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CONTACT:

Eva Simonsson

Community Resources for Children

(707) 225-2678

esmionsson@crcnapa.org

www.crcnapa.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN LAUNCHES EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PROGRAM FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

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On April 24th, 2020 Community Resources for Children (CRC) went live with an emergency child care program to support essential workers. Families needing child care can now apply for emergency child care in Napa County and some will qualify for subsidized care thanks to support from the California Department of Education. With the support of Napa Valley Vintners, Napa Valley COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and Travis Credit Union, child care providers who remain open are receiving wrap-around support ranging from stipends, sanitation supplies, 1:1 access to a quality coach, access to governmental financial assistance, and other resources to strengthen their ability to remain open.

Having reliable and affordable child care for essential workers was identified as a need early on during the COVID19 crisis, and together with partners via the COAD, CRC rose to the challenge to come up with a plan. By surveying the network of already licensed child care providers, CRC was able to assess the availability of child care slots in the County. Representatives from area hospitals provided the projected demand for child care and a plan was put in place. “Thanks to our tight-knit community and the COAD we were able to mobilize quickly with a plan that meets the needs of our community,” said Erika Lubensky, Executive Director of Community Resources for Children. “Thanks to the generosity of funders we were able to ensure that child care providers who remain open have access to support”.

Many of the child care providers who have remained open are long-time Napa establishments operating licensed child care businesses out of their own homes. CRC is supporting them by providing stipends through an emergency fund; many have had to cut back enrollment and have seen their costs of sanitation and cleaning supplies sky-rocket. Luckily there is more help on its way; First 5 Napa County is providing supplies that should become available for pick-up in the coming weeks.

Essential workers needing child care should fill in the interest form on the CRC website at <http://www.crcnapa.org/find-childcare/>. A referral specialist will respond to every family and connect them with available child care providers in their area.

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