NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting

June 3, 2020
Meeting Agenda

June 2020 Steering Committee

1. General Assembly
2. Strong Start: Grant Planning & Proposals
3. Conclusion
General Assembly

- Roll Call
- Adoption of Minutes
- Adoption of Agenda
- Committee Leadership
Strong Start
Grant Planning & Proposals

• **Context**
  • State of the Sector, Cont’d
  • Strong Start Overview
  • Network Needs Assessment

• **Proposals & Discussion**
  • Community Grant Proposals
  • Discussion
46% of licensed non-Head Start centers were open as of June 1.

23 centers plan to reopen in the month of June, bring the total up to 64% of pre-COVID-19 centers.

We have not received reopening dates for 33 (26%) centers, some of which may be planning to reopen in June as well.

We do not have good data on how many family child care homes continue to operate, but pre-COVID-19, 228 FCCs were registered with CACFP and an unknown number were unregistered.
ECE Sector Challenges

**Workforce**
- Many centers laid off employees, and many employees have not yet returned.
- Most centers can’t afford to provide bonuses and/or increase wages.

**Increased Health & Safety Standards**
- Phase 0-1 group size restrictions reduce the number of children centers can serve.
- Changes in group sizes & ratios increased labor costs and reduced the number of children most centers could serve, reducing revenue and increasing expenses.

**Demand Remains a Question Mark**
- 18.8% of workers in New Orleans were unemployed in April.
- Per the Census PULSE survey, 41% of Louisiana respondents in households with a child were not employed in mid-May; 52% had experienced loss of income
- Demand could also be down due to safety concerns from parents.
Continued Funding-CCAP, EHS, NSECD & LA4
• Public funding has provided significant stability to centers because they have paid centers based on enrollment, rather than attendance.
• Centers that rely primarily on tuition may be in a more precarious position.

SBA Assistance
• Some centers have benefitted from PPP and EIDL.

Help from LDE
• Health & Safety Supply Distribution (all centers, CCAP-registered providers)
• Emergency Child Care Relief Fund for all CCAP-eligible providers ($125/child of licensed capacity)
• Two rounds of LaCAP grants for open CCAP-eligible providers ($62.50 /child of licensed capacity in R1 and $187.50 /child of licensed capacity in R2)
• The median capacity of a private Type III center is 51. A typical center would be eligible for $6,375 if closed, or $19,125 if open during both rounds.
## Self-Identified Center Needs for Reopening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>“high need”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Support while Enrollment Builds</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>Start Up Funding</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>Cleaning Supplies</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<td>Protective Gear for Staff</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<td>Bonuses for Staff Incentives to Return</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<td>Enrollment support</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>A cleaning service to perform a deep-clean of the center</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<td>Marketing support</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Assistance in setting up hand washing stations in classrooms</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>General business support</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group trainings on how to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses in a center</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A consultant to help us assess and improve our sanitation and health and safety procedures and practices.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Voices of Directors

Receiving CCAP funds, even-though the children are not attending, has been extremely helpful. Without that assistance we would not be able to pay our employees so that we can stay open. Unfortunately, we are still acquiring a lot of debt because we are unable to pay our rent or other bills. Even after things get back to normal we will not be able to bring in enough tuition to pay our debt back without assistance.

Grants are great. Just hate that we're told what we can spend the money on. I've spent money from my savings to stay afloat and when I do receive the money from the grants, it's only certain things I'll be allowed to spend the money on.

I have continued to pay my employees during our closure and have applied for ppp loan so I don't have to shut my doors permanently and haven't heard back from the bank yet. If we don't get this loan I most likely will have to lay off everyone and could cause me close my doors permanently. I think childcare's should be top priority for funding so we can remain open. Without childcare our parents won't be able to go back to work. It's already hard enough to find childcare in [our neighborhood.
Voices of Directors

It will be a challenge to get staff to give up $600 unemployment to return to work for less.

I'm concerned that current students may not return right away due to fear of contracting COVID-19.

I'm a child care center for 87 childcare I had 57 childcare. When we reopen, we will only have 13 childcare. We are praying that we can come back from this.

My experience with DOE/DOH regulators pre-Covid-19 has been, for the most part, one of heavy-handed, inconsistent, one-sided and adversarial. During the pandemic, they have become helpful partners. It would be wonderful if their attitude and perspectives would remain the same once the pandemic is over.
• **LDOE's “Strong Start 2020”** campaign includes priorities & guidelines for recovery.

• One piece of this effort is the **Lead Agency Community Grant request and Plan:**
  
  • Community Plan:
    • Addresses sector-wide needs; incorporates network feedback.
    • Informed by *Strong Start priorities.*
  
  • Community Grants:
    • Designed to support child care to recover from the crisis.
    • Informed by *Community Plan priorities.*
Community Grants are designed to provide direct or indirect support to child care centers and/or families seeking child care. Grants:

- May be used to provide direct support to Type III child care centers only.
- May NOT be used to provide direct support to Head Start, Early Head Start, or public or private schools. Indirect support is permissible.
- Must identify “top 3 community needs;” articulate how funds will be used to address needs.
- For Phase I we will request the max $400,000 award.

Community Grants are due to LDOE next Friday, June 12, 2020.
The Strong Start 2020 Guidance outlines four primary priorities for restoring the sector, and which should be used to drive our Community Plan and our Community Grant:

1. Child care centers have the TOOLS & RESOURCES they need to reopen safely.
2. Communities sustain and/or INCREASE ACCESS in the near and long-term.
3. Teachers are prepared to provide HIGH QUALITY INTERACTIONS every day.
4. FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED to re-enroll children or provide quality care at home.
The Strong Start 2020 Guidance outlines **four primary “planning categories,”** which should be used to help in our planning work:

1. **HEALTH, SAFETY, & OPERATIONS:** Maintaining health and safety.
2. **SUSTAINING & EXPANDING ACCESS:** Sustaining and expanding access.
3. **CLASSROOM QUALITY:** Supporting socioemotional and academic growth.
4. **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT:** Engaging and supporting families.
Through our work across the region supporting centers to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, providing 1:1 coaching, facilitating directors’ collaboratives, analyzing sector-level impact across the state and nation, and working with partners from the education, non-profit, and research world, we have identified the following “Core Provider Concerns:”

- Increased costs due to lower adult-to-child ratios and group sizes
- Reduced revenues due to low enrollment
- Inability to acquire personal protective equipment, critical sanitation supplies
- Limited ability to incentivize staff to return
- Fear of illness among staff members and/or liability
NOEEN proposes to put the bulk of funds directly in the hands of centers, by way of low-barrier sub-grants addressing the reported core concerns.

Per grant requirements, we have condensed community needs to the following Top 3 Needs:

- Workforce Supports & Incentives
- Family Supports & Incentives
- General Administrative Support

NOEEN proposes to use any remaining funds to build an emergency reserve, in case of resurgence or shifting needs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOEEN Top 3</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Concerns it Addresses</th>
<th>LDOE Priority</th>
<th>LDOE Category</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workforce Supports &amp; Incentives</strong></td>
<td>Bonus pay, hazard pay, increased benefits, etc.</td>
<td>1. Incentivizing staff to return</td>
<td>1. Sustain or Increase Access</td>
<td>1. Sustaining or Expanding Access</td>
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<td>2. Fear of illness among staff</td>
<td>2. High quality interactions are supported</td>
<td>2. Classroom Quality</td>
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<td><strong>Family Supports &amp; Incentives</strong></td>
<td>Local scholarships, tuition-assistance, etc., investments in marketing / recruitment</td>
<td>1. Increased costs</td>
<td>1. Families are supported</td>
<td>1. Family engagements &amp; supports</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2. Reduced revenues</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>General Administrative</strong></td>
<td>Costs that have become prohibitive, such as facility, essential supplies.</td>
<td>1. Increased costs</td>
<td>1. Centers have the tools &amp; resources they need</td>
<td>1. Health, Safety, and Operations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Reduced revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Sustaining or Expanding Access</td>
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<td>3. Inability to acquire PPE</td>
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In determining our final Community Grant Proposal and Plan, we’re asking ourselves these questions:

- What values are we employing in determining our priorities for recovery? What values are we employing in determining how to distribute funds?

- What actions will make the biggest difference in short-term gains for the sector? Long-term gains?

- Are these the right categories of work to support for the purposes of this funding opportunity? Future funding opportunities?

- How prescriptive / restrictive should we be in determining how limited funds are used by centers in need?
Upcoming News & Next Steps

• Community Plan
• Lead Agency Update
• City Seats Update
• Committee Close Out
Thank You!