FUNDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

A survey was sent out through the Child Care Resource and Referral network, open to responses from November to December 2018, asking providers, directors, administrators, and teachers from across the state and varying setting-types to share their realities. Here is what we heard:

CURRENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES ARE TOO LOW FOR MOST CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO MAKE A LIVING

78% OF PROVIDERS WHO RESPONDED ARE SERVING AT LEAST ONE CHILD WITH A SUBSIDY MEANING a significant part of the sector are financially impacted by the state-set market and reimbursement rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within each setting type...</th>
<th>% with at least half of their children on subsidy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For-Profit Center</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Center</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Home</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Family Child Care Home</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT WAGES LOOK LIKE

Providers, directors, and administrators shared the average hourly wages and hours worked per week for themselves and/or lead teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lead Teacher - Masters</th>
<th>Lead - Bachelor</th>
<th>Lead - Associates</th>
<th>Lead - CDA</th>
<th>Full Time Hours/ Week</th>
<th>Part Time Hours/ Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center For-Profit</td>
<td>$21.64</td>
<td>$17.25</td>
<td>$14.63</td>
<td>$13.31</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Non-Profit</td>
<td>$19.21</td>
<td>$16.28</td>
<td>$13.71</td>
<td>$12.43</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCC Home</td>
<td>$14.50</td>
<td>$13.60</td>
<td>$10.85</td>
<td>$56.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFCC Home</td>
<td>$17.87</td>
<td>$15.68</td>
<td>$13.83</td>
<td>$10.63</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT YOU DON’T SEE

Average does not demonstrate the range of pay and hours reported, nor does it show what low wages truly look like to some providing this valuable service.

One Family Child Care provider reported working 76 hours/week on average, with an annual salary that would equate to $55.00/hour.

A Group Family Child Care provider reported working 68 hours/week on average, with an annual salary that would equate to $3.34/hour.

PROVIDERS ARE STRUGGLING TO PAY STAFF THE INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE AND OFFER BASIC BENEFITS

82% OF TEACHERS WHO RESPONDED SAID THAT THE PAY THEY RECEIVE IS INADEQUATE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

Percentage Offering Benefits

ACCORDING TO A 2018 BERKELEY STUDY 65% of New York child care worker families are participating in at least one public income support of health care program (EITC, Medicaid and CHIP, SNAP, and/or TANF).
IMMIGRANT PARENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ACCESSING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTERED PUBLIC BENEFITS

ONE OUT OF THREE

Survey respondents reported that immigrant families they serve are concerned about accessing child care subsidies and/or other public benefits.

BARRIERS NY SHOULD ADDRESS

The online application for child care subsidies is not available in top languages.

Prioritizing TANF recipients can limit immigrant family access because requirements are more stringent.

Asking for social security numbers without explaining why can discourage immigrant families from applying for fear of exposing themselves or their family members.

Quick Reference: Setting Types

- Center-Based/ Day Care Center (DCC) - provide care to an enrolled group of 7 or more children at a facility other than a personal residence. Maximum capacity is driven by square footage allowance.
- Family Child Care/ Family Day Care Home (FCC/FDCH) - provide care to more than 2 non-relative children in a residence. Maximum capacity: 8 children/caregiver.
- Group Family Child Care/ Group Family Day Care Home (GFCC/GFDCH) - provide care to more than 2 non-relative children in a residence. Maximum capacity: 16 children/ 2 caregivers.

Quick Reference: N-Size

Provider/Director/Administrator = 310
Teacher/Assistant Teacher = 161

WHAT YOU DON’T SEE

High staff turnover directly impacts the child:caregiver ratio, putting programs at risk of closure. Changes in staffing are highly disruptive to the learning process of children. Those who suffer most from high staff turnover are already negatively impacted by poverty.

IMPACT OF MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Increasing the minimum wage to support Cost of Living increases is necessary. However, we must always be mindful of who will carry the burden of those costs. In this case, the child care sector is being so severely underfunded that the cost will fall on:

- Families who will pay more out-of-pocket for care.
- Child Care Workforce who lose hours, benefits, or positions.
- The Business Owners who lose profit or close programs.

HIGH STAFF TURNOVER IS OCCURRING, WHICH NEGATIVELY IMPACTS CHILD LEARNING

Top Reasons Given for Leaving

FCC Home

- Inadequate wages
- Lack of benefits
- Lack of professional development or career advancement
- Other lacking working conditions that would attract and retain workforce

Families

- Frequency of responses

- Highest # reported

Between January and November 2018

- Average # of staff lost
- Highest # reported

For-Profit Center 3.3 20
Non-Profit Center 4.7 20
FCC Home .08 1
GFCC Home .78 12

TOP REASONS GIVEN FOR LEAVING

High staff turnover directly impacts the child:caregiver ratio, putting programs at risk of closure. Changes in staffing are highly disruptive to the learning process of children. Those who suffer most from high staff turnover are already negatively impacted by poverty.