



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COLLABORATIVE

#3



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 Santa Barbara County Board of 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 on the October 5 meeting agenda. I am writing on behalf of the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), Santa Barbara county's Small Business Development Center. Our Advisors have worked with childcare providers to help them solve business problems that would otherwise hinder their ability to run successful enterprises supporting families in Santa Barbara County.

Our county and regional economic recovery is intrinsically connected to the availability of quality and affordable childcare. Without this resource, working parents are constrained in the economic opportunities available to them to support their families, and a lack of affordable childcare perpetuates the barriers to economic empowerment for women and minorities. Additionally, without adequate childcare for working parents, local businesses are not able to source the workers they need to recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. This investment will help ensure the problem doesn't worsen, while also increasing the engagement of individual childcare providers with support systems which can improve the quality of their operations and prepare them for potential expansion. Our Advisors at the Small Business Development Center are available to support business owners transform the county's investment of ARPA funding into improved business processes, increased marketing and outreach, and sound financial management.

Childcare is a pillar of our local infrastructure, and the economy is negatively impacted when childcare 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 childcare sector.

Sincerely,

Shelby Arthur
Economic Development Collaborative
Strategic Alliance Associate
Santa Barbara County