



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Child Care in Crisis

Understanding the Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Maryland

Just last month, Congress held two hearings on the crisis in child care and its impact on children, families, businesses, and our nation's economy. Now, the spread of the coronavirus is making this crisis and its impacts substantially worse, threatening to put this already-vulnerable industry into a tailspin that will compromise the country's ability to weather this storm, and get back on its feet after it is over.

To understand the breadth of the deepening crisis, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) shared a brief survey with child care programs to learn more about the challenges they are facing across states and settings, and the impact a closure without significant public support would have on a program moving forward.

From March 12-16, more than 6,000 providers responded to the survey, from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 33 percent of respondents work in center-based child care, and another 53 percent work in family child care homes.

In Maryland, of the 315 providers who responded:

- 33% say they would not survive closing for more than two weeks without significant public investment and support that would allow them to compensate and retain staff, pay rent, and cover other fixed costs.
- 20% would not survive a closure of any length of time without these supports
- 21% do not know how long they would be able to close their doors and be able to reopen without these supports
- 41% have parents who cannot pay fees or copays
- 15% have lost income because they are paid by attendance rather than enrollment and 48% have lost income based on families' own inability to pay.

Note that 34% of responses in Maryland are from those working in community-based centers and 60% are from those working in family child care homes.

For the national results, see [NAEYC's brief on the child care crisis](#).

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