

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF CHILD CARE STABILIZATION FUND

November 6, 2020 – In August 2020 the Napa County Board of Supervisors allocated \$500,000 of CARES Act funds to the Napa County Child Care Stabilization Fund. An additional \$500,000 was raised from First 5 Napa County, Napa Valley Community Foundation, Napa Valley Vintners and other individual and anonymous donors.

The Child Case Stabilization Fund, which is administered by local nonprofit Community Resources for Children, will provide one-time grants of up to \$25,000 for child care centers and \$10,000 for family child care homes. The goal of the fund is to stabilize child care programs that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 so that they can continue providing care to children of working families thereby allowing our economy to rebound.

The fund will prioritize programs that serve vulnerable populations and those that provide infant care, high-quality programming and are located where there is a lack of child care spaces. Grant funding can be to put towards reimbursement of prior COVID-19 related expenses or anticipated operating expenses. Programs that are licensed, open and that have been adversely affected by COVID-19 are eligible to apply. Publicly funded programs, such as those funded through a Napa County school district, NCOE and HeadStart, are not eligible to apply. Funding is limited to one grant per individual or business owner.

Grant applications will be accepted through November 15th and bilingual webinars, tutorials and 1:1 support is available to those who need it. More information for applicants is available at: <http://www.crcnapa.org/child-care-stabilization-fund/>

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. As one child care provider told us, *“my income dropped overnight....I am not sure how much longer we can stay open at this rate. I have been providing child care services to families for the last 22 years. I might need to close my child care and find another job in order to support my family.”*

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 child care. Before the pandemic, approximately 2,005 Napa County families utilized 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.

As one mother of a young daughter wrote, *“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, business and individuals to cover \$1.3 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/>

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