

Child care providers participate in professional development during COVID-19 pandemic

Results from a 2020 study of the Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grant Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed child care services in Minnesota and across the nation. To understand providers' experiences with the pandemic, an online survey was shared with child care providers between July 31, 2020 and September 9, 2020. A total of 1,898 center-based and family child care providers completed the survey. The survey asked child care providers* about their experiences related to a number of COVID-19 challenges. This fact sheet presents initial findings on providers' use of virtual professional development trainings and the challenges experienced to accessing professional development.

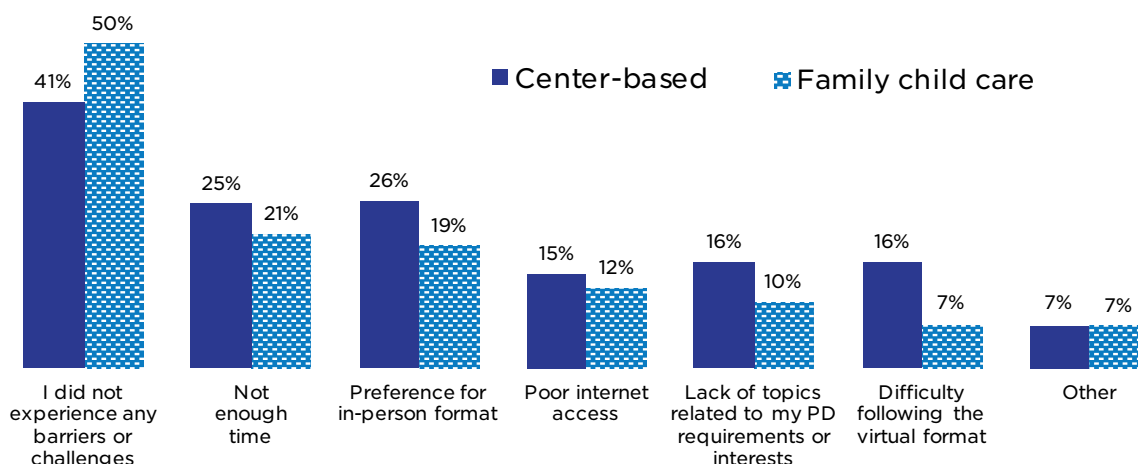
*The providers invited to participate were applicants (N = 5,297) to the Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grant Program, and thus, were a subsample of licensed and certified center-based programs and licensed family child care providers throughout Minnesota. These findings are from all providers that applied and responded to the survey, regardless of whether or not they received the grant.

68 percent of center-based directors reported that their employees completed virtual professional development while **59 percent** of family child care providers completed virtual professional development between the March 25th Stay-At-Home order and September 9th, 2020.

Which topics were covered in the professional development activities completed by program staff and providers? (check all that apply)

1. Child development/developmentally appropriate practices, including assessment and curriculum
2. Health/Safety
3. Supporting children's behaviors/working with children with specific needs
4. Relationships with families

Many providers reported no barriers to accessing virtual professional development. Providers who experienced barriers indicated they **did not have enough time** and **preferred in-person** (over virtual) professional development. Participants selected all that applied.



Source: Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grant Survey, 2020