

Hello my name is Celina Reyes. I am a family child care provider, and I am the chapter president of SEIU Local 509 Family Childcare chapter. In these times of pandemic where our mission is to support our families and the curricular development of our children. Our responsibility and work have increased. We are charged with maintaining the daily cleaning, distancing and health assessment protocol. But keeping children of mixed ages focused has been a challenge. In my program I have a three-year-old boy who receives two hours of class plus one hour of speech therapy, I have one in kindergarten, one in first and one in second. When I offered this opportunity to parents, I didn't think at the time that it would be such a challenge for me and my assistant. Each teacher requires different things and meets the needs of four curriculums at the same time. I tip my hat off to the commitment and dedication of Family Child Care educators. For coming together as one and individually meeting the needs of each child in our care. With that in mind I also worry about my fellow providers that test positive, or that have preexisting health conditions. A provider recently called me and told me they had tested positive for Covid and due to doctor's order would not be able to open for 40 days. Yet her agency said she would only be paid for 2 weeks. I wonder how providers that test positive are going to be supported during this difficult time if it takes longer than 2 weeks to recover.

Thank you,
Celina Reyes