



Santa Barbara County Education Office Children and Family Resource Services



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.

Our 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 themselves recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. This investment will help ensure the problem doesn't get worse, while also increasing the engagement of individual child care providers with support systems which can improve the quality of their operations and prepare them for potential expansion.

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,

MaryEllen Rehse

Director

Children and Family Resource Services

Our Mission

To improve the health outcomes for children in Santa Barbara County by increasing access to preventive health and social services and improving community capacity and the ability of early education and care providers, teachers, and parents to respond to the children's physical and behavioral issues.

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