs	7,858	2,258	4,697
Percent of Operating Licensed Child Care Programs	100%	29%	61%
Number of Operating EPSA Sites	0	35	41
Capacity Limits	20 per room	10 per room	15 per room

PERCENT LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS OPEN VS. CLOSED



Questions & Comments

JUNE 2020

CARING DURING COVID

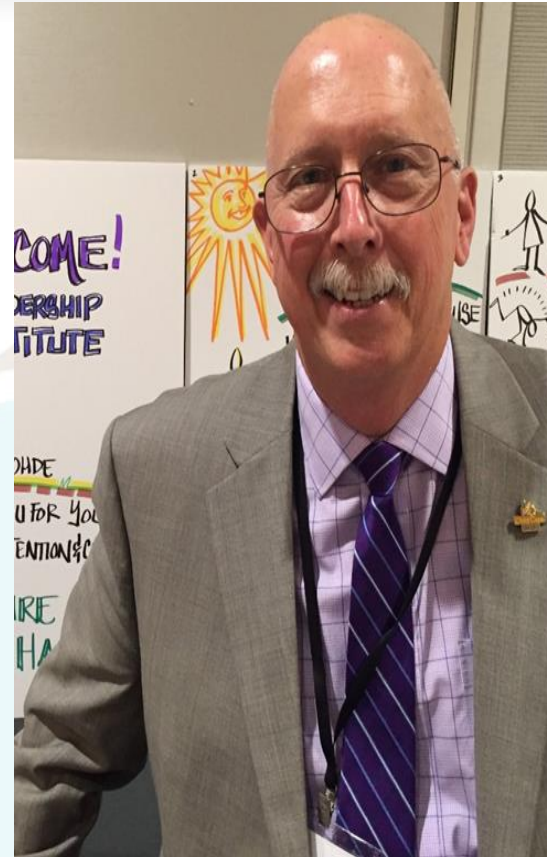
THE IMPACT OF
THE PANDEMIC ON
MARYLAND CHILD
CARE PROVIDERS



MARYLAND
FAMILY
NETWORK



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Executive Director
Maryland Family Network



Steve Rohde
Deputy Director, Resource &
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Maryland Family Network

MFN conducted a survey of child care providers in Maryland from May 5 to May 15, 2020.

The survey asked child care providers what impact COVID-19 is having on their program, including financial losses and closure decisions, and what supports are needed to help providers respond to the public health crisis.

[Caring During COVID: Check Out the Full Report](#)

Key Takeaways from the Survey

- Over two-thirds of programs indicated significant financial losses;
- Over one-half of programs indicated possible permanent closure;
- Over 70% of respondents indicated they would need grants to reopen;
- The findings have significant impact on parents needing care.

State of Child Care Prior to COVID-19 Outbreak

- 36.6% of workers age 18 – 64 are parents of children age 18 years and under;
- 21.6% of all workers are parents of children age 5 and under;
- Difficulty in finding care;
- Cost of care and impact.

Survey Methodology

- Adapted survey from Louisiana
- Active May 5 – May 15, 2020
- Distributed electronically
- Publicized
- Multiple reminders
- Response rate of 41.6%
- Responding programs/providers
 - Open, 68%
 - Closed, 32%

High Response Rate

- All jurisdictions of the State responded
- All types of care represented
 - Family Child Care, 69%
 - Child Care Centers, 20%
 - Large Family Child Care, 3%
 - Letter of Compliance, 1%
 - Nursery Schools, 2%
 - Pre-K, 1%
 - School Age Care, 2%
 - Unknown, 2%

Providers Experiencing Great Financial Loss

- Financial Loss due to COVID-19
 - Yes, 67%
 - Not yet, but I expect to, 14%
 - No, 19%
- On average, providers experience in monthly losses
 - \$56,400 for center based programs
 - \$4,800 for family child care
- Largest expenses
 - Rent/Mortgage, 54%
 - Employee Wages, 24%
 - Supplies, 12%
 - Utilities, 4%

Most Workers Are Not Being Paid

Continue to pay employees

- Yes, 24%
- No, 47%
- Other, 29%

If closed, are employees applying for unemployment

- Yes, 28%
- No, 72%

Have you or will you apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan

- Yes, 24%
- No, 68%

Apply for SBA Paycheck Protection Program


- Yes, 20%
- No, 80%

If a FCC Providers, did you apply for unemployment insurance as a result of the CARES Act

- Yes 20%
- No, 80%

Other States

States are providing child care relief grants to help ensure providers will be able to reopen and/or continue to operate when the economy reopens.



Vermont

COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Payment Program for Private Tuition

- Intended to support child care programs to maintain their businesses during the uncertainty.
- Meant to maintain tuition payments and to hold spaces for the children enrolled prior to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Support child care programs regardless of closure, being open or schedule status.
- [Additional information](#)

Michigan

Child Care Relief Fund

- Helps child care providers in Michigan cover costs during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The goal of the program is to help child care providers stay in business and make child care more affordable for Michigan families.
- Grants available to providers regardless of status (open or closed).
- Can be used to support a range of expenses related to ongoing operations or reopening a facility.
- [Additional Information](#)

Louisiana

Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants

- To offset some of the financial burdens experienced by child care providers during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, the Louisiana Department of Education is funding two grant opportunities for child care providers.
- One will support providers who've remained open during the Stay at Home Order
- Other will support providers certified to accept state's child care assistance funds so they remain operational after this period in an effort to support child care access for families in need.
- [Additional Information](#)

Georgia

Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) payments

- All licensed Georgia child care providers are invited to apply.
- May be used to pay for salaries and benefits for lead teachers, assistant teachers, and other employees; substitute teachers; tuition relief for families; lease or mortgage payments; utilities; cleaning supplies; classroom materials and supplies; unreimbursed food; and additional supplies required by CDC guidelines.
- [Additional Information](#)

State by State Comparisons by Our National Partners

- For a more comprehensive look at what is happening in other states:
- [National Women's Law Center](#)
- [Child Care Aware of America](#)



Comments on Reopening

MFN recognizes the extraordinary needs of child care providers during the COVID crisis. We strongly urge our State and federal governments to allocate the necessary resources so that programs can survive and emerge with the capacity to play their indispensable roles in economic recovery.

[MFN's Full Statement on Reopening Child Care](#)

With that noted, MFN also has deep concerns about:

- 1) what is arguably a premature relaxation of restrictions imposed since the pandemic, and
- 2) what is inarguably a weakening of regulations that were in place pre-pandemic, especially with regard to adult-child ratios and licensing for school-age child care.

In both cases, these steps could work to the detriment of (and even endanger) young children, parents, and providers.

Group Size and Ratios for 3- and 4-year-olds in Child Care Centers

Pre-pandemic	Restrictions Imposed During the Pandemic	Result of Current Actions <i>** Note: "...a temporary relaxing of the regulations." **</i>
1:10 staff child ratio, maximum group size of 20.	Each room in a child care center is restricted to 10 people, including children and staff. 1 staff person with 9 children.	Class sizes in child care centers are now expanded to a maximum of 15 individuals per classroom with a ratio of no more than 1:14.

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