

# Think Small Survey of Ramsey/ Hennepin County Providers

**Methodology:** Between April 14 and May 28, 2020, staff from Think Small attempted to contact every licensed family child care and center-based program in Ramsey and Hennepin counties (n= 1,693) to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their programs and the families they serve. The contact list was pulled from the state's NACCRRAware database of licensed programs as of December 31, 2019. Staff attempted to reach each provider three times via the phone number listed in their licensing data. A total of 943 calls were completed (56% of all programs; family child care = 557; centers = 386), and each provider reached was asked the same short set of questions. The respondents were representative of the total programs: 59% were licensed family child care programs (compared to 60% in the two counties overall), but slightly higher percentage of respondents were Parent Aware rated (38%, compared to 34% overall).



“You have to be [positive]. We're all in this big maze. Kind of lost. Not knowing when it is going to end, but I can't allow this to take me down.”  
RODELLA WHITE,  
ST. PAUL, MN

## Overall Results (n=943)

- Overall, 18% (n=167) of programs reached reported being closed.
  - 11% (n=59) of all family child care programs reached reported being closed
  - 28% (n=108) of child care centers reached reported being closed
  - 17% (n=97) of unrated programs reached reported being closed
  - 20% (n=70) of rated programs reached reported closed
- The respondents' programs (n=943) were licensed to serve 41,092 children. Closed programs resulted in a loss of 7,739 slots (19%).
  - Licensed family child care slots lost due to closure = 668 (11% of respondent family child care programs' slots)
  - Center slots lost due to closure = 7,071 (20% of respondent centers' slots)

“The mental toll caused by the risk that an infection poses is a daily preoccupation.”  
MARIA 'ELISA' VEGA,  
ST. PAUL, MN



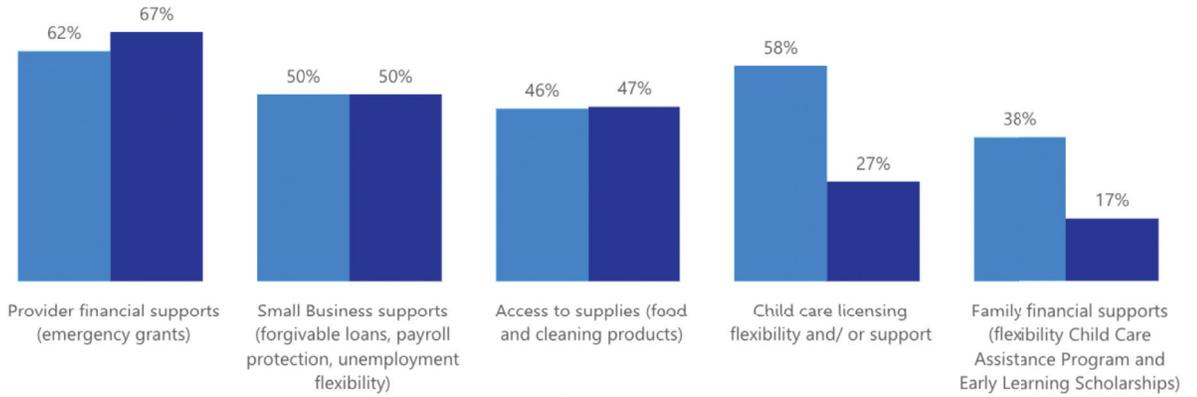
## Closed Programs (n=167)

- 53% (n= 88) of the closed respondents provided information on which month they closed. Of those, the majority of programs closed in March (n=71), with only 15 closing in April and two in May.
- 56% (n=94) of closed respondents provided information on their plans for reopening. Only 4% of respondent closed programs (7 programs with 90 total slots) reported they would NOT reopen. Nearly 40% (37 programs with 1,267 total slots) reported they want to reopen but don't know when. Short-term closures were planned by some: 11% (n=10) of programs said a month or less; 11.7% (n=11) of programs said a week or less; 19% (n=18) of programs said they planned to reopen in 1 to 3 months; and the remaining 12% (n=11) of programs planned to remain closed for more than three months.
- 53% (n= 88) of the closed respondents provided information on which month they closed. Of those, the majority of programs closed in March (n=71), with only 15 closing in April and two in May.

(Closed Programs continued)

Which of the following supports that are currently available or have been proposed would be helpful to you reopening your business?

- child care center
- family child care

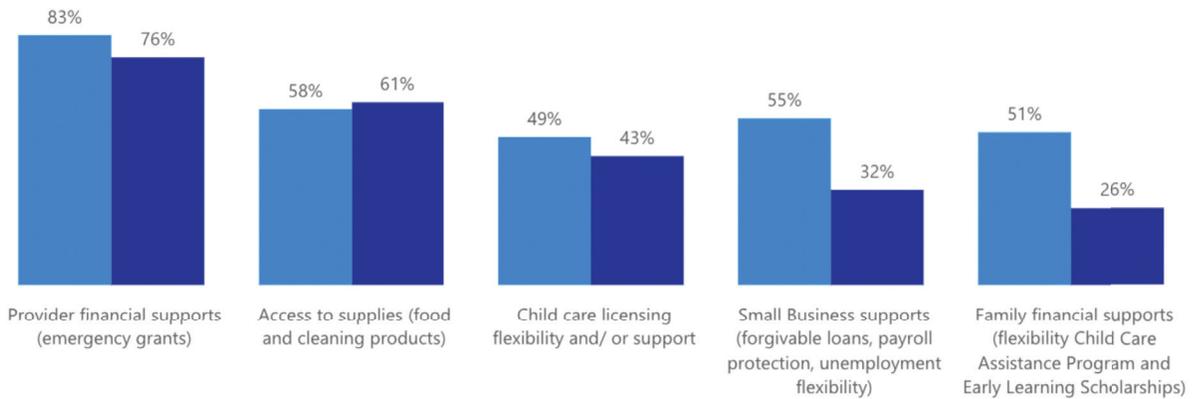


Open Programs (n=738)

- 95% of open respondent programs provided information on their plans to close (if any). Of those, 93% (n=723) reported having no plans to close, with the remainder planning to close in one week or less (n=1), 1 month or less (n=6) or 1-3 months (n=8).

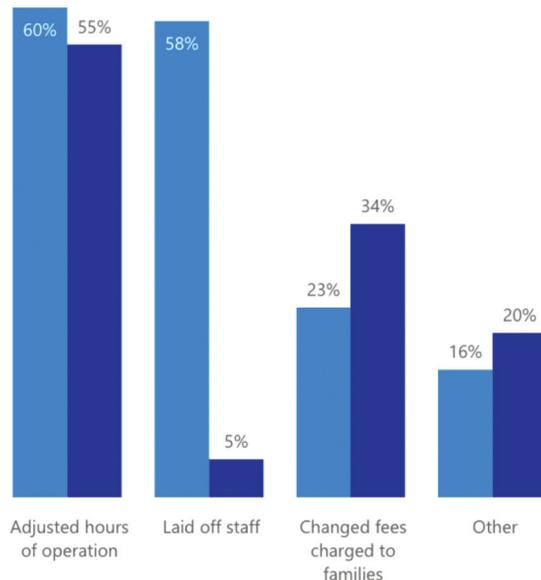
Which of the following supports that are currently available or have been proposed would be helpful to you keeping your business open?

- child care center
- family child care



Have you had to make adjustments in your program in response to the crisis?

- child care center
- family child care



“The worry and the extra hours each day cleaning and sanitizing her home and toys have taken its toll. ‘I’m exhausted,’ said Dewall. ‘But I love my job and my families. I’m blessed to be an educator and care provider for the youngest Minnesotans.’”

WENDY DEWALL,  
MINNETONKA, MN