

# Think Small Survey of Ramsey/ Hennepin County Providers

## BACKGROUND

**Purpose:** follow up on spring survey and understand how providers manage pandemic

- **1,743 providers in Hennepin and Ramsey Cos called up to two times from Oct. 5 – Nov 23, 2020**
- **769 (44%) surveys completed:**
  - 464 licensed family child care (60%); 305 centers (40%)
    - Overall, 60% of programs in Hennepin and Ramsey Cos are LFCC
  - 323 Parent Aware rated or in-progress (42%); 446 unrated (58%)
    - Overall, 36% of programs are Parent Aware rated or in-progress in Hennepin and Ramsey Cos
  - 943 (56%) completed in the spring
- **Spring/Fall surveys comparison:**
  - Of the 167 providers closed at the time of the spring survey:
    - 86 were unreachable for the fall survey
    - 63 indicated they were open at the time of the fall survey
    - 18 indicated they were closed at time of the fall survey
  - Of the 776 providers open at the time of the spring survey
    - 291 were unreachable for the fall survey
    - 474 indicated they were open at the time of the fall survey
    - 11 indicated they were closed at time of the fall survey



## RESULTS

### Open Programs

- **723 programs, representing 33,685 licensed slots, indicated they were open**
- **Overall Situation**
  - 72% said their situation had declined or remained the same since the spring
    - 147 LFCC programs (62%) said their situation had declined
  - 23% said their situation had improved since the spring
    - 103 child care centers (62%)
  - 5% did not respond
- **Program Adjustments (based on 228 responses to the question):**
  - 148 Adjusted hours of operations (65%)
    - 107 LFCC (70%)
  - 78 Laid off staff (34%)
    - 49 Child Care Centers (67%)
  - 61 Changed fees charged to families (27%)



(continued on reverse side)

(Open Programs continued)

- **Supports Helpful to Remain Open (based on 228 responses to the question)**
  - 212 mentioned Provider financial supports like emergency grants (93%)
  - 157 mentioned Access to supplies like food and cleaning products (69%)
    - 54 Child Care Centers (73%)
  - 93 mentioned Family financial supports like scholarships and CCAP (41%)
    - 39 Child Care Centers (53%)
  - 89 mentioned Licensing flexibility and support (39%)
  - 77 mentioned Small business supports like forgivable loans (34%)
- **Closure Plans**
  - 688 programs (95%) had no plans to close
  - 6 programs (0.8%) planned to close in 3 months or less
  - 29 (4%) programs did not respond



## Closed Programs

- **46 programs, representing 675 licensed slots, indicated they were closed**
  - 4.8% of unrated providers
    - 1.2% of rated providers
  - 4.6% of licensed family child care providers
    - 1.4% of child care centers
  - 15 programs closed in March and April (33%)
  - 25 programs have no plans to reopen (54%)
    - 4 programs plan to reopen in the next 3 months (9%)
- **Supports Helpful to Reopen (based on 16 respondents)**
  - 12 mentioned Provider financial supports like emergency grants (77%)
  - 11 mentioned Access to supplies like food and cleaning products (67%)
  - 5 mentioned Family financial supports like scholarships and CCAP (33%)
  - 5 mentioned Licensing flexibility and support (33%)
  - 2 mentioned Small business supports like forgivable loans (9%)



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## IMPLICATIONS

- **Emergency Grants are essential to staying open or reopening**
- **Emergency Supplies and licensing flexibility are highly valued/appreciated**
- **Staffing issues and concerns continue to be an issue for many CCCs**
- **Supporting more school-aged children has been a challenge, but necessary to keep slots filled**
- **Timing of survey matters- situation changing rapidly**