

From: [Melanie Dodson](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 14.2 Santa Rosa Child Care Support Pilot Program
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 4:23:08 PM

Santa Rosa City Council Members –

I am sorry I will not be able to join you tomorrow as you consider item 14.2 the Child Care Support Pilot Program so I want to be sure to share my thoughts. First of all thank you for your leadership and understanding of child care as a critical economic driver for our community and as a struggling, essential small business industry.

I have done many presentations over the last weeks talking about the 57% reduction in child care slots county wide and when I look at Santa Rosa alone there is a current reduction of 63% of child care slots. And as COVID continues I continue to have great concern about the ability for our industry those currently open and those currently closed to sustain – it is an industry in crisis! As more of our community return to work it is essential that we work as a community to ensure that child care is available going forward.

The two items to support child care providers will make a critical difference in Santa Rosa by supporting existing small businesses through the small resiliency grants and by supporting 4Cs to continue our Child Care Initiative Project Training Program - reducing barriers and assisting new licensed family child care providers to open their businesses. 4Cs will support them through the entire process. These additional slots will go along way to support parents but also to support individuals who may be looking for a new income source and career.

I wholeheartedly support this Pilot Program and commend the Council for lifting up small business and child care.

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From: [Ashley Chavez](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 14.2 SR Child Care Support Pilot Program.
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 4:50:48 PM

Hi Santa Rosa City Council,

Thank you so much for your commitment to child care in Santa Rosa. In my professional opinion, an investment in child care is one of our best hopes of an economic recovery.

I am writing in support of item 14.2, the Santa Rosa Child Care Support Pilot Program. I have had countless calls from our community of child care providers in Santa Rosa expressing desperation for financial support for their programs. Many programs are in danger of closing and hanging on by a thread. Due to the current health & safety regulations in light of the pandemic, they are operating at 50% capacity, when they require operating at least at a 75% capacity to break even. Our city is in real danger of a serious decline in child care programs and an economic decline to match if parents are unable to go to work due to a lack of availability of child care. This item would support training and the reduction of financial barriers to new family child care providers/small business owners as well as providing the opportunity to fund currently operating programs and sustain their viability for much longer.

**Note: The 4Cs office remains closed to the public, however I am working remotely.*

Ashley

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