

# Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children (AzAEYC)



Dr. Eric Bucher  
Executive Director,  
AzAEYC  
[ebucher@azaeyc.org](mailto:ebucher@azaeyc.org)  
623-297-9520



[@EZBucher](https://www.facebook.com/EZBucher)



[@EZBucher](https://twitter.com/EZBucher)



[Eric Bucher](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ericbucher)



[Arizona AEYC](https://www.instagram.com/ArizonaAEYC)



# Early Childhood Policy Update: The National Landscape

Arizona Head Start Association  
Board Meeting  
August 20, 2020



**azaeyc**

Arizona Association for the  
Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of **naeyc**

# Arizona's NAEYC Affiliates



AzAEYC and SAZAEYC are Arizona's Sister **Affiliates of NAEYC** and are both non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organizations.

AzAEYC and SAZAEYC **collaborate statewide** by offering **PD opportunities**, advancing equitable **public policy**, and supporting continued **quality improvement** efforts.

This is a social and racial *justice* issue, an economic issue, an *equity* issue.



<https://nwlc.org/resources/child-care-in-crisis-stories-from-the-field/>

### ALMA, ARIZONA

I was furloughed in March due to the pandemic. In May, we were told we would be working from home for about a month. During this time I no longer had child care so I advised my managers of the change. I was told I had to return and be available Monday through Wednesday 7-7 Thursday 10-7 and Friday and Saturday 8-4. I asked if going part time was an option due to limited child care hours I could only work 9-3. They denied my request. I was forced to resign on June 3rd because of no flexibility with child care. This has really impacted my living situation and it's disturbing that corporations are not willing to be more flexible with parents with children.

# Current Realities

- Survey from NAEYC
- More than 5,000 childcare providers (66 from Arizona)
- From all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico

“If help doesn’t come—and soon—in order to save childcare, **there will be little left of childcare to save.**”

**naeyc** National Association for the Education of Young Children

## Holding On Until Help Comes

A Survey Reveals Child Care's Fight to Survive  
July 13, 2020

Our nation's children, families, early childhood educators, and businesses long have been denied the level of public investment necessary to ensure a thriving, high-quality child care system. Now, the lack of sufficient public investment in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced families, educators, and child care programs into a series of impossible choices between health, safety, quality, and financial solvency.

In telling their stories, child care providers have made it clear that they are doing everything they can to hold their programs together: scrimping, spending down savings, and sacrificing their own income. But the financial cliff is looming, and a new survey from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) of more than 5,000 child care providers from all 50 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico, shows that if help doesn't come—and soon—in order to save child care, there will be little left of child care to save. The US economy will suffer the consequences as families returning to work can't find quality, reliable care for their children.

In telling their stories, child care providers have made it clear that they are doing everything they can to

Among the key findings:

- 2/5** Approximately two out of five respondents—and half of those who are minority-owned businesses—are certain that they will close permanently without additional public assistance.
- 18%** Nationally, 18% of child care centers and 9% of family child care homes remain closed.
- 86%** Of those who are open, 86% of respondents are serving fewer children now than they were prior to the pandemic. On average, enrollment is down by 67%.
- 70%** At the same time, upwards of 70% of child care centers are incurring substantial, additional costs for staff (72%), cleaning supplies (92%), and personal protective equipment (81%).
- 1/4** One in four early childhood educators reported that they have applied for or received unemployment benefits, while a full 73% of programs indicated that they have or will engage in layoffs, furloughs, and/or pay cuts. For minority-owned businesses, the situation is worse; only 12% have not resorted to these measures in order to survive.

You can find updated statements and recommendations on [NAEYC's COVID-19 resources page](#) and can always reach out via email at [advocacy@naeyc.org](mailto:advocacy@naeyc.org) with questions and to share your stories.

1/4

# Childcare Closures Nationally



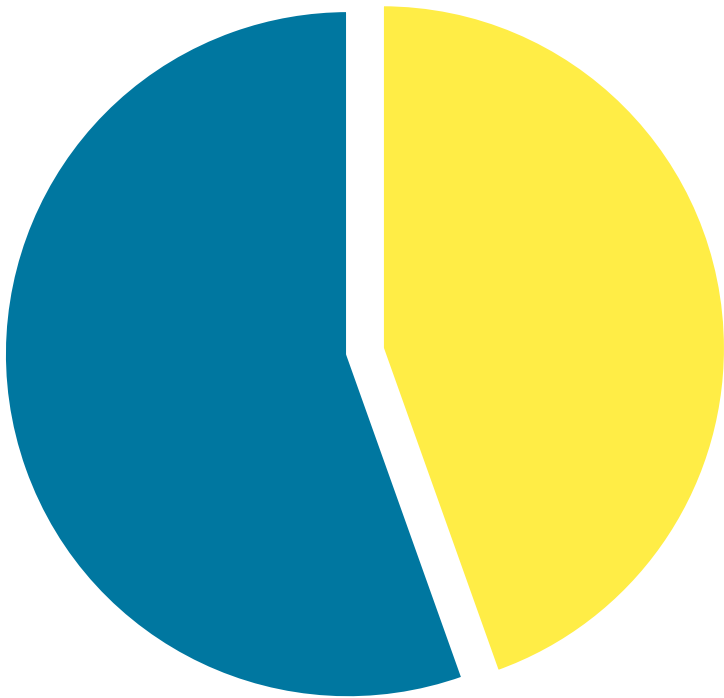
18%

Nationally as of July 2020, 18% of childcare centers **remained closed.**

9%

Nationally, 9% of family childcare homes **remained closed.**

# Childcare Closures in Arizona



Now, nearly 1 out of every 2 Arizona Department of Health Services licensed early care and education providers (56%) are **closed indefinitely**.

Currently, 1 in 2 childcare providers nationwide are closed indefinitely.

# Children and Families Impacted

4.5M

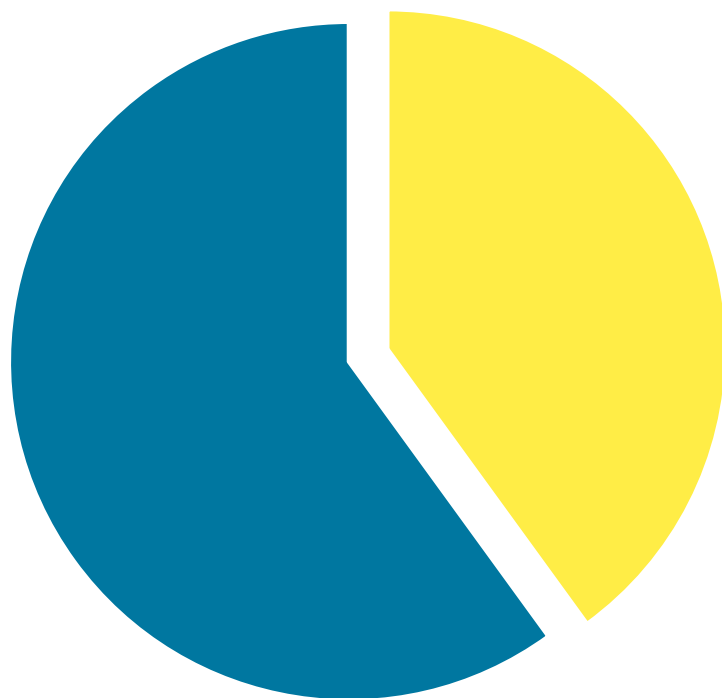
childcare slots will be **permanently lost** nationally with these widespread closures.

105,851

childcare slots in Arizona could be **lost without significant investment.**



# Childcare Closures Nationally



Nationally, 2 out of 5 respondents—and half of those who are minority-owned businesses—are **certain that they will close permanently** without additional public assistance.

# Arizona Data Mirrors the National Landscape



**29%** would not survive closing for more than 2 weeks without public investment

**21%** would not survive closure of any length of time without supports

**20%** do not know how long they would be able to close their doors and be able to reopen without these supports

# Enrollment Decreases



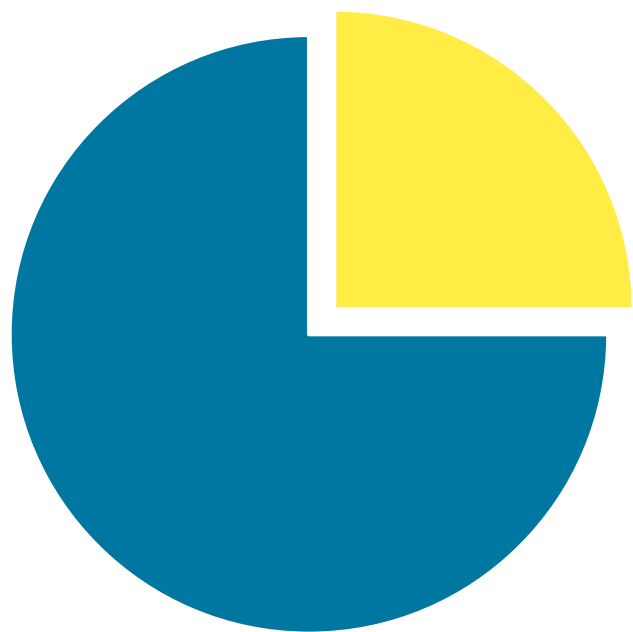
86%

Of those open nationally, 86% are **serving fewer children** now than they were prior to the pandemic.

67%

On average, **enrollment is down** by 67%.

# Early Childhood Educator Unemployment



Nationally, one in four early childhood educators reported that they have applied for or received **unemployment** benefits.

# Early Childhood Educator Unemployment

The Department of Labor reported that more than

325,000

childcare workers have **lost their jobs** since February nationally.

# Early Childhood Educator Unemployment

73%

Nationally, 73% of programs indicated that they have or will engage in **layoffs, furloughs, and/or pay cuts.**

12%

For **minority-owned businesses**, the situation is worse. Only 12% *have not* resorted to these measures in order to survive.

# Arizona Data Mirrors the National Landscape



**50%** have parents who cannot pay fees or copays

**36%** lost income because they are paid by attendance rather than enrollment

**55%** lost income based on families' own inability to pay

# Reimagined Possibilities



**Bipartisan support** for childcare and early education

**\$50B** (House Childcare is Essential Act)  
and **\$15B** (Senate HEALS Act)

**Both chambers and parties** interested in investing in childcare



# Reimagined Possibilities



**8 in 10 voters** favor a federal childcare stabilization fund in upcoming COVID-19 recovery package, with overwhelming support across partisan lines, generations, genders.

**9 in 10 voters** want childcare providers at front of the line for Congressional relief, prioritized above hotels, cruise lines, real estate developers; virtually tied with K-12

# Take Action Now

**Call, Tweet, Email** your Congresspeople ([www.usa.gov/elected-officials](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials))

**Ask for investments** of \$50B in flexible childcare stabilization funding and \$1.7B in Head Start funding

**Follow up** to hold elected officials accountable and thank them when they support



## Save Time, Save Money, Improve Quality.

Built **specifically for the early ed profession**. Log in to ONE site and quickly find everything needed to run a childcare program just clicks away.



- **Instant buying power and savings on cleaning supplies and gloves, childcare products, office supplies, and services**
- Essentials to streamline administrative tasks
- **Human resource tools, templates, forms and policies**
- Head Start resources and links all in one place (ELOF, CLASS, Focus Areas)



[azaeyc.org/toolkit](https://azaeyc.org/toolkit)

# References

- America for Early Ed. (2020). State fact sheets: Arizona. [www.americaforearlyed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AFEE\\_FactSheet\\_Arizona.pdf](http://www.americaforearlyed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AFEE_FactSheet_Arizona.pdf)
- NAEYC. (2020). Holding on until help comes: A survey reveals childcare's fight to survive. [www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/holding\\_on\\_until\\_help\\_comes.survey\\_analysis\\_july\\_2020.pdf](http://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/holding_on_until_help_comes.survey_analysis_july_2020.pdf)
- National Women's Law Center. (2020). Childcare in crisis: Stories from the field. <https://nwlc-ciw49tixgw5lbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Child-Care-Storybook-Newest.pdf>

# Resources

- **America for Early Ed**  
[www.americaforearlyed.org](http://www.americaforearlyed.org)
- **AzAEYC** [www.azaeyc.org/advocacy-policy](http://www.azaeyc.org/advocacy-policy)
- **Child Care Aware of America**  
[www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/advocacy](http://www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/advocacy)
- **Child Care Relief** <https://childcarerelief.org/>
- **NAEYC**  
[www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/covid-19](http://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/covid-19)