



COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS WARD, THIRD DISTRICT
COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE, SIXTH DISTRICT
COUNCILMEMBER MONICA MONTGOMERY, FOURTH DISTRICT

April 9, 2020

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Emergency Childcare for Essential Workers

Dear Chair Cox and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to strongly support the proposal by the San Diego County Emergency Child Care Task Force to provide childcare for COVID-19 essential workers in San Diego County during this time of crisis. Specifically, we urge the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to consider and fund the Task Force request for up to \$5,000,000 in local funding to provide up to 3,000 essential workers with childcare.

The need for childcare is critical for workers who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, especially our health care workers, so they can continue to do their jobs at full productivity despite the shutdown of schools and some childcare centers. We urge you to fund the request to ensure that our County's childcare infrastructure survives this next month until the expected arrival of federal CARES Act funding.

Even with some emergency actions from the state, and more coming from federal government, there is an enormous need for this funding. A February 2020 Yale University [analysis](#) found there are 1,168 hospital workers in the San Diego region who are single parents of children under the age of 12 with no non-working adults in their home and approximately 12,300 hospital workers in the region with young children. In addition, Scripps Health conducted a survey of its hospital employees just before schools closed due to COVID-19 and found that 4,075 employees confirmed they would need help with childcare if schools and childcare providers closed. Funding from the state has allowed some of the childcare centers to remain open and operating, but funding assistance is needed to help bridge the gap.

The Emergency Child Care Task Force is made up of our County's leading experts and providers on childcare. They have been meeting daily since the beginning of the crisis to help families find available childcare slots and ensure short-term and long-term funding. They are prioritizing utilization of the County's existing system of care providers for safe, rapid and no-cost access to childcare to augment the emergency childcare actions taken to date.

Based on Task Force interviews and preliminary survey information delivered by human resources leaders at local health systems last week, hospitals expect the lack of affordable and accessible childcare to create severe challenges to their ability to meet operational needs over the next few weeks. This is very concerning given the anticipated volume of patients that hospitals are expecting to serve as they plan for a surge in COVID-19 patients.

Progress to date to provide childcare services to essential workers in San Diego County is outlined in the formal proposal and includes formation of the Task Force and the establishment of a variety of childcare resources. This funding request would provide much needed childcare vouchers to essential workers, which will be administered and implemented jointly by the YMCA of San Diego County and Child Development Associates and provided directly to families in need.

In closing, we collectively urge you to take action that will ensure San Diego County's essential workers who are parents or guardians can continue working during this time of crisis.

