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**COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN DISBURSES \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**

**Napa, California, December 28, 2020:** In the coming days, \$1 million will be disbursed to child care programs in Napa County, California. As COVID-19 started forcing closures of child care programs due to sky-rocketing operating costs, Community Resources for Children, a nonprofit in Napa, California understood that something had to be done to mitigate further losses and to preserve vital child care slots.

The Child Care Stabilization Fund was established in June 2020 by Community Resources for Children, and received a major boost in October 2020 when the Napa County Board of Supervisors allocated \$500,000 in CARES Act funding to stabilize child care. The CARES Act funds were matched with grants from Napa Valley Community Foundation, Napa Valley Vintners, First 5 Napa County and more than 10 other foundations, institutions, businesses, as well as individual donors.

“Napa Valley Community Foundation has invested in this initiative because we understand the vital role that child care providers play in the healthy development of young children and in our community’s ability to rebound from the pandemic,” said Julia de Natale, Vice President of Community Impact, with Napa Valley Community Foundation.

In November licensed child care providers in Napa County who were open and serving families and who were able to demonstrate financial hardship due to COVID-19 were invited to apply for one-time stabilization grants.

Community Resources for Children received a total of 81 applications from 20 child care centers and 61 family child care home providers who currently provide care to 1,309 children and have the licensed capacity (when the economy rebounds) to provide care for up to 1,802 children during normal times. All informational documents, tutorial videos, webinars, and the application itself were made available in both English and Spanish in both hardcopy and electronic format. In addition, bilingual staff conducted outreach throughout the process to all eligible providers via email and phone to offer technical assistance with the application and to provide support with understanding eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

The applications were reviewed and scored based on a published points table available in English and Spanish at the time of application with more points allocated to programs that served

vulnerable populations and those that provided infant care, high-quality programming and were located in child care deserts.

CRC hopes to mitigate further closures of child care programs, but knows that as the pandemic drags on, more funding will be needed in order to fully stabilize all programs and help them survive. For now, grantees will utilize the funds to remain open and to maintain safe environments for children. One provider explained the toll that COVID-19 was having on child care programs; “extra cleaning time, new group arrangements, and wearing masks were all big changes for the staff and children. It has been a struggle to keep up with the rent. Currently we are a month behind. As the pandemic continued, we were slowly able to enroll 20 new children, but with the ongoing Covid costs we are still not approaching normal and still in financial trouble.”

Of the programs receiving grants, approximately 94% are owned by women and approximately 47% self-identified as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group. In addition, more than half of all child care providers receiving a grant are from households with annual incomes of less than \$75,000. About 29% of children enrolled in the programs receiving funding are vulnerable, including having special needs, physical disabilities or developmental delays, dual language learners and children who have experienced domestic violence.

According to Erika Lubensky, Executive Director of Community Resources for Children, “child care programs provide an essential safety net for working families in Napa County, but are themselves at high risk for permanent closure during the pandemic due to increased costs and decreased enrollment.”

Even before the pandemic, Napa County was experiencing a shortage of child care spaces with only 1 in 4 children of working families having access to licensed child care. Before the pandemic, more than 2,000 Napa County families depended on licensed child care in order to work full time in our local hospitals, schools, wineries, restaurants, grocery stores, and other workplaces, supporting the county’s economy. Sophia Valenti, a mother of an 18-month-old daughter told us, “Both my husband and I are essential workers. Thanks to CRC, our daughter’s child care provider was able to stay open and we were able to work. We also had peace of mind as we were able to keep her with the same child care provider with staff that we trust to take care of her during this scary time.”

The fund is seeking additional investments from local foundations, municipalities, businesses and individuals to cover \$1.5 million needed to fully stabilize child care in Napa County through June 2021. For more information and to donate visit: <http://www.crcnapa.org/child-care-stabilization-fund/>

### **About the Napa County Child Care Stabilization Fund**

In October 2020, the Napa County Board of Supervisors allocated \$500,000 in CARES Act funding to the Napa County Child Care Stabilization Fund, established by Community Resources for Children (CRC) in Napa, California in June 2020. The CARES funds were matched with additional contributions from First 5 Napa County, Napa Valley Community Foundation, Napa Valley Vintners, Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Grants Program,

Home Grown, The Freed Family Fund, the Napa Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Napa Valley Community Foundation and made possible by the family of Isabel and Michael Mondavi, The Craig & Kathryn Hall Foundation, Travis Credit Union, Nova Group and other anonymous and individual donors for a total of more than \$1,000,000.

### **About Community Resources for Children**

Community Resources for Children (CRC) provides children with the best possible start by empowering the adults who impact their care and education. Whether a child is at home with a parent, in child care or preschool, or cared for by a friend or relative, CRC provides the adults who take care of children with the knowledge, tools, and resources so that children under their care thrive. CRC is the community's link to child care in Napa County; we connect families to appropriate child care and we coach individuals in starting and operating thriving child care businesses. For more information, visit [crcnapa.org](http://crcnapa.org).

### **About Napa Valley Community Foundation**

Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) works side-by-side with local donors and nonprofits to tackle the most important challenges our Valley faces. Now celebrating 25 years of service to the community, the foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in grants to improve the quality of life for residents of the region, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to thousands of individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley and beyond. For more information, visit [napavalleycf.org](http://napavalleycf.org).

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