



Child Care Survey Final Report

August 12, 2020

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation

2660 Riva Road

Annapolis, MD 21401

Executive Summary

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), in partnership with Anne Arundel County & the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth & Families, launched a survey of licensed child care providers on July 30, 2020 to gauge the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their businesses and their needs for assistance. The results of the survey will provide valuable input for the County to formulate a possible program to assist these hard-hit businesses.

According to Maryland Department of Education data, since FY2018 through July 2020, the total number of licensed child care providers in Anne Arundel County has dropped by 42%. During that time period, the drop in the number of Child Care Centers (CCC) was 56%, while Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) saw a decrease of 36%.

The list of child care facilities was provided by the Maryland Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Development's approved/operating licensed child care sites as of July 2020. The survey period was 14 days, ending August 12th, 2020.

Of the 415 child care providers surveyed, AAEDC received 212 responses (51% response rate). Of those that responded:

- 144 are Family Child Care Homes (67%)
- 64 are Child Care Centers (30%)
- 4 are Letter of Compliance Programs (1%)

When asked if their facility was open or closed, 93% indicated they are currently open and 6% indicated they are closed. Of those indicating they are closed, all but one intend to reopen.

One of the biggest issues child care providers are facing is the restriction placed on capacity. 54% of those responding stated they are operating at under 50% capacity and the average loss of enrollments is 42%.

The top five needs of those responding to the survey are, in order of importance indicated, as follows:

- Help covering operating losses/expenses
- Increased enrollments
- Rent/mortgage assistance
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Help funding employee salaries & benefits

59% of respondents indicated that they have not received any assistance from federal, state, or local COVID-19 relief programs.

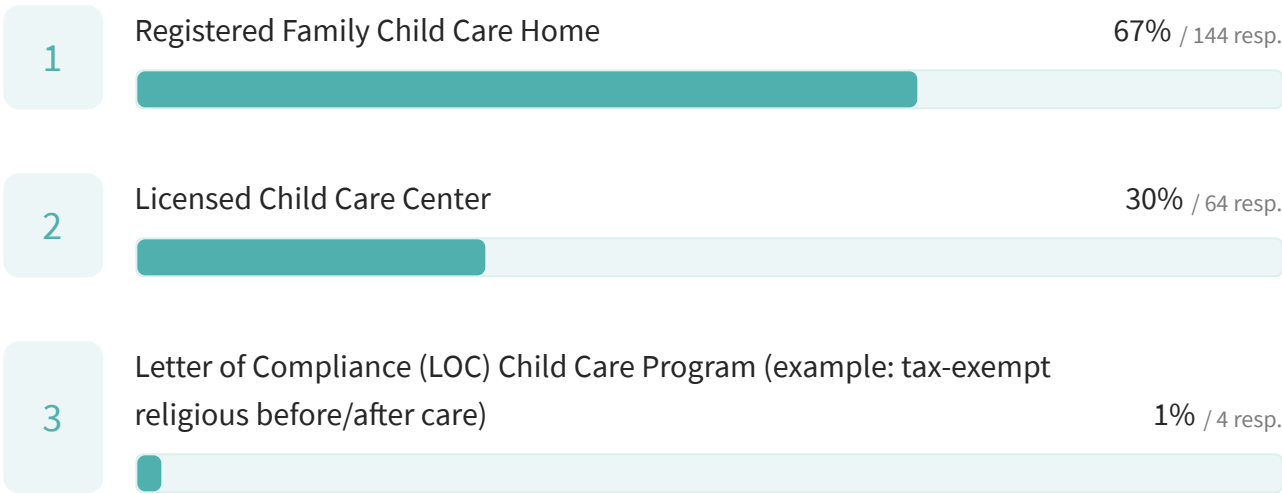
In conclusion, the valuable information in this survey clearly shows the deep impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the child care industry in Anne Arundel County and will be greatly beneficial in the formulation of a possible relief program to provide assistance.

AAEDC Child Care Survey

212 responses

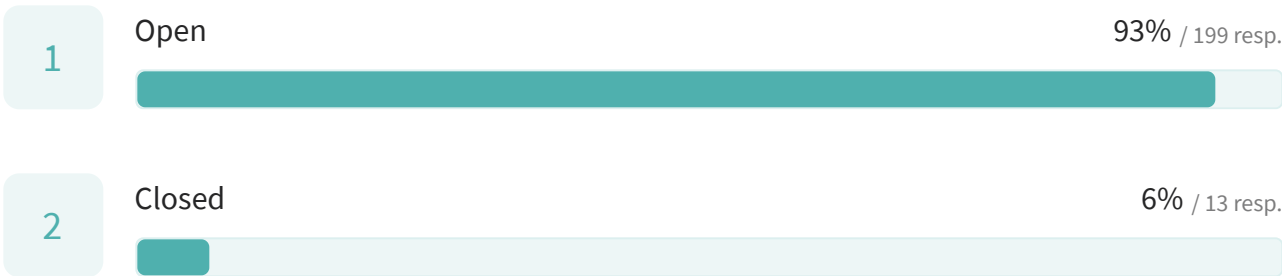
What type of child care facility are you?

212 out of 212 answered



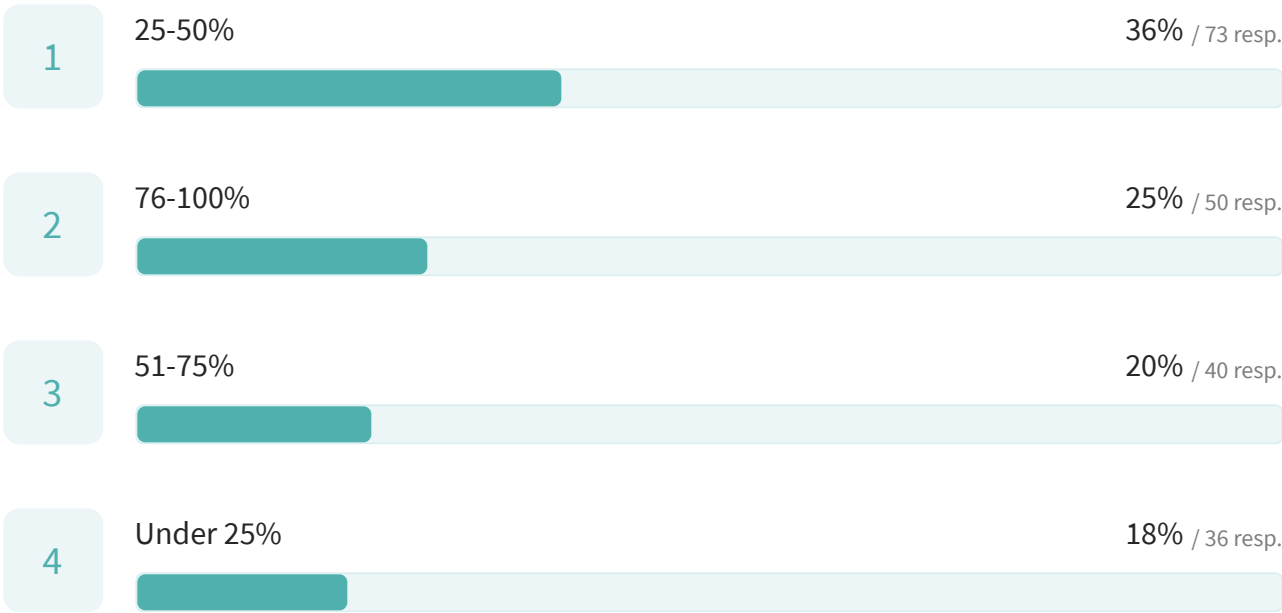
Is your child care facility currently open or closed?

212 out of 212 answered



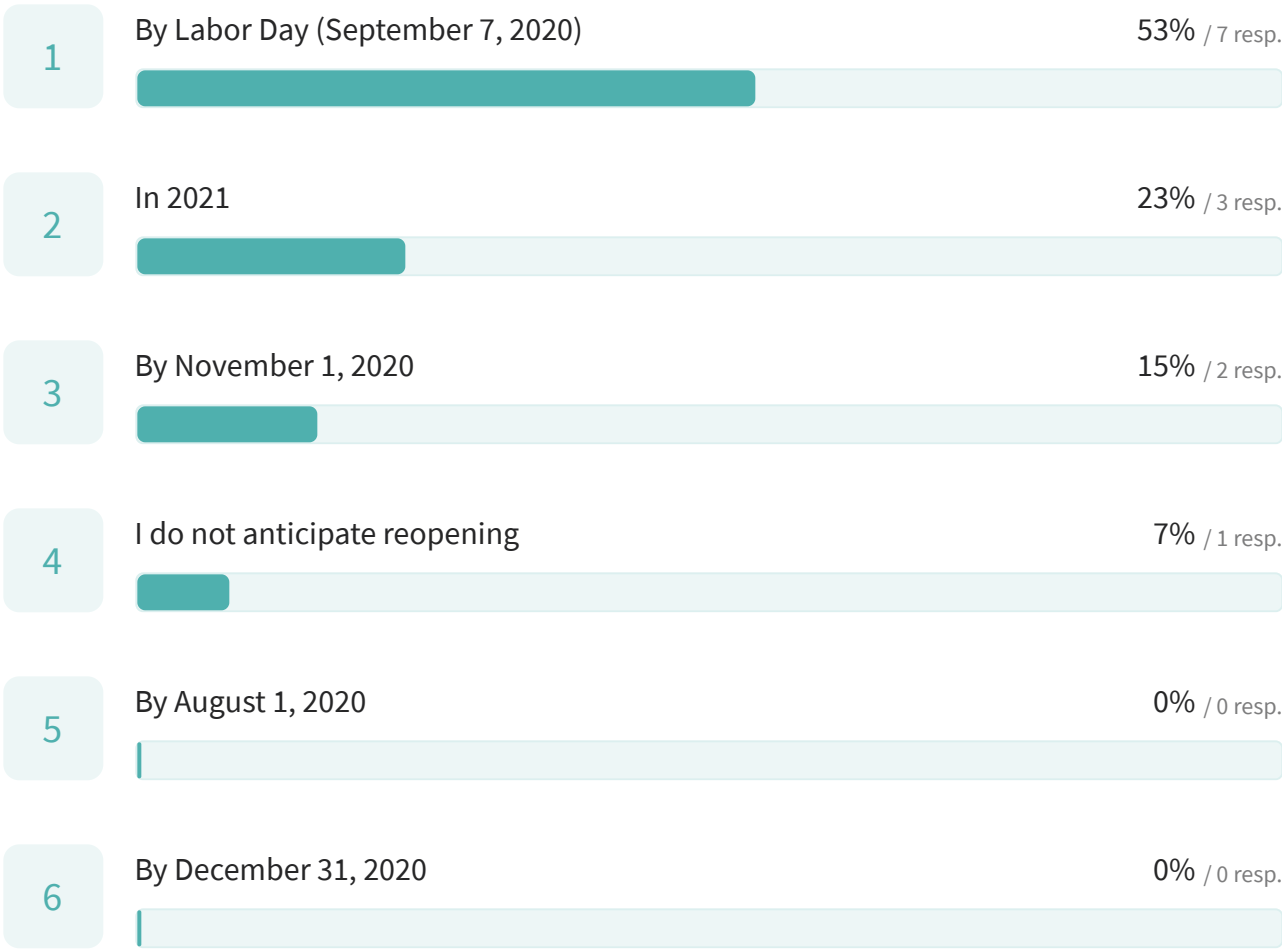
You answered you are currently open, at what capacity are you operating at compared to pre-COVID-19 levels?

199 out of 212 answered



You indicated you are currently closed, when do you anticipate opening?

13 out of 212 answered



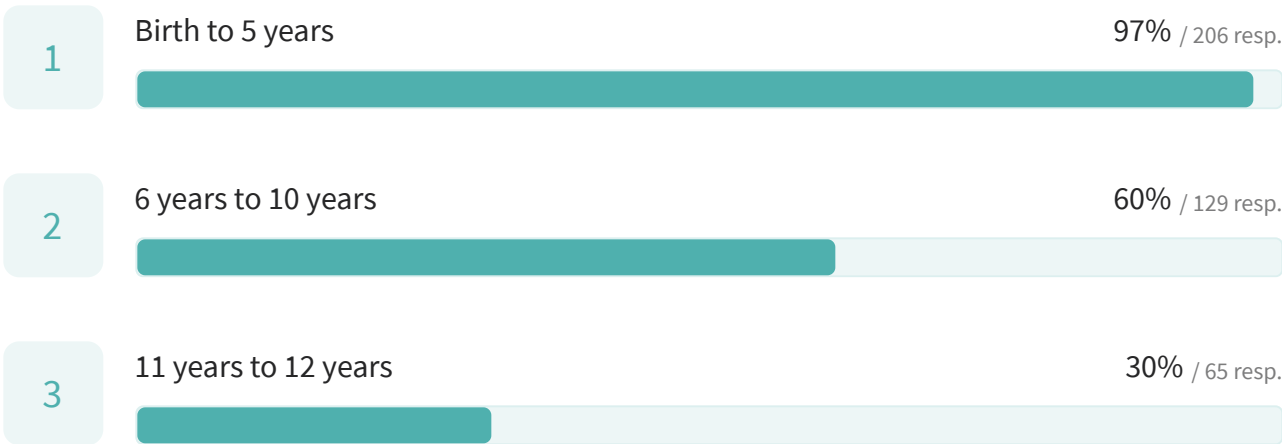
Are you charging tuition to those not attending?

212 out of 212 answered



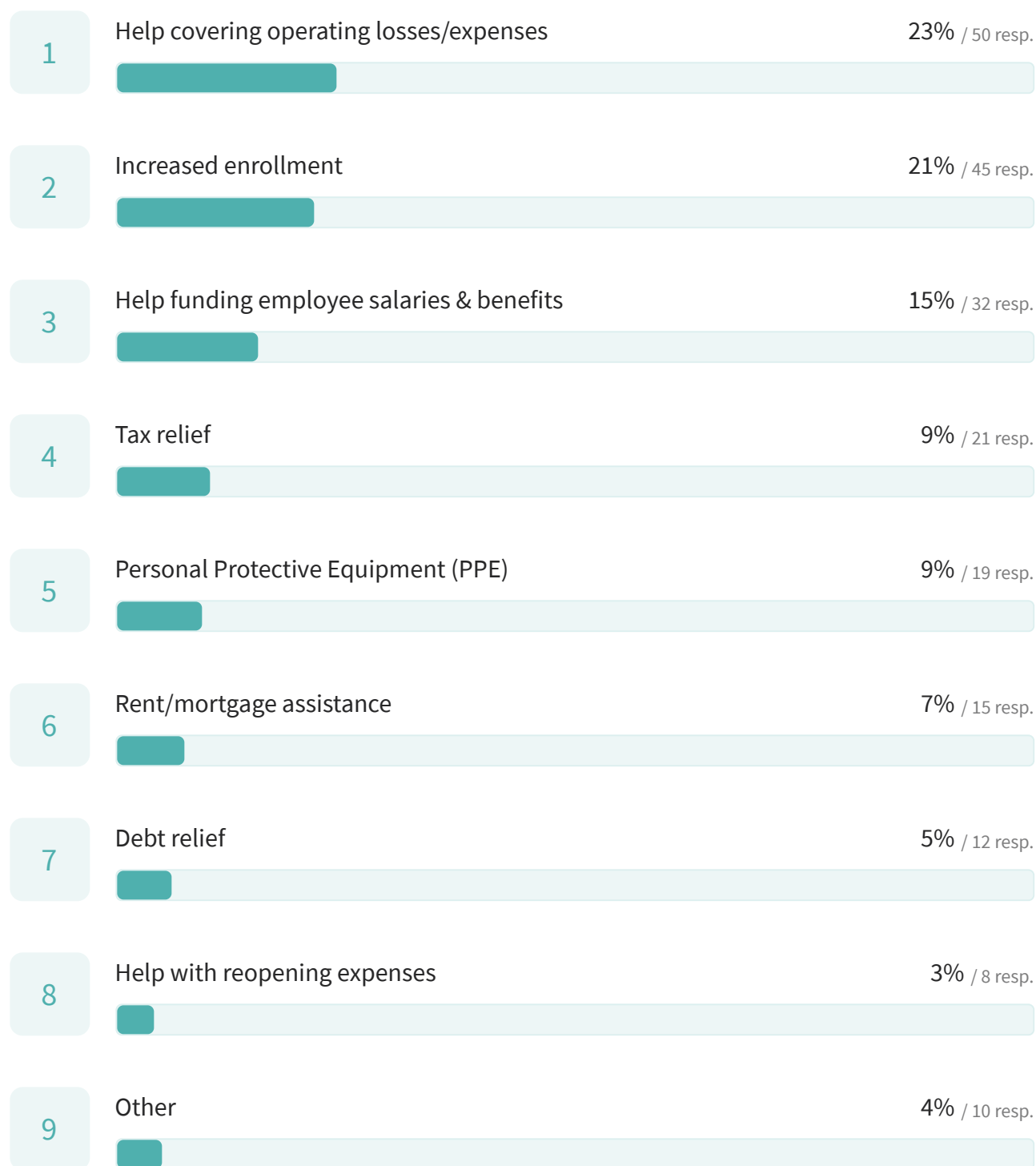
What age children do you provide child care for?

212 out of 212 answered



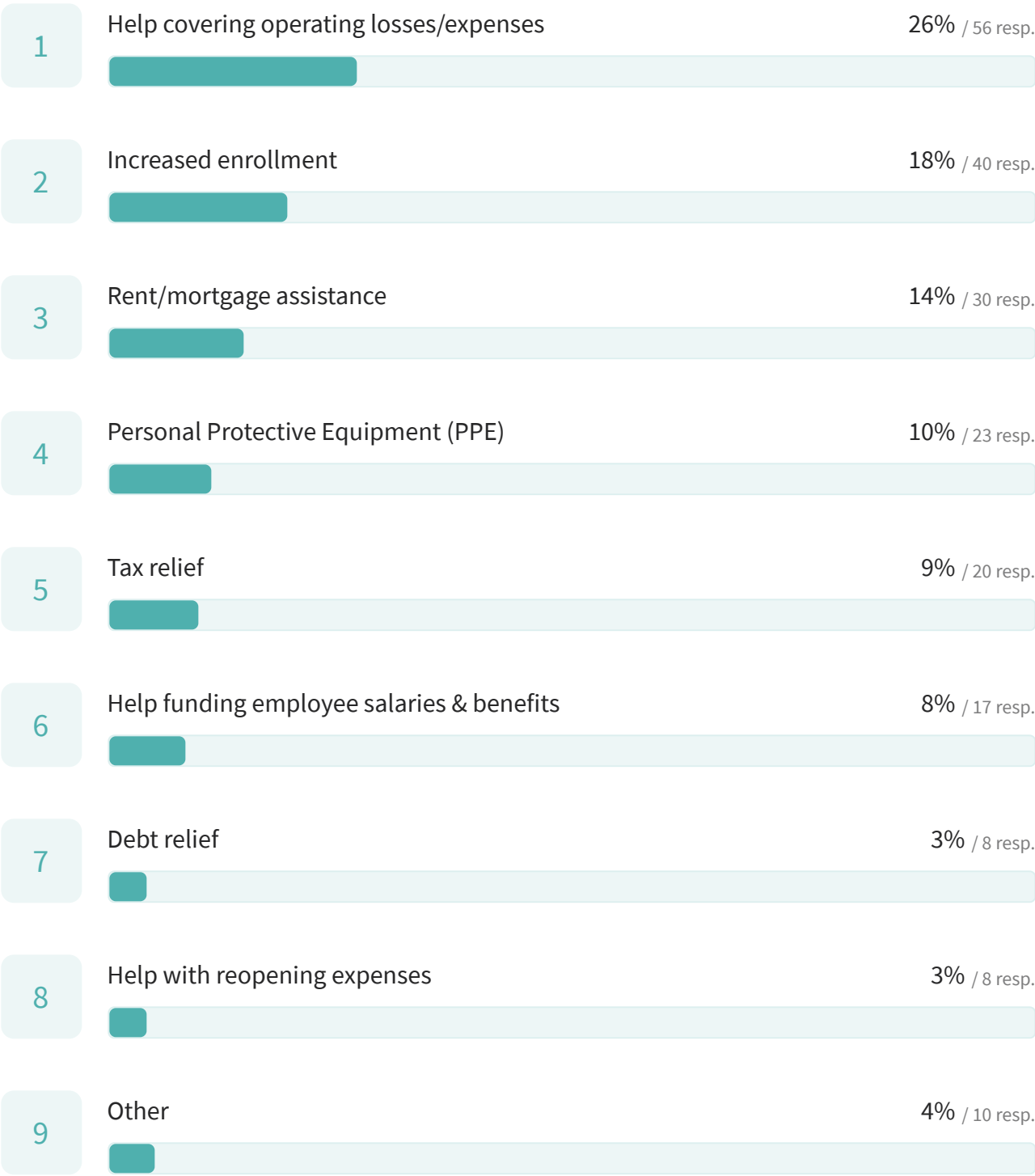
Top highest priority need:

212 out of 212 answered



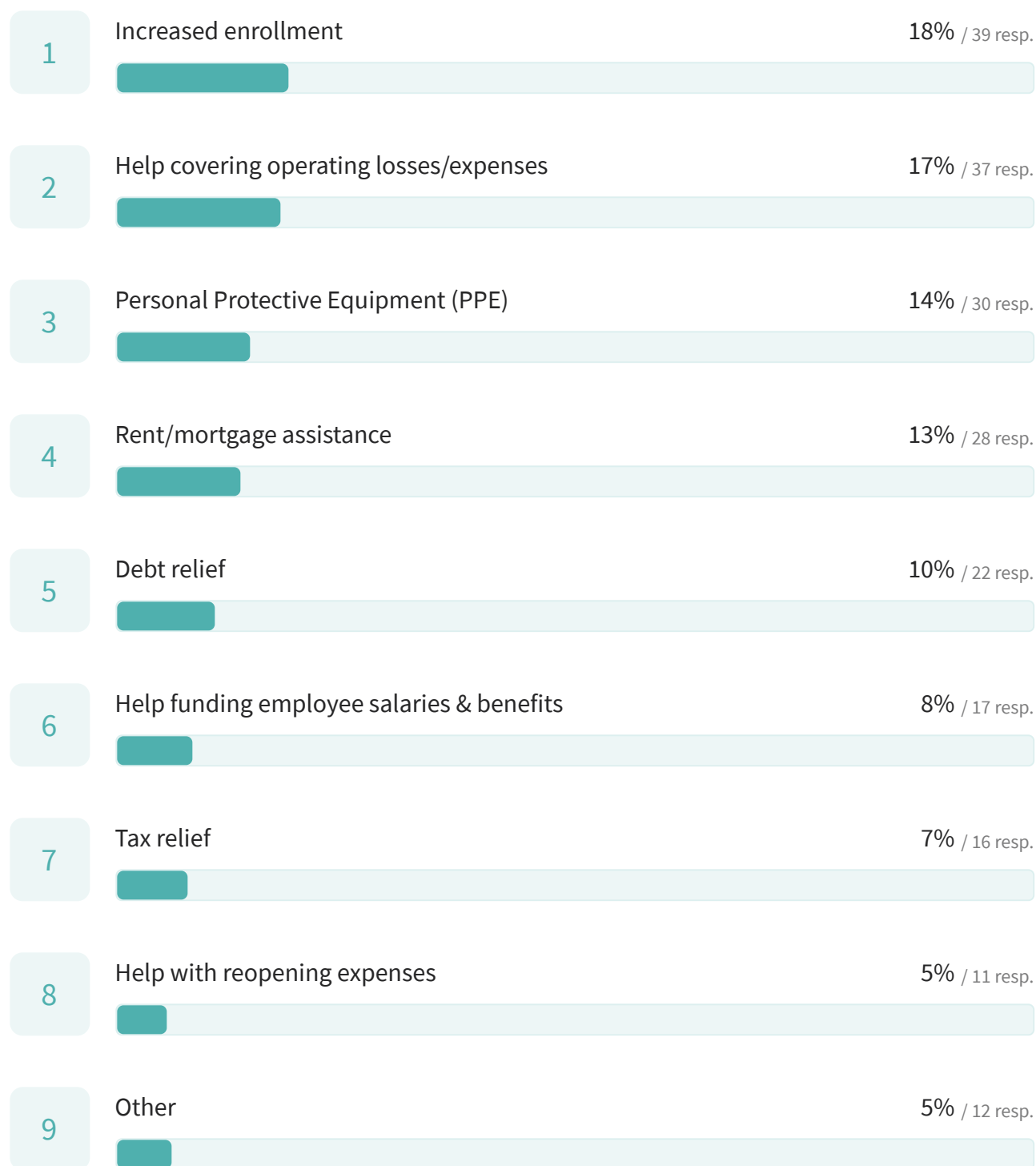
Second highest priority need:

212 out of 212 answered



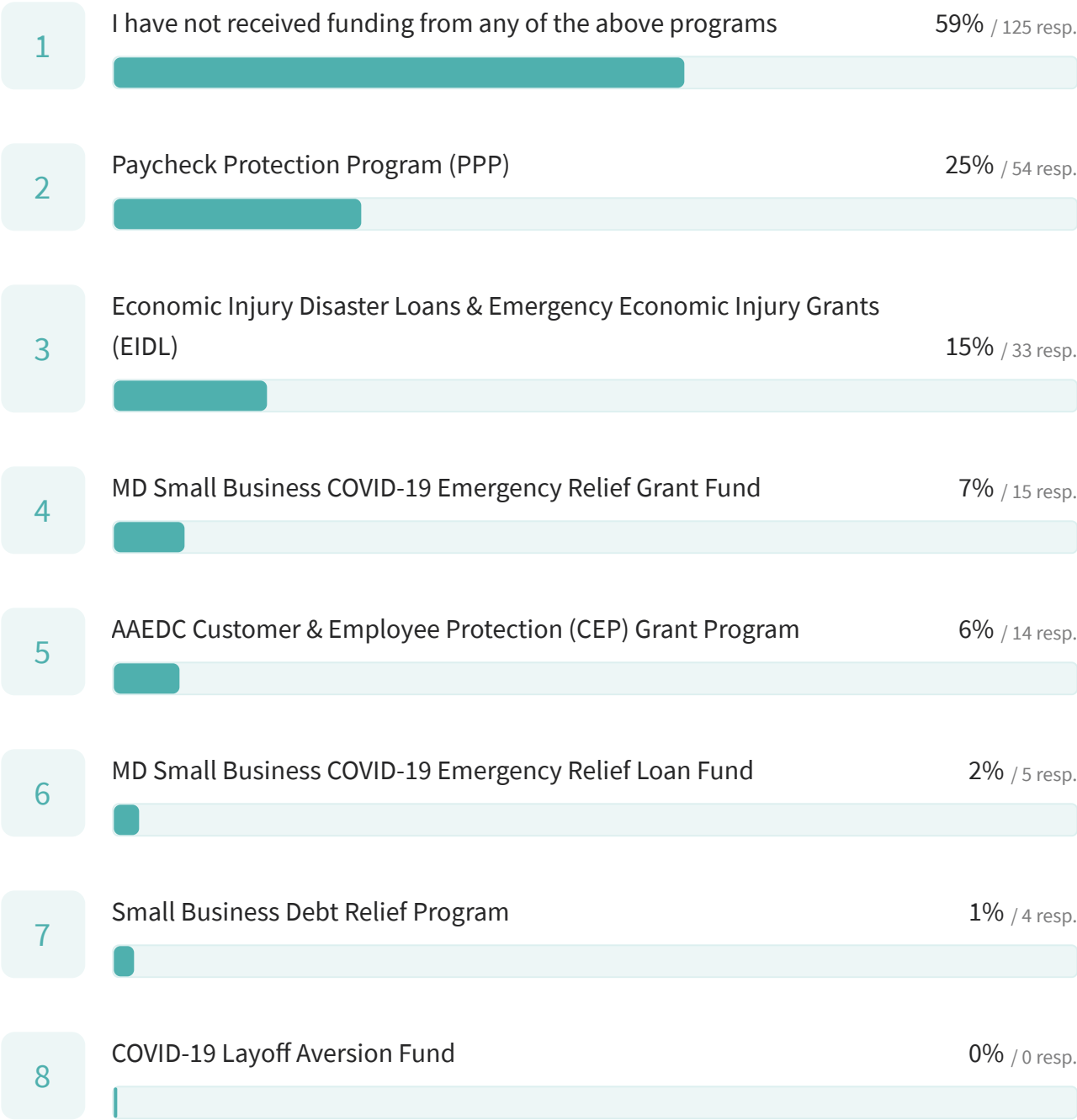
Third highest need:

212 out of 212 answered



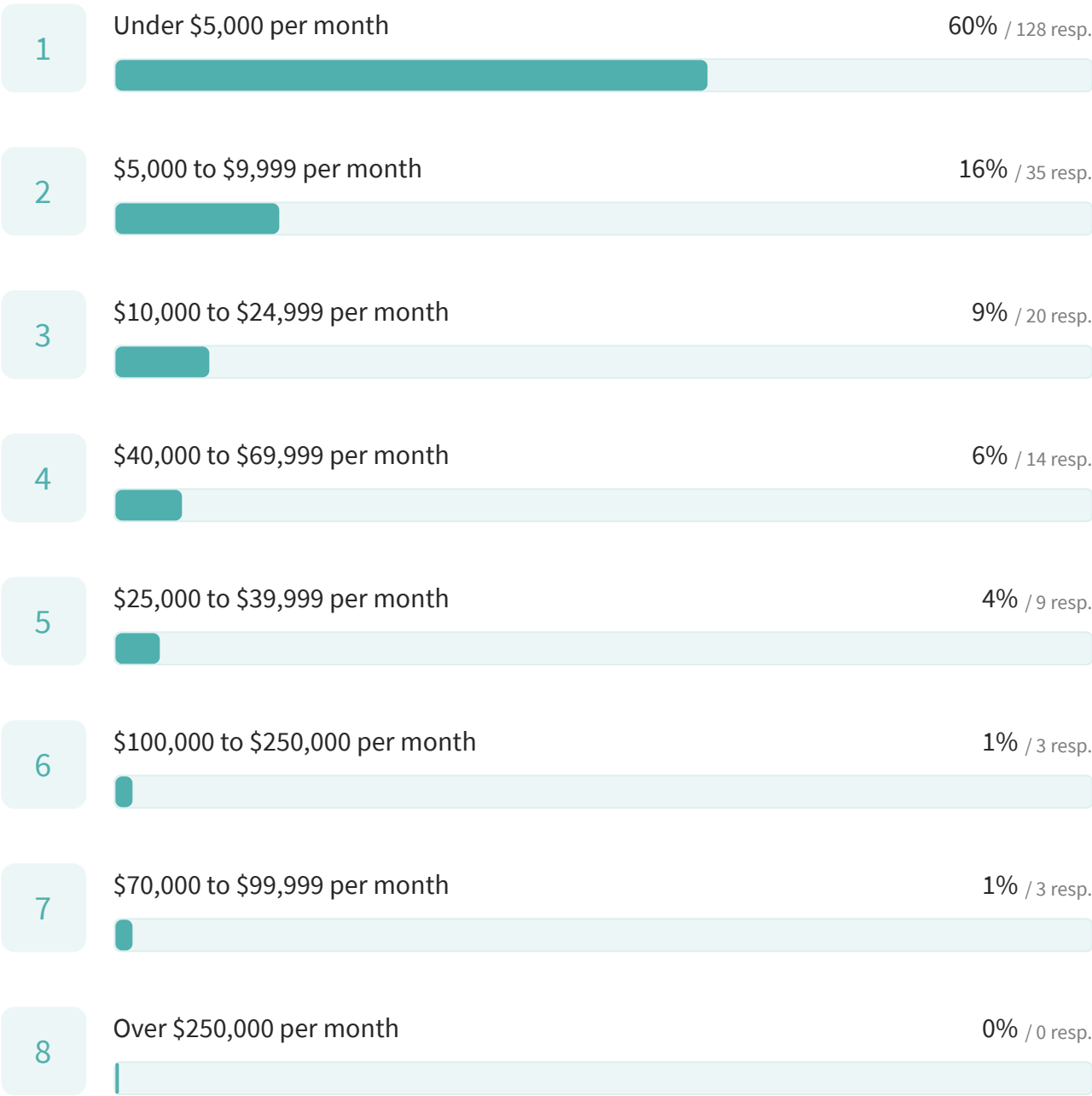
Have you received funding from any of the following federal, state, or local programs?

212 out of 212 answered



How much of an impact has the COVID-19 pandemic had on your monthly income?

212 out of 212 answered



“What is the biggest barrier for your program right now?”

Open Ended Responses (Redacted only for personally identifiable information)

We are operating at a loss. I will be out of money by November.
Cleaning and staying open if child develops a cough or fever due to teething
Low attendance
Capacity not the same so we cannot enroll more
The allowable enrollment and mandatory “large group” and room capacity.
Not being able to help the number of families who need care
Limits on capacity/children per classroom
Trying to get all employees hours to work and staying compliant with OCC guidelines
not enough enrollment; no ability to care for infants and school agers
Staff unable to work due to AACPS decision to provide 100% virtual instruction. The staff have children in public schools and will need to stay home to homeschool. Rather than hire a completely new staff, we closed to in-person learning. We will be offering virtual options for families. We will reopen when AACPS returns to in-person instructions, either hybrid or 100% in-person.
Lack of parents wanting to send children to child care
We have so many empty spots that we are not allowed to fill...so our income has considerably decreased. We need these spots to be paid for!!
Enrollment
The majority of the families I have enrolled are now part time. So even though the amount of kids I have is similar I am making less money.
Trying to keep everyone from from COVID
Parents are afraid and those that have come back we can only take so many in a room. We need to increase our capacity to 20 per room or we need funding for empty slots. Reduced capacity will cause many of us to raise tuition by 20% per child or close. Parents really can't afford
covid
children not returning, parents staying home
5 of my parents were teachers, they no longer have a need for me
parents can't afford daycare, with schools closed school age won't be coming
Our lowered capacity limit.
covid 19
People who feel unsafe
Virtual learning and caring for daycare children
I would like my check for May 25th, 2020 scholarship
Enrollments and keeping up with the expenses of PPE and other things
Trying to find another child for the end of August
expenses
schools not opening back up

Low enrollment due to parents not returning to work and their fear of placing their child due to COVID-19 concerns.
enrollment
enrollments
My families who have not returned and have not committed to return are teachers who are worried about sending their children.
Trying to maintain social distancing
Restricted class size
Limiting classrooms to only 15 people
Our enrollment is capped at about 1/2 our usual levels. We are incurring extra costs, and additional staff for 1/2 the students/tuition revenue.
The low ratios in rooms.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of guidance and communication from OCC and MSDE. 2. My childcare staff feels their lives are not as important as public teachers 3. Regulations are constantly changing, sometimes twice in a week 4. Staffing is difficult. Regulations need to be relaxed in childcare. For example, I don't always have a school age certified teacher to do a lunch break in our summer program. Our management team has to do the Lunch breaks so we are always following regulation but they don't get their front office work done. 5. MSDE and OCC tell us that they can't tell us how to run our business but they have to understand we follow the regulations to run our businesses. If the regulations are unclear or not written how to do follow them. 6. We can only contact our licensing specialist via email. Our emails are often ignored or not responded to. So childcare centers can open but licensing specialists don't need to go their offices ??? Or respond to an email?? 7. Anne Arundel Health Department and OCC determine if you should close due to a COVID exposure; however, after working with them, they point their fingers at each and the center is left in limbo
not being able to increase our enrollment
The worry that enrolling additional new families to fill my spaces will expose my family to people who may be acting in an irresponsible manner by not following health department recommendations. I just don't trust that people are going to do the right thing.
People are living in Fear! and Unknown the restrictions on ratios!
trying to figure out how to recoup our monetary loss, continue to pay salary and rent, and keep our doors open with a large reduction in tuition once our savings is completely gone.
The fear of this illness spreading through care. We cannot hide behind a screen. Regulations and expectations keep changing and are sometimes being made by people that are not actually working in this field. We are being put in the back burner it feels like and we are on the frontline.
Finding families that can afford to pay childcare, without my having to lower tuition rates or accepting part-timers.
Number's Restrictions
I have to turn away siblings that are school aged due to licensing/capacity restrictions.
Need more income (need more enrollment)
low enrollment

Finding PPE to keep a supply (gloves), no coverage on my porch for drop offs
low income
I recently moved , I've had to resume service and it took over a month to get my inspections from the fire department. I'm hoping I'll have my final inspection to "reopen/resume" at the end of August. I'm considering myself lucky that it only took a month with Covid happening. But I was worried for 3 months. I need to get back to work , bills are piling up and I'm going into debt.
My biggest burden is planning the best time to reopen when it is safest for children.
Decreased enrollment caused a smaller center like ours to have to let people go. This system we are working with has been extremely exhausting and stressful for not only the staff but the parents and children as well. It is not fair to have to raise our rates (which we can't) to offset the cost of loss. We are all struggling as a community!! It helped when the government offered tuition assistance but once that lifted things are a struggle. There is so much pressure on the daycare owner and workers!! Then to find out Montgomery County (wealthiest county in MD)was giving daycare an additional \$100 per child to help offset the attendance rate and AACO wouldn't hear our cry's. It is very dishearten I have been a resident for over 60 years and a business owner for over 40 years at the same address. This is all I have ever known. I can't start over, but hoped we wouldn't be left out to dry up and die off. Help US!!!
Unlicensed people doing childcare! Finding Lysol! Having money to purchase more protective gear.
Scared to introduce more childcare to the program that will increase illness
Decreased enrollment is a financial burden but raising rates for families already struggling is not an option. (Other needs regarding protective equipment, cleaning supplies and protective barriers have been met by grant funding)
Consistency
Finding cleaning supplies, stores do not have the supplies available to maintain a safe environment
The Office of Child Care will only allow a total of 15 people in the building. We have 4 staff+11 children= 15. We have more children on a wating list but aren't allowed to take them.
Lock of enrollment
My biggest battle at the moment is finding balance. The cleaning and all the extra things we have to do to stay safe is hard. Finances are hard to manage too with all the extra expenses.
Staffing
Enrollment
getting more children
parents can't afford to come.
Capacity limits. We are not able to provide care for all of our families. And it should be child limits, not human limits on classroom capacities.
Not enough spots.
Space
People are afraid to bring their kids back. They have all found alternative family care and don't want to expose their kids to other kids
Not enough revenue. Parents can not afford to pay us what we need for e-learning. We have converted from school age, part time care to full day. Now we have to be teachers as well.
Parents able to afford childcare.

Low enrollment
Maintaining income and expenses without being in deep debt.
Finding cleaning supplies at reasonable prices. ie. lysol disinfectant spray we have been paying \$15-\$25 a single can
PPE, enrollment is down so income is down, I'd like to set up to take on some school age children and help with their elearning
Parents not back to work and school being virtual
Parents can't send their child even with a simple cold. The common cold can last for days on end. They do not want to keep their child home for a cold for over a week and still pay me.
Social distancing
Trying to continue to maintain my regular income as more people test positive.
Parents fear of sending children back into an environment that may be unsafe
Low enrollment
LOW ENROLLMENT AND PAYROLL TAXES
Cleaning
Financial, we are covering the shortfall to keep our building operational. For thirty years we have operated without the government telling us when we open and when we close. We don't want to close and have both unhappy parents, children, and staff. This is our retirement project, and our way to give back to our community. [REDACTED]
My current families cannot afford additional child care expenses for school age children that have returned to my care. I am providing free or discounted services which has drastically lowered my income. I could recruit others to fill the spot but this would create further financial hardship for the families I serve.
Staff to child ratios and high payroll due to new procedures.
Decreased Enrollment
Can not find disinfectants easily. Bleach can be found, but it irritates both my lungs and skin with very little exposure.
Decreased Enrollment
I lost my before and after school children I can't watch them all day because I'm only aloud 9 with my grandson at a time.
So many new regulations which are very expensive for the center. No help in allowing us to open up more rooms to increase income. We need the rooms inspected but they do not allow any changes
Finding cleaning supplies
The biggest barrier for my program right now is the loss of income during closure and my continued loss of income from families who choose to stay home for safety.
Cleaning supplies and the upcoming school year with the online schooling and having kids of different ages
many
Increasing enrollment
income and keeping families safe

Unable to enroll new families because I have fear they have come from a center that has shut down from Covid and are not telling me. We need a data base or some way to communicate if a family is under quarantine, but fails to obey and enroll in new center
decreased capacity
decreased capacities
The threat of covid infection
Low enrollment
Low enrollment
Parents afraid to send their children to daycare.
Finding cleaning supplies, social distancing is very difficult
coronavirus-
enrollment
Not enough revenue coming in.
The Maryland State Department of Education, and the Health Departments unrealistic expectations from Child Care Providers. I know many providers that have closed their doors, not because of COVID, but because of the stress caused by MSDE. Lack of guidance, communication, delays in payments, and more.
The # of spots that we are not allowed to fill! We should be paid for those spots if they would be taken under normal circumstances!!!
Not having money to pay anything
Cleaning and Assuring parents their children safe
We do not have sufficient enrollment to cover our operating expenses.
I have parents who have lost jobs, working from home and don't need care.
Reduced ratios and group sizes not allowing us to maximize income
Funds
FINANCES TO HAVE FULL CAPACITY BASED ON MSDE RATIOS.
The uncertainty of school openings
accepting kids and families in a safe way. With out exposure to covid.
School aged kids
Enrollment
Enrollment is less than half
Parents are working from home
Lack of enrollment due to schools being closed and going to virtual learning.
Covid,
Lack of support from the Dept of Education!
The state unsure of policies and procedures. Mandating and changing rules and regulations at a whim. Also restricting the amount of children providers can have, when there are so many families in need of care.
Recruiting new enrollment
vacancies

The limit of 15 people per room, or not able to be at full capacity.
We're still trying to getting money the state has not payed us from eepc.
Limited group sizes and limited staff
Low enrollment
limited calls
Filling daycare slots
Low enrollment
The indecision. My families have wanted to save their spot but are now not sure they feel comfortable with their children in care. I would lose 4-5 children if/when they withdraw and have not received calls from people looking for care in our area.
lower enrollment
Trying to do the best,I can to keep a safe environment for the children in my care.
risk of being shut down high, loss of pay and increased costs of food/supplies
having time to work with preschoolers as well as school age.
Finding cleaning and disinfecting supplies
Need more children
Parents are hesitant to return
parents scared to bring children back along with debt from being closed
parents working from home keeping their children at home. Parents dont want to pay tuition to hold their childs spot. I have no kids coming to daycare and can barely get by financially
I can only have 2 infants at one 1 time. Most of my callers are parents who have 1 yr old. One yr. Olds are considered infants.So it is preventing me from making money.
I take care of some children whose parents are teachers and they are planning to keep their children home as they teach from home. They have been with me since birth. I don't want to give their spots away hoping that they will need my care the second semester.
Enrolling families safely
Not enough children
Anne arundel public schools not giving information about what will be required of students and teachers for the coming year. Teachers don't know if they will need child care for the coming year.
Low enrollment
Enrollment

Questions concerning this survey or its process?

Please contact:

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Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation