

COVID-19

CHALLENGES FACED BY VIRGINIA FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDERS

Child Care Aware of Virginia conducted a statewide survey of child care providers from May 13 through September 4 to capture the challenges faced by child care centers and home-based providers. This brief describes the responses from family child care home programs.

Four out of five (80%) home-based providers who responded to the survey reported that they were open at the time they completed the survey. Therefore, survey responses are mostly a reflection of the challenges faced by these home-based professionals who may be struggling, but are still open for business.

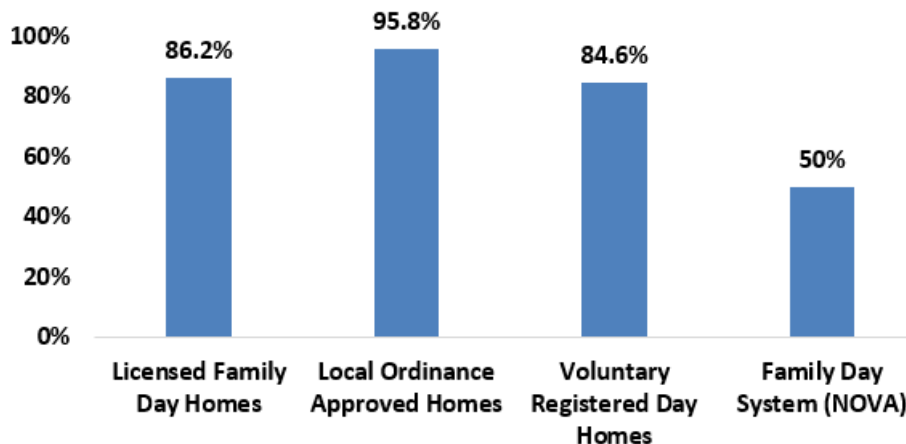


CURRENT CHILD CARE LANDSCAPE

The public health crisis has caused enormous financial difficulties for home-based child care programs. Our data over the course of the pandemic shows that child care homes were able to remain open at a much greater rate than centers, but home providers have suffered financially equally as much as their center-based counterparts. Home-based programs serve far fewer children than centers, but low enrollment fueled by high unemployment and anxiety still affected home-based operations, causing some to shut down entirely. Many home-based programs are open but still struggling to stay afloat. And unlike outside employment, home-based business owners can't leave their work or financial troubles at the office.

Currently, 88.2% of home-based child care programs statewide are open (although that varies by the type of home-based setting).

**COVID-19: VA Home-based Child Care
Open for Business**

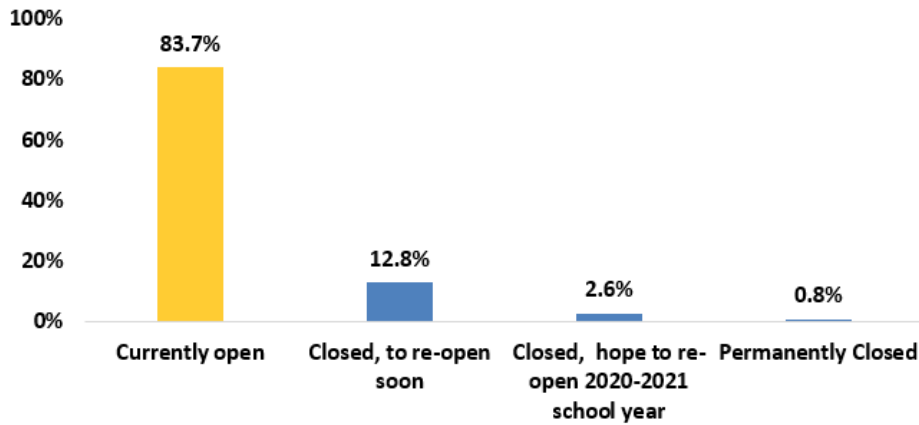




SURVEY RESULTS OVERVIEW

Statewide, 763 regulated home-based child care providers (about 27%) responded to the survey to share their experiences about operating a business that served the public during the pandemic unfolded.

COVID-19: VA Home-based Child Care Provider Operating Status of Survey Responders



Stafford. "It's been hard not being able to **pay my mortgage, bills, buy supplies and keep the business going.**"

CLOSURES: SINCE VA COVID EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED

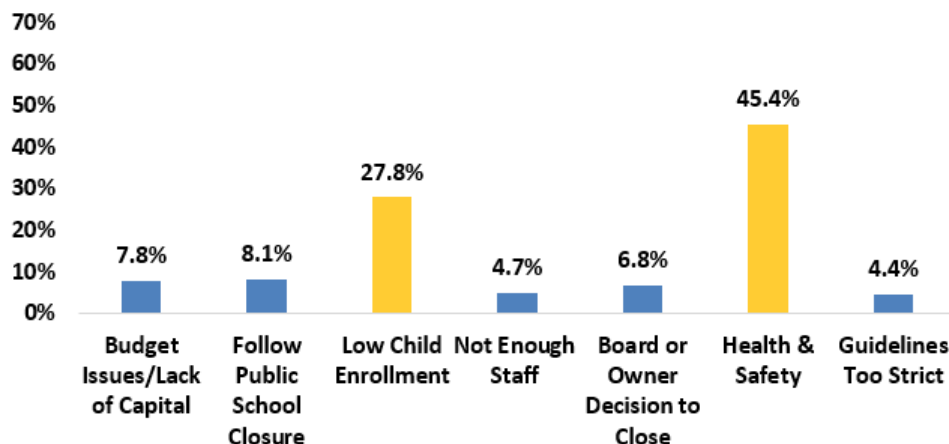
The survey found that 61.3% of home-based programs that responded remained open since executive orders were first issued in Virginia. This means that since March 2020, 38.7% of family child care providers that responded closed at some point, at least temporarily.

38.7%

OF HOME-BASED PROGRAMS CLOSED AT SOME POINT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Home-based care providers were asked about the factors that influenced their decision to close.

COVID-19: VA Home-based Child Care Provider Reasons for Closure



HOME-BASED STAFFING CHALLENGES

Providers were asked to select any staffing challenges due to COVID-19.

APPROXIMATELY

1 in 6

PROGRAMS HAD TO LAY OFF OR FURLOUGH STAFF

MANY PROVIDERS APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Home-based providers were asked about the types of assistance for which they applied for financial help.

Home-based providers could use more help.

Hundreds of comments from home-based providers statewide expressed frustration in trying to receive financial help. Some said they didn't know about available options. Some said they needed help. Many said their applications were rejected by the SBA or that their applications for unemployment assistance were denied. Others said they weren't good with computers and needed help to complete online applications.

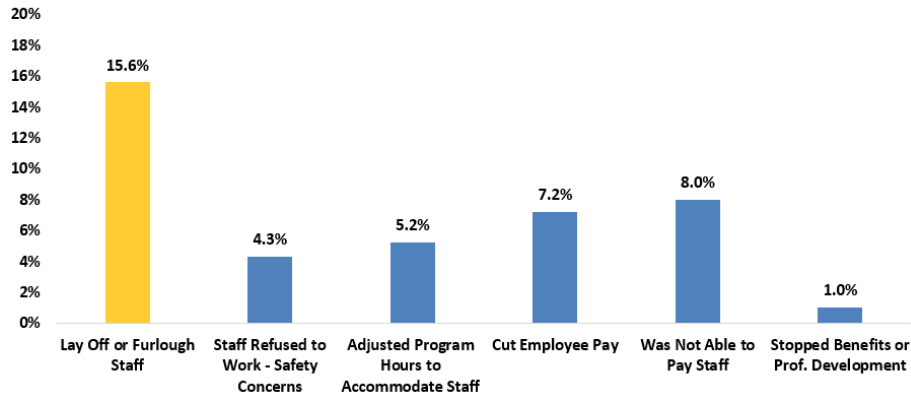


Fairfax. "I am applying for help because even though I am working, I have lost half of my income."

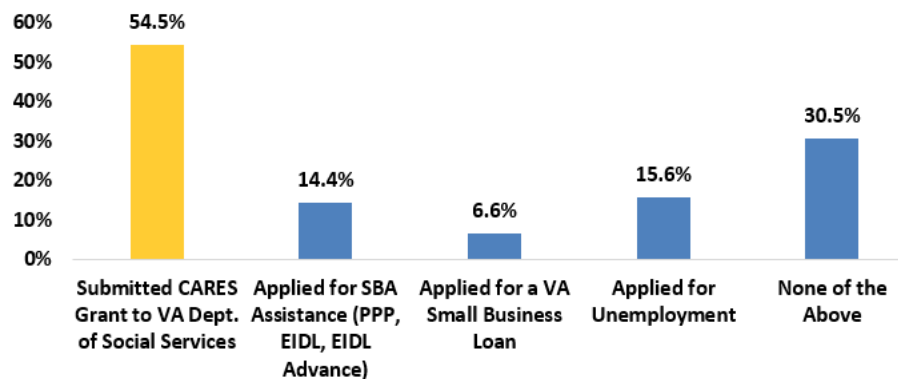
Lynchburg. "My mortgage is behind along with all my other bills. I was closed for 6 weeks. I am now operating at less than half of capacity."



COVID-19: VA Home-based Child Care Staffing Challenges



COVID-19: VA Home-based Child Care Providers who Applied for Financial Assistance



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Reston. "Having been in business for 31 years, this is the 1st time I was concerned about not being able to meet the needs of my families and staff. Having to lay off 2 assistants was hard to do, I kept them on as long as I could and went several weeks without pay myself. Having parents not wanting to pay and/or leaving was also hard because we (myself/staff/children) were not able to say good-bye. Financially this has been hard on all of us."

Ashburn. "I am having financial difficulties to keep open. Parents reduce the days they need us. I never know how much money comes in weekly."

Manassas. "All the extra purchases to keep the children safe has been hard. Stress level of "what if's" is off the charts. It's a huge responsibility keeping everyone safe."

Henrico. "I have had to pull from our personal family money to stay open. The grant money is nice but for a small daycare like mine, it doesn't cover rent. I am thankful for the help but it just isn't enough. I haven't closed a day so that my parents could continue to work as long as they had jobs."