A study conducted by the Bipartisan Policy Center finds that the COVID-19 relief packages passed by Congress were a lifeline for struggling U.S. child care programs. Nearly all child care providers in the 11-state survey reported using the funds to keep their businesses open during the pandemic. Key findings for Wyoming are highlighted below.

### Strategies Used by Child Care Centers/Homes in Wyoming During the Pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received Government Funding</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used Personal Loans, Credit Cards, or Retirement Funds</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Classrooms (Asked Only of Centers)</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Child Care Clinic</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 3 Reasons Centers Closed
- Covid Exposure/Illness (45%)
- Loss of Enrollment (71%)
- Loss of Teachers, Unable to Hire Replacements (23%)
- Government Requirement (7%) (10%)

### Top 3 Reasons Homes Closed
- Government Requirement (54%)
- Covid Exposure/Illness (31%)
- Loss of Teachers, Unable to Hire Replacements (8%)

### Top 3 Reasons Centers Combined Classrooms
- Loss of Enrollment (71%)
- Loss of Teachers, Unable to Hire Replacements (23%)
- Other (7%) (23%)

About half (52%) of child care centers and 48% of family child care homes (FCC) in Wyoming closed at some point during the pandemic with homes and centers closing for a similar number of days on average (33 and 32 days respectively). They both cited COVID illness/exposure (45% and 31% respectively), government requirement, (10%) and loss of teachers and unable to replace them (10% of centers and 8% of homes) as the top three reasons for closing—25% of centers also mentioned loss of enrollment.

Additionally, 79% of centers reported combining classes due to loss of enrollment (71%), loss of support staff and being unable to replace them (23%), and loss of teachers and being unable to replace them (7%) as their main reasons for doing so. About 23% of centers and 65% of homes reported the use of personal loans, credit cards, or retirement funds to stay afloat.

All responding centers and most homes (86%) reported receiving government relief. On average, centers received $88,005 (median $61,288) and homes received $17,371.
Methodology of 11-State Survey:
The Bipartisan Policy Center worked with Well World Solutions to conduct a survey of child care centers and family child care homes in 11 states to better understand how child care programs weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and how they used the federal government’s pandemic-related stimulus funding. The survey was fielded from June 14–30, 2022. The MOE was +/- 29% for centers and +/-18% for homes in Wyoming. For more information on the methodology, see the full report.

The pandemic exposed fundamental flaws in the child care. COVID-19 relief funding kept the child care market afloat, but as we emerge from the pandemic, we must address the flaws in the business model so that child care can survive, and our economy can fully recover. We need to examine the true costs of child care and determine how to ensure the country has a stable, high-quantity system that meets the needs of all concerned—parents, children, businesses, and our education system. Child care provides a public good. Congress and our nation need to ensure every parent has access to safe, affordable, quality child care.