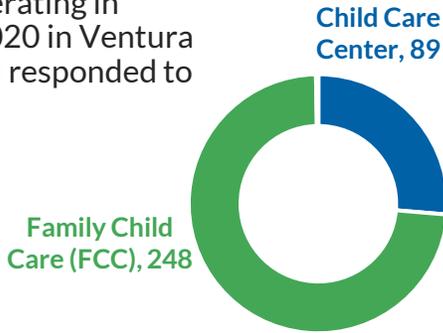


STATE OF CHILD CARE DURING COVID-19

In 2019, licensed child care providers served more than 22,000 of Ventura County's birth-5 year olds. The Ventura County Early Childhood Education Taskforce surveyed early learning and care providers to assess the status of available child care, understand the challenges providers face in continuing to deliver care during COVID-19, and identify necessary supports to ensure this vital sector of the economy remains stable.

337 PROVIDERS SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES

More than 1/2 of the child care providers operating in November 2020 in Ventura County (52%) responded to the survey.



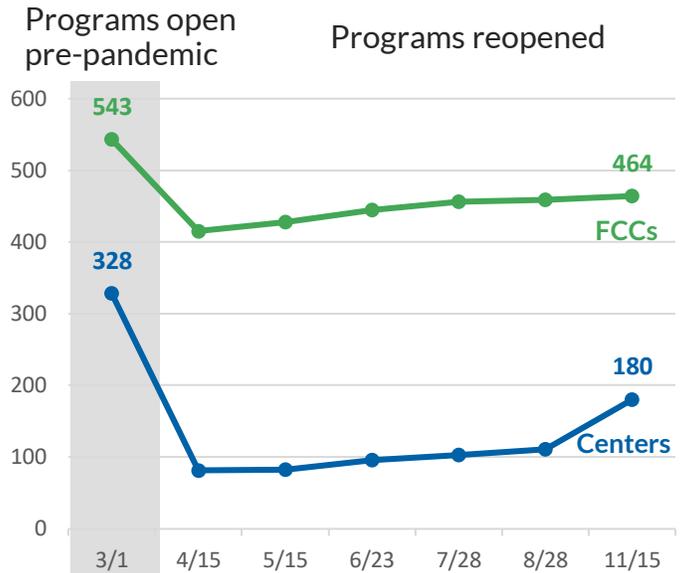
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It's a very scary, confusing and uncertain time for everyone and there's a lot of stress and anxiety put on everyone in order to stay healthy.

-Child Care Provider

CHILD CARE CLOSURES AND REOPENINGS

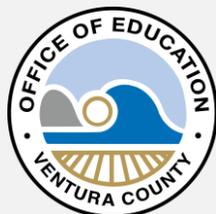
At the start of the pandemic, many centers and some FCCs temporarily closed. 148 programs had reopened by the fall of 2020.



Licensed child care includes: **Child Care Centers** and **Family Child Care Homes (FCCs)**. Child care centers offer a classroom setting for children of similar ages. Family child care takes place in a provider's home and children are cared for in mixed age groups. FCCs are a critical part of the local childcare delivery system. Most serve children ages 0-12 and some offer evening and overnight care.



Ventura County Early Childhood Education Taskforce



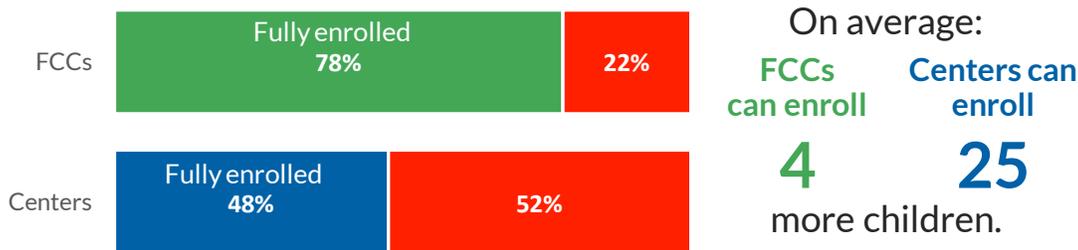
THE COVID PANDEMIC HAS GREATLY IMPACTED CHILD CARE OPERATIONS

While many child care providers were able to reopen after a temporary closure, some are still not fully enrolled. Providers have also had to make significant modifications to their businesses and face ongoing challenges that impact their sustainability.

MOST CENTERS ARE NOT FULLY ENROLLED

91 providers said they have room to enroll more children given current health guidelines.

With 22% of FCCs and 52% of Centers **not fully enrolled** there is plenty of space for more children.



“

It has been very hard to find the money to purchase cleaning materials that I am going through at a rapid rate. This leaves me with no extra money to buy supplies and materials for the kids.

- Child Care Provider

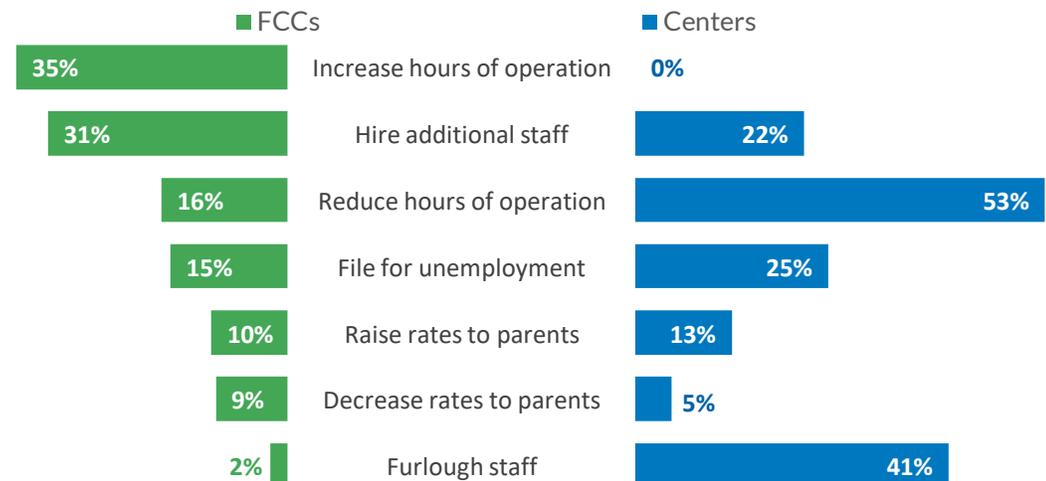
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It's a challenging time with severe financial consequences for programs trying to stay afloat. We are maintaining quality but are we going to make it financially?

- Child Care Provider

PROVIDERS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS TO STAY OPEN

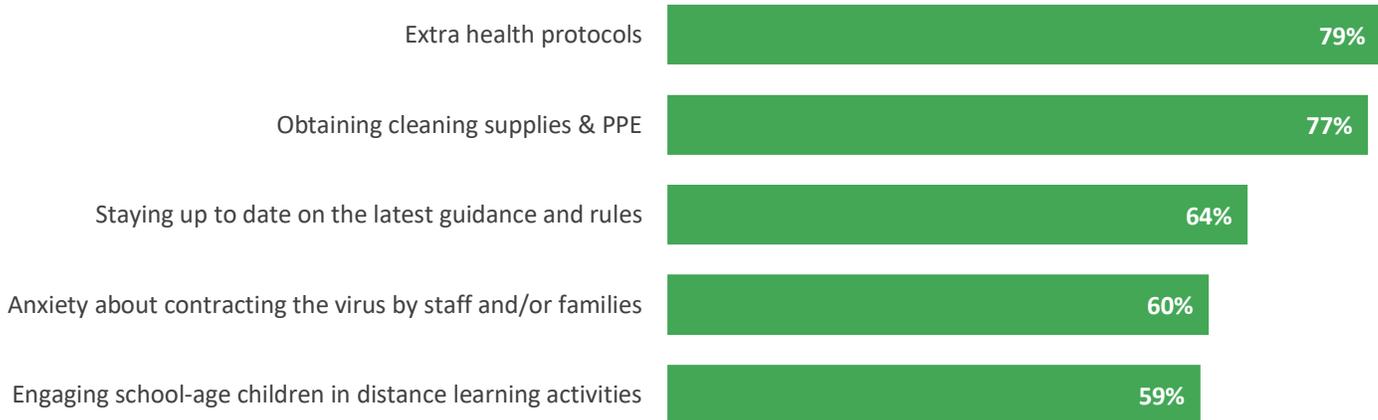
Nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of surveyed providers (66%) shared that they have modified operations beyond public health requirements to remain open. **Centers more often reduced hours of operation and furloughed staff** while **FCCs more often increased hours of operation and hired additional staff**.



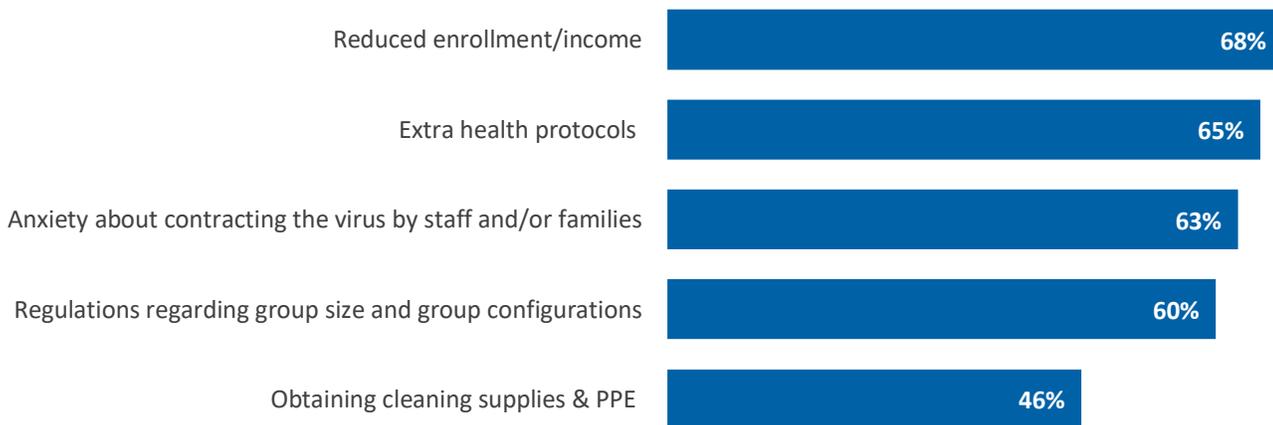
TOP 5 CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING CARE

Providers identified a number of ongoing challenges to providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FCCs



Centers



PROVIDERS ARE SUPPORTING SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WITH DISTANCE LEARNING

With many elementary schools in Ventura County closed, **166 FCCs** and **19 Centers** reported that they are helping school age children with distance learning while also meeting the needs of the younger children in their care.



*For more on how FCCs are supporting school age children with distance learning, visit: <https://bit.ly/36U9ExB>



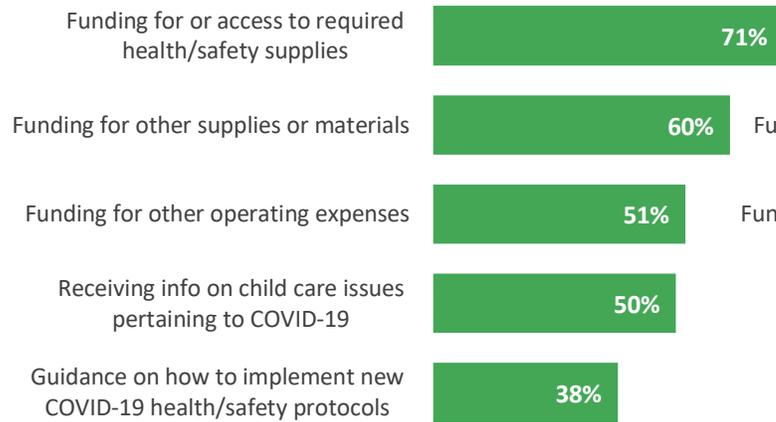
CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN VENTURA COUNTY IS CRUCIAL

Since the start of the pandemic, child care providers have continued to serve children despite the many challenges they face. However, the pandemic has created added expenses and their continued operation is uncertain. Ongoing supports are needed to ensure this essential service remains open.

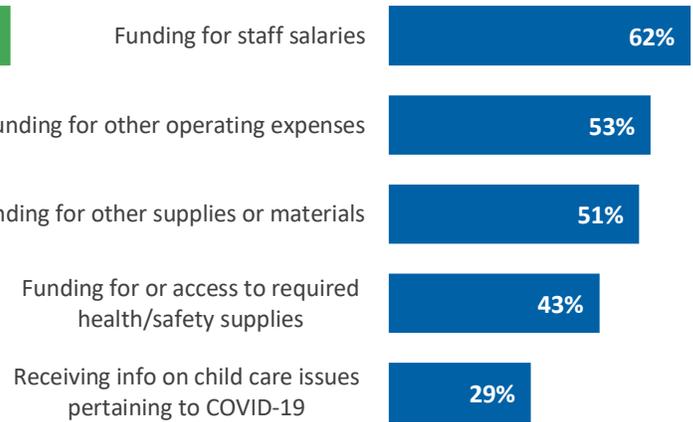
TOP 5 SUPPORTS IDENTIFIED BY PROVIDERS

Most providers (82%) indicated the need for ongoing support, most commonly in the area of funding. Obtaining and paying for health and safety supplies along with navigating COVID-19 changes were among the most common supports cited.

FCCs



Centers



14%

of providers surveyed indicated that they might stop operating in the near future. Continued loss of child care providers will have a significant impact on working families and local employers.



Child care is an essential service. Support from local governments, businesses, and philanthropy is needed to ensure it remains a vital part of Ventura County's infrastructure.

For more information, please contact First 5 Ventura County at assistant@first5ventura.org.