



A Regional Look at California Child Care at the Brink

Understanding the Impact of COVID-19

Between April 13 and April 30, 2020, the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) conducted a brief survey of licensed child care centers and licensed family child care (FCC) programs to understand the effects of COVID-19 on child care programs and early educators throughout California. More than 2,000 programs responded to the survey: 34 percent were centers and 66 percent were family child care programs. The statewide data and recommendations from CSCCE are summarized in the previously released [California Child Care at the Brink](#) data snapshot.

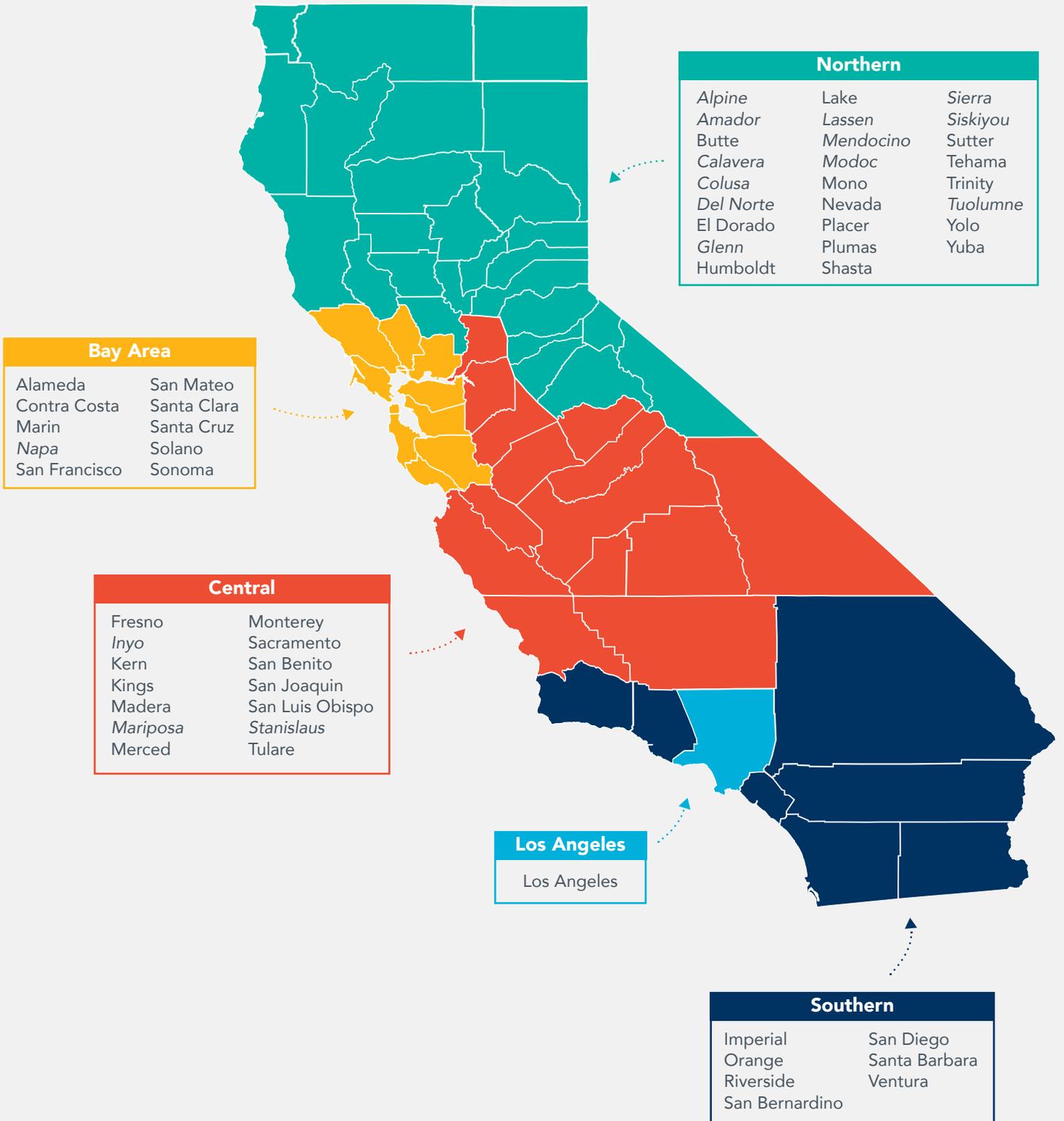
In order to understand the varied impacts of COVID-19 across geographical regions, we also analyzed the data at the regional level for five regions: Northern California, the Bay Area, Central California, Los Angeles, and Southern California. Across data points, we identified differences among regions and variations from the state average. For example, while 34 percent of centers across the state reported that they were open, in the Northern region 57 percent of centers were open and in the Bay Area 19 percent of centers were open.

For each of the five regions, we report key findings related to the fiscal, administrative, and staffing challenges programs face, as well as the need for clear regulatory guidance. The survey was voluntary and shared by word of mouth; respondents in each region may not be representative of the regional population. However, the distribution of respondents by program type and region in the sample approximated the distribution in the population of child care programs across the state.

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California Regions

The 2,158 programs that responded to our survey are located throughout California. For regional analysis, we divided the state into the five regions represented here, each comprised of one or more counties, as indicated below. In some cases, we did not receive any responses from programs in a given county—those counties are indicated with italicized names below.



Northern California



106 programs responded to the survey

30 center-based programs → **57%** of centers remained open

76 family child care homes → **76%** of FCC programs remained open

Finances

Financial Challenges

- o 78% of all programs reported that they had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income
- o 70% of all programs experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying

Financial Support

- o 63% of all programs indicated that they would like low-interest or forgivable loans
- o 46% of all programs indicated that they would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure

Staffing Changes

- o 82% of all programs made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)
- o 43% of all programs laid off staff
- o 17% of all programs furloughed staff

Administrative Challenges

- o 64% of open programs reported difficulty obtaining cleaning or sanitizing supplies and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- o 83% of open programs indicated that they would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services
- o 20% of open programs indicated that they were having difficulty obtaining food for their program

Regulatory Guidance

- o 35% of all programs reported that they would like clear guidance on regulatory changes (e.g., closures, social distancing, ratios)
- o 13% of open programs were still serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population
- o 4% of open programs were exclusively serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population

Bay Area



559 programs responded to the survey

183 center-based programs → **19%** of centers remained open

376 family child care homes → **53%** of FCC programs remained open

Finances

Financial Challenges

- o 58% of all programs reported that they had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income
- o 57% of all programs experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying

Financial Support

- o 63% of all programs indicated that they would like low-interest or forgivable loans
- o 59% of all programs indicated that they would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure

Staffing Changes

- o 72% of all programs made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)
- o 22% of all programs laid off staff
- o 33% of all programs furloughed staff

Administrative Challenges

- o 59% of open programs reported difficulty obtaining cleaning or sanitizing supplies and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- o 63% of open programs indicated that they would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services
- o 18% of open programs indicated that they were having difficulty obtaining food for their program

Regulatory Guidance

- o 42% of all programs reported that they would like clear guidance on regulatory changes (e.g., closures, social distancing, ratios)
- o 24% of open programs were still serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population
- o 4% of open programs were exclusively serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population

Central California



315 programs responded to the survey

112 center-based programs → **45%** of centers remained open

203 family child care homes → **83%** of FCC programs remained open

Finances

Financial Challenges

- o 65% of all programs reported that they had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income
- o 63% of all programs experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying

Financial Support

- o 64% of all programs indicated that they would like low-interest or forgivable loans
- o 48% of all programs indicated that they would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure

Staffing Changes

- o 79% of all programs made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)
- o 37% of all programs laid off staff
- o 29% of all programs furloughed staff

Administrative Challenges

- o 66% of open programs reported difficulty obtaining cleaning or sanitizing supplies and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- o 66% of open programs indicated that they would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services
- o 26% of open programs indicated that they were having difficulty obtaining food for their program

Regulatory Guidance

- o 37% of all programs reported that they would like clear guidance on regulatory changes (e.g., closures, social distancing, ratios)
- o 20% of open programs were still serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population
- o 3% of open programs were exclusively serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population

Los Angeles



364 programs responded to the survey

127 center-based programs → **29%** of centers remained open

237 family child care homes → **76%** of FCC programs remained open

Finances

Financial Challenges

- o 71% of all programs reported that they had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income
- o 61% of all programs experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying

Financial Support

- o 64% of all programs indicated that they would like low-interest or forgivable loans
- o 62% of all programs indicated that they would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure

Staffing Changes

- o 76% of all programs made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)
- o 34% of all programs laid off staff
- o 29% of all programs furloughed staff

Administrative Challenges

- o 65% of open programs reported difficulty obtaining cleaning or sanitizing supplies and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- o 70% of open programs indicated that they would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services
- o 23% of open programs indicated that they were having difficulty obtaining food for their program

Regulatory Guidance

- o 37% of all programs reported that they would like clear guidance on regulatory changes (e.g., closures, social distancing, ratios)
- o 43% of open programs were still serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population
- o 7% of open programs were exclusively serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population

Southern California



814 programs responded to the survey

270 center-based programs▶ **39%** of centers remained open

544 family child care homes▶ **80%** of FCC programs remained open

Finances

Financial Challenges

- 69% of all programs reported that they had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income
- 62% of all programs experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying

Financial Support

- 61% of all programs indicated that they would like low-interest or forgivable loans
- 55% of all programs indicated that they would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure

Staffing Changes

- 81% of all programs made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)
- 35% of all programs laid off staff
- 31% of all programs furloughed staff

Administrative Challenges

- 60% of open programs reported difficulty obtaining cleaning or sanitizing supplies and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- 71% of open programs indicated that they would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services
- 21% of open programs indicated that they were having difficulty obtaining food for their program

Regulatory Guidance

- 34% of all programs reported that they would like clear guidance on regulatory changes (e.g., closures, social distancing, ratios)
- 29% of open programs were still serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population
- 6% of open programs were exclusively serving children who were not from families of essential workers and not from an at-risk population

Appendix: Comparison Across Regions

	Characteristic	Statewide	Northern	Bay Area	Central	Los Angeles	Southern
Overview	Number of respondents	2,158	106	559	315	364	814
	Number of center-based respondents	722	30	183	112	127	270
	Centers that were open	34%	57%	19%	45%	29%	39%
	Number of family child care respondents	1,436	76	376	203	237	544
	FCC programs that were open	72%	76%	53%	83%	76%	80%
Finances	Programs that had families who were unable to pay due to loss of jobs or income	66%	78%	58%	65%	71%	69%
	Programs that experienced loss of income due to low attendance or families not paying	61%	70%	57%	63%	61%	62%
	Programs that would like low-interest or forgivable loans	62%	63%	63%	64%	64%	61%
	Programs that would like financial resources to cover operating and staff costs during a closure	56%	46%	59%	48%	62%	55%
Staffing	Programs that made staffing changes (e.g., laid off staff, cut benefits)	78%	82%	72%	79%	76%	81%
	Programs that laid off staff	32%	43%	22%	37%	34%	35%
	Programs that furloughed staff	30%	17%	33%	29%	29%	31%
Administrative Challenges	Open programs that reported difficulty obtaining cleaning/sanitizing supplies and/or PPE	62%	64%	59%	66%	65%	60%
	Open programs that would like mini-grants for cleaning supplies and/or sanitizing services	69%	83%	63%	66%	70%	71%
	Open programs that said they were having difficulty obtaining food	21%	20%	18%	26%	23%	21%
Regulatory Guidance	Programs that would like clear guidance	37%	35%	42%	37%	37%	34%
	Open programs that were serving children not of essential workers or from an at-risk population	28%	13%	24%	20%	43%	29%
	Open programs that were exclusively serving children not of essential workers or from an at-risk population	6%	4%	7%	3%	7%	6%