Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide-ranging and devastating impacts on Louisiana’s people and economy. Since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Louisiana was diagnosed in the New Orleans region on March 9, 2020, 2,745 additional cases have been confirmed and 119 people have died in the state of Louisiana, as of March 27.

To better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting child care providers around the state, LPIC conducted a survey of child care providers in Louisiana from March 16-23, 2020, in partnership with the Agenda for Children, Childcare Connections for Northeast Louisiana, Louisiana Association of United Ways, Northwestern State University, Pointe Coupee Early Childhood Coalition, On Track by 5 Alliance, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, and Volunteers of America. The survey asked child care providers what impact COVID-19 is having on their program or business, including financial losses and closure decisions, and what supports are needed to help providers respond to the public health crisis.

Survey Findings

Results from the survey show the troubling impacts and difficult decisions facing child care providers in Louisiana during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notably, due to COVID-19:

A Majority of Child Care Providers Reported Losing Revenue

78% of child care providers in Louisiana had experienced a loss in revenue, with collective losses due to COVID-19 totaling almost $1.7 million, as of March 23.

A Significant Number of Child Care Providers Had Closed or Were Planning to Close

Within the survey window, 20% of child care providers had closed their program or business, and another 15% anticipated closing. In the week following the survey, the percentage of closed providers rose to 60%, according to data from the Louisiana Department of Education.

Closed Child Care Providers Experienced Financial Losses from Multiple Directions

72% of closed child care providers were no longer collecting tuition from families; however, 51% of these providers were continuing to pay their employees.

One-Third of Child Care Providers Reported an Extended Closure Will Force Them to Permanently Close

Those centers serve approximately 12,500 children and employ over 2,000 full- and part-time staff members.

A Majority of Providers Requested Support to Pay Their Employees

Over 90% of child care providers indicated grants to pay employees during closures would support their response to COVID-19 both now and in the future if their program or business must close.

Timeline

3/9/20: The first confirmed case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in Louisiana in the New Orleans region.


3/15/20: Gov. Edwards further reduces maximum group sizes to 50 people, orders the closure of certain businesses, and limits restaurants to takeout and delivery orders.

3/22/20: Gov. Edwards issues a Stay at Home Order to begin at 5pm on March 23, directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their home to essential needs, and ordering additional business closures.

NOTE: This survey is an early snapshot of what was happening in the child care sector at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana. LPIC intends to replicate this survey in the coming weeks in order to provide a longitudinal view of the impacts of COVID-19 on child care providers, as well as utilize data collected by the Louisiana Department of Education to supplement survey results.

For more information visit www.policyinstitutela.org
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LOUISIANA CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Statewide Survey Findings from March 16 - March 23, 2020

Majority of Child Care Providers Reported Losing Revenue

Impacts of COVID-19 on Child Care Providers

- Fewer children/low child attendance: 85%
- Loss of revenue: 78%
- Increased costs for cleaning supplies: 73%
- Difficulty in obtaining needed supplies or food: 60%
- Employee absences: 44%
- Hired (or trying to hire) additional staff: 9%
- Temporary closure: 3%
- More children/increased child attendance: 3%
- Other: 21%

Question: If responded “Yes” to previous question, “Has your business/program been impacted by COVID-19/coronavirus?” If yes, how? Please check all that apply. Note: Respondents may have selected more than one response. Percentages may total to more than 100%.

Most Providers Experienced or Expected Financial Losses Due to COVID-19

- Yes: 60%
- No: 2%


Child Care Providers Expected Staff Layoffs, Permanent Business Closures from Long-Term Child Absences or Extended Closures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent of Responding Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Layoff employees</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce employees’ hours</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce business hours</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close business permanently</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: What will happen to your business/program if families keep children home for extended periods or if your business/program is closed for an extended period of time? Please check all that apply. Note: Respondents may have selected more than one response. Percentages may total to more than 100%.

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