

***** Press Release *****

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020

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City Of LA Child Care Provider Grant Program Opens Today – Will Provide \$10 Million in Assistance to Licensed Providers

Los Angeles, CA – In response to the need of licensed family child care and child care centers in the City of Los Angeles experiencing financial hardships due to COVID-19, Council President Nury Martinez championed the \$10 million City of Los Angeles COVID-19 Child Care Provider Grant Program. The program's registration launches today and will offer much-needed relief to licensed child care operators that were ineligible for other COVID-19 disaster relief funds, such as the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP).

A Families First advocate, Council President Martinez dedicated \$30 million of the City's federal Cares Act funding to childcare as the Chair of the City's COVID-19 Recovery & Community Investment Committee, including \$10 million to childcare providers.

"There is no effective child care without child care operators," said LA City Council President Nury Martinez. "During a pandemic that has closed many child care providers, working moms are struggling to maintain all aspects of their family, child care and work life. They need help. Our City of LA Childcare Provider Grant Program will offer a lifeline for families and hardworking mothers by providing critical funds to keep child care operators in business and allow moms to leave their children with licensed providers – knowing their children are in a safe and secure environment while they work."

During COVID-19, approximately 32% of the Los Angeles Region's child care centers and 73% of family child care homes have remained open. Many child care providers will be forced to shutter permanently without additional financial support.

"These grants will provide crucial financial support for home-based and center-based providers struggling to provide quality child care amidst the pandemic," said Angie Garling, National Director of Early Care and Education Programs at the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), which is administering the grant in partnership with the City of LA's Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD). "The early care and education sector, made up primarily of women of color, has been hard hit by the pandemic and recession. These small businesses need financial support in order to survive and for the local economy to recover."

Licensed Child Care Providers based in the City of Los Angeles can begin applying for the program at 9 a.m. Thursday, October 15, at www.laecefund.org.

Applications will close at 12 noon, on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

The program will provide \$10,000 grants to family child care homes, \$25,000 grants to small centers serving up to 60 children, and \$40,000 grants to larger centers that serve more than 60 children.

Grant awardees will be selected based on a lottery system.

EWDD's City of Los Angeles BusinessSource Centers are designated to provide technical assistance to help Licensed Child Care Providers navigate the application process.

Additional info is available at ewddlacity.com.

The grant program is intended to assist child care providers such as Ricardo Rizzo, who runs a Panorama City-based child care center with his wife, Maria.

"For operators like my wife Maria and I, we've taken great steps to adhere to COVID-19 protocols and create a safe environment for our kids and their families," said Ricardo Rizzo. "That of course means fewer kids and additional costs to make our child care as safe as possible. A grant program like this would provide needed relief in ensuring we can continue to operate and provide an important service to our families in need of child care."

Part of Larger \$30 Million Child Care Assistance Plan

As part of her three-phase funding plan for child care, Council President Martinez earlier earmarked \$10 million to provide free child care for low-income families at Alternative Learning Centers at 50 Recreation and Parks facilities throughout the City.

She also dedicated another \$10 million to a program providing direct childcare assistance to essential workers, as well as low-income workers at/or below 85% of the State Median Income.

That program – The LA CARES - Child Care for Essential & Low-Income Workers program – is overseen by the non-profit, The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), and its seven partner agencies that are currently distributing these LA City funds to eligible recipients.

City residents can register for that childcare program at ccala.net or by calling 1-888-922-4453.

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Councilwoman Nury Martinez is the President of the Los Angeles City Council. She represents the Sixth Council District, which includes all or parts of the neighborhoods of Van Nuys, Lake Balboa, Sun Valley, Panorama City, Arleta, North Hollywood, and North Hills East.

<http://www.nury-martinez.com/>