

Name/Organization	Topic/Comments
Dashawn & Jessica Bristol Grace Management, LLC	<p data-bbox="394 136 1586 346">My wife and I are owners of a large childcare center on the South Shore. First, we want to thank the EEC for their efforts in assisting centers with navigating the pandemic through resources, policy updates and a way to feel secure. Also, centers like ourselves are very thankful for the grants that have been made available by the Commonwealth. These items do not go unnoticed and we hope to continue to partner with the Commonwealth to continue to provide excellent education and care in the early childhood education industry.</p> <p data-bbox="394 388 1586 812">One area of partnership that can be improved is around how some rules, policies and regulations of the EEC negatively impact business growth. Has there been thought and discussion around updating regulations such that the desire to protect children and provide the best care works together well with private business growth? Currently, it seems as if the two (protect/regulate childcare industry and private business operations/growth) have been convoluted and not worked well. In essence, the EEC can directly halt business growth in the name of regulation. This seems like an overstepping of power on behalf of the Commonwealth. For example, an anonymous individual can submit a concern with no merit, yet because of policy, that would trigger an investigation which would put a hold on any outstanding licensing increase matters which prevent growth in revenue and turn away constituents of the Commonwealth. All the while, the Commonwealth (represented by the EEC) can take months to close their "investigation" which has now stifled business growth. This has been an ongoing concern and the concerns are mounting.</p>



Dear Department of Early Education and Care Board Members,

12/2/22

The South Shore Directors Support Group would like to thank you for all of your efforts to support the children, families and early child care and education providers of Massachusetts.

The South Shore Director's Support Group has twenty-five members and is growing. The membership includes a wide range of centers, both for-profit and non-profit programs. Some of the centers actively participate in the MA child care subsidy system while others serve exclusively private paying clients. Our membership represents centers serving children of all ages from infancy through school-age. The mission of our group is to support directors in all facets of running a child care business. Although our membership represents a variety of program types, all agree that the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) stabilization grants have been crucial to our centers' survival.

Since the pandemic, many early childhood programs have struggled with periods of uncertain enrollment. All too many programs would have gone out of business without this funding. Other programs may have been able to remain open, but would have had to reduce staff hours and benefits. This would be financially devastating for educators who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Centers have used the funding to cover the cost of payroll, paying staff who continue to battle illnesses. Funds have been used to pay educators for attending workshops, first aid and CPR. It has allowed us to give educators bonuses, and raise salary rates to continue to show our gratitude for staying in this challenging career. Many centers have used the funds to provide employee health insurance. These workforce investments help to reduce educator turnover, providing stability for the children and families that we serve.

Funds have been used to cover the cost of increased payroll taxes, utilities and maintenance of our programs. Costs for everyday supplies have gone through the roof.

The bottom line is we have remained open and not thrown in the towel and closed our doors. We were thrilled to hear about the possibility of continued funding. This will support our efforts to provide quality, top quality early education and care services to the children and families of the commonwealth. We welcome you to contact us at time if you have any questions about the impact of this funding.

Respectfully,
Tracey Nardone,
co-chair
Early Childhood Preschool
& Learning Center

Jan Gildea
co-chair
Just Right Childcare

Doves Nest Childcare
SSC Music Co
Learning Experience

Shanahan learning center
Tiny Steps learning center
Wollaston Childcare
Kindercare Rockland
Kids And Company Quincy

Your World Childcare
South Shore Stars
Primrose Rockland
A Child's View (2 sites)
Kids And Company Abington

Emerging Academy
Greater Quincy Childcare
Kindercare Weymouth
Younger University (3 sites)
Kids And Company West Quincy