

# ARPA –New Hampshire’s Discretionary Funds Feedback Survey Results

## Detailed Data Summary

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## Executive Summary

The New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (BCDHSC) received a one-time investment of \$77 million under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds are divided into two distinct programs: Stabilization (\$47 million), which must be used to continue to stabilize the industry, and Discretionary (\$29 million), which is intended to rebuild the system stronger than it was pre-pandemic. The \$29 million in Discretionary funds must be committed by September 30, 2023 and must be spent by September 30, 2024. These funds also have an outcome based focus with the intent to build capacity, strengthen the workforce, create dependability for parents, match supply and demand, and improve quality. At this time guidance from the Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care has not yet been released.

Between July 23, 2021 and August 31, 2021 NH DHHS BCDHSC conducted a survey in which stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input on the use of the ARPA Discretionary Funds ([Appendix](#)).

Almost 430 surveys were completed from over 56 organizations, entities, and individuals. The top organizations represented included licensed, non-profit, early child care center/program, and for profit. Of note 25 community service providers responded and 23 parents and/or guardians responded to the survey. All 10 New Hampshire counties were represented with Hillsborough County having the most respondents (101). Respondents also had the opportunity to identify what types of regional or local collaboratives, networks or coalitions they participated in. Only 34.22% (141) reported being a member of a regional or local collaborative, network or coalition. Of those who responded “yes” the top represented groups include State Early Learning Alliance (SELA) (16), Across NH (13), NH Association for the Education of Young Children (13), Child Care Aware NH (11), and Early Learning NH (10).

Within the survey respondents were asked to indicate which areas they saw as critical to building back child care stronger and meeting the goals of the ARPA Discretionary funding for NH. Areas were first broken into the following categories: workforce, providers, family and children, Head Start and Early Head Start, Regional Networks and Collaboration, and Business/Employers. Within those categories respondents identified if specific recommendations were a high priority, moderate priority, low priority or not a priority at this time. Based on the responses these are the top three recommendations stakeholders believe are the highest priority, all of which fall within the workforce category. The top priority was “explore wage and benefit increase options”. The second priority was “explore recruit and retain incentives including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.” The third overall priority was “offer educational and professional development supports such as college and technical tuition, CDA, apprenticeships”. As mentioned above there were 6 total categories included in the survey. These are the top priorities within each of the 6 categories: “explore wage and benefit increase options” (workforce), “provide grants and guidance for expansion/new programs in areas with low income and/low supply” (providers), “increase equity and access through tuition cost assistance” (families and children), “expand programming and opportunities with partnerships” (Head Start/Early Head Start), “leverage existing work and support work of 7 PDG networks” (Regional Networks and Collaboration), and “link business and child care through initiatives, grants and partnerships” (Businesses/Employers).

The next steps are to convene a small but diverse short-term committee to review the survey data and identify their final top 3 recommendations for the use of the ARPA Discretionary Funds.

## Survey: Summary of Responses

### Survey Basics

- 428 Respondents
- Representation from a variety of individuals and types of organizations
- Statewide representation
- Variety of coalitions, networks, and collaboratives represented
- 3 clear top priorities

### Organizations Represented

- 417 responses

#### Top 4 Organizations Responses

1. Licensed (158)
2. Non Profit (139)
3. Early Child Care Center/Program (125)
4. For Profit (111)

#### Top 10 Organizations Extend to Include

5. Child Care Center Owner (49)
6. Child Care Center Director (32)
7. Community Service including: community service organization, social services, resource & referral agency (25)
8. Parent/Grandparent (23)
9. Preschool (23)
10. Family Child Care/Day Care/Home (20)

### Counties Represented

- 419 responses

#### County Represented (in Order)

County	Total
Hillsborough	101
Rockingham	66
Merrimack	59
Statewide	46
Strafford	37
Grafton	28
Belknap	27
Cheshire	27
Sullivan	20

Coos	17
Carroll	13

## Local or Regional Early Childhood, Afterschool Collaborative/Coalition/Network Represented

- Responses
  - 412 people answered
    - 34.22% (141) said yes
    - 65.78% (271) said no

## Top Collaboratives/Coalitions/Networks

- SELA (16)
- Across NH (13)
- NH Association for the Education of Young Children (13)
- Child Care Aware NH (11)
- Early Learning NH (10)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (10)

## Top Priorities

- Responses
  - 428 people answered

## Top Priority Category

- Workforce (top 3 are workforce category; all 5 priorities fall into top 10)

## Top 5 Priorities

1. Workforce: Explore **wage and benefit increase** options
  - 90.26% (380) high priority
  - 9.03% (38) moderate priority
  - .48% (2) low priority
  - .24% (1) not a priority at this time
2. Workforce: Explore **recruit and retain incentives** including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.
  - 79.43% (336) high priority
  - 16.55% (70) moderate priority
  - 3.55% (15) low priority
  - .47% (2) not a priority at this time
3. Workforce: Offer **educational and professional development supports** such as college and technical tuition, cda, apprenticeships”
  - 65.88% (280) high priority
  - 28% (119) moderate priority
  - 4.94% (21) low priority
  - 1.18% (5) not a priority at this time
4. Workforce: Build **pipeline** for future staffing

- 58.43% (246) high priority
  - 37.53% (158) moderate priority
  - 3.09% (13) low priority
  - .95% (4) not a priority at this time
5. Family & children: Increase equity and access through **tuition cost assistance**
- 55.04% ( 235) high priority
  - 35.60% (152) moderate priority
  - 7.49% (32) low priority
  - 1.87% (8) not a priority at this time

#### Top Priority per Category

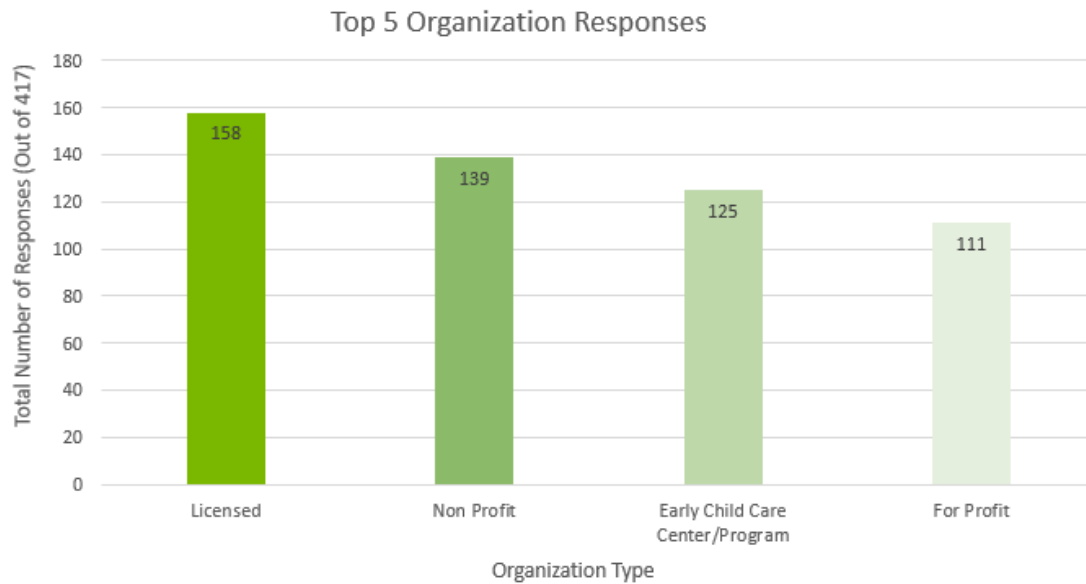
- Workforce: Explore wage and benefit increase options
- Providers: Provide grants and guidance for expansion/new programs in areas with low income and/low
- Family & Children: Increase equity and access through tuition cost assistance
- Head Start & Early Head Start (1): Expand programming and opportunities with partnerships
- Regional (1): Leverage existing work and support work of 7 PDG networks
- Business/Employers (1): Link business and child care through initiatives, grants and partnerships

#### Full List of Priorities (in order)

Category	Specific
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Wage &amp; benefit increase</b>
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Recruit &amp; retain incentives</b>
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Education &amp; PD supports</b>
Workforce	Pipeline
Family & children	Equity & access through tuition cost assistance
Family & children	Expand program quality
Providers	Grants & guidance for expansion/new programs
Workforce	PR for career options
Providers	Explore partnerships: upgrades, expansion, reno, construction
Family & children	Equity & access through increased supply
Family & children	Offer social emotional support programs
Business/Employers	Link businesses & child care
Family & children	PR re: available assistance
Providers	Grants & guidance for family start up
Providers	Foster back off serviced for home based & small centers
HS/EHS	Expand programming & opportunities with partnerships
Family & children	Support non-traditional child care hours
Regional	Leverage existing work & support 7 PDG networks

## Survey: Visuals

### Organizations Represented



### Counties Represented

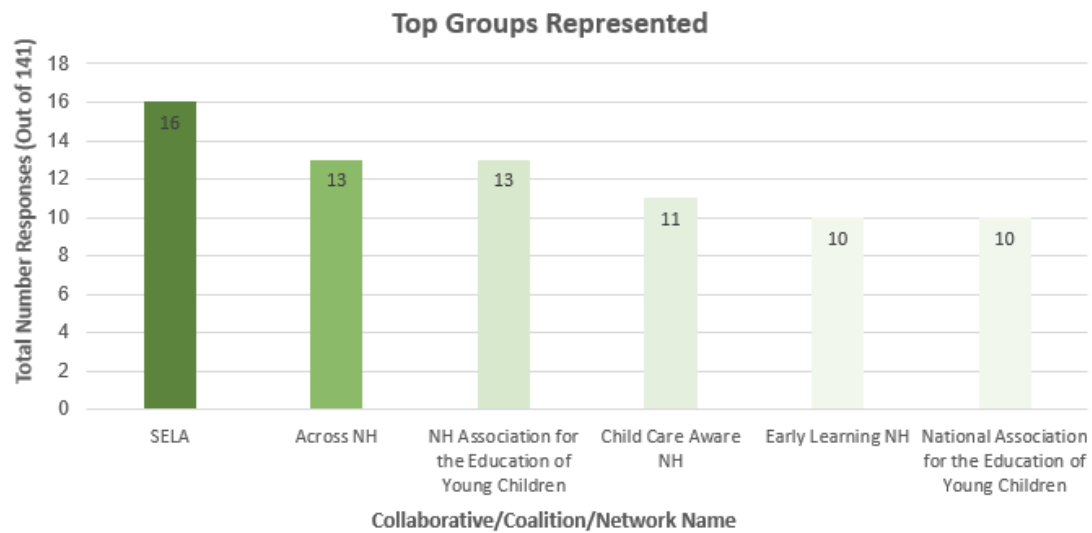
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Coos	17
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\*Out of 420 responses

\*Some respondents did answer with multiple counties



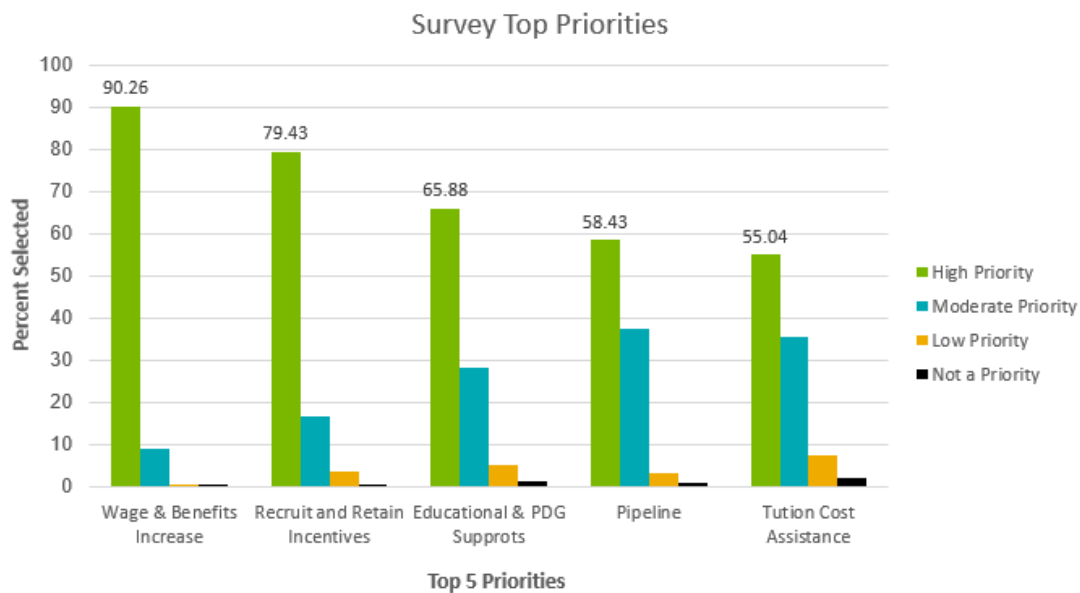
## Local or Regional Early Childhood, Afterschool Collaborative/Coalition/Network Represented



\*412 Responses

\*Only 34.22% (141) of respondents are part of a local/regional collaborative, coalition and/or network

## Top Priorities



## Appendix

### Copy of Stakeholder Survey

#### An invitation to share your thoughts on utilization of ARPA Discretionary Funds for Child Care

Through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Child Care (OCC), NH will receive approximately \$29,000,000 American Rescue Plan Act Discretionary Funds. The purpose of these funds is to build child care back stronger by using this opportunity to:

- expand access to high-quality child care and move toward a more equitable child care system;
- further support a system that meets the developmental needs of children; provide parents with
- true choice and equal access to child care services that best suits their family's needs; appropriately compensate an essential and skilled workforce; facilitate a robust and more
- equitable high-quality child care systems for America's families.
- 

NH has until September 30, 2024 to use the funds. The use does not have to be COVID related, which is different than the previous funding for child care in the NH Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program (CCRSP), COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Supplement Program (CCCAS), CRRSA

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), and the current Child Care Achieving Stabilization Grant Program (CCASP). We are interested in how you think we should prioritize the funding in an effort to strengthen the child care industry in NH.

Please watch the NH Connections website at <https://www.nh-connections.org/covid-19/financialresources/> for more information and other ways to provide feedback. In addition, we will host an informational webinar when more details become available.

1. You represent (type of organization or individual, include all that apply . (For example, for-profit licensed early childhood child care center owner, parent with child in care or community service organization),

2. County you are primarily affiliated with (if statewide indicate with NH)

3. Are you currently a member of an local or regional early childhood, afterschool collaborative/coalition/network?



Coalition/Association name(s)

4. Please indicate those areas that you see as critical to building back child care stronger and meeting the goals of the ARPA Discretionary funding for New Hampshire

	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority	Not a priority at this time
<b>Workforce</b> explore recruit and retain incentives including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Workforce</b> launch public awareness campaign on career options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Workforce</b> offer educational and professional development supports such as college and technical tuition, cda, apprenticeships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Workforce</b> build pipeline for future staffing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Workforce</b> explore wage and benefit increase options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> offer social/emotional support programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> increase equity and access through increased supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> increase equity and access through tuition cost assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> support more non-traditional hours in child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> expand program quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Families and children</b> launch public awareness campaign on available assistance for tuition, food, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Providers</b> provide grants and guidance for family child care start-up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Providers</b> provide grants and guidance for expansion/new programs in areas with low income and/low supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

High priority

Moderate priority

Low priority

Not a priority at this time

*Providers* explore leveraged partnership opportunities for building and program upgrades, expansion, repairs, renovation and new construction

**Providers** foster "back office" services (payroll, payables, receivables, taxes) for home based and small size centers

☐
☐
☐
☐

**Businesses/Employers** link business and child care through initiatives, grants and partnerships

☐
☐
☐
☐

**Head Start/Early Start** expand programming and opportunities with partnerships

☐
☐
☐
☐

**Regional Networks and Collaboration** leverage existing work and support work of 7 PDG networks

☐
☐
☐
☐

5. Please expand on your choices above or add additional options you would like to see considered in the planning process for the ARPA Discretionary Funds . To share additional input, please email us at [eccp@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:eccp@dhhs.nh.gov)

6. Optional Contact Information - If you wish to identify yourself and/or your organization please complete this section:

Affiliation

City/Town

Your Name

Contact E-mail

E-mail Confirmation

Contact Phone Number

7. I would like to be contacted to discuss my input further

☐

