

Child Care Aware® of America and Save the Children Action Network surveyed voters on federal child care relief in light of the COVID-19 pandemic¹:

Those surveyed are anxious about the pandemic's effect on the child care industry.

- 70% of voters recognize that the pandemic has been **damaging to the child care industry specifically**—a larger share than those who say that the manufacturing or oil & gas sectors have been damaged.
- Nearly half (47%) of parents of children 18 years and younger have **personally had to make changes** to their child care routine.

Voters overwhelmingly support broad, industry specific federal assistance.

Four in five voters support the child care industry receiving targeted financial assistance from the federal government to address the impact of COVID-19, including 93% of Democrats and 70% of Republicans. Half of voters strongly support this idea. When asked about specific forms of federal assistance:

- There is an increase to 87% support **for direct federal assistance for child care providers** during the COVID-19 crisis so child care providers can meet payroll and pay rent and utilities.
 - This support is overwhelmingly bipartisan, with 94% of Democrats and 82% of Republicans in favor of Congress taking this action.
 - Even 76% of voters who oppose universal child care say they support this policy
- 78% support the federal government **reimbursing essential workers for child care costs** paid during the coronavirus pandemic. 53% strongly support such reimbursements.
- 78% support federal assistance to **increase pay for child care workers** who continue to offer services for children of front line workers, despite increased risks and strains on the system. 50% strongly support such increased pay.

Support for child care crosses partisan, racial, generational, and economic boundaries.

When asked about support direct federal assistance for child care providers during the COVID-19 crisis so child care providers can meet payroll and pay rent and utilities, support comes from **every segment of the population**, including:

- 82% of Republicans, 94% of Democrats and 84% of independents
- 84% of men and 89% of women
- 91% of 18-34 year olds and 79% of voters over 65
- 87% of both those with and without young kids.
- 87% of White, 96% of African American and 92% of Hispanic voters
- 90% of urban, 86% of suburban and 85% of rural voters
- More than 85% of voters in every region of the country

What comes next?

Child care should be viewed as core infrastructure in the United States and should be funded as such. Without child care a large portion of the workforce would be unable to work and the economy would suffer as a result. Poll results show that voters are acutely aware of the need to support the child care industry, and are overwhelmingly supportive of immediate federal financial assistance. Congress must act immediately to ensure that the child care industry can weather this crisis so that it can provide critical support necessary for businesses to re-open, for employees to return to work, and for the American economy to begin its recovery.

For additional information on potential policy solutions, contact Mary Nugent with SCAN at mnugent@savechildren.org, or Anne Hedgepeth with CCAoA at anne.hedgepeth@usa.childcareaware.org.

¹ 1,200 registered voters were surveyed April 11-15 2020. The survey was jointly conducted in a bipartisan manner by TargetPoint Consulting (R) and GQR (D). The margin of error is +/- 2.8%. For more information on methodology, please see the following analysis memo: <https://www.savethechildrenactionnetwork.org/articles/national-survey-findings-on-child-care-in-the-age-of-coronavirus>