
EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (ECCE) IN NH DURING AND THROUGH COVID

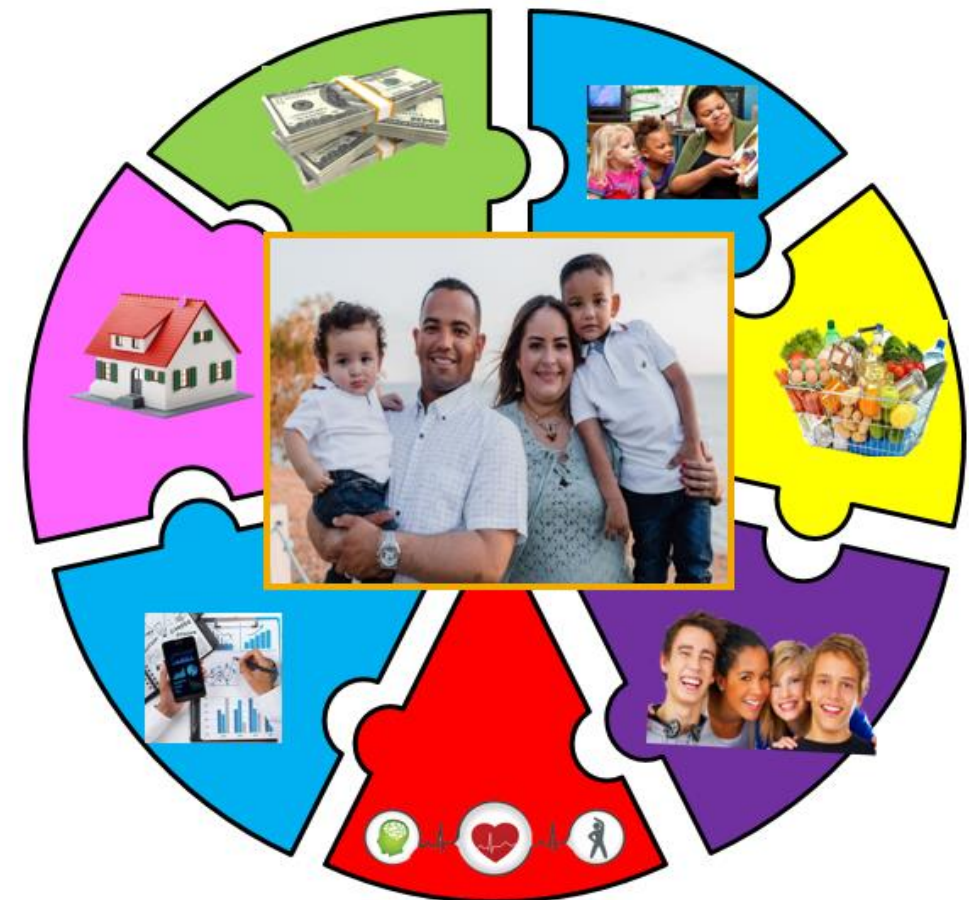
CHRISTINE TAPPAN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, DHHS

CHRISTINE BRENNAN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DOE



NH'S MIXED-DELIVERY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Nonprofit, for profit and faith based Child Care Centers
- Head Start / Early Head Start
- Family Child Care Providers
- Afterschool Programs
- Day and Summer Camps
- Food & Nutrition Services
- Local pre-kindergarten
- Schools
- Family Resource Centers
- Early Intervention
- Preschool Special Education
- Health and mental health programs



STATE OF THE ECCE SYSTEM

- Current landscape
 - PreCovid/COVID
- Structure & Resources
- Funding needed to “Build Back Better” the ECCE system beyond COVID



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

- **Goal:** To build an ECCE system that supports the vision that *all families are afforded comprehensive and responsive supports, so they are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.*
- **Grant Activities**
 - Needs Assessment
 - Strategic Planning
 - Family Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement
 - Sharing Best Practices in ECCE
 - Increase Access and Quality via Grants to Local Communities
 - Interagency Coordination to Support Continuous Quality Improvement
- **Funding - \$27 million over 3 years 2020 – 2023**
 - \$3 million each year to local communities

**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Percentage of NH Respondents Reporting Difficulty Finding ECCE (PDG, 2019)**

	By Family Income			By Rural Status	
	Low-Income	Middle-Income	High-Income	Non-Rural	Rural
There was a time in the past 12 months when you could not find child care for a week or longer?	35%	27%	17%	23%	31%
Time in the past 12 months when you quit a job, school, or training activity or unable to take a job or participate in education or training because of problems arranging child care	23%	23%	13%	18%	20%

Whole Families Approach to Jobs: *Parents Working, Children Thriving*

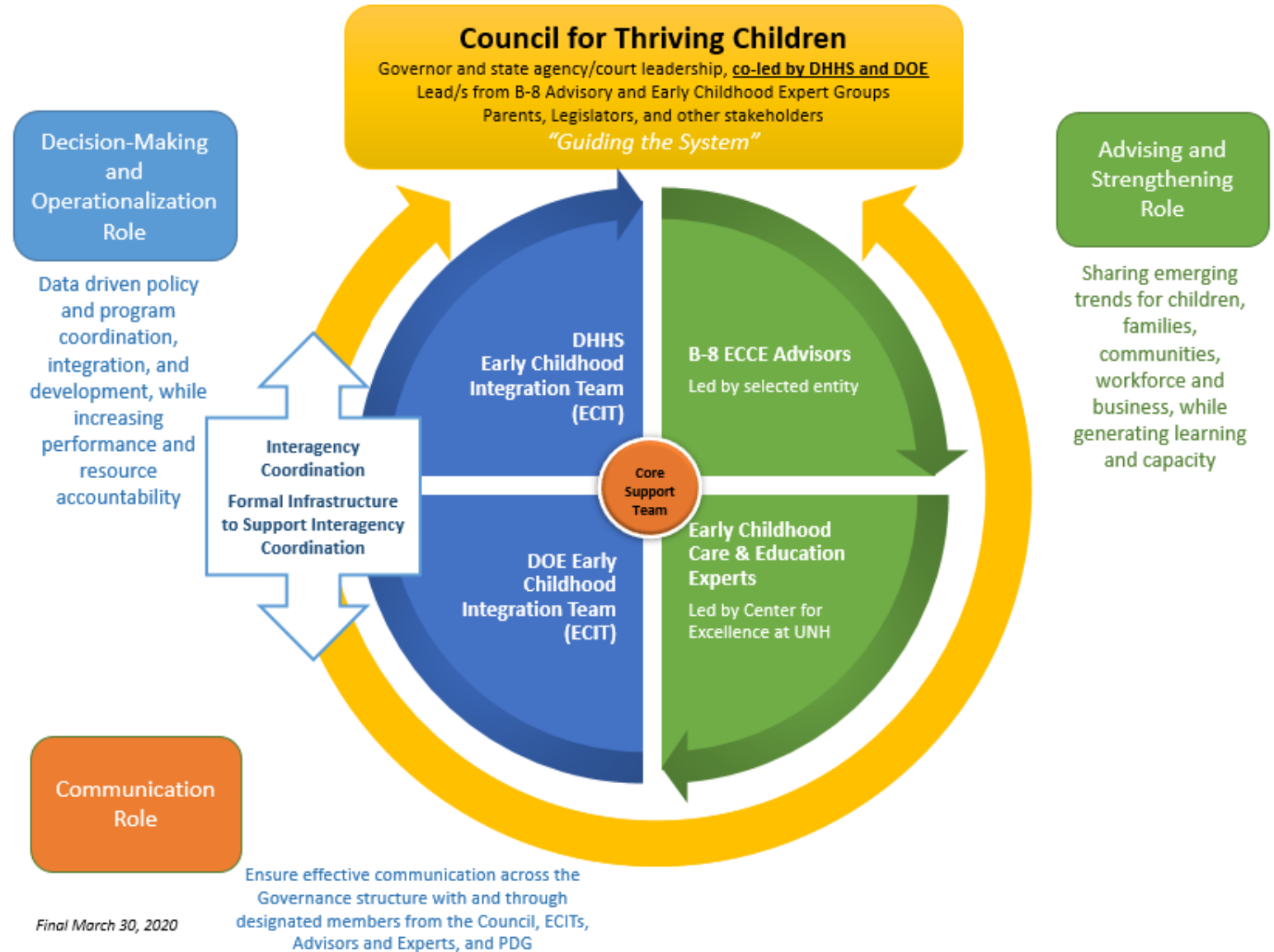
11

- Support business and disrupts poverty by creating economic mobility pathways in every community
- Leverage an evidence-based, multi-generational, integrated framework with families at the center of policy making
- Incentivize work, boost individual effort and responsibility while strengthening communities
- Promote efficiencies in government and multi-sector partnerships

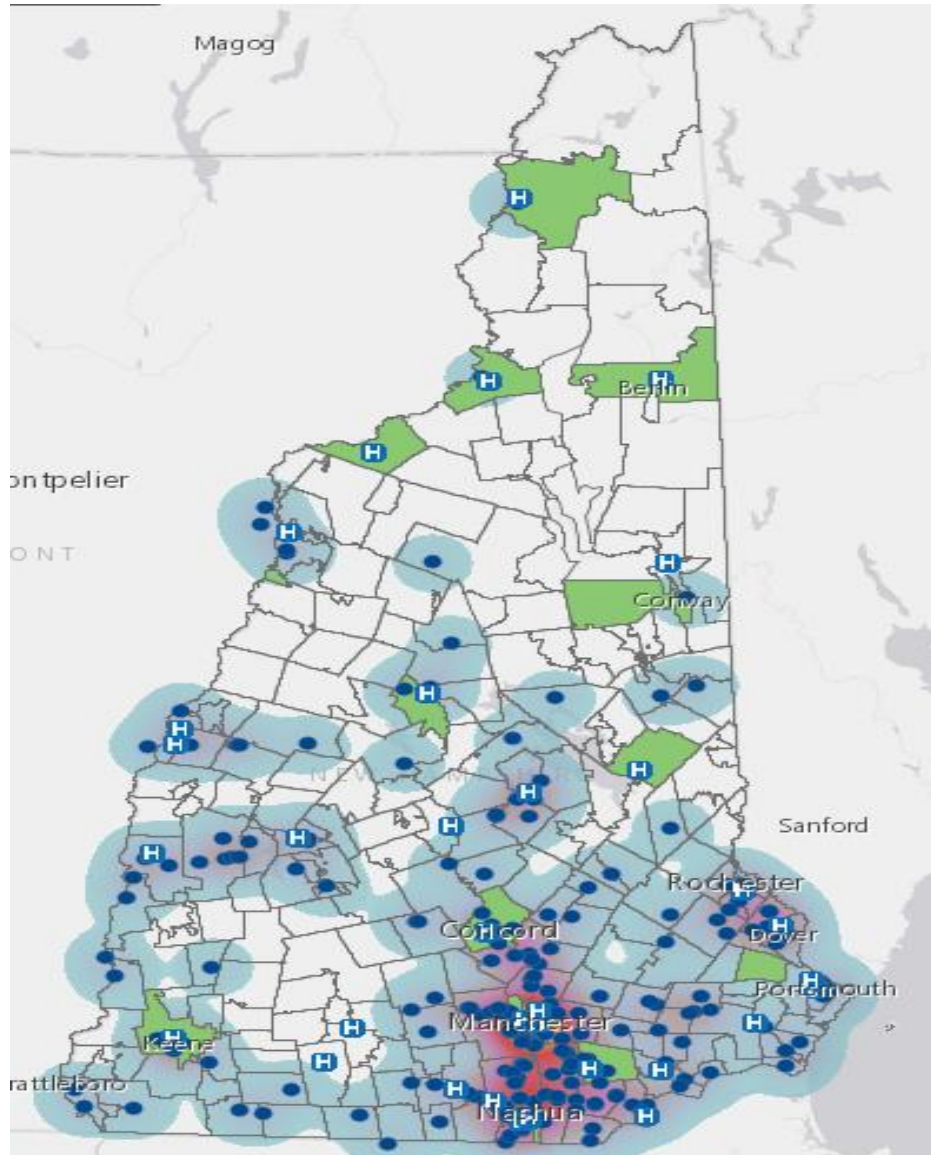


On January 23, 2020, Governor Sununu signed Executive Order 2020-03, establishing the **Council for Thriving Children** as New Hampshire's Early Childhood Council.

The Council is co-led by the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education. An objective of the Council is to strengthen NH's early childhood infrastructure.



EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS – APRIL 27, 2020



- Open and caring for children – 243
- Re-opening post COVID – 62
- Approximately 5,000 children are being served
- More than 6,575 slots are available as listed by open programs presently (*based on current social distancing requirements and no groups larger than 10*)

We have learned a lot about how to operate in the safest manner possible.

UPPER VALLEY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – A REGIONAL NETWORK MODEL

Leadership and Coordination

- Helps local early childhood programs navigate systems
- Moves swiftly and directly to meet real-time needs
- Builds relationships with philanthropy, economic partners and government
- Resolve issues & takes action

COVID 19 Rapid Response

- Immediate access to supplies
- Workforce coordination with Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- Financial Consulting Support team
- Media campaign to thank providers
- Virtual training opportunities

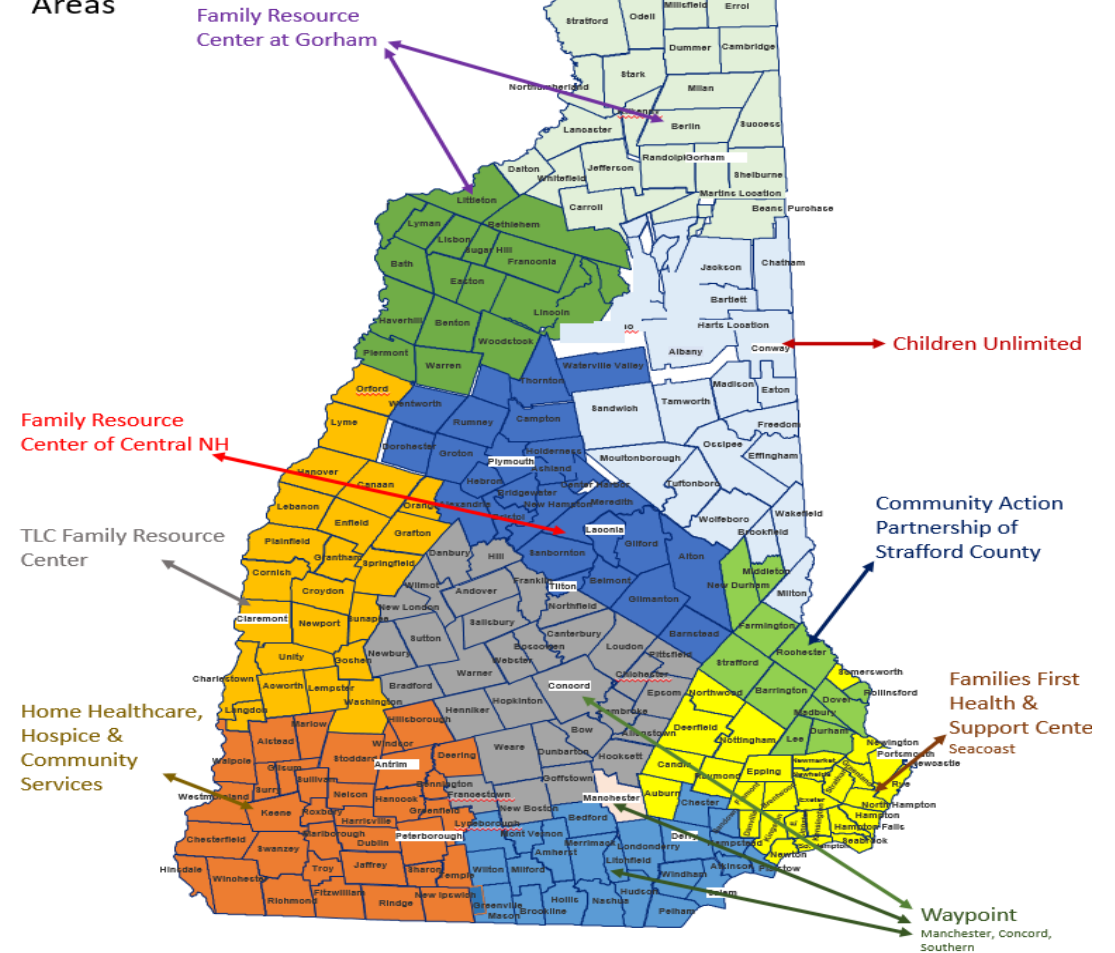
“Family Resource Centers” (Comprehensive Family Support Programs)

Are the local connections to individuals, families, communities.

They have the pulse and the relationships, they're nimble and flexible to meet the needs of the families they serve and build on resources and strengths of the local community.

Due to COVID, referrals are down, doing tele-checks with families, delivering food, connecting with community resources including child care.

Comprehensive Family Support Services Program Catchment Areas



STRUCTURE

- Council for Thriving Children
 - Includes parents & families
- Emergency Child Care Collaborative & Program
- Preschool Development Grant
 - UNH, DOE & DHHS coordination
- Regional Coalitions & Community Collaborations
- Extensive Community Partnerships

RESOURCES

- Parents/families
- DHHS
 - CCDBG
 - CARES Act
 - Families First Prevention
 - Parental Assistance Program
- DOE
 - CARES Act
- Philanthropy
- Business

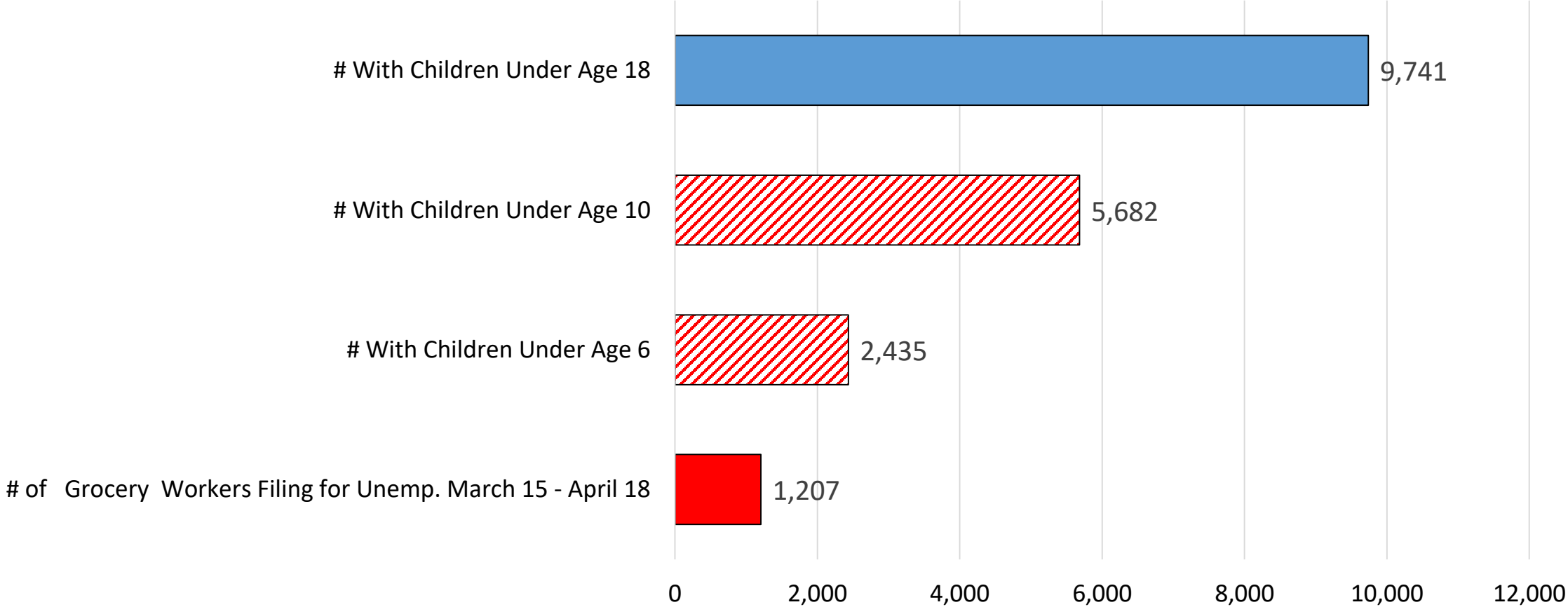
The Issue: The New Hampshire Economy Cannot Re-Open or Essential Industries Operate at Capacity, Without Expanding Access to and Affordability of Child Care

- With Schools and Child Care Services Closed, Fewer Opportunities for Using Family and Friends, and Greater Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits, More Workers are Out-of-Work and Fewer Will be Able to Return
- Almost half of all Child Care Workers in New Hampshire Have Filed Unemployment Claims and Virtually All Will Receive More in Unemployment Compensation Benefits (Including Federal \$600 Weekly Benefit) Than They Earn Working
- In Many Essential Industries, Workers do Not Earn Enough to Afford Day Care Services (if Available). In Combination With Unemployment Benefits Higher Than Their Usually Wages, the Lack of, and Cost of, Day Care Services is a Strong Disincentive to Remain in or Return to Work
- Creating Incentives for Child Care Service Providers and Their Workers to Open and Subsidies to Workers in Essential Industries (Such as Supermarkets) to Continue Working (Including for Child Care) is Key to Essential Industries Remaining Open and for Closed Industries to Re-Open

Efforts to Keep Essential Industries Operating, and to Re-Open Others, Will be Impeded Without Increasing Affordable Child Care Providers and Options, as Schools and Child Care Providers Have Closed and as More Individuals File for Unemployment Because of Child and Family Care Issues.

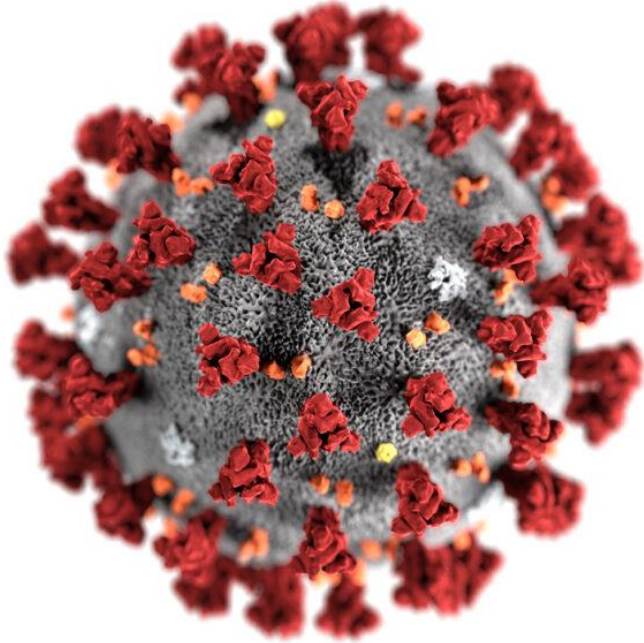
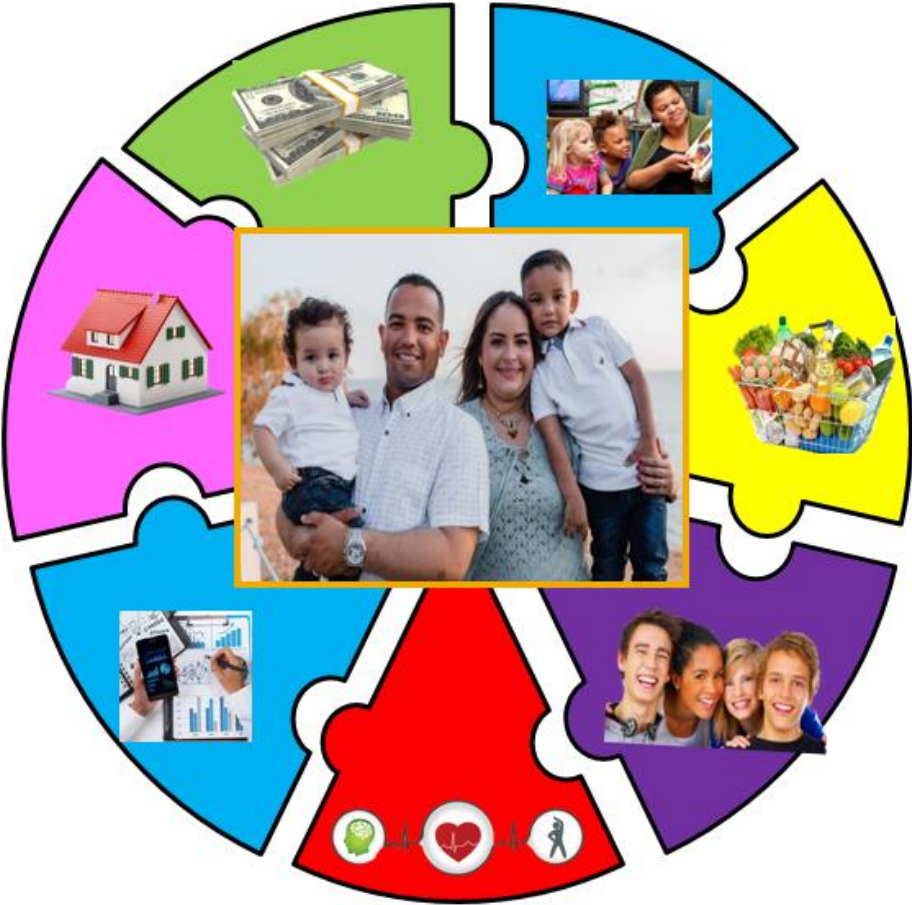
The Supermarket and Grocery Store Example

At Least 26% of 20,000 Supermarket Workers Have Children Needing Some Type of Child Care Services



DATA SOURCE: NHES, April 27, 2020

Impact of COVID on a NH Family



SUBSTANTIVE CHALLENGES FOR THE ECCE DURING & BEYOND COVID

- Funding to support social distancing within child care and Family Resource Center (FRC) settings (i.e., smaller group sizes and ratios)
- Funding to support elevated health requirements in child care and FRCs
- Funding to support Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and behavioral health supports
- Funding to support food and supplies (including cleaning) and PPE needs for providers

Current rate structures – per child will not be sufficient

- Stabilization/Retention Grants to cover the costs of smaller ratios, group sizes, labor flexibility (due to anticipated absences), and health costs (from screening to prevention to sanitation to treatment)

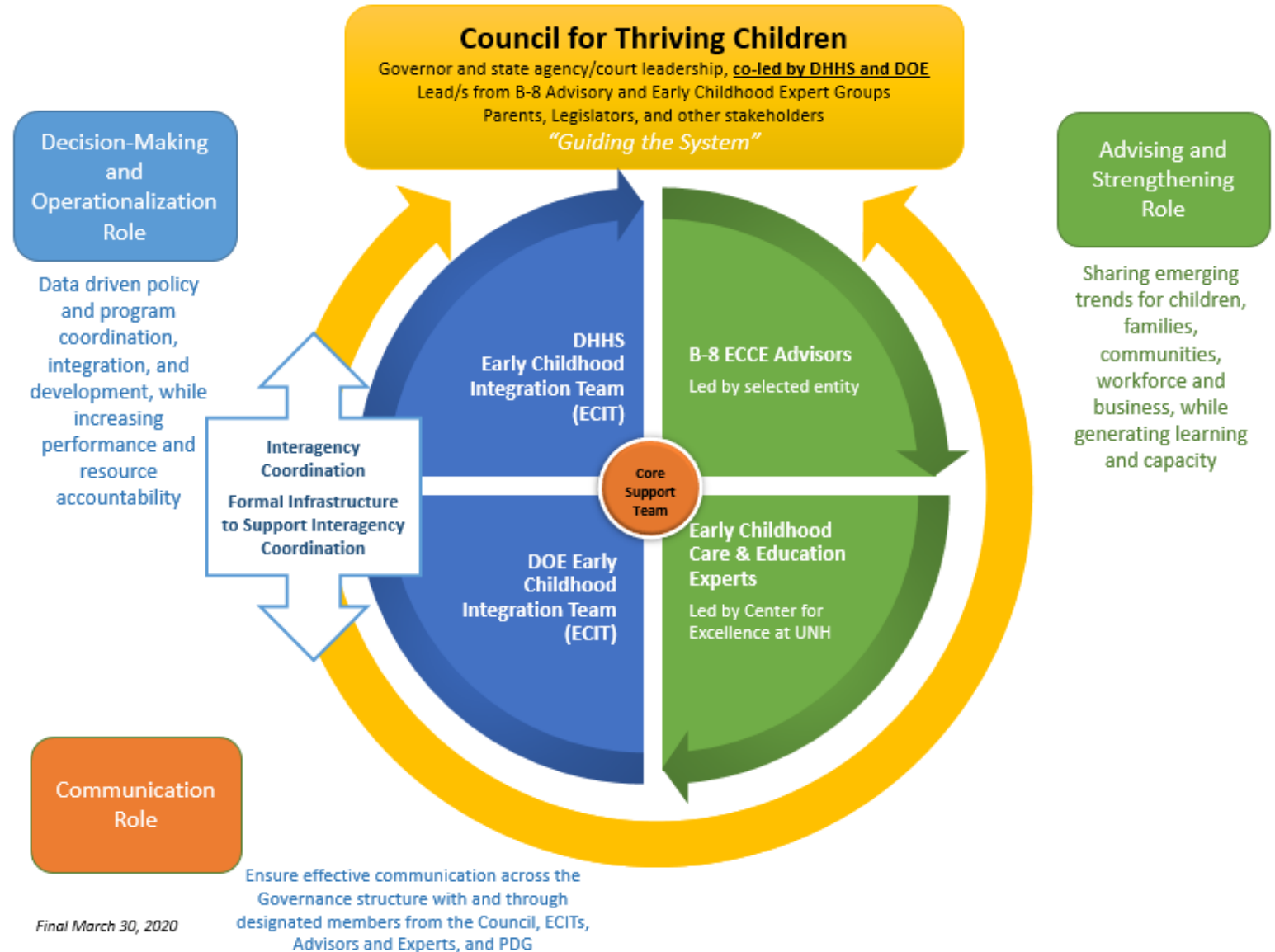


We have a structure and system primed and activated that includes parents, providers, government agencies, business, higher education, and legislators.

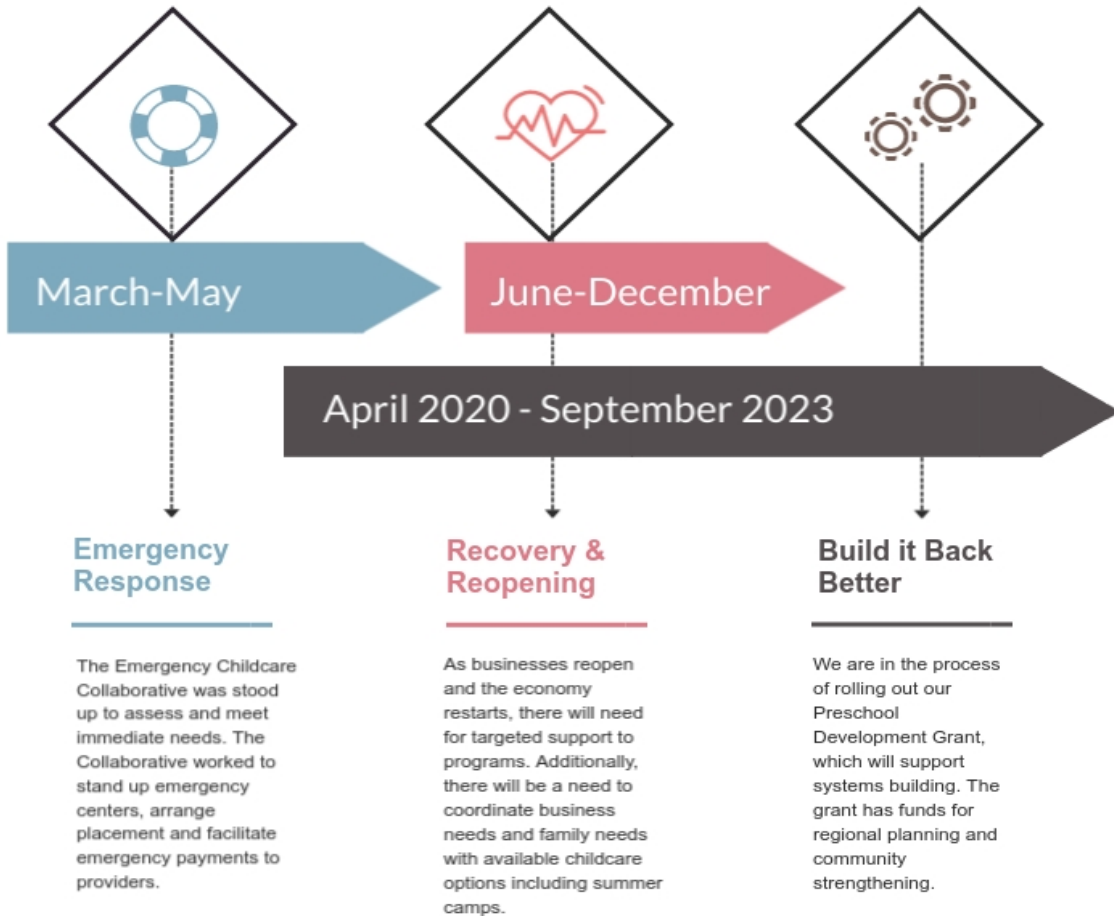
Their role is to ensure the system is:

- Effective
- Inclusive
- Responsive
- Efficient
- Evidence Informed

We're ready to go!!



Build It Back - Better



- **A healthy ECCE system is essential to NH's economic well-being.**
- **We have the structure and some resources to build on – but need an infusion of COVID specific and stabilization funding.**
- **We need a thoughtful, aligned, but unique approach to continuing to manage and reopening all child care (centers, day and overnight camps) and family resource settings.**
- **Rebooting the system must be done in tandem with the reopening of industries and schools.**



APPENDIX



ACCESS TO STABLE, HIGH-QUALITY ECCE IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- **Helps parents improve their labor productivity** by increasing work hours, missing fewer work days, and pursuing education¹
- **Significantly increases employment rates and incomes**, and the increase in family income can improve children's outcomes¹
- 71% of children under age 6 in NH, have all available parents in the labor force²

“Overall there’s a marked trend where the cost of high-quality early childhood education in this state is not affordable for the average family, and not even close... the price of some of the programs that we thought would have been a best fit weren’t even on the table for us.”

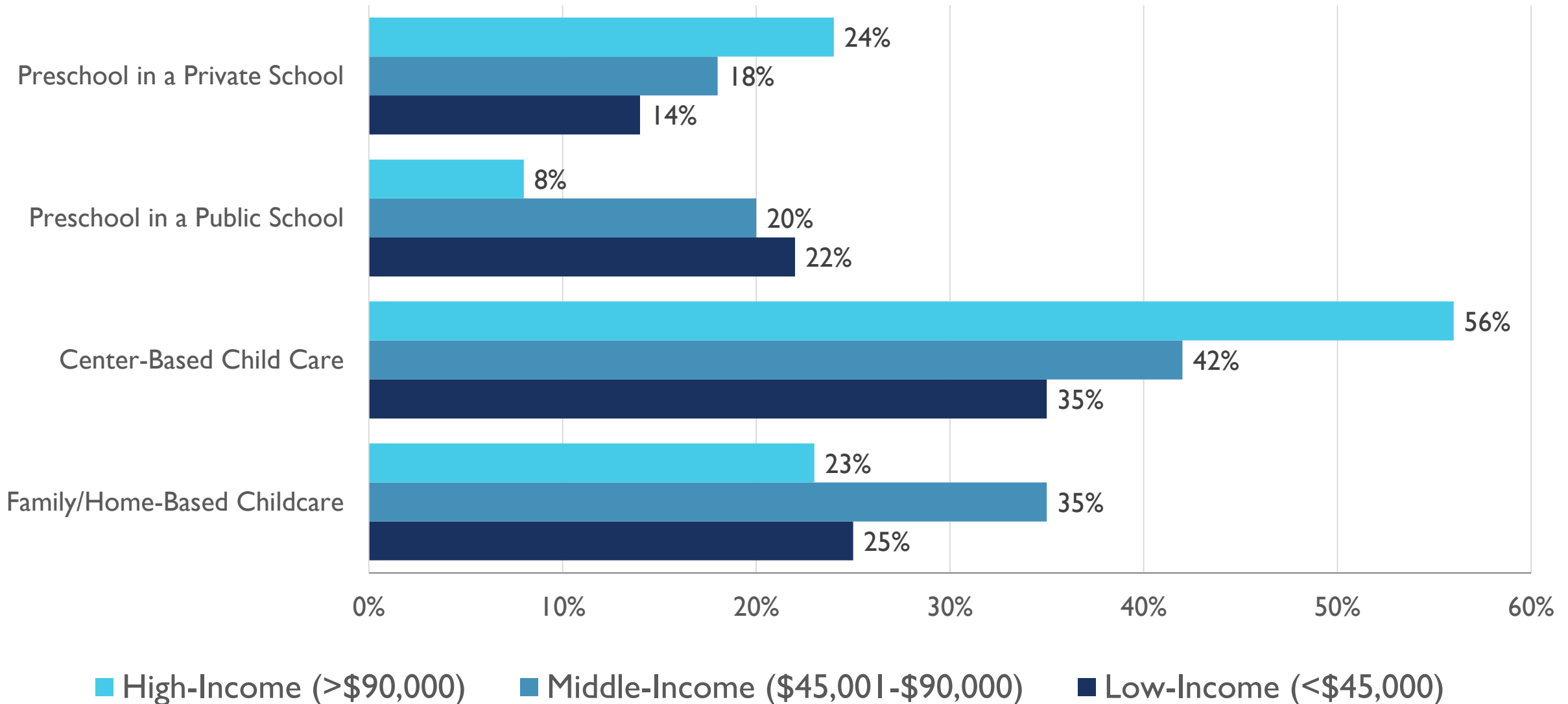
- PDG Focus Group Family Member

ACCESS TO STABLE, HIGH-QUALITY ECCE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS

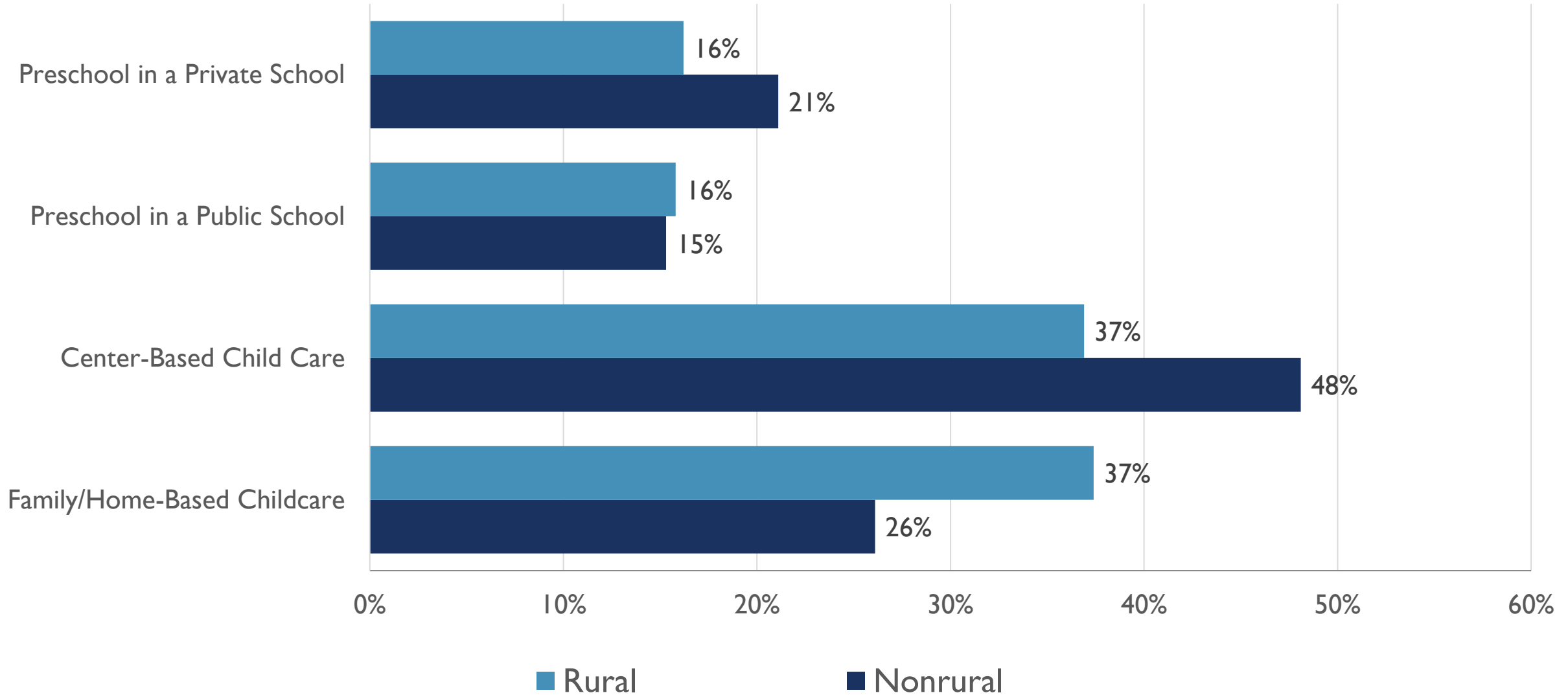
- Attract parents to a local area and **raise local property values.**¹
- Early childhood education reduces grade retention and remedial education to **save school systems money.**²
- **Increased child earnings and employment** translating into increased tax revenue and lower transfer payments.¹
- **Reduce children's involvement with the criminal justice system** as juveniles and adults.²
- **Improve health outcomes for children** and reducing public expenditures on health care, or lowering insurance premiums³

¹Bartik, 2011; ²Temple & Reynolds, 2007; Currie, 2001; ³Masse & Barnett, 2007; ⁴Anderson, 2014; Heckman et al., 2010; ⁵Carnerio & Ginja, 2014

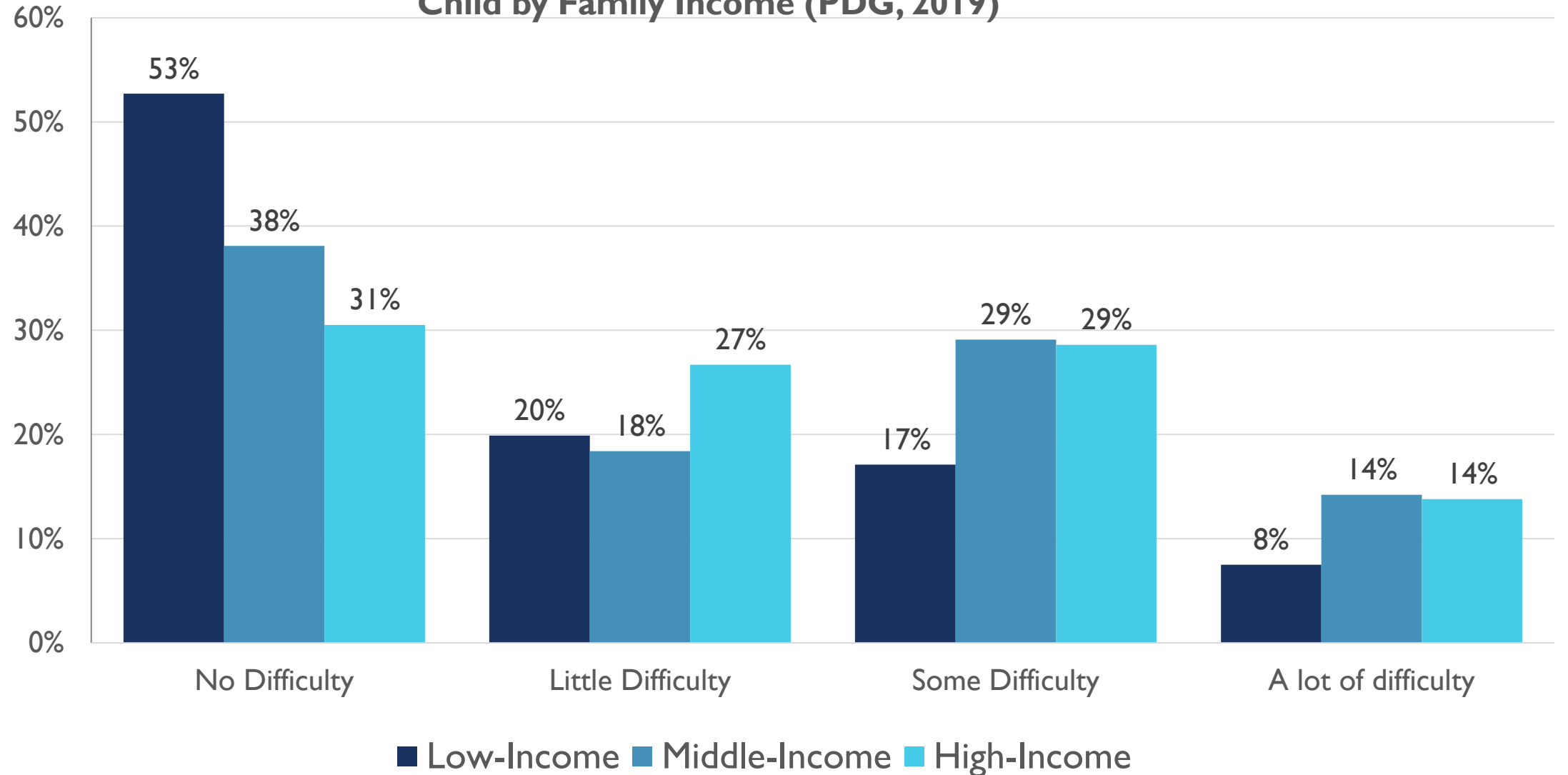
**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Percentage of NH Respondents Reporting Youngest Child Ever Participated in ECCE by
Family Income (Preschool Development Grant, 2019)**



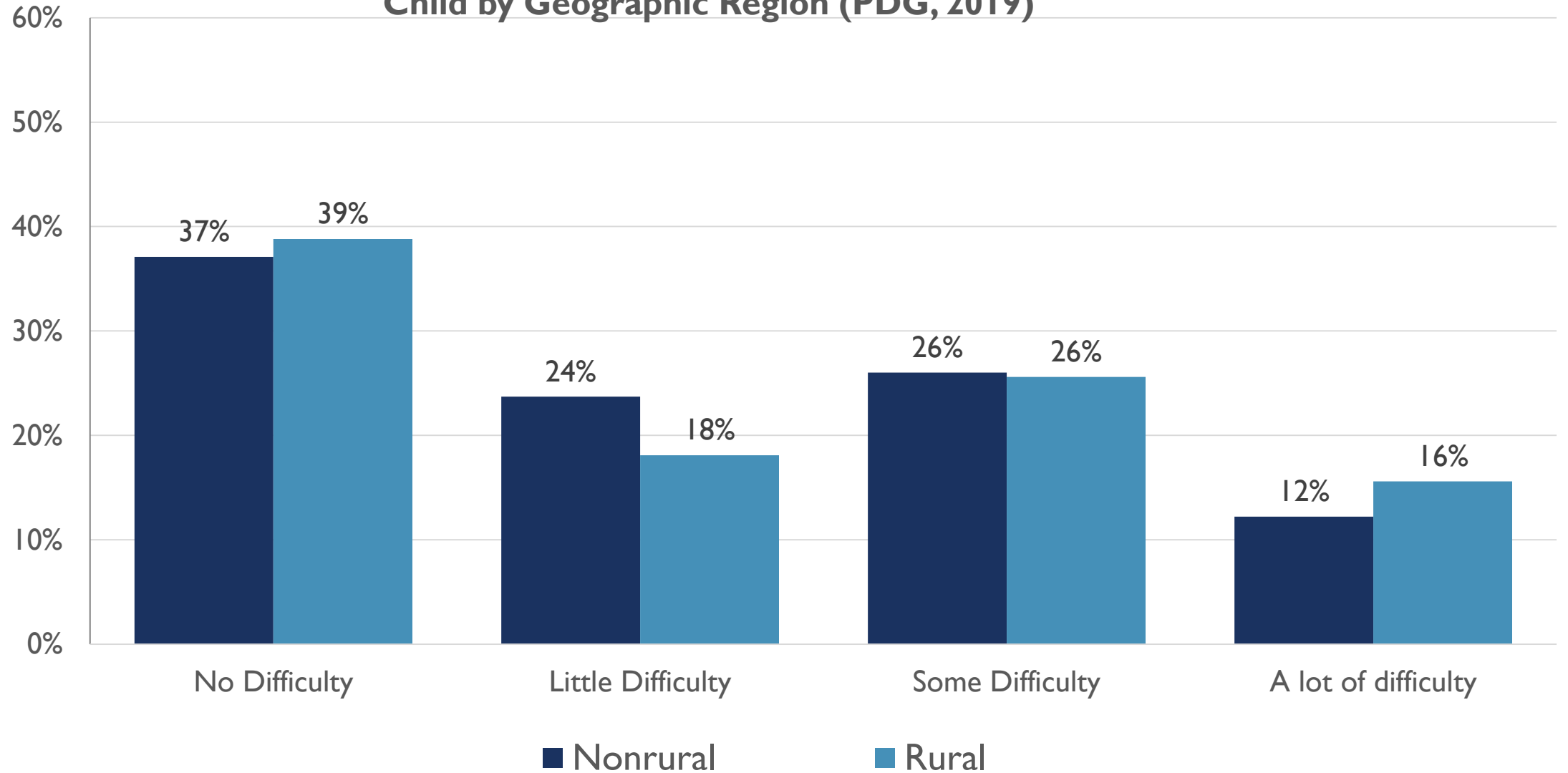
**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Percentage of NH Respondents Reporting Youngest Child Ever Participated in ECCE by
Geographic Region (PDG, 2019)**



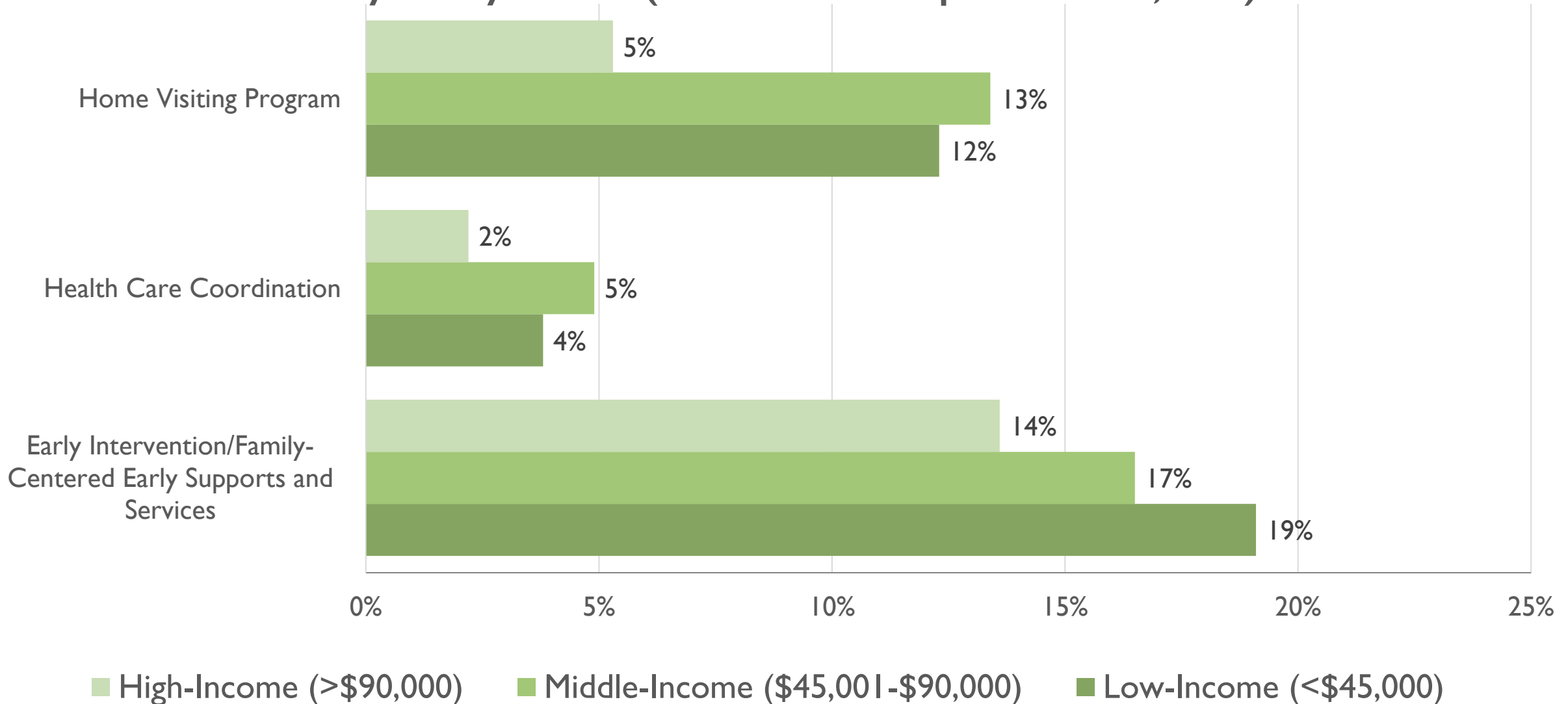
**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Respondents' Difficulty Finding ECCE Program Wanted for Their Youngest
Child by Family Income (PDG, 2019)**



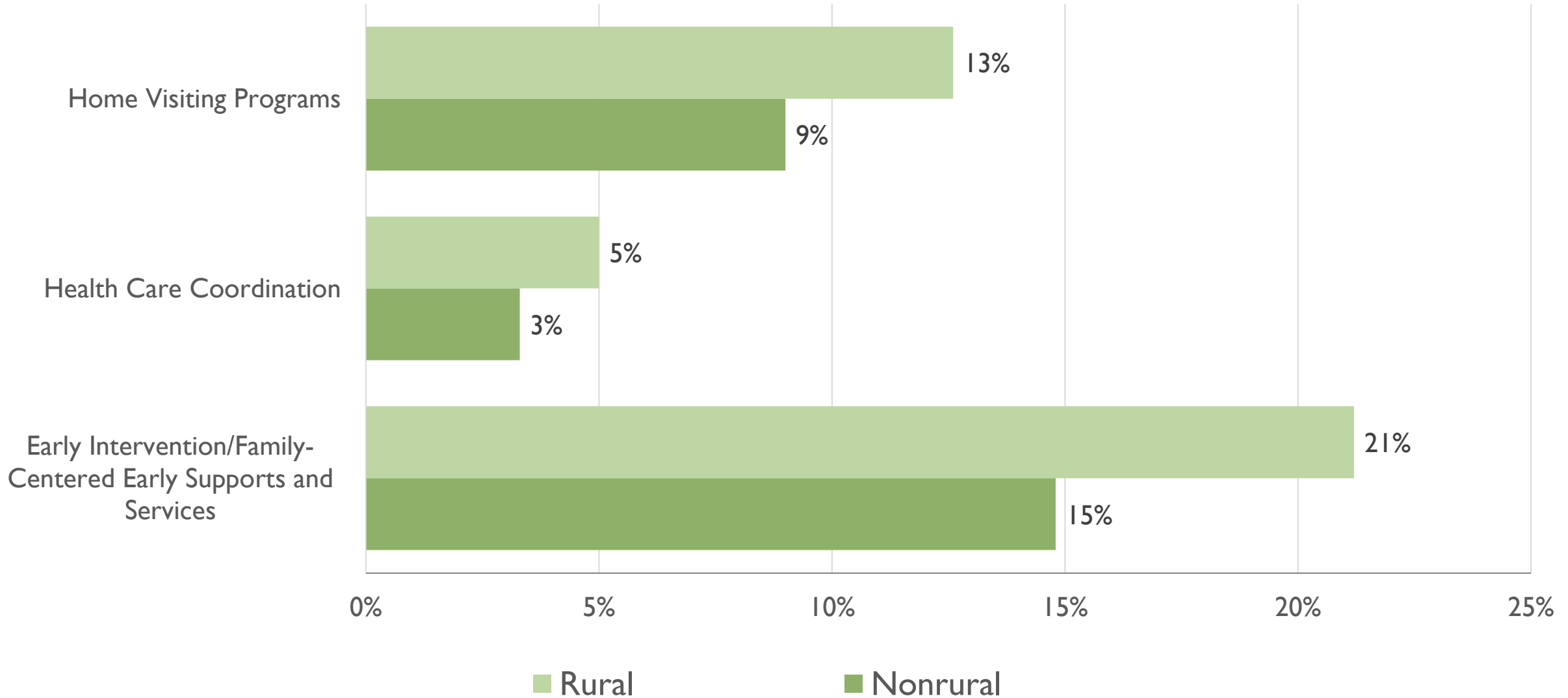
**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Respondents' Difficulty Finding ECCE Program Wanted for Their Youngest
Child by Geographic Region (PDG, 2019)**



**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Percentage of NH Respondents Reporting Youngest Child Ever Participated in
ECCE by Family Income (Preschool Development Grant, 2019)**

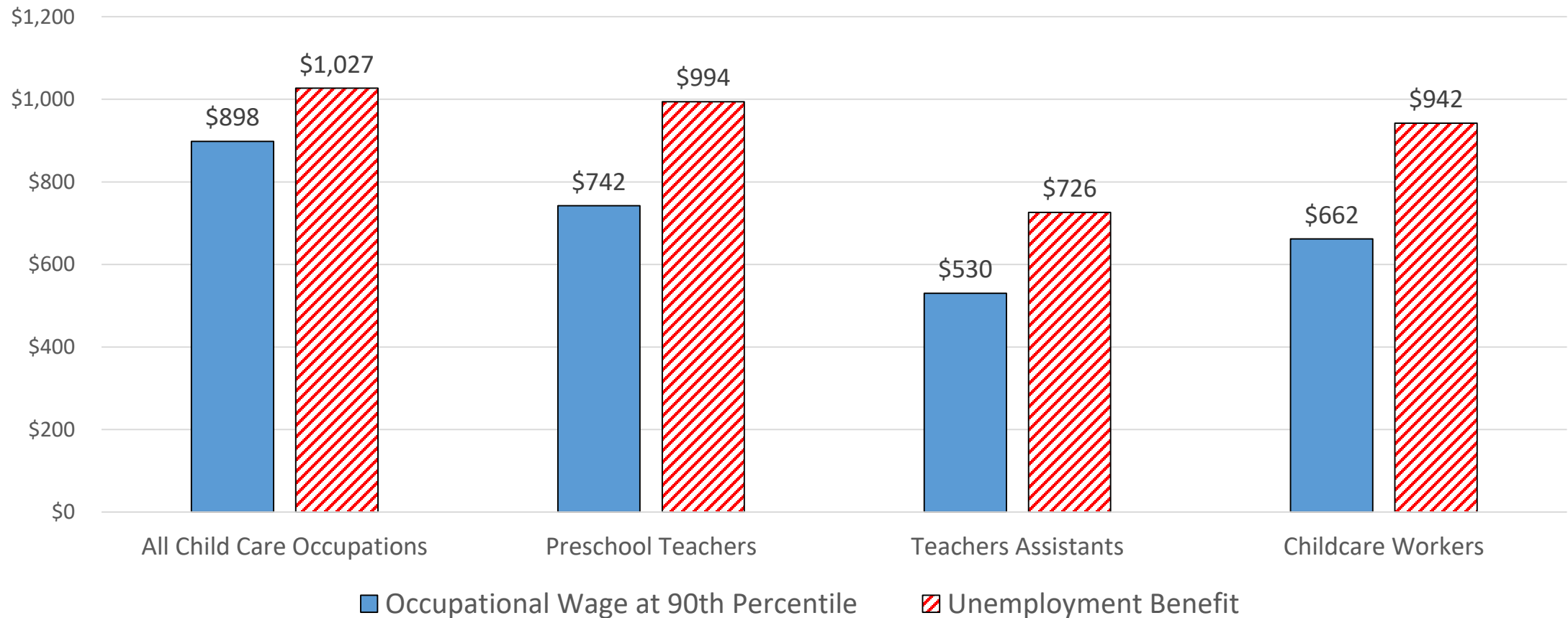


**PDG Grant Needs Assessment:
Percentage of NH Respondents Reporting Youngest Child Ever Participated in ECCE by
Geographic Region (PDG, 2019)**



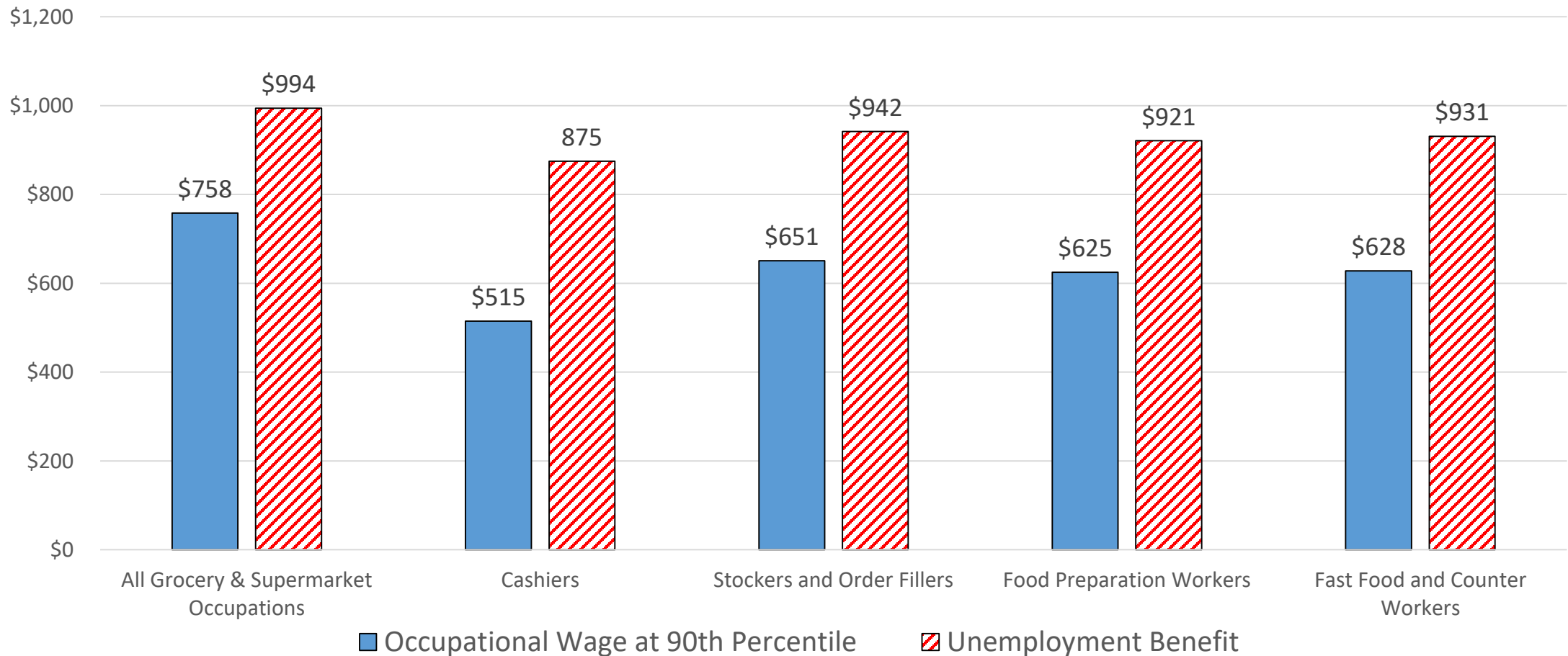
Approximately 2,600 of all Child Care Workers in New Hampshire Have Filed for Unemployment – Most, if Not All, Will Earn More in Unemployment Benefits as Long as the Federal Government Adds \$600/Week to State Benefits

Weekly Wages of Child Care Workers in NH Earning at the 90th Percentile of Their Occupation



Lack of Available and Affordable Child Care, Perceived Health Risks, Low Wages and Higher Unemployment Benefits, Risk Increasing Worker Shortages at Critical Supermarkets and Grocery Stores (Over 1,200 New Unemployment Claims Even as Spending at Groceries Has Risen Sharply)

Weekly Wages of Supermarket and Grocery Store Workers in NH Earning at the 90th Percentile of Their Occupation



DATA SOURCE: NHES, April 27, 2020