

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LOUISIANA CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Statewide Survey Findings from
March 16 - March 23, 2020

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.

Timeline

- 3/9/20:** The first confirmed case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in Louisiana in the New Orleans region.
- 3/11/20:** The World Health Organization designates COVID-19 as a pandemic and Gov. John Bel Edwards declares a public health emergency in Louisiana.
- 3/13/20:** Gov. Edwards closes all public schools in the state until April 13, 2020.
- 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.

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:**

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.

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

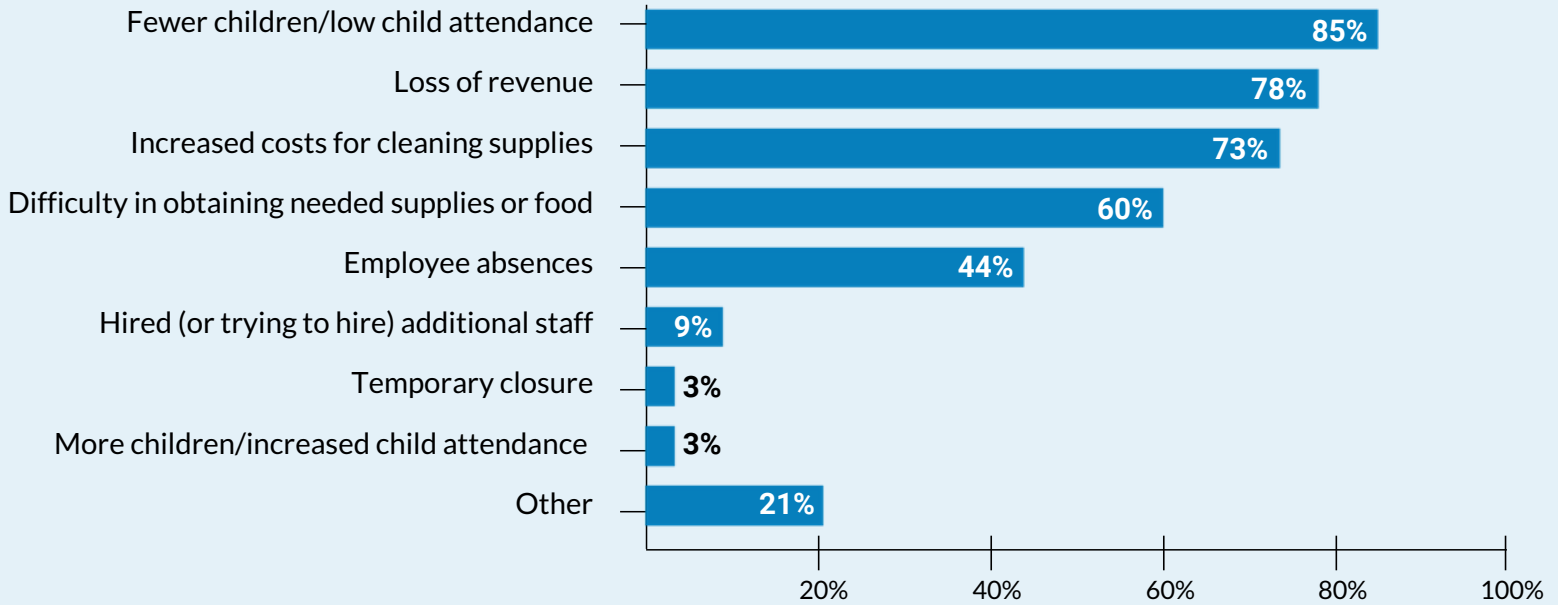
Over 90% of child care providers indicated grants to pay employees during closures would support their response to COVID-19 both now and in the future if their program or business must close.

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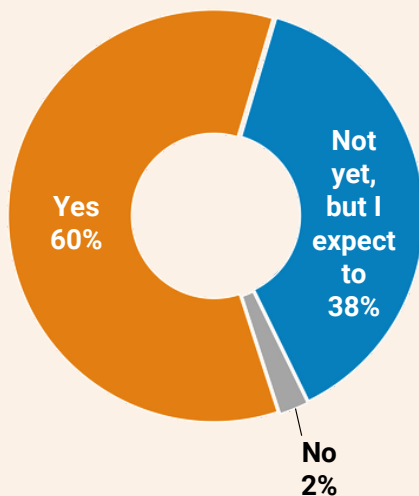
Impacts of COVID-19 on Child Care Providers



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%.

Child Care Providers Anticipated Further Financial Losses, Employee Layoffs

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



Question: Are you experiencing any financial losses due to the COVID-19/coronavirus outbreak? / [southeast Louisiana] Are you tracking any financial losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

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

Response	Percent of Responding Participants
Layoff employees	71%
Reduce employees' hours	67%
Reduce business hours	40%
Close business permanently	35%
Other	17%

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%.

