



February 2, 2021

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Councilmembers:

As someone who has been working in the early care and education field for more than 30 years, I know first-hand how critically important quality early care is in providing a strong foundation for young children and their future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted all of us to rapidly respond to the basic needs of the families in our San Jose community. In partnership with our Si Se Puede Collective partners, Grail Family Services has been working hard to ensure that families living on East San Jose have access to food, PPE, financial assistance, and other basic needs.

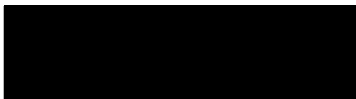
The families we serve are primarily essential workers providing a variety of services to the residents of San Jose. They are in dire need of quality, reliable childcare so they can continue to perform the duties that are so critical for our city.

On behalf of the East San Jose community, we urge you to continue to prioritize investments in childcare and early learning so our residents can get back to work and their children can have a strong start toward school and life success. Affordable and accessible childcare is critical to our community's economic recovery and the livelihood of our working families.

Research tells us that ***"High-quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a 13% Return on Investment."*** – Professor James J. Heckman, Director of the University of Chicago's Center for the Economics of Human Development.

As our City continues to roll out COVID-19 response we ask that affordable and accessible child care is a critical part to the economic recovery for our community and the livelihood of our working families. It is critical that our children are in adequate care, have a safe space for distance learning, tutoring and after school homework support.

Sincerely,



Veronica Goei
Executive Director