

**A Wisconsin Early Childhood Action Needed Report on  
Wisconsin's Early Care and Education (ECE) Crisis: The problem threatening our state's  
workforce, economic stability and future prosperity.**

**Early care education needs to be a choice**

Currently, far too many Wisconsin families do not have a choice in the early care and education for their children; whether it be the choice for a parent to stay home with their young child or choosing the right local group or family Early Childhood Education (ECE), 6 weeks–7 years. For most, the option for one parent to stay home is just not economically feasible. Choices are extremely limited or nonexistent for working families who need care for their child(ren) to work. Childcare is simply not accessible. Over half of Wisconsin (70% in rural) is a child care desert (meaning for every one child care slot available in the community there are three or more children who may need it). Childcare is also not affordable. The federal definition of affordable child care is a total of 7% household income (for all children), only 6.5% of Wisconsin families can “afford” an infant in care! In fact, the average two income Wisconsin households spend 17% of their income on childcare for one child, more than typical housing and nearly twice as much as in-state college tuition. Families also need to be able to choose ECE programming that aligns with their values and beliefs; reflecting and affirming family values and culture is considered a hallmark of high quality early education, critical to a child's healthy development. The decline in faith-based care in the state is further evidence that parents do not have a choice in their child's education. According to the Center for Public Justice, “One of the most pressing challenges for faith-based providers is the lack of fit between what families can pay in tuition and what providers need to cover costs, particularly staff costs. Interventions that boost compensation for child care work would help faith-based child care providers as it would the entire sector.”

**The Mechanics of Supply and Demand do not work with Childcare**

Education is a public good, it is necessary for the “smooth functioning of society—economically and politically” (Stanford). Because 90% of brain development occurs prior to the age of 5 years, ECE profoundly affects the trajectory of an individual's life and can be considered the most influential years of education. Subsequently, these educational years have the heaviest impact on our economy. In the immediate sense, ECE allows parents to participate in the workforce and longitudinal studies repeatedly confirm ECE's high return on investment (recent research from Heckman Foundation shows a \$17 return on every public dollar invested in ECE). ECE is failing because the simple supply and demand model does not work on public goods costing Wisconsin's economy 4.2-6.4 billion a year. Lacking sufficient public investment in ECE, parent tuition alone is currently funding the childcare system, and families cannot afford the true cost of quality childcare. This means providers are only able to set rates at what the market will bear, not at the price actually needed to run a quality education family child care business or group/head start with enough qualified staff. Like all other public goods, ECE requires state investments to be functional.

**The childcare crisis cannot fall on Employers.**

Some employers have been able to work with childcare education organizations to offer childcare opportunities for its employees. While this may work for that larger business it is not feasible for the majority of businesses in Wisconsin, particularly small businesses and businesses in rural communities. In addition, this does not allow families the choice of early education programs that align with their values and beliefs. Employers are not the

solution to the ECE crisis, it will only create more inequity across the state, particularly for rural communities. Without smart investments like Child Care Counts, more working families will opt to leave our state for those with more family friendly conditions. For example, taking a job in a neighboring state such as Minnesota where they have made substantial investments in the ECE field: “Minnesota's economy has not only surpassed Wisconsin's in size but more importantly in economic measurements that indicate a higher standard of living in Minnesota than Wisconsin” (2021, M Employment and Economic Development)

### **Deregulation you say?**

Yes and no. Increase the ratio to teacher capacity? Absolutely not. Right now the ratio for under 2 year old children is 1:4. The experts recommend 1:3 for quality care. Teachers will not accept caring for 5 babies, nor should families in Wisconsin accept it. This concept will result in decreasing the number of slots available for under 2 years and lead to infant safety concerns within care settings. With that said, there is room for improvement along the lines of regulation within licensing requirements. For example, in order for the state to receive Federal funds, FBI fingerprint background checks must be completed. However, Wisconsin goes a step further and requires yearly state background checks.

Additionally, the costs of the background checks are entirely placed on the childcare business. The most effective way to identify and effectively amend the regulatory system for Wisconsin's childcare businesses is to bring the early education workforce to the policy table, and WECAN's network of over 1000 early childhood stakeholders are ready to participate in this conversation once the budget has passed with Child Care Counts intact!

### **You feel the funding request is a “band-aid.”**

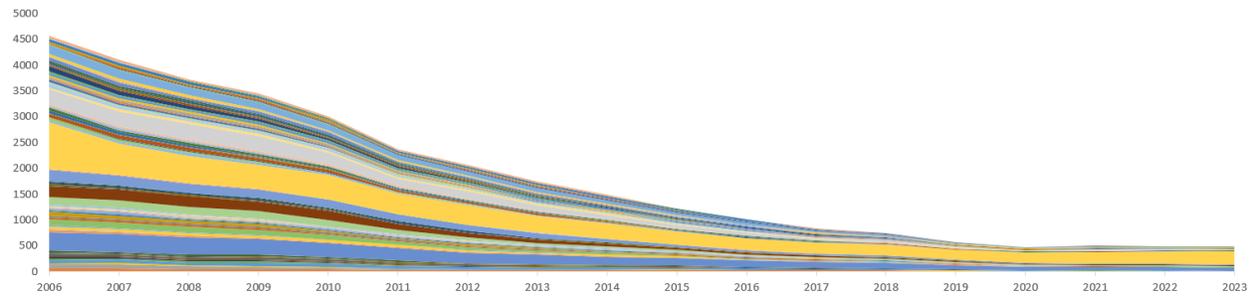
Yes, this is correct. The \$340 million budget request over the next two years is not a fix, it is only to try and stabilize the field. In the report you will find a chart demonstrating that childcare supply has stabilized over the past 2 years. The average group center/head start teacher average wage went from \$10.66 an hour in 2021 to \$12.66 an hour in 2022 (2022 is when Child Care Counts began with part B funds going directly towards wages) with Family Child care hourly earnings being even lower. Without the requested Child Care Counts funds in the next state budget, the pattern of ongoing program closures will once again proliferate and less and less children statewide will have access to safe stable care. In fact, recent surveys indicate that the rate of closures will be significantly higher than before Covid and the stimulus-funded subsidies. This will throw our state's workforce and economy into a tailspin. According to The Heritage Foundation, “Taxpayer dollars should help students to succeed with a great education.” We need to decide as a state what our priorities are. The Constitution requires that all kids be given equal educational opportunity no matter what their race, ethnic background, religion, or sex, or whether they are rich or poor. The early years are the most critical time of education, laying the foundational skills that enable individuals to achieve success throughout the rest of their education and future career. In order for the state to support those critical years of education and allow Wisconsin families the freedom of educational choice, it is imperative our Legislature includes \$340 million for Child Care Counts in this state budget. Millions of families with young children, child care workers, and business owners who need a strong dependable workforce are relying on this! The requested Child Care Counts funding in the 23-25 budget will stop our state from suffering even more loss of child care supply while a more permanent policy solution can be worked on at the state and national level.

## Statewide Survey Results: FILTERED BY FAMILY CHILD CARE ONLY

Survey responses to Wisconsin Early Childhood Action Needed (WECAN) survey “Monthly Child Care Counts Funding” to owners/directors/administrators of Wisconsin Group/Head Start and Family Child Care programs between 4/5-4/24 (531 total respondents, not all answered every question, and the two added questions on 4/19 were in direct response to the announced changes from round 3 of Child Care Counts). Respondents to the survey prior to 4/19 were sent the 2 additional questions to answer separately and added into the results. WECAN ([www.wecanaction.com](http://www.wecanaction.com)) is a statewide group of child care businesses, educators, parents, community members and employers created in Spring of 2020 by Corrine Hendrickson, Family Child Care Business owner and Brooke Skidmore, co-owner and Administrator of a Group Center in rural Wisconsin. There are over 1000 individuals on the mailing list. If you have further questions please send to [wecanaction@gmail.com](mailto:wecanaction@gmail.com). Tuition and child care center business data was received from Supporting Families Together Association <https://supportingfamiliesaltogether.org/>

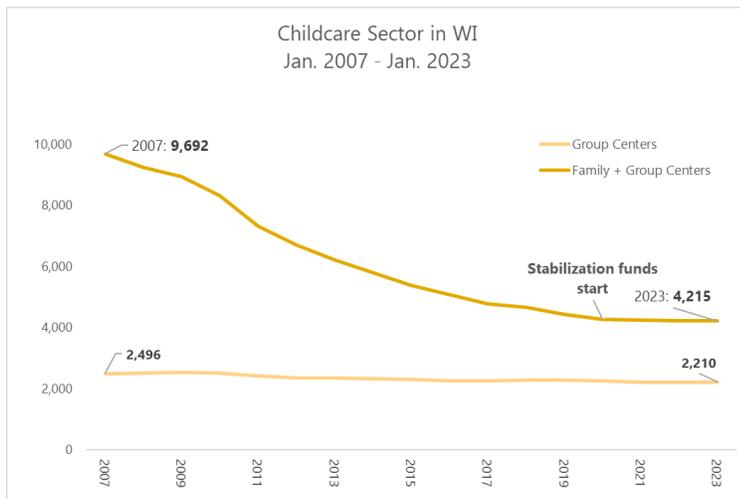
### Historical data Family Child Care Certified Only:

# of Certified Family  
Childcare Businesses by County



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### Overall State of Child Care in Wisconsin

Currently, according to [www.childcaregap.org](http://www.childcaregap.org) in Wisconsin: 288,430 children have the potential need for child care. There is a supply of 171,040 child care slots. The families of 117,090 children do not have access to child care. RURAL areas are most in need with up to 70% being considered a “child care desert” IE. One slot for every 3 children in need. The long term economic impact ranges between \$4.2B and \$6.4B due to losses in sales and business taxes, household income, business income, increased costs for recruiting and retaining, large purchases such as homes and vehicles.

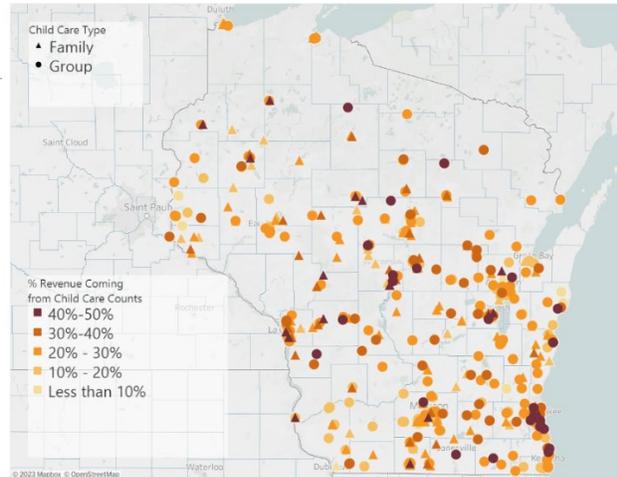
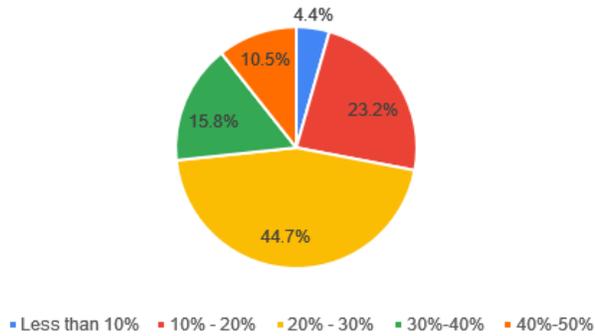
### Current state of Family Child Care Centers in the state

In 2007 there were 7,196 family child care businesses. Today there are 2005 family child care businesses. A loss of 5,477 child care businesses (72% reduction), this impacted the rural areas significantly more than urban areas. The Bipartisan Policy Center states, “Family child care has been an essential part of the rural child care supply. Such home-based providers make up [one-fifth of licensed child care slots](#) in rural America, which is disproportionately large compared to the only 9% and 14% of family child care providers in suburban and urban regions. Particularly, family child care is well-suited to the realities of rural settings because small group sizes accommodate to local need. Large child care centers, in contrast, do not suit the dispersed demand of rural communities and can find it difficult to scale up.” Family Child Care businesses also have the lowest overhead per enrolled child since the family child care business owner does all of the caring for, educating, administration, cleaning, shopping, accounting, etc. However, this leads to an average of 50 hours with children and an additional 10-20 hours of administration weekly, resulting in significantly lower hourly wages, in 2021 it was \$7.42 for only up to a 50 hour workweek, \$6.18 for 60 hours, and \$5.30 for 70 hours.

### 221 family child care businesses survey respondents stated:

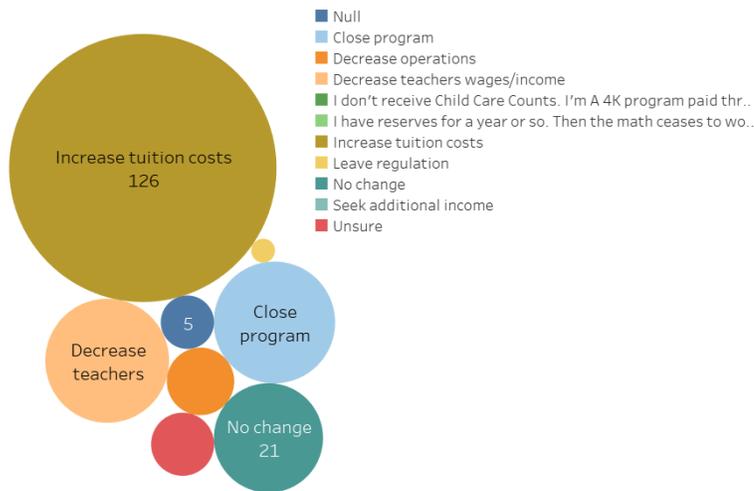
- 7 are now open only 4 days a week
- 25 have reduced their hours
- 7 no longer offer overnight or weekend care

Percent Revenue from Child Care Counts



**How will you make up that revenue if Child Care Counts funds are cut half (in June) and when funds expire in January when the Federal American Rescue Plan funding expires. (answers to these 2 questions were very similar).**

Business Reactions to Childcare Counts Expiration  
 - Family



**Current average Family Child Care rates for 0-5 by Child Care Resource and Referral Region**

| Region    | Family Child Care Average Rate | Range           |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Southern  | 230.23                         | 136 - 266.83    |
| Southwest | 166.14                         | 137.5 - 183     |
| Western   | 162.72                         | 110 - 178.75    |
| Northwest | 144.22                         | 115 - 175       |
| Northeast | 174.26                         | 125 - 188       |
| Central   | 164.79                         | 125 - 200       |
| East      | 185.63                         | 135.83 - 202.88 |
| Southeast | 242.07                         | 171 - 261.3     |

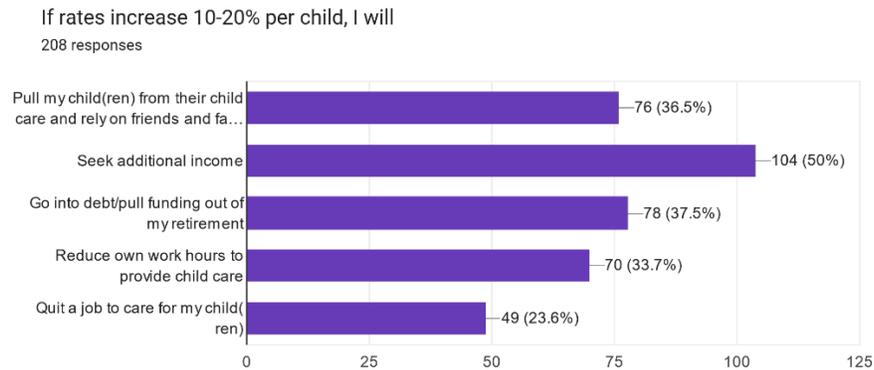
**Projected rates with increases**

\* Remember the higher child care count revenue % is where family child care businesses aren't able to charge as much, therefore, able to make up more of the true cost of care with these funds instead of higher parent tuition.

| Region    | Current  | 10%       | 20%       | 30%       | 40%       | 50%       |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Southern  | \$230.23 | \$253.253 | \$276.276 | \$299.299 | \$322.322 | \$345.345 |
| Southwest | \$166.14 | \$182.754 | \$199.368 | \$215.982 | \$232.596 | \$249.21  |
| Western   | \$162.72 | \$178.992 | \$195.264 | \$211.536 | \$227.808 | \$244.08  |
| Northwest | \$144.22 | \$158.642 | \$173.064 | \$187.486 | \$201.908 | \$216.33  |
| Northeast | \$174.26 | \$191.686 | \$209.112 | \$226.538 | \$243.964 | \$261.39  |
| Central   | \$164.79 | \$181.269 | \$197.748 | \$214.227 | \$230.706 | \$247.185 |
| East      | \$185.63 | \$204.193 | \$222.756 | \$241.319 | \$259.882 | \$278.445 |
| Southeast | \$242.07 | \$266.277 | \$290.484 | \$314.691 | \$338.898 | \$363.105 |

Per child earnings for parents will need to increase from \$.75-\$4 per hour and many will be forced to stay home because they can't afford care or will pull their child from regulated care and friends, family, and neighbors will be further relied upon and adjust their work schedules accordingly.

**A Parent survey currently being conducted by WECAN (4/29-5/2) shows that even a 10-20% increase in rates results in the following:**



If Child Care Counts isn't continued in the state budget there are 24 immediate anticipated closures affecting 174 children. 13 anticipate closing within a year due to being unable to recoup the losses by raising tuition and cannot afford to continue affecting 95 more children. (Remember family child care businesses are in the business owner's home and if they aren't able to stay at capacity it directly affects their ability to pay their mortgage, utilities, and property taxes; forcing them to seek employment elsewhere as opposed to a group center that could get a business loan or other small business support not accessible for family child care).

**Family Child Care Business Owners responded to the following question:**

**“Please provide any details or stories of your situation or experiences that you would like to share.”**

(All Responses sorted by zip code and only na or nothing ones were not included)

(53502) If childcare counts ends, I will have to consider closing my program after 17 years

(54656) Inflation is WAY excessive and EATING up everyone's reserve funding. Horrible. How much longer can we survive.. until we fold or close our doors! Walmart 16 year old kids make MORE money than myself. at age 48.. This IS ridiculous! I may close and flip burgers for 16.00 an hour!

(53534) The child care counts is the only thing that has kept me open. Parents cannot afford to pay more and I can't afford what they can afford to pay.

(54806) Since other jobs are way overpaying employees because places like McDonald's are paying \$15/hr!!!!, And cannot find anyone to work, I could work outside my home and make more than my parents income very easily. There's no incentive to stay open if we lost the funding.

(54555) I currently care for 5 low income subsidy families with multiple children. If childcare counts program does not continue I will not be able to keep my business open and all five families including both sets of parents will be forced to quit their jobs as there is no other regulated childcare facilities available in our area.

(54771) Children are so few right now and with out the help I will have to close. That is not what I want to do. That would leave the families that I do have trying to find other care for there children. In the small town of Thorp WI there are not to many child cares around.

(54495) I'm very appreciative of this program, it helps cover the cost of inflation and helps to not have to raise tuition for families

(54457) With the cost of inflation, I would not be able to stay afloat without the extra funding. The parents would not be able to afford the additional cost of childcare if I raised my rates to combat inflation.

(54880) Before funding we were already looking at closing due to the increase in everything. The rising costs have made it almost impossible to make a living in child care.

(53223) Just did

(53566) I would have to raise my rates by \$50.00 per child. My family's are concerned and said that would really put stress on them to cover their other bills. My operating expenses have went up substantially. I probably would be forced to close my childcare.

(54843) I would have to close my program because the families I provide services to, would be unable to afford a 50 percent increase in childcare rates at my program. And sell most everything I own and relocate because there is no childcare available in my area, for my own child. Not having childcare available in my area is the reason why I left my job as a certified nursing assistant, to start a childcare program.

(54455) I am trying to stay a float but they just raised my insurance for my business to 2700.00 . If I don't have the help from Child Care Counts, I will Have to close my program. I have nothing saved for retirement, I can't afford health insurance I will need to close.

(53218) My childcare is barley staying open

(54656) With prices of everyday living going up, it's hard to keep afloat in the daycare business. Seeking a higher paying job outside of daycare has been heavy on my mind. Ccc has helped so much, I don't know what is in our future after it comes to an end.

(54656) We need more providers. We can't afford to loose quality care and funding to make this happen. Additionally my program that serves 8 families may be forced to quite their jobs as a result. Wisconsin NEEDS this funding and parents need us. The economy needs workers..Its a Cycle in its own that can't be broken an more than it already is.

(54474) I just did my taxes for 2022... Even WITH having received the entire year of child care counts payments, I profited less than \$4000 for the entire year after expenses. I will then be PAYING to work after the program ends as I have already recently raised my rates and my families cannot afford to make up the difference of the loss of child care counts funding. Ultimately I will need to close as I cannot afford to work for free.

(54603) I do not think I will be able to continue care king term without the funding. I would either have to increase tuition by a lot or unfortunately I will have to close and find a different field to work in

(54923) Without this extra funding it will no longer be worth the long hours of planning prepping and paperwork that are required outside of regular care time. I love these kids and am sad because there is no where else locally for them to go. Every program around here, including myself, is full with long wait lists. It is one of the reasons I have hung on as long as I have but without the additional funding I can't justify it and will close my doors at the end of the year.

(54621) The funding has allowed me to stay open with the level of inflation.

(53206) With program I have been able to keep the door for families who does not receive help.

(53711) Children need consistant and quality care - being able to have a group size that allows close relationships and care. Larger group size may equal care that is not as specialized and focused on each child.

(54982) I was able to refund parents for kids that couldn't attend due to illness or covid exposure

(54451) Counts has enabled me to increase my educational preschool end of program, and keep afloat

(53218) This is helping keeping the doors open for families in need of childcare

(53593) This funding has allowed me to keep providing quality care to a smaller number of children, instead of providing lower levels of care to more children to make ends meet.

(53574) I am a sole owner and operator of a family childcare. I went into debt to keep my business open during the pandemic. The Child Care Counts is helping to pay down that debt. If it is discontinued, I will still need to pay that debt. I am doubtful that I will be able to stay open without taking on additional employment.

(53520) I am one of the luckier Family Daycares as I have health Insurance through my husband's employer. Even with that benefit it is a struggle to remain in business. Before the Child Care counts I was earning about \$6/hr. I enjoy what I do and since I am able to work from home so this is a plus for me. I don't believe that charging more would benefit children in this rural community...many families would depend on Grandparents or Great Grandparents or unregulated care. There are no checks and balances for unregulated care and I have first hand experience with the negative effects of that. When my daughter was born I had a job with a local company. There weren't any openings in the childcare in my community..it was a 5 year wait. I went through 5 sitters in 4 years. My daughter had a pressure fracture of her leg at 12 months old. After all this I decided to get my Childcare license and help my daughter and others that needed quality care. That was 26 years ago...I love helping the families of my community but burn out and low wages with lack of benefits all take a toll on us.

(53208) n/a

(54481) Child care counts has saved my family child care and parents from me raising my rates. A few of the families wouldn't be able to afford daycare, and they would have to quit their jobs. We are a small community with family ran or small businesses and if they can't hire we can't thrive.

(54140) The grants have given me endless opportunities to share with my childcare families that I would not have been able to do otherwise.

(54871) I need the monies to help pay my bills. I am a 64 year old single woman who owns my home and depends on enrollment and the Child Care Counts program to not only stay open but to stay on my home. I am 1 of 2 state liscensed Family Childcare in my small town of Shell Lake.

(54456) Child care counts program has really helped me to better my program.

(54452) Having a second provider has been amazing! Allows me time for appointments without needing to close!

(54449) This has helped so very much, and is very appreciated.

(53704) Mostly used to cover expenses for child sick days so parents could keep babies home when they were unwell and not have to pay tuition while also missing their own work. We still had the whole trifecta of Covid, RSV, influenza, plus subsequent infections, and norovirus. Lots of extra cleaning hours and sterilization and laundry for me to do after children went home. Rarely had a full group, so no full tuitions, but also no actual vacancies.

(54494) The extra money has enabled me to give a better experience for the children in my care.

(54140) Because of these grants, I am able to provide full time care for various families and feed my family without needing to raise my rates.

(54741) The CCC benefits have provided me with much relief, to be able to provide for my family, and be able to increase quality of the childcare. I have been able to upgrade and purchase things I normally would not be able to afford.

(54636) Without the funding I'll have to raise my rates, which I just did earlier this year and have a huge wage decrease

(53218) When the child cares get extra funding, it also makes the staff very happy. It helps them to pay for continuing education classes that they need that they may not be able to afford throughout the year. Also, encourage them to want to go back to school in for the day education so I feel like the extra money does help. Childcare is in a big way. It also gives the one who's been working any childcare over the years a little more excitement know that they can come to work on a high note where is not stressful because it's enough, teachers, and enough supplies to go around for everyone

(53916) This is so unexpected after all the information we have been given about the CCC payment timeline. I really have no idea what my plan to continue to pay my bills at this time.

(54669) As a 34 year veteran of the child care industry, I can assure you that if financial help does not continue for providers/parents, that there will be another workplace shut down due to the fact that there will be no childcare! We were essential during COVID, and we are essential now and always! We need support!!

(53222) Currently unable to pay/gain employees which is hurting in the enrollment area as well. The ratio I have now I have to choose between improving program or pay employees and expenses..

(53223) With trying to keep cost reasonable for my parents, I am not going to be forced to raise the cost of childcare which may make me lose families who can't afford it.

(54636) I have a family with infertility issues and they have adopted twice-each adoption was 42,000 and then both parents required surgeries that have put them in financial stress overload-I am using the help towards their tuition because both parents need to work-I don't know what they will do without the help in daycare

(53954) I have been providing care for children in some setting since 1995, held a license since 2004. I have an associate degree in ECE and I believe fiercely in providing high quality care for our youngest children. I don't expect to get rich doing this work, but it would be nice to earn more than about half of what my husband makes working less hours than I do, selling lumber with a HSED. CCC has brought that number up a little bit and it was nice to feel valued. I have a family in care that qualifies for WI shares but receives 0 dollars in assistance. She is a single mother who finished Nursing school during the pandemic and now works full time for Public health. When she got a small raise at the beginning of the year she suddenly lost all of her Shares benefit, much more than the raise. Now she is bartending on weekends in addition to working full time at public health and raising her son with no support from his father. I have been using part of the CCC money to discount her fees. I won't be able to do that with the decrease in funding.

(53818) I'm grateful for this program

(54901) The CCC funding has allowed me to accept the Wis Shares funding only without the parents paying the co-pays due. Having to pay the co-pays again will cause great hardship for my enrolled families.

(53508) childcare counts helped me keep my daycare open, because I only have a few children, also helping families with scholarships..

(54452) Thank you so much for allowing me to access these additional funds these last couple years. During those uncertain times it was comforting knowing the funds were available.

(54950) The Child Care Counts Payments have allowed me to keep rates low for the families I serve. My under 2 year old rate is the lowest compared to the surrounding area. At the same time provided the income/funding to cover operating costs, mostly mortgage and utilities as well as much needed updates with outdoor equipment. This funding has taken away some of the financial stress of business expenses and helping to provide for my family. We are dual income household.

(54868) I have been able to invest these funds directly into my business, increasing quality through the space, materials, education, family engagement events, and higher quality foods. I was recently able to achieve a 5 star quality rating as a family child care because funding allowed me to go above and beyond what I was capable of before. The funding for retaining staff has meant that I could save funds and for the first time ever in my life able to take a vacation. Previously it was not something that I could financially do and it meant a lot to me, I was able to reset and come back refreshed.

(53204) I have used the funds to stay afloat to increase wages and provide myself a bonus to in hopes of retaining myself or recruit more staff for my program.

(53574) I will be raising my rates at least 25% to make up for the lost revenue. Parents have shared with me that they are unsure they will be continue to afford child care without going into credit card debt to pay and may have to look at other options including going to part time or quitting their jobs.

(54763) The extra \$ really helps my income as well as the families I serve, so my rates don't have to go up.

(53570) Honestly, this extra money has helped me out every month. Without it I may have to raise my rates or find a different job.

(53532) Having the child care counts has helped me stay opened. If I didn't have this I would have to close my doors I have already increased my rates several times and don't want to have to increase them again if this program is gone. Items have gone up a lot. Including food,activities, supplies, liability insurance, morgage ,and utilities just to name a few. It has been insane

(54915) I am able to tuition low and affordable for my current families. Without it, my rates will jump accordingly.

(54170) I am not yet sure if I will have to close without this funding

(54915) Having this extra funding has allowed me to stay open when families have been off of work due to covid. It has helped me not to have to worry about my income due to the funding.

(54403) Child, Care Counts has allowed me to keep my childcare doors open with increased costs every day it becomes harder. Without This funding I would have had to increase my parents rates to cover costs

(53716) I plan teet my current families in the middle with a 7% raise in tuition and new families starting will pay 11% more than I currently charge.

(54880) Without the child care counts, we help families with 2+ children in care. So we give discounts for childcare. Without it they would quit their jobs to watch their children.

(54880) Only stay open because the help from child care counts

(53222) I am currently fighting to keep our facility open. Rates are low, parents are not receiving full payment amounts, which is resulting in copays and the counts pay, which is resulting in discharging and pulling out of children. Staff is difficult to keep currently and even harder to keep up wages.

(54409) My husband has retired and he carried the health insurance so ccc has helped pay my health insurance

(53574) The cost of food, utilities, and liability insurance has risen rapidly this past year. If we don't continue to get Child care Counts it will be difficult to justify keeping my daycare open. I'm not sure how much more my families can afford to pay me.

(54913) We work long hours, at least 65 a week with low income, our self. We average maybe 10 an hour after all is said a done. So going to work someplace else is very enticing as they are making more there per hour and working less hours. We do this because we love our job and wanna make a difference in a child's life.

(53566) I will have to raise my rate by 50 dollars a week pre child.

(54467) We are in the same boat as most other childcare providers. The Child Care Counts program has literally allowed my facility to survive the raising inflation rate over the last year or so.

I was barely able to keep my daycare business afloat in years prior, especially since I don't receive employee benefits such as health insurance, paid vacations/sick days, or a 401K.

If state funding is discontinued, there is no way I can keep up with the elevated operating costs without increasing tuition rates. I know most families are already struggling to make ends meet in their household, so paying an additional 20% for daycare is not feasible.

If families can't afford daycare...I can't afford to stay in business...we all have to leave our jobs. It is a terrifying chain reaction waiting to happen that will affect our economy as a whole. This is a very serious situation our community is in and we need your help. Please continue the Child Care Counts funding to help stabilize childcare in Wisconsin!

(54937) This funding is allowing me to keep my doors open and deflect increasing costs. I also use it to reimburse families tuition if they are unable to attend due to sickness. I have explained to all of my families if this funding is discontinued I will have to raise my tuition by \$50-\$75 a WEEK, which is unaffordable for my families. I would expect many to unenroll due to the increased cost, and I will have to close my doors if I don't have any families enrolled. This funding is crucial for my center to stay open. I make less than minimum wage and work 50+ hours a week. Funding also helps me make a liveable wage for myself. PLEASE continue the funding. Without it many of us will be closing and child care will be nonexistent.

(54601) The child care counts program has helped me with the extra costs of mortgage, groceries and utilities. I did not raise my rates for 2023.

(54725) This funding has been a blessing to my program because it has enhanced my environment and has kept me able to stay open without worrying as much about some of the rising costs of living. It has also kept me able to not significantly raise my rates on my families.

(54155) I have not raised rates at all fir families due to the funding received from child care counts.

(54481) This program has allowed me to keep my rates affordable for families without raising rates and allowed me to purchase items to improve the quality of care. Without these funds I will be forced to raise my rates and won't have the ability to continue to increase the quality of care.

(54482) I have been a licensed FCC provider since 1989. This is the first time I had enough income that I could actually put money in my own Roth IRA. I am now 58 and just started my retirement savings in the last 2 years. CCC funds have also kept my rates affordable for my families, many of which struggle to pay my current rate which is below average market for my area. I have used some of the money I have received to cover my fees when a family couldn't pay due to unfortunate circumstances (like when one dad found out his company didn't have funds to cover payroll!!!) Without Child Care Counts I would not have had the resources to work through this problem with this family or other families who have needed assistance with the financial end of our contract. My biggest fear in losing these funds is having to raise my rates to a point that I will be unaffordable to every family currently in my care and to the two families set to begin with their infants in Sept of this year. My rates will have to be raised by approximately 35%. Many providers have halted rate increases or have minimized their rate increase due to CCC funding. Prices on necessary items like paper towels, toilet paper, art supplies, and food have skyrocketed in the last 3 years. Without CCC funding my budget will no longer show a living wage profit from the work I do.

(54568) I originally got licensed for family child care in 2011. I closed my in-home daycare in 2021, because we were moving. I reopened my daycare in January 2023, in Vilas county. With this fund, I can keep my prices lower than the normal group center. All my families are educators, so keeping the cost down for them is important to me. My husband is a teacher so I understand first hand what struggles they are going through financially. I would hate to have to raise my prices for them but if I don't raise my prices, I would have to close.

(54902) Child care counts has helped me keep child care costs down for my families and helped me pay for other expenses in that I was able to put more \$ in my retirement that I couldn't before.

(54968) The cost of living has increased dramatically since COVID. Food, Gas and Electricity bills have gone up. I live in a small community that has two licensed daycares, one of those daycares doesn't take anyone under the age of 2. I have had families on my waitlist for two years and the list just keeps getting bigger. The need for daycare is insane to say the least. The Childcare Counts has helped with the ever increase cost of living and has helped to keep rates feasible to families. If Childcare Counts ends daycares will have to raise their prices to a rate families couldn't afford. The daycare industry is already in a crisis, parents will choose to stay home with their children cause in all reality they would just be working to pay for childcare. So you will be losing workers who chose to stay home and would probably see more daycare close their doors. Licensed daycares are the cornerstone for our children's futures. If more daycare centers close you will have more unlicensed people taking care of more children than they can handle and that is not safe or in the best interest of anyone involved.

(54806) The courts program really helps with the rising cost of everything. I'm not sure I will be able to stay open once it ends unless the economy gets better

(54880) This has really helped me not only to help keep costs low for parents but also help me open! I was able to buy new toys for kids, strollers I needed high chairs etc

(54868) all of the funds that I receive both A and B, go back into my center, and the most of the funds go also to assist the families I provide to pay their child care bills or off set it.

(53558) Child Care Counts has been a huge aide in my programs ability to meet and maintains high quality care for the children and families I serve, as well as continue to increase the level of quality care my program offers. At the beginning of child care counts, I was able to provide families with some tuition relief after Shelter at Home as well as not charge tuition when they and/or their children had to quarantine due to COVID.

In addition, we had the funds available to not increase rates more than usual to meet the cost of living increase. We also had funds available to make some necessary improvements for our classroom which is located in the lower level of our home and designated for the child care program. We were able to replace the carpeting with vinyl plank flooring which increased the overall health of the children cutting down on the dust, dander and allergens that can be found in carpeting. We were also able to replace an entry level door to our classroom and patio outside of the classroom to increase access for differently abled people to our program. This summer, we have plans to use our funding to redesign our backyard improving access for differently abled people in our program as well. Additionally, I will not need to increase our rates much this fall because of funding.

I have been working on planning to expand our program and open a group center to address the high need for child care in our community, the funding would definitely be essential in guaranteeing high quality care at an affordable price and staff retention. My hope is the funding will continue so I am able to move forward with our plan.

(54481) Rates will have to be raised substantially to try to cover increased costs of everything from utilities to program supplies to basic necessities etc

(54467) Receiving the counts monthly grant helps keep my fees down for families.

(54481) Not enough kids to fill up

(54481) do not know how much longer this business will go on

(54455) Child Care Counts has helped my daycare program with the increasing prices on many things needed to operate my program. Without child care counts payments, I will need to raise my tuition for families. Which they cannot afford to pay me.

(54451) I currently don't have enough children enrolled in my in-home daycare to make ends meet with my income alone. With this grant program A, this is helping me to pay my utilities and helping me with supplying age appropriate items for my center along with wanting to expand my outside playarea. Program B is helping me with my retirement future.

(54868) All children (and adults) are different. They all have specific needs. In my experience we always have at least one child who needs extra time and attention. When we are filled to capacity that child does not always get the help he needs. The CCC income has enabled us to operate under

our maximum capacity allowing us to better care for ALL our children including the ones with special needs.

(54982) the funding has provided relief to both the center and the families I serve when needed the most

(54409) Without the extra money, I would not carry health insurance on myself, and I would not be changing things in my home to make it inclusive

(54806) This program has allowed me to keep my fees lower for my families and help me stay open during these challenging times.

(54457) This program has helped not only keep cost down for parents by allowing me to keep my prices lower and not having to increase anything even though the cost of living has gone up but allowed me to provide new equipment for my daycare for the kids to further learn and grow with.

(54409) With the grants I was able to implement more educational and hands on learning curriculums, educational and learning toys, books, more cleaning and sanitizing supplies due to new rules pertaining to Covid, and cover expenses due to lost wages from covid.

(53530) This has help me not raise rates with the cost of everything going up parents can't afford daycare cost to go up.

(53223) Childcare providers need to be seen as Teachers by government. We need insurance and 401K as well. We need the same benefits and higher wages and teachers will begin to take the job seriously. The first 5 years are the most important years for brain development. We need quality teachers and they need benefits. To make childcare quality, we need funding to keep teachers.

(54482) I have been able to keep from raising tuition because of the program. The money I have received has been able to almost cover the cost of rent.

(53206) In order for my business to continue to grow funding is needed.

(53218) None at this time

(54751) I am experiencing a lot of no shows after the parents enroll the children

(54615) The child care counts payments have been helpful to keep my tuition costs low. They help cover monthly expenses and allow me to purchase extra supplies for my program when needed.

(53207) the monetary aid helps me to keep the workers and also to lower the cost to the parents with the child care.

(54929) Can't think of any

(53011) With these funds, I was able to keep my daycare open as I have less kids here and also the increase of food and supplies has really put a damper on things. It's kind a hard to increase your prices

when parents aren't making enough money to begin with either, so these funds are very much appreciated and needed for some time.

(53042) The Child Care Counts has been very helpful. I am an in home Licesed Family Child Care so I am the only provider. I will increase my families fees by a very small amount if and when the Child Care Counts stops. Day Care still has to be affordable for the families. In the past 3 years I have not raised my weekly family payments rates because receiving the Child Care Counts. I will not be rasing my weekly fees to be anywhere near what I am receiving from the child care counts. At this time I still have families that do take days off especially if they know or suspect they have covid. Day care is hard on your home and the toys. I have purchased many new learning toys for the children which I would not have been able to do without receiving childl care counts. With the prices of gas, food, taxes and utilites going up, the increase of my weekly fee would not cover that.

(53132) Very fortunate to have funding to stay oprn during pandemic.

(54904) I don't have any really

(53210) I would like to have a family style preschool without living in the house

(53216) Childcare counts has helped me to assist families that are not able to pay the full cost of care. Using the childcare counts funds for my families took away the stress of them choosing between keeping them in a loved filled learning environment or finding another solution for their child while at work. Parents being able to see the progress of their child as a life long learner as been a joy to them and it is possible through funding from childcare counts.

(54923) Iopened my business during the time that CCC was happening. It has allowed me to purchase educational and Fun equipment and toys. It has allowed me to get through the winter months with the high fluctuating costs of electric and heat bills and the increase in food costs. I can't thank CCC enough for helping my business reach some of my dreams!

(54729) I have been able to update my program to provide better quality care and hold off on increasing my rates due to the child care counts program. I still had to raise my rates \$10 a week but if the child care count program is discontinued ill have to raise it more... around \$50 a week per family!

(54952) Child care counts has helped me with the increased cost of groceries, to be able to replace outdated educational toys, and improve the quality of our child care environment. Without the help of child care counts I will have to increase tuition next year just to cover the increase cost of living.

(53090) Child care counts greatly helps my program. With the price of everything going up I am unable to afford activity and food expenses.

(53216) Childcare counts has allowed me to increase staff wages

(54455) I feel most of my income goes right back into the daycare, therefore not making a profit, I feel this money would help offset that

(53218) This is very disheartening and disappointing to find out

(53716) I have not raised my rates to the parents. I have provided all educational materials, all craft materials, and provided a safe outside environment for the children.

(53581) These counts payments have allowed me to not raise my rates during these tough economic times for families. The cost of living is extremely high for families and expenses are high for my business. The counts payments have helped cover these higher expenses without raising rates. It has also allowed me to make some quality improvements to my daycare that I would not have been able to do without major financing which would have resulted in increased daycare rates. So these payments have improved the quality of my daycare while maintaining lower rates for families. It has really benefited the whole community!!!

(53073) I use the child care count money mostly for better program in learning and nutrition especially during pandemic and after pandemic. I believe nutrition is a big part of children cognitive development besides better program. Also, it is helping the family to continue give their children a good nutrient and learning while they are not presence because of their job during their children need to be in daycare. Also, the child care count for staff is helping my family to pay health insurance premium.

(53597) This funding has helped my parents by me not raising my rates

(53597) I have been using the funds for provider to fund my retirement fund, which no one covers but me. No company to put a share into a 401K or state pension recipient! I have been providing care for the children in Wisconsin for almost 34 years-a thought if I had chosen a different career path, I might already be retired or have a larger retirement fund!

(53536) The extra money is huge to family's and myself. I haven't raised my price, and I'm about to put in some funds for retirement. I have also updated alot of stuff for the daycare which I love and the kids love.

(54136) This funding has allowed me to keep my rates on the average for this area and be home with my own children. I had my second baby back in September and needed to take 2 unpaid months off followed by lower enrollment in order to adjust to the change.

Last year I had to close for a week twice due to illness with COVID and the funds helped me and my families to cope with the loss of income and their need to pay someone else to watch their children.

The funding allowed this to be possible without needing to close my doors for good and leave my new baby in care with someone else (if I could actually find any alternative care. There are HUGE wait lists for infants in my area) My families have been blessed by the lower rates so that they can focus their incomes to other businesses in our community helping the local economy.

I want to thank the legislators for the funding so far and beg them to continue the program. It has made the world of difference for us.

(53711) I specialize in caring for families who have children with extra and high needs. Funding helps me to keep my tuition lower, allowing me to service more families who have children with higher needs.

(53954) With the funding I was able to purchase new appliances and make much needed repairs to my home and daycare. Without the extra funds I would not have been able to do those things.

(54469) This "extra" money has been a blessing and very helpful BUT the cost of EVERYTHING is outrageous so it's going to make daycare extra hard with the cutting of the funds.

(53589) This funding has done many things for my program. I have been able to add quality items to the environment, add funds into a retirement account that has not had funding in a number of years as well as given me the latitude to hire a staff person so that I can attend to some health care issues that I have prolonged. With a severe reduction to the CCC funds I am going to have to rethink and replan how to keep my program floating for the children and families that depend on me. One minute people state that we are so vital to the economy of the workforce for the state and the next our funding has been cut in half. I really don't think anyone cares about what we do and how we do our job.

(54409) With the increase in the cost of food and supplies to run a daycare the Child Care Funding has helped tremendously not only for me but for my parents to keep my rates the same. With the cuts or if they stopped the funding, I would have to make changes to my daycare rates per hour per child.

(54311) none

(54982) I am showing a profit for the time in a very long time

(54457) I have been able to upgrade outside toys, swings. I have also been able to get new learning supplies for my preschoolers. Also get more interactive learning things for my infants and toddlers.

(54455) Child Care Counts has significantly helped keep my business afloat. If it ends in Jan. 2024, I will have to raise my tuition rates for families. Families cannot afford to pay me a higher tuition rate. With the rising cost of food, cleaning supplies and all the other supplies to run my business it will be difficult to provide the quality care that I provide now. We will continue to lose quality essential childcare providers.

(54868) I have started looking at other jobs. I cannot sustain my life with the hours I work and the pay that I receive. Yesterday a family asked if I could open an hour earlier at 5:30 AM rather than 6:30 AM. That would put me back at a 12 hour work day and I already working 11 hours and the paperwork is stacked up and has to be done in addition to those 11 hour work days.

It is not sustainable for anyone. I am a single parent, I am getting my Masters degree, and running this family child care without an employee because it is not possible to pay myself and an employee. I

also just earned a 5 star youngstar quality rating and I am wanting to leave the job because it has been 9 years of minimal support and change to the broken system.

(54656) This money has been a huge help in covering costs. Food expense alone is enough to break the bank

(54650) This money has allowed me to keep my rates reasonable but without it I will either have to raise rates significantly or close

(53821) I am able to keep my rates lower for families due to receiving child care counts. This has helped parents so they are able to work. Without it I will have to raise my rates and I'm worried families will leave due to not being able to afford daycare.

(54603) Due to the high demand for infant care right now I currently have my personal maximum number of infants enrolled and do not have any older children. These monthly payments have helped me to pay expenses without having to enroll additional children allowing me to provide more individualized and high quality care.

(54601) Child care counts helped me maintain my business at precovid rates, and allowed me to make significant repairs to improve the business property.

(54650) Child Card Counts literally saved us. Child care providers don't make a lot of money. We pay self employment tax, have to find health insurance, and work long hard hours. We provide an invaluable service at a critical age for these children. We greatly appreciate everything you have done and want you to know continued support and funding will have a tremendous impact. Thank you.

(54729) At this point I can not close i am going to stay open until its time to retire and then just have 3 children in my care.and not get any help from the government or food program

(53520) I have several teacher families and they are off for the summer. With this decrease in attendance and the loss in the CCC funds I am not sure if I will remain open for summer in the upcoming years since I can't pay all my bills over this time period. This is unacceptable getting this information at this late date. I am committed to this summer but with the cut in funding I may not be open again next year for the summer. Hard to make ends meet on 1-2 Full time kids and 2 part time kids.

(54660) I have made some changes to my program counting on these funds to help pay for those changes. Without the funding I am left paying for the remainder of those changes out of my pocket. This will definitely affect the families in care if I have to raise rates to help cover those costs.

(54914) The CCC payments helped keep my business afloat & my family secure. Without them I don't know what would have happened. I may have closed, or my family might have had to apply for government assistance. (SNAP, BadgerCare, etc)

(54914) I have been able to use CCC funds to purchase materials that raise quality of care that I would not have otherwise been able to afford. They allowed me to raise tuition less than the cost of living, to refund tuition to parents during Covid closures, and to provide financial stability for my family. We

had qualified for Badger care and other benefits before the CCC payments. Now that we have them, we don't need those services so they can be used by other families who do need them. When the CCC payments end I will need to raise tuition substantially to cover that loss of income. I will also have to cut I my salary because parents can't afford to pay 20 - 30% more. I may have to close my program after looking at projected income and expenses for next year. I know several other family providers who are saying the same thing - they're hardly keeping afloat now & may end up closing if CCC payments end. It's an attractive idea - I can make a comparable income working just 40 hours/week instead of the current 50+ and won't have the wear & tear on my home, won't have extra work to do outside of "work hours," won't have the stress of dealing with difficult children & parents, or the licensors.

(54449) It's because of the program that I made the decision to remain open, I had planned to retire from daycare after 27 years of family daycare in my home, at the age of 62, but because of the demand and the parents needing daycare. The program has allowed me to continue and offer quality daycare not only for the last 3 years but I promised my families 1 more year my 65th birthday and now 30 years of Family daycare in my home, becoming a Single Mom of a 4 and 6 year old 23 years ago. Doing Family Daycare in my home has allowed me to be here for my kids and give them a home., but always just enough to get by. The Child Care Counts program has changed my life, my worth, and above the quality of my environment in my family daycare HOME. Just a few, new doors, whole new roof on the porch play area, 3 new windows that work properly with nice new screens, 200amp service from a fuse box. NEW sand/water tables picnic table, what a warm fuzzy feeling one gets to buy the kids NEW instead of scrapping a Good Will sticker. I could go on and on, but whom ever is reading this I'm sure you are gathering that I don't think your going to find a more great person that has been receiving from this program than me, This program has made me feel IMPORTANT-Worthy, and They finally see how important we are to these parents and children. I have always been a good quality safe wonderful daycare. But this program was the icing on the cake the bonus to my life career.

Work force recruitment and retention part of the program THANK YOU, My daughter is my sub/backup 27 years old burns a vacation day so I can go to the doctor or dentist. She my helper for maintenance or repairs. I have never had the extra to ever pay or give her much, so with the retention part I receive I know can, it's a good feeling and my part \$200. Family daycare single mom, no pension or 401k. Have put my \$200 every month into a Roth IRA. I'm so hoping this will make a difference down the road after my 30 years of daycare service and many many children that came through my door.. AGAIN THANK YOU.

(54106) None at this time

(54872) I work from home but this allows me to also care for my husband as he cannot be home alone (medical reasons). Without the child care counts funding daily living expenses will be very tight to meet. Especially with Health insurance and other cost of living increased so high. Families cannot afford to pay more so I really cannot raise rates enough to make a difference.

(53520) I was able to supply materials to my program that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise. It has given me and my substitute the bonus we deserve.

(54615) The CCC Money has enabled me to remain open and keep my number of kiddos down due to my health of long COVID and a kiddo with medical challenges

(54729) After an extremely hard year, I decided to make a change. With covid and that change, none of my 4 spots were filled from my waitlist of 6 due to changes in family life. Thanks to CCC I have been able to remain open, process the last year, rejuvenate my passion, and continue with my goals for the program.

(53554) I haven't rise my rates since I opening because of my family.

(54880) Grants are nice now. But count as income . Now I don't get tax credit for market place health insurance And pay a high monthly premium . And pay a lot more in to IRS

(54817) Since my numbers have decreased to only 3 full-time children I really depend on the Child Care Counts funding

(54555) the grant helps with ulities to keep my daycare going

(54425) n/a

(54822) The extra funding has been very nice as it has given me the chance to purchase upgraded items for my daycare.

(53812) Do t have any

(54751) I am not apart of child care counts

(53215) We have been blessed with the grants we have gotten.

(54130) Put me in a higher tax bracket which cost me 1/4 of the income tax I had to pay on the monies received, this actually hurt me more than helped me.

(53083) I am close to retirement...but I will be doing a few more years. 42 years of child care 29 of regulated. I am on second generations!

(53070) I am a self employed provider. This has help with everything.

(54656) I am currently not using the funding but understand how important it is for many child cares to stay afloat and open. For the sake of te facilities that need extra funds, hope that is still available as long as they need it.

(53225) Very helpful to us

(54904) Prior to the pandemic our industry was already struggling. As we know low pay, high turnover, burnout, etc. is to blame. As a family childcare provider for 14 years I strive to maintain quality programing. In order to do this I have to ensure my families financial needs are met as well as

my program's. Often times I have made personal sacrifices such as not contributing to a retirement fund to apply the funds into my program, etc. This puts my financial future at risk and the hope of retiring at 70 an unsure reality. My parents are private pay and I charge some of the higher tuition rates in my area, but no matter how good your program is the tuition has a ceiling. We provide a service that if did not exist would devastate the community and economy at large. Why do we have to suffer? I work 50+ hours a week and take very few days off a year to ensure my families have the care they need when they need it. The only way I am allowed an incremental pay increase is by increasing my tuition rates. Childcare subsidy is needed, but the funding source needs to be put into the control of the childcare centers to manage appropriately and provide relief when and where it is needed as the needs of the business are ever changing. Child Care Counts should have been active years ago prior to COVID, without continued support I will begin my search for outside employment ending my career in ECE which I love.

(54650) CCC is keeping me afloat and open. Please don't decrease or remove it.

(53209) The child count helps me with bills, learning materials and supplies.

(54136) I may consider looking for a career outside of childcare

(53566) The funding has help keep our families cost down as most of them are low income earners

(54901) I would Love to continue using this money to supply the children i enroll with quality toys and learning materials. It has been very helpful even since just opening in January

(54848) I am the ONLY regulated family childcare provider in my entire county, there are no certified providers currently providing care in my area and 2 small group centers. Without this funding I will face the decision whether to keep my doors open and raise my rates to an amount most families in my community cannot afford, switch to unregulated childcare with fewer costs and overhead or close my business completely down. Inflation has risen over 14% since 2020, with Child Care Counts I have been able to keep my rates consistent as the families are struggling to keep up with the rising costs also.

(53948) I have 3 families that receive Wisconsin shares . They are very consistent with the enrollment and their employment. However, if they had to pay their copayment, there is no way they would be able to afford it , as well as the daycare could no longer not charge them , thus discontinuing their childcare. This is a very serious situation if they reduce or withdraw these funds. And a family child care business. If you have seven children, three of those are Wisconsin share families the other ones are after school only you do not have the income to stay open.

(54601) I would just like to say that I receive calls on a daily basis from parents desperate to find care for their children and ending the child care counts funding is only going to make matters worse in the future. With Inflation it is impossible to keep our rates affordable to parents and still afford to pay for quality food, electricity, art supplies, books, toys and office supplies.

(53538) These payments have helped me start up my child care business and purchase things that I would have had to wait at least a year or more to add to my center. These payments have made my dream of opening a center come true and succeed.

(53520) Child care counts helps me to pay for some of my operating expenses.

(54410) Happy to pay bills on time with grant

(54426) No answer

(54956) Without CC Counts, our small program (and there aren't many of us left) may have to close. We appreciate the resources that CC Counts provides. The past 6 months we haven't qualified for the food program reimbursement due to the program's enrollment. Without those funds it proved to be even tighter financially. Without CC Counts our small program would have surely closed already.

(53934) filling in word with all the proper information

(53948) The Covid stabilization payment program has definitely helped two of my families with financial relief from their copaymentS.

(54653) Ive been able to use it to buy supplies I need or help off set cheaper rates.

(53809) Since so many programs have have closed ratios need to be raised.

(54014) With the child care counts money I have been able to put the money back into the child care for some much needed updates without costing the families more money although providing a better environment for the children.

(54871) The CCC funds are extremely important for me to keep my small in home daycare operating. After 42 years in the field I don't want thus to be the reason I close my doors. Please reconsider the impact of losing or reducing these funds.

(53597) As a family child care provider, I am directly affected by the new rule that says we can't spend the funding on our monthly mortgage anymore. It feels like a direct hit just towards family providers and I don't understand why rent can still be paid with the funds, but a mortgage cannot.

(53209) Childcare counts has been essential in keeping my doors open for families. It has helped cover the rising cost of food and utilities. It has allowed me to not raise my rates and put a higher burden on my families.

(53925) CCC has provided me with funds to continue to provide quality child care without raising my rates !

(54014) This program has filled the gap of income. Without this program I am unsure how I would make my business stay open.

(54022) None

(53223) I have been able to help families, keep childcare expenses paid. I have been able to purchase items to learning items. Keeping ppp so we don't end up sick, purchasing disposable food utensils. Not to mention extra paperwork and extra detail cleaning everyday. I have Lupus, Kidney Disease, and liver disease. My husband has COPD, Heart Disease and just completed his radiation treatments 6 months before this situation. Back in the very beginning of Nov..a daycare child tested positive for Covid and RSV. Despite hrs of cleaning, I had to call an ambulance for my husband they informed he had to go to the closest hospital. He was a ventlator for 3 wks.. due to the RSV. I watched him code twice, I celebrated my birthday Praying over him. They made me and my boys to decide on not bringing him back when they took the ventilator. He had several cracked ribs. I stayed open through all of this. None of the other children got it. My husband was released on the 30th of nov., and he made it. However, he wears a dnr bracelet and can't breath on his own. We recieved the 195 thousand \$ medical bill. We went from a 832 credit score to let's file bankruptcy. Yes he has disability insurance that's our part. Now I clean and disinfect everything fom my front door handle to the back door handle and everything in between. I choose to still do childcare because its my passion, I enjoy teaching and caring. I have second generation kids. I feel like I will drown if they take any money it away.

(53183) I am already planning on a rate increase of 12% in January. Contractually, I cannot raise again until then. Families already will have issues with this. But I cannot survive with the current costs just to stay afloat. If CCC is gone, I will have to both raise the rates, but also decrease the income.

(53207) My income taxes will be MUCH less.

(54615) I moved out of my house and pay rent on a space for my childcare now. I'll be penny pinching much more now with rates going down and might have to close cuz my sanity struggling at my own home with childcare in it.

(54011) I opened my child care in 2019 and the child care counts have been a huge help providing financial stability for starting my business and purchasing learning materials and paying for my rent to own agreement. I would be much further behind without this funding.

(53216) I had just enrolled back in school to further my education for my family child care. Also, I was looking to enroll my teacher with the child care grants that we were receiving into I realize they would be decreased so I will not be able to do both, and I also just give my teacher a raise. The grants was helping for more education with family childcare also to keep the raise coming for my teacher, and to do different remodeling around the daycare, and do more activities with the children. Also to help her get more classes as well. Trying to take care of things and my business it was helping out a lot with my Business I have to make some changes to my business and make changes

(53093) NA

(54455) I am trying to help families with children under 2 unfortunately it limits how many children I have and my income. That money helps pay the bills to keep my child care open.

(53566) I am single and childcare is my only income. I have been licensed since 1994, and cannot think of retiring for at least 5 more years and will still need to work part time. I am considered low income.

(54729) I have been using the extra funds to pay for house mortgage, but because I wasn't paying mortgage out of business funds, my spouse was able to quite his unbelievably unhealthy outside job, and become a much healthier person while working in the family childcare home business. My spouse does all the cooking, food program, maintenance for the home and taking care of our own children with appointments. When the funds end, my spouse will end up getting another job outside the home, which then will lead us back to more closed dates from childcare, as I would be the only one to take our own children to appointments, less time with daycare children, as I will be doing all the cooking again. More time doing other things and less time with children, which is not at all how I like to spend my days. Before inflation my spouse and I were doing well enough, but by January 2022 we were starting to get into the red more than just being able to get by. I didn't even know I could apply for the CCC program until May of 2022. Once I got that first check...it was such a relief! Knowing I didn't have to run to families for help and that my own personal family could become happier and healthier! My families are absolutely wonderful and would pay more if I needed; but if it's not needed through families and someone with much more funds and opportunity to help can, I will go to them first. This program has offered more help in just keeping my business and myself afloat more than I even realized. It makes me so sad to know that the program is helping so many of us and someone who has no idea what childcare is or running your own business is like can just take it all away at any point for no reason that any one knows of. Why stop something that seems to be working and helping those who are helping communities and economics all around the state! Why stop!?! Just as I was starting to get back to liking my job and appreciating myself for doing the job, and getting physically and mentally healthy, its all going to come to a screeching halt and another up hill battle. I am brave, I am strong, and I will get through!

(53593) This funding has been critical in my staying open. My other employee retired in 2022 and I am caring for kids by myself. I am able to keep numbers down to provide quality care and programming, not just maintenance care that comes with larger groups, and still make the same income. I finally have felt seen and acknowledged that the work I do is important and I felt that I was being compensated for my value to the workforce and community.

(54011) During these times that costs have drastically increased and parents are struggling more to pay daycare, it has helped tremendously to be able to help out the families.

(53530) This has helped keep my program open, program are closing left and right. Parents can't afford to have rates raised and need to work.

(54601) Childcare counts has helped me pay for my heating bills which went up to \$400 per month and food has increased by up to 50 percent for meat and other foods. Without this funding I would not be able to make ends meet without raising my rates and putting a hardship on my families who cannot afford to pay more for care.

(54115) Moms are considering staying home with their children and leave their profession.( nurse, teacher, and physical therapist)

(53713) This will hurt my program tremendously because for 1 my families depend on me and for 2 it will change my whole staffing situation and for 3 my income will never be the same If the Child Care Counts ends in Jan of 2024.

(54455) Being able to update parts of the daycare and supplies has helped to learn for the kids. Having all the supplies we need on hand instead of having to wait to go buy every week.

(53809) The grant money has helped my program become a safer enriched program indoors and outdoors. I was able to hire an assistant to work 30 hours a week. A new all age appropriate playground and fence was installed. 3 different curriculums were purchased for each age group. New dramatic play toys were purchased such as a doctor station, taco truck, and play kitchen. Students are given more one on one attention with an assistant in the classroom. The grant money will continue to make our program thrive.

(53404) I have been able to keep my rates affordable and am updating my materials. This grant has been so helpful for that.

(54982) child care counts has given me more stability in my program

(53206) I will have to go up on co-payment. My parents are already low income. This will stop me for providing supplies, equipment, utilities especially in the winter months. Food is so high now and it helps me to get food for the children. Food program is not enough.

(53189) With the cost of everything going up i used this money to help offset that. Without this extra money every month i will be taking a loss on my paycheck and unsure how long i can do that if things keep going up in cost Unfortunately after 28 years I may be forced to close my doors due to the price increase of everything and you can only raise your rates so high before parents can't afford childcare and quit their jobs.