



de la Guerra, Sheila General Public Comment

**From:** Stephanie Saucedo <Stephanie.Saucedo@ciymca.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 10:03 AM  
**To:** sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Support our Child care Providers in Santa Barbara County

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Clerk of the Board  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Investing ARPA Funds into Child Care

Dear County Supervisors:

This letter is in support of the ARPA Child Care funding proposal submitted to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors by the Emergency Child Care Initiative (ECCI), item 4.

We have had many in-home childcare providers retire due to the Pandemic drastically limiting numbers of cohorting, expenses due to keeping children safe from COVID, and parents just being afraid to possibly exposing their children to the virus. The YMCA has incurred some drastic expenses to ensure staff and children are safe. This pandemic has hit my programs in two ways:

1. ASES, a once thriving state funded program, is not only at 40% capacity because parents are too afraid to put their kids in the program. It's just one more group of kids to be exposed to and possible bring the virus home to the household
2. Fee based childcare is seeing the same issue, but also it is becoming more expensive to run due to all the cleaning and sanitation that is require to keep the virus at bay. This means more financial aid is given out and or parent do not utilize the program and instead quit their job to be a stay at home parent to save money.
3. Staffing has been a challenge. In a country where ever industry is struggling to fill onsite or in person position this affects how many children we can enroll in to our programs.

Child care is a pillar of our local infrastructure, and the economy is negatively impacted when child care is not available. I encourage the County and cities of Santa Barbara County to invest American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds in critically needed relief and recovery funds for the child care sector.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Saucedo**  
Department Head of Youth Programs  
**LOMPOC FAMILY YMCA**  
*a branch of the Channel Islands YMCA*

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