

From: Jodi Lindenthal on behalf of Jolene Smith

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:17 PM

To: Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: FW: FIRST 5 Letter Regarding Childcare Prioritization for City of San Jose

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members,

Attached, please find our letter requesting the City's support in prioritizing family childcare homes and family support as an important component of the City's COVID-19 response to economic recovery. Additionally, I have included letters from families and family childcare home providers for your review.

Sincerely,
Jolene

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council Members

From: Dalenna Hughes, parent and community member

Date: 5/3/2020

Re: Prioritization of Childcare Funding

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members,

I humbly come to you as a parent, and community member that has the honor of serving as an essential worker by supporting the community. I am also filled with gratitude that my 2-year-old daughter has access to an extremely highly qualified family child care home (FCCH) provider within the community.

As I work long days and weekends to assist our county's most at-risk families get their needs met, and my husband leaves the house to work in a local grocery store, putting himself and my family at a high health risk, I become overwhelmed and afraid. My family struggles to figure out how we are going to be able to afford our costs of basic living and the child care that we desperately need in order to sustain our essential jobs.

When this tragic health crisis began, my husband was left without a job and denied by unemployment. Not wanting our 2 daughters to go unfed or to lose our home, my husband secured a job at a grocery store to help us survive. Beginning work for survival purposes meant that our youngest daughter would need to return to child care; but how? We have no money. We contacted our FCCH provider who was willing to re-open to essential workers. We had to assist her in getting the cleaning supplies she needed but could not find in order for her to re-open.

In order to try and meet our financial needs, we reached out to 4 C's and applied for the essential worker's voucher that we heard was available and prayed our federal stimulus check would come in time to pay for May's child care costs at minimum. We have yet to secure a voucher from 4 c's or receive payment of our federal stimulus monies.

Unfortunately, as the working poor utilizing assistance from the working poor (our FCCH provider) we are faced with the daily stress of uncertainty and fear. Our provider is not operating at full capacity and could close. Our daughter is only a toddler and there are limited spaces available to serve her and I am afraid to put her at a higher health risk in a center setting as her immune system has shown to be weaker than desired by her contraction of pneumonia at the age of 5 months.

As a parent, community member, and advocate for all families who are currently struggling to survive, I respectfully ask that the city does all that it can to assist families and Family Child Care Home providers meet their needs. The assistance needed is;

access to subsidies for families in need of child care in order to regain stability.

- Access to subsidies to families that do not meet traditional income eligibility requirements by the state due to the cities high cost of living but do not have the means to support the high costs of child care at this time.

- Financial FCCH providers in order for them to secure the adequate financing needed for them to stay in operation.

- Access by FCCH providers to much needed essential supplies to remain in operation.

On behalf of myself, my family, and families within the community thank you in advance for any and all considerations made due to this letter.

In partnership, Dalenna Hughes and Family

To Whom it May Concern,

I wanted to reach out to you a parent who is looking for any sources or assistance for getting childcare so that I can be able to provide for my child. There is a pertinent need for child care during this global pandemic we are all experiencing together. Being a part of the health care professionals, but not directly a front line, it is essential for my employer (dental practice) to keep assessing and seeing emergency patients to avoid overflow in emergency rooms. And, like many other businesses we have been affected (closed for 7 weeks) to follow the limitations/restrictions implemented to avoid the spread of the virus. With me being a critical employee and one of the only staff members now offered to return to full-time work with the help of the government loan provided to employer's. I am not in a position to pay full cost child care but available to return back to work.

I respectfully ask any facilities to consider for the single parent applicant who makes just over the gross monthly income. In the area we live in more than 50% of my employer check was applied to cost of living. With the interruption of the virus and trying to cover my May rent with unemployment I am left with nothing to pay for child care. And being that I do not qualify for reduced day care, I do not qualify for any other low income programs. The cost of electricity (no discount rate), water, garbage, and insurance takes up 85% of my income. It leaves me with little to no money to pay for day care services at an appropriate licensed provider. It is extremely difficult to perform at work and have a toddler at to bring to work with me. I am a single parent, with no other adults living at home with a child who has been in child care since infancy. . My toddler's daily schedule has been interrupted, and I have noticed the change in his behavior over the last several weeks. In his final months of full-time daycare prior to beginning grade school I cannot spend the time that is needed to prepare him for the elementary school's curriculum. I rely on my licensed/qualified child care provider to help me with the well being of my son's emotional and educational preparation.

I hope the county can consider or any resources you know besides 4C's that can help assist with child care, so I may return to full-time work. My official return date for work would be Monday, 5/4/2020 if I can find assistance to cover for child care costs for the month of May.

Best Regards,

Cecilia Alvarado, BBA

To whom it may concern.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Araceli Tapia. I have been a childcare provider for over 15 years in the Bay Area.

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and other providers of our Childcare Network to urge you to help us find an answer to our financial struggles impacted by the COVID 19 Virus and the rules that we are abiding by to prevent the spread.

Currently, I have opened my home to just “essential workers” for two families who are in real need of childcare. I do this even at the risk to my own personal family. The norm for my program is to have approximately 8-12 children in my care, but as the requirement has changed to only allow “essential worker families” to receive care, I have lost about 75% of my income.

This financial hardship on my family is trickling down to others as well. I usually employ a staff but with this difficult financial hardship, I have been forced to lay off the staff.

Having my home open to the “essential workers”, I knew in order to keep my home as sanitary and clean as possible, I would need certain cleaning supplies. This too has been a financial hardship because these supplies are either back ordered or increased in prices.

Last week, from Quality Matters, I was informed that 4Cs is giving vouchers to “essential family employees”. I have been working with 4Cs for years and yet, they never informed me of my rights. I am also unsure to except vouchers because payments to receive payment for childcare is usually 2 months behind to sometimes never even being paid.

At this time, my loyalty is to the families of my program, just as many other providers have a loyalty to their families. I ask you to please help us with a solution to serve these families and yet, still be able to provide for our own families. We do not want to close our doors to these children, but at this time, we are uncertain of the outcome the impact this Virus has on our livelihood.

I sincerely appreciate any advice or help you can provide at this time.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as you can, this is an urgent request.

Celi's Childcare

"The Forgotten Caregiver"

My name is Nancy Thang and I am an daycare provider in the Eastside of San Jose. I run a large family daycare. I am call to help our community by our Governor to stay open and provide care for Essential Workers children. I have been open ever since and taken more hours. Start at 5:30am and not done till 7:30pm every single day. I love what I do don't misunderstand but I am at a point where I started to think how long will I am able to keep this our facility open.

I have a hard time getting essentials (diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, gloves, and masks.) I have put a size 4 diapers on a 7months baby because parents can' t find the size or diapers they normally get. Good luck finding toilet papers or Lysol to clean. I am working 13 hours shift and than running to find supplies to buys for my daycare. Most of the time I came back empty handed. I have call different agency for help. No one responded. They don't have it either. 4C call and ask what we need. They got the survey but now it's May and I still don't received anything yet. How can our Governor call us to help fight this together but not provide us the essential supplies to do so. I am beyond frustrated at this point. I am not asking for Freebie here. I am saying there are not enough supplies out there to buy but if they do have it limit to 1 per customers. We are constantly cleaning around the clock and at the same time care for children age 7months to 12 years old. Caring for children is a lot of work but having to worries where I get my supplies to continue my service daily is a struggle.

I am asking for your support so I could continue with the providing High-Quality Early Learning experience for our families and children. I have to many things already on my plate taking care of children daily for 13 hours. Now I have to stress and put more time running from one store to another to get supplies. I can't do this on my own. I am not alone dealing with the daily struggle others providers are in the same situation and have no one to turn to.

Thank you I appreciate you taking this time to listen to my plea.



The First 5 years.
Make them count.

May 4, 2020

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council Members
From: Jolene Smith, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Re: COVID-19 Response Prioritization of Childcare Funding

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members,

As the workforce transitions back to work this summer, it is vital that we establish a plan that will champion families ability to successfully return to work during the COVID-19 era. In order to do so, we must prioritize quality, safe, and affordable childcare as part of the city's economic recovery plan.

Santa Clara County Office of Education and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County co-lead QUALITY MATTERS...a STRONG START for kids, a network that engages and supports 300 Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) and 94 childcare center sites. Specifically, it is the engagement with our FCCH providers that has led us to understand their struggles and the struggles of families that they serve.

Now, more than ever, working families are faced with hardships surrounding access and affordability of childcare. As Governor Newsom expanded the definition of essential workers, the demand for childcare will soon exceed the current availability of supply. Although we are pleased that Governor Newsom made subsidies available for essential workers, allocating 100 family childcare vouchers for Santa Clara County families available through June 2020, that amount of vouchers is not nearly adequate to support the needs of our working families.

In addition, families face exacerbated financial stress as they frantically play "catch-up" to recover from the initial weeks of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. There is intensified fear for families of the potential loss of childcare spaces as many providers are closed as a result of maintaining their businesses financially. FCCH that remain open are struggling to secure the required cleaning supplies and other essential supplies necessary to operate during this crisis. FCCH providers are a main source of childcare for infants and toddlers in our county, yet they are the most financially under-supported within the childcare system.

Families and FCCH providers continually share their concerns and the struggles they face as they plan for their children's care as families return to work. Their concerns become our questions as we ask ourselves and our policy leaders the following:

- Who will care for our children when our childcare facilities are closed due to lack of financial support for the essential supplies required to operate?
- How will families return to work when they are not able to afford quality care for their children due to the financial losses they experienced as a result of COVID-19?

- How can families feel secure returning to work or looking for work after losing their jobs when there are no options for financial support for childcare available to them?
- How can FCCH childcare providers who are eager to serve families and adapt to social distancing guidelines with smaller group size ratios of children, while adhering to health and safety regulations required by the state and county, serve without additional financial support to do so?

We ask that the City of San Jose prioritize a COVID-19 response of support for family childcare homes and for the families whose children they care for. We have included letters from a family and Family Child Care Home providers that address their struggles, for your review.

Sincerely,



Jolene Smith
CEO, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

From: Lina DiPhillips

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:48 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Kline, Kelly <Kelly.Kline@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support Almaden Country Day School

Ladies and Gentlemen of the San Jose City Council:

As the parents of two children at Almaden Country Day School we are writing this email to show our support not only for our great school, but more specifically for the Event Center and what that building means to our community and our campus. ACDS is many things, but one of the most unique and special aspects of the school is the beautiful community that our children and our families are a part of. A community that has developed over the years on simple traditions and time spent together. School plays, athletics, talent shows, cultural events, author visits and many more events that bring the children and our families together to create memories.

The Event Center that our school is hoping to construct will serve as a central hub for these events, many of which are at the core of who we are. One example is our drama program which is truly a gift for our kids. Starting in first grade, the children are exposed to theater and while they are having the time of their lives singing and dancing, they are growing in confidence, honing their public speaking skills and expressing their creativity. An Event Center that will serve as a theater will only make what is already a remarkable experience for our children that much better. Our athletics program is another area that will benefit tremendously from having an Event Center on campus. As the parents of a son who loves to play basketball, we are excited about a future where we get to cheer on our child at a home game in our own school gym. Making memories is at the heart of our school and this Event Center will be a vehicle and a place for us to continue to make memories with our children and as a community.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Warmly,

-Lucius & Lina DiPhillips