



## Help Us Help Them

Community Partners Ready to Support Essential Workers

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order \(EO\) N-33-20](#), a statewide shelter in place policy which mandated social distancing across the state to better combat the spread of COVID-19. In response to the EO all schools and before and after school programs on school grounds shuttered.

As part of the EO, was a directive that only those workers deemed to provide “essential services” were to continue their employ. This essential workforce consisted of those in the medical and healthcare sector, law enforcement, food, shelter and social services. Further, it was clarified on the [COVID19 homepage](#) that “daycares are still open, but only for children of parents working in essential sectors.”

On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, the federal CARES Act passed that included \$3.5 billion in new Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding, with [\\$339 million earmarked for California](#).

*So where is California in supporting essential workers?*

***Not one new essential worker has been supported with state or federal dollars referenced above.***

Throughout our state, community partners inclusive of alternative payment programs, resource and referral agencies, centers and more have stepped up in a bold way to begin to secure private donations so that essential healthcare workers can stay on the frontlines fighting this pandemic. Alternative payments programs already have a 40 plus year history of enrolling working families and making payments to all childcare provider types inclusive of Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs), Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care, and center based care.

We need your help! In every county we are hearing the pleas from nurses, lab technicians, janitors, grocery clerks and In Home Supportive Service (IHSS) amongst the list begging for childcare help.

**ACTION NEEDED: Support an immediate release of federal funds and the creation of an emergency childcare voucher program to serve the dire unmet need of the essential workforce in California. Contact Governor Newsom to get the funds released NOW!**