Early Childhood Update for Phase I
May 19, 2020
OVERVIEW

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CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

- As of 5/18/2020,
  - 62% of child centers are closed
  - 63% of religious exempt preschools are closed
  - 21% of family day homes are closed

Altogether, ~2,600 child care programs are closed - a loss in capacity of ~200,000. 330 programs have indicated that they have a reopening date.

- Child care is allowed to be open and child care educators are essential personnel.
- The Department of Social Services and Department of Education have produced a letter for the field that child care is essential and should be a priority for critical supplies (e.g., food, cleaning).

- Current priority areas:
  1. Ensuring there is enough child care as all types of personnel return to work
  2. Using the $70 million in CARES Act Child Care funding to support the field
- Important note: financial losses experienced far exceed new federal funding available.
Phase I in Virginia

Virginia moved to Phase I with the exception of Northern Virginia, Richmond and Accomack.

Phase I looks like this:

- Safer at home—especially if you are vulnerable
- No social gatherings of more than 10 individuals
- Continued social distancing
- Continued teleworking
- Face coverings recommended in public
- Revised business limitations

https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/
Tracking Capacity as Virginia Reopens

Child Care Aware of Virginia has developed a new map to reflect the current state of child care in Virginia in response to community needs.

- Map enables community planners, partners, the child care workforce and others to see what is happening in their localities and across the Commonwealth.

- This map highlights programs that have closed and those that remain open – differentiating between those serving only children who were enrolled prior to the COVID-19 crisis (still serving a need), and those who report willingness to take in new children, as well as available vacancy data that Child Care Aware of Virginia is now collecting. The map also shows care in relation to hospital locations.

https://vachildcare.com/data/va-child-care/
## Virginia’s Approach to CARES Act

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia’s Goal</th>
<th>How Virginia Will Use the CARES Act Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support providers who are open to serve children during the pandemic</td>
<td>Child care providers that are open and serving essential personnel will be eligible for a new grant program that will provide direct cash assistance each month (April – June) based on program size.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support low-income families who rely on child care subsidies</td>
<td>Families in the Child Care Subsidy Program will not have to make co-payments from April 1 - June 30. Co-payment amounts will be automatically included in provider payments for this period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support providers in the Child Care Subsidy Program, even if they are temporarily closed</td>
<td>All Child Care Subsidy providers are eligible for up to 40 additional absence days which is equivalent to covering enrollment for up to 8 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure back-up emergency child care is available as needed</td>
<td>Funding will supplement costs of back-up, emergency child care in public schools as needed.</td>
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CARES Act Funding for Child Care

Virginia has launched a new direct cash incentive program (CARES Grant Incentive) to support all open programs.

- The CARES Grant Incentive Program for child care providers is a three month long grant, April through June. Grants are provided to support child care programs who remain open and willing to serve children of essential personnel.

- Eligible programs include: licensed child day centers, licensed family day homes, voluntary registered homes, religious exempt centers, subsidy programs, and homes approved through local ordinance in Northern Virginia.

- After the first month, Virginia has approved 1,770 providers for participation in the CARES Grant Incentive Program, with an average monthly grant award of $4,202.

- Each grant recipient will now receive one payment for all the months of operation indicated on the application instead of separate payments over the next three months.

Phase I Guidance

On May 14, the Department of Social Services issued guidance for child care and camps in preparation for Phase I.

- Continue social distancing and limiting groups to 10, including staff.
- Prohibits the use of community swimming pools and water play activities. Discourages fieldtrips, inter-group events, and extracurricular activities.
- Requires increased infection control procedures - handwashing, cleaning, sanitizing, and health checks.
- Use personnel protective equipment when feasible for staff members and children over the age of 2.
- Follow local health department, VDH, and CDC guidance for opening or reopening and response to positive cases or symptoms of COVID-19.

Preparing for Phase II

In partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, the Department of Social Services and Department of Education are preparing for the next phase of reopening.

• Several task forces have been created to ensure all reopening guidelines and timelines reflect broad public-private stakeholder input.

• Child care and camp stakeholders are participating in listening sessions to offer input on how to operate safely and affordably in Phase II while ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to support working families. Stakeholders will also discuss financial impact.

• Public health officials are involved at every stage in order to ensure keep children, families and providers safe.