Childcare and the Economy



Wednesday, October 28th | 2-3 pm ET

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Jerletha McDonald, Founder - CEO Arlington DFW Child Care Arlington, Texas

Asset Funders Network, National Webinar Child Care Crisis Wednesday, October 28, 2020

My experience as a Family Child Care CEO









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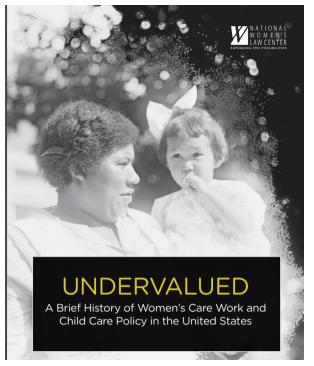
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Before COVID: A Brief Overview

- Inequitable, broken "system"
- Unaffordable & hard-tofind for families
- Underpaid & undervalued workforce
- Insufficient public funding & racial disparities in access to that funding







COVID Impact on Child Care



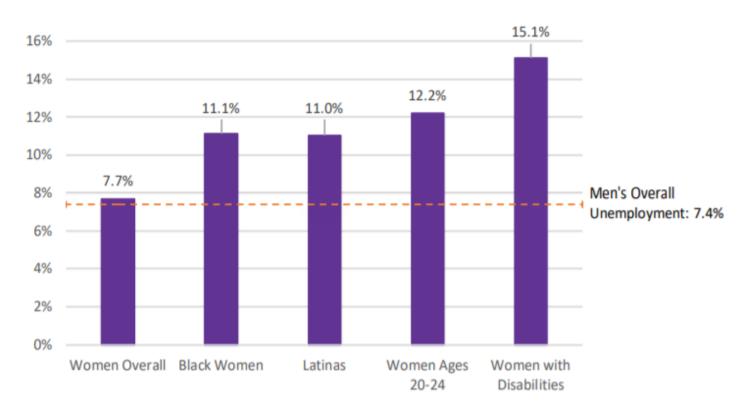
- Both families & providers losing out
- Higher operational costs + lower enrollment = unworkable math for providers
- 1-in-6 educators lost their jobs
- Family budgets strained due to job and income loss



The "She-cession"

- Women dropped out of the labor force in September at FOUR
 TIMES the rate of men, with additional disparities
- Caregiving a huge cause of this pushout

Women's Unemployment Rates (September 2020)





What Happens Without Action?

Cascading impacts that affect ALL of us:

- Children
- Mothers (and the families they support)
- Women working in child care
- Businesses and our economy



Big Takeaways

- The fight for child care is fundamentally about gender and racial equity
- This needs to show up both in policy and research and also how we do our work

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR & MOVING FORWARD

Lea Austin, Director
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment
Asset Funders Network, National Webinar – Child Care Crisis
Wednesday, October 28, 2020



Women make up 95% of the early educators, women of color constitute ~40%

Median wage is \$12.12 an hour

Early educators experience poverty at rates that are four to fourteen times higher than K-12 teachers

Black women are paid on average \$0.78 less per hour than their white peers





Sources: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment and California Department of Public Health



"The pressure from the community to open is extreme, and there seems to be very little concern on the part of the parents for the health of the staff and/or the older members of their own families."

— California child care provider, July 2020



Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, "California Child Care in Crisis: The escalating impacts of COVID-19 as California reopens child care"

COVID-19 IMPACT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS

California

- 49% of FCC have not paid themselves
- 1 in 5 missed a rent or mortgage payment
- more than 1 in 3 do not have enough funds to pay for the PPE or cleaning/sanitizing supplies they need

Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, "California Child Care in Crisis: The escalating impacts of COVID-19 as California reopens child care"

Oregon

- 49% worried about the health and safety of themselves, their staff and the children that would be in their care
- 27% cannot afford to stay open with reduced group

SiZeS Source: University of Virginia, EdPolicyWorks; UCLA, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, "Child Care Leaders' Experiences with COVID-19: First Findings from the Study of Early Education in Louisiana"

Louisiana

- 56% of site leaders have not received a salary
- 23% of site leaders have no healthcare benefits

Source: Oregon Early Learning Division, "Oregon Child Care and COVID-19: Provider Perspectives through Reopening"





Q & A



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