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COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN LAUNCHES EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND TO SUPPORT LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

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On June 3rd, 2020, Community Resources for Children (CRC) started accepting applications for the first round of funding for licensed home-based child care providers in Napa County. The newly established Emergency Relief Fund comes at a crucial time according to Erika Lubensky, Executive Director of CRC, "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented economic damage to the child care sector, especially to home-based women-owned child care businesses; with fewer children and added costs due to safety and health requirements, many in the child care field are fearful that daycares will have no option other than to permanently close."

CRC started hearing concerns almost immediately when the Shelter-at Home-Order took effect. Although the nonprofit shared resources for accessing financial assistance with child care providers, many were either not eligible or not able to apply for government financial assistance programs. CRC took immediate action by reaching out to national and local funders in search of assistance.

The Emergency Relief Fund is anchored by a significant grant from Home Grown, a national collaborative of funders committed to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care, and supported locally by matching funds from First 5 Napa County, Travis Credit Union Foundation, and Napa Valley Vintners.

The goal of the fund is to stabilize Napa County's child care sector by mitigating further economic losses to local family-owned small businesses and preventing further decreases in available child care slots. More than 60 child care providers will be strengthened to continue to provide care for working families in Napa County, thereby enabling our economy to recover. To date the fund has raised more than \$160,000, a significant portion of which will be distributed through grants to child care providers in Napa County in the coming months. To partner with CRC or to inquire about the fund please contact Eva Simonsson at esimonsson@crcnapa.org or (707) 253-0376 x140.

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