

Rebuild Santa Barbara County's Economy by Investing ARPA Funds in Child Care

County Board of Supervisors - October 5, 2021

Presentation by Santa Barbara County Emergency Child Care Initiative



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Considered Actions

Board of Supervisors allocates \$2 M in ARPA funds for the Emergency Child Care Initiative, led by the Santa Barbara Foundation, to provide immediate relief and coordinated recovery support to the child care sector for 3 years.

- **Immediate child care relief grants**
- **Critical child care sector recovery support**

All cities asked to collectively contribute an additional \$500K





Economic Recovery Depends on Child Care

- Child care impacts everyone.
- The pandemic exacerbated the pre-existing local shortage of needed care.
- Lack of child care paralyzes parents' ability to return to work.
- Stress, financial losses, and challenges impede recovery.
- Immediate relief needed for private child care businesses:
 - **Average \$14K lost revenue - family child care programs**
 - **Average \$68K lost revenue – centers**





The Economy Cannot Fully Recover Unless Women Fully Participate in the Workforce

- **Equity is needed for women at home and the workplace.**
- **Child care sector is owned and operated by women.**
 - Female small business owners, especially women of color, are more likely to be declined for loans and pay higher interest rates.
 - Less than 1% of lending through the Paycheck Protection Program was distributed to child care providers.*
- **Mass exodus of women from the workforce due to child care.**
 - Women account for 80% of the total population who exited the workforce.*
 - 75% of local parents who took on additional child care duties during the pandemic are women.**



*<https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/June-Jobs-Day.pdf>

**https://www.sbfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-PDF_COVID19-County-Report.pdf



Top Reasons to Fund Child Care Relief and Recovery

1. Relief and recovery of child care sector is critical to Santa Barbara County's economic recovery.
2. Strategies clearly align with ARPA priorities and timeline.
3. ARPA strategies target critical needs that are not sufficiently addressed by state and federal funds.
4. Strategies are comparable to allocation of ARPA funds by other counties and cities.
5. A strong private-public partnership and infrastructure is in place for implementation.
6. This is an opportunity for government to partner and continue the child care relief and recovery work that has been started.

