

ARPA –New Hampshire’s Discretionary Funds Feedback Survey Results

High Level 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 Results Data

Survey Basics

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

Organizations Represented

- Question: 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)
- 417 responses

Top 4 Organizations Responses

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

Figure 1

Chart of top 4 organizations represented by survey respondents

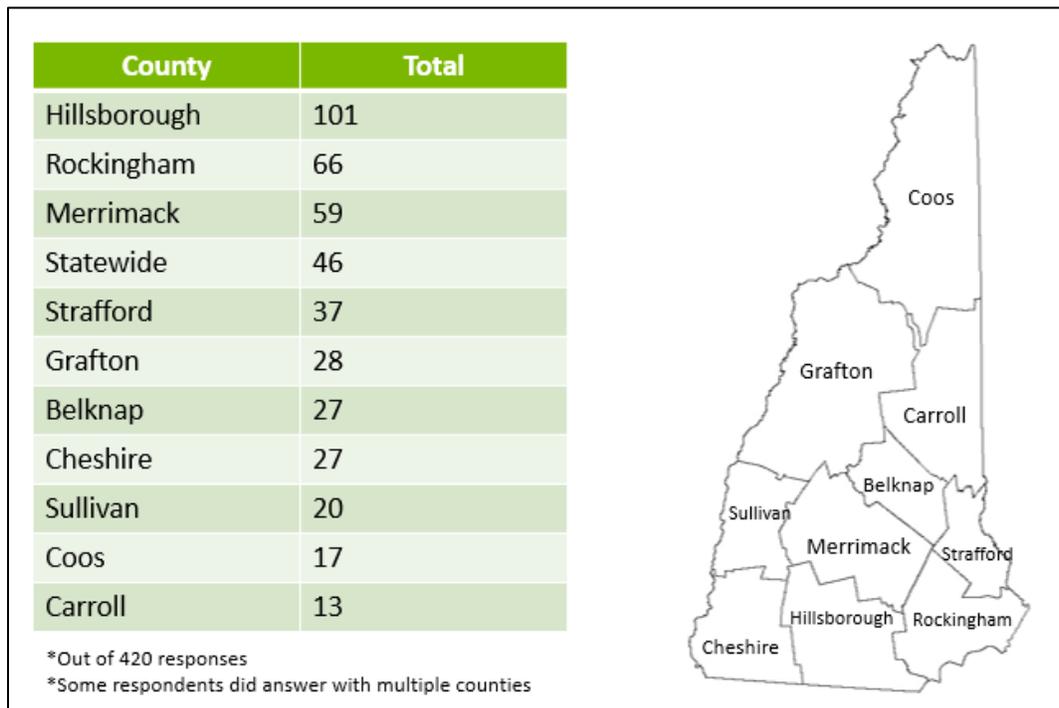


Counties Represented

- Question: County you are primarily affiliated with (if statewide indicate with NH)
- 419 responses

Figure 2

Chart of counties represented by survey respondents



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

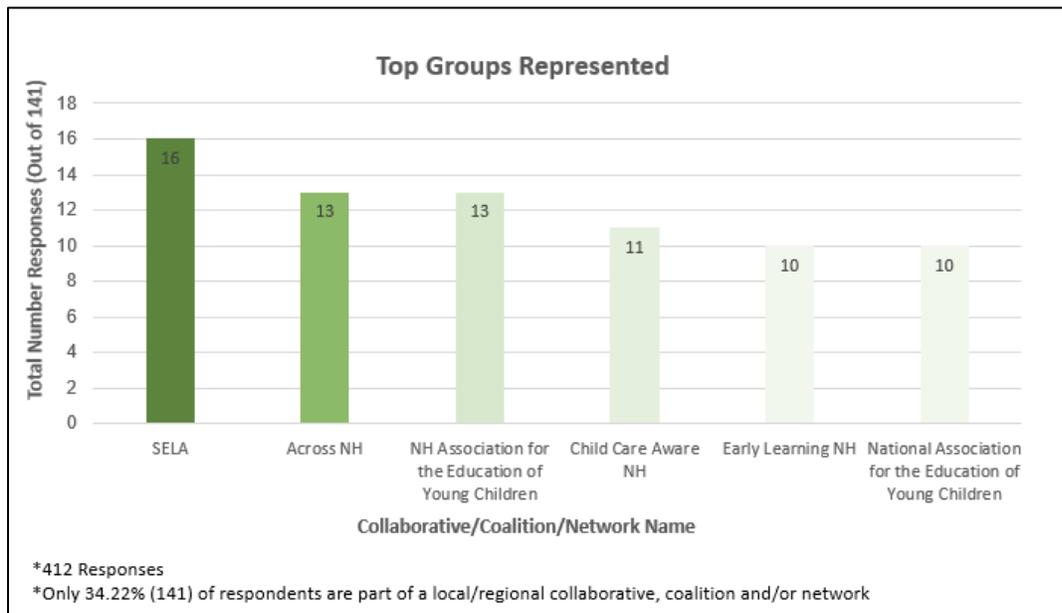
- Question: Are you currently a member of an local or regional early childhood, afterschool collaborative/coalition/network?
 - 412 responses
 - 34.22% (141) said yes
 - 65.78% (271) said no
- Question: Coalition/Association name(s)
 - 132 responses
 - 2 responses were not calculated as the response was “no” to this question
 - 130 remaining responses that were used to identify top collaboratives/coalitions/networks

Top 5 Collaboratives/Coalitions/Networks

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

Figure 3

Chart of collaboratives/coalitions/networks represented by survey respondents



Top Priorities

- Question: 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
- 428 responses

Top Priority Category

- Workforce: Top 3 are workforce category; all 5 recommendations fall are in the top 10 priorities

Top 5 Priorities

Table 1

*Top 5 priorities in the order of highest priority (1) and lowest priority (5) using aggregate data from all respondents (n=428). Ranks in **red** indicate a difference of +/- 4 in the rank compared to the family respondent subgroup.*

Rank	Category	Specific
1	Workforce	Explore wage and benefit increase options
2	Workforce	Explore recruitment and retention incentives, including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.
3	Workforce	Offer educational and professional development supports such as college and technical college tuition, Child Development Associate (CDA), apprenticeships
4	Workforce	Build pipeline for future staffing
5	Families and children	Increase equity and access through tuition cost assistance

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

Addendum

Additional data analysis has been completed to understand how family survey respondents prioritized recommendations. Below are the aggregate survey responses specifically from parents and grandparents who self-identified (question 1 of survey). This subgroup accounts for 23 (5.4%) of the 428 respondents.

Table 2

*Top 5 priorities in the order of highest priority (1) to lowest (5) using aggregate data from respondents who identified as parent or grandparent in question 1 of survey (n=23). Ranks in **red** indicate a difference of +/- 4 in the rank compared to the full survey sample.*

Rank	Category	Specific
1	Workforce	Explore wage and benefit increase options
2	Workforce	Offer educational and professional development supports such as college and technical college tuition, Child Development Associate (CDA), apprenticeships
3	Workforce	Explore recruitment and retention incentives, including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.
4	Families and children	Expand program quality
5	Families and children	Offer social/emotional support programs

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
Workforce 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"/>
Workforce launch public awareness campaign on career options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workforce 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"/>
Workforce build pipeline for future staffing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workforce explore wage and benefit increase options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children offer social/emotional support programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children increase equity and access through increased supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children increase equity and access through tuition cost assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children support more non-traditional hours in child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children expand program quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Families and children launch public awareness campaign on available assistance for tuition, food, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providers provide grants and guidance for family child care start-up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providers 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

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

