



## **Nonprofit Communities Rely On Safe & Affordable Child Care Systems**

**State of Play:** “The childcare system is on the verge of collapse due to COVID-19, which would prevent nonprofit employees, along with the rest of the country, from returning to full-time work after infection rates decline. Congress must appropriate emergency funds to stabilize childcare systems nationwide.”

### **Childcare is A Critical Component of Civil Society**

- Millions of nonprofit workers are struggling to meet increased community needs due to COVID while simultaneously serving as full-time caretake for their children. This burden falls disproportionately on women and low-wage workers and it is contributing to unprecedented levels of stress, depression, and burnout among both nonprofit parents and their colleagues
- Approximately 60 percent of the nation’s licensed child care programs have closed due to the ongoing pandemic. As a result, 1/3 of child care workers nationwide have been laid off or furloughed. To date, the industry faces an estimated shortfall of \$9.6 billion a month as experts project the loss of 4.5 million child care vacancies
- As the child care sector struggles to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, Congress has a responsibility to provide financial support to the industry—as it has done in the past

### **An insufficient Child Care System Will Impede Economic Recovery**

- A stable, affordable child care system serves as the foundation for a productive workforce, particularly for the charitable sector that is on the front lines of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic
- A recent bipartisan [poll](#) of 1,216 voters nationwide concluded that 8 in 10 voters (9 in 10 voting parents) is in favor of Congress providing childcare stabilization funding in the next COVID-19 relief package

- Failure to enact this legislation could also have dire consequences on the U.S. economy: Without the support of government grants, as many as [4.5 million child care positions](#) could disappear—leaving working parents without child care options

### **Immediate Action is Needed**

While all the previous COVID-19 relief proposals included provisions to offer child care relief, funding levels and mechanisms for offering resources have varied. Regardless, support for federal dollars to shore up the child care sector remains bipartisan.

Congress must appropriate \$50 billion to stabilize the child care system and enable providers, many of which are nonprofits, to operate safely. Now is the time to go beyond acknowledging that juggling child care and mission is hard. We must urge Congress to take immediate action in forthcoming COVID relief legislation.

### **Nonprofits Are Trusted Sources of Information — Our Collective Advocacy is More Important Now than Ever**

Research indicates that nonprofit roots and trust within communities provide ample opportunity to increase civic engagement among those who are regularly excluded from the democratic process. Our natural engagement assets and unparalleled reach make us particularly well suited to encourage active civic participation.

Nonprofit employees shouldn't have to choose between caring for our loved ones and our mission. Submit a [letter](#) to your Congressional members today and urge your nonprofit network to take action using our **Nonprofit Infrastructure Investment Advocacy Toolkit**.