

Briefing on Emergency School Age Child Care and New Federal Stimulus Funding for Child Care

January 21, 2021 | 3:30 pm



Welcome

**Thank you for joining today's webinar.
The meeting will start momentarily. A
couple reminders while you wait:**

- Participants will be muted during the session
- We encourage you to type your questions in the question box



Agenda

Topic	Speaker
Welcome and Introductions	Kathy Glazer, President
Brief Recap of VDSS Activities Strategies and Plans and Relief Bill – Shaping Design and Implementation	Duke Storen, DSS Commissioner; Jenna Conway, VDOE Chief School Readiness Officer
Stakeholder Perspectives	
Questions	Kathy Glazer, President
Adjourn	



office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

Early Childhood Care and Education: Update on COVID-19 Relief for Child Care

Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Duke Storen

Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway

Overview

- COVID-19 Relief Funding Update
- Lessons Learned
- Challenges Remain
- New Federal Funding
- Going Forward

Overview of ECCE Relief Efforts

VDOE	
CARES Act via GEER	\$10 million
Funds for unallotted VPI initiatives (waitlists, community-provider add on, 3-year-old pilot)	\$7 million <i>Funds committed, to be spent in spring 21</i>
Professional development and coaching on social-emotional	\$1 million <i>Contract in place</i>
VECF Mixed Delivery program	\$2 million <i>Contract in place</i>
CARES Act via ESSER	\$16,000
Support emergency child care in schools during 2019-2020 school year	\$16,000 <i>Payments completed</i>
CARES Act via Head Start	\$12.3 million
Support EHS/HS grantees' COVID response efforts	\$12.3 million <i>Funding was federal-to-local; total reflects amount received by grantees in Virginia</i>

VDSS*	
CARES Act via CCDBG	\$70.6 million
Two rounds of direct grants to child care providers (CARES grants)	\$54 million <i>Fully spent</i>
Paid absence days for subsidy vendors	\$5.9 million <i>Fully spent</i>
Waiving copayments for CCSP parents April-- June	\$3.7 million <i>Fully spent</i>
Increased maximum reimbursement rate for Level I providers	\$7 million <i>\$6.7 million remaining (payments just begun)</i>
Other state and federal funding sources	\$58.3 million
Direct grants to providers (CARES III)	\$54.3 million <i>\$15.2 million remaining</i>
School-age child care (funded through CRF, SGF)	\$33.2 million <i>\$29.2 million remaining</i>

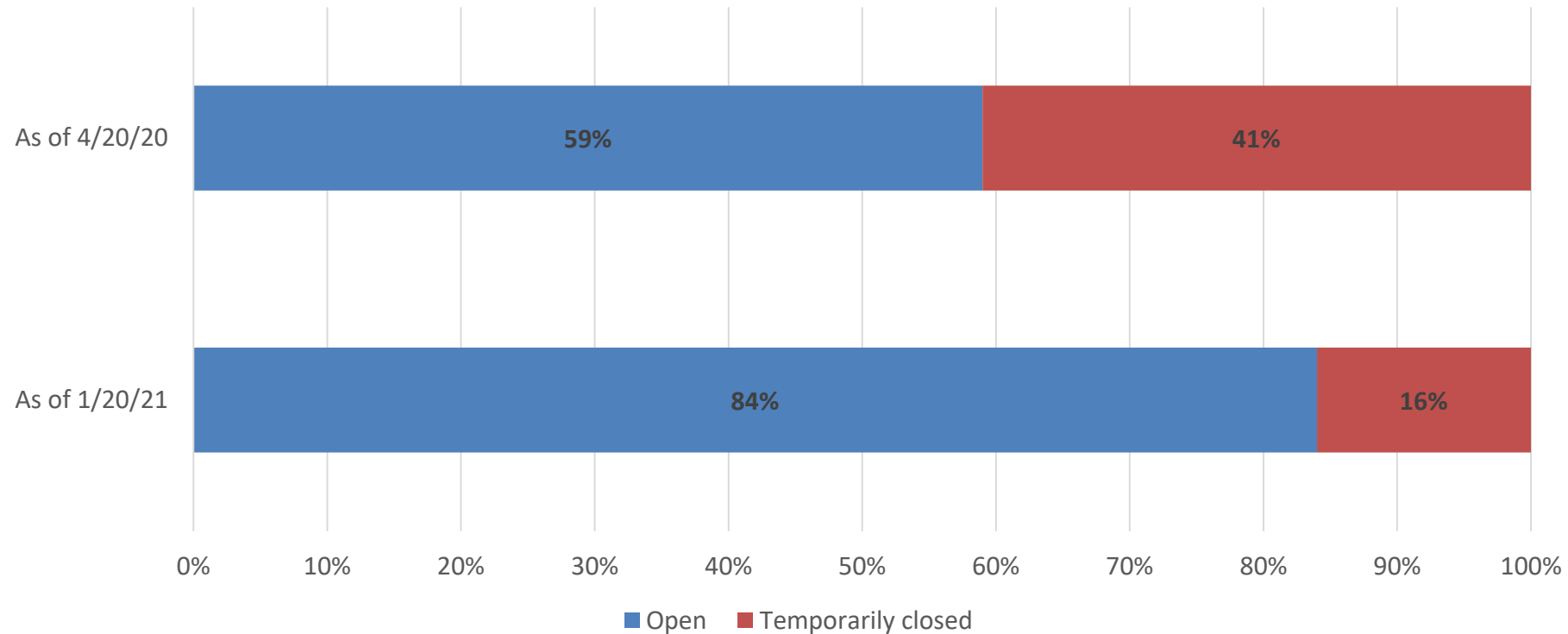
Lessons Learned

Child care remains essential to recovery

- Current funding model based on attendance has created a fragile and fragmented “system.”
- Direct cash assistance has helped re-open child care in Virginia.
 - *System has moved from 41% open in April 2020 to 84% open as of January 2021.*
 - *Virginia is ahead of national average; only 73% of providers have reopened.*
- Child care providers can play a key role in supporting virtual and hybrid learning.
 - *At least 50% of child care providers are offering child care for school-aged children.*

Funds Helped Reopen Child Care

Nearly 2000 programs have reopened across the state



Challenges Remain

Early Childhood Educators are the unsung heroes of this pandemic

- Child care programs may be open but many are under-enrolled.
 - *Virginia data suggests that programs are at 47% attendance compared to pre-pandemic levels.*
- Child care educators are a priority for vaccines but supply remains limited.
- Finding and retaining staff has become very difficult.

New Federal Funding

Significant new funding will be available to support child care

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 includes \$10 billion in CCDBG funds for COVID-19 relief.
 - *Virginia expects to receive ~\$198 million*
- Funds must be spent by September 30, 2023.
- Virginia must report plan for using funds by the end of February.

Going Forward

VDSS and VDOE will continue to work together on the recovery effort

- Oversight for child care will transition to VDOE on 7/1/2021.
 - *VDOE will set policy for all aspects of child care.*
 - *VDOE will operate licensing and quality improvement.*
 - *VDSS will continue to operate child care subsidy program.*
- VDSS and VDOE will continue to seek feedback on child care needs.
 - *What has worked well?*
 - *Where are the gaps?*
 - *How can we build back better?*

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Voices for Virginia's Children

Funding Priorities for Additional Federal Funds

- Waive or reduce parent co-pays
- Extend the number of allowable absence days
- Expand eligibility for subsidy during job search
- Award contracts to providers to stabilize and reduce costs
- Make grant awards based on costs not enrollment (i.e. initial grants to FDH were too low for costs)
- Fund one-time costs with long-term improvements (Rapback, licensing modernization, parent search features, etc.)



Questions

