



March 20, 2020

To: Michigan Congressional Staff

From: Matt Gillard, President and CEO, Michigan's Children

RE: Network Learnings Informing COVID-19 Investment Response

Early Intervention – Special Ed Part C and Infant Mental Health

Differences in accessibility impacting service delivery options. Some provider are volunteering to connect with children and families, but others aren't. Family access to technology is a big concern, both for families and for evaluation and assessment standards for staff.

NEED TO BUILD SOME CONSISTENT STANDARDS FOR SERVICE PROVISION AND SUPPORTS FOR THOSE TO HAPPEN ALL OVER THE STATE.

Concern about referrals and eligibility determinations piling up and the ability to catch up on service provision AND plan for an influx of referrals all at once when programs are reopening.

NEED TO ENSURE FUNDING STRUCTURES THAT ALLOW FOR CATCH-UP.

Work on telehealth for home visitors is happening, but some families served may not have the technology they need in order to engage in telehealth.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS MUST BE PART OF RESOURCE CONVERSATIONS IN MANY SERVICE DELIVERY SPACES.

Families face barriers to the supports/behavioral health treatment needed. They are faced with job loss and the potential to have to put their special needs children in child care that may not be appropriate for them. Some school districts are providing pick up as well as delivery of breakfast and lunches daily, but not sure that this is available everywhere.

ENSURING THAT PROPOSALS PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS AND CHILD CARE WORK FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES.

WIC closings are impacting family access to diapers and formula, as well as information for new moms, who need to attend well checks or expecting mothers on how labor and delivery may be handled differently during the crisis.

WIC SERVICE CONTINUATION MUST BE PART OF LOCAL HEALTH STRATEGIES.

Recognition of possible increase in abuse and neglect due to the increased levels of stress over the COVID-19 crisis, as well as all children being home at this time. In some counties, court has been closed and will only be holding emergency hearings and in person family visitations have been suspended. There are real gaps in children to have contact with their biological parents (face time, phone calls, video chatting etc.)

MANY UNKNOWN FOR THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. STABILITY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MUST BE PROTECTED IN POLICY WAIVERS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Child Care – CCDBG, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other School Age Care

Like other small businesses, fully one-quarter of all providers responding could not survive closing for more than two weeks, without support; and one in six said they wouldn't survive a closure of any length of time without supports. Fully half of the respondents were family child care providers. They are saying loud and clear

THAT THEIR BUSINESS WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT HELP.

Thirty percent have lost income because they are paid by attendance rather than enrollment, and over half have lost income based on families' inability to pay. Four in 10 report parents who are unable to pay them anything, even fees or copays.

FAMILIES ARE UNABLE TO PAY FOR CHILD CARE WITHOUT SOME FINANCIAL RESOURCE DIRECTLY TO THEM AS WELL.

In light of school closures, students will need more support than ever before due to missed class time and opportunities. At the same time, families whose incomes will be severely impacted will have trouble with tuition/fees paying for programs. The need for more programs will be significant and families will be stretched even more than they are now.

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS BECOME EVEN MORE CRITICAL AS CHILDREN AND YOUTH FALL FURTHER BEHIND DUE TO CANCELLED SCHOOLS. INCREASED RESOURCES IN THE FUTURE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED.

Families have been asking for help with food, cleaning products and toiletries as well as academic supports for students. One provider in Detroit surveyed all parents, and learned the following:

1. The critical importance of informing parents in multiple languages. **MANDATES FOR INFORMATION IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AND FUNDING FOR TRANSLATION MUST BE AVAILABLE.**
2. The need for **STATEWIDE CONSISTENCY AND FLEXIBILITY IN AVAILABILITY OF AFTERSCHOOL MEALS/SNACKS PROGRAMS.**