

Brenwynne Grigg

From: Samantha Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Economic Stabilization
Subject: Childcare Programs Need Help NOW

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The Economic Stabilization Task Force,

First, I would like to thank you all for serving on the Task Force. Juneau is lucky to have a dedicated and thoughtful group working together to get Juneau through the pandemic.

I'm writing today to ask the Task Force to move forward quickly on assistance for our childcare providers. State funding expires on May 31st and the childcare providers and parents will soon be faced with tough decisions, with many providers questioning whether they can continue to stay open at all. Parents may be forced to pay for their spot, even if the child does not attend until it is safe to do so. This will cause even further on stress on families, especially those that are not currently receiving a paycheck and may not for the foreseeable future. If families are not able to hold a spot without paying, the childcare providers will face decreased enrollments, in turn, losing thousands of dollars each month. If some programs are forced to close during the pandemic, it is going to exacerbate a problem Juneau already faces- a lack of childcare.

As the community and businesses begin to open, it is important these establishments can open safely in order to allow parents to go back to work. Please make our childcare providers a priority and provide cash grants for the next few months. I ask that you also consider covering the costs of PPEs. Keeping qualified staff employed and safe is a crucial aspect to being able to open back up.

They are a vital component to our community, and we need to protect these programs for our children, families, and the future of Juneau.

Thank you for all you do.

Samantha Wilson
Parent and Juneau community member