



**Loudoun County**



VIRGINIA

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

# Childcare Program Update

August, 2020

Attachment 3

LOUDOUN.GOV

# Purpose

- Due to 100% distance learning in the Fall, many kids who would have been in school during the day may need a supervised, safe place to go and families may have difficulty finding this care
- Staff was tasked with creating options for consideration to address childcare needs for both employees and the community
- Work group comprised of County and LCPS staff
- Consultants engaged to assist with real estate search and review of buildings
- Staff focused on children grades K-6<sup>th</sup> who are not yet old enough or allowed to stay home alone

# Identification of Childcare Needs

- 2 rounds of electronic surveying were completed to define the need (employee numbers changed between surveys)
- Included Spanish language survey and targeted distribution of paper copy surveys
- Data collected included home zip codes to identify geography of need

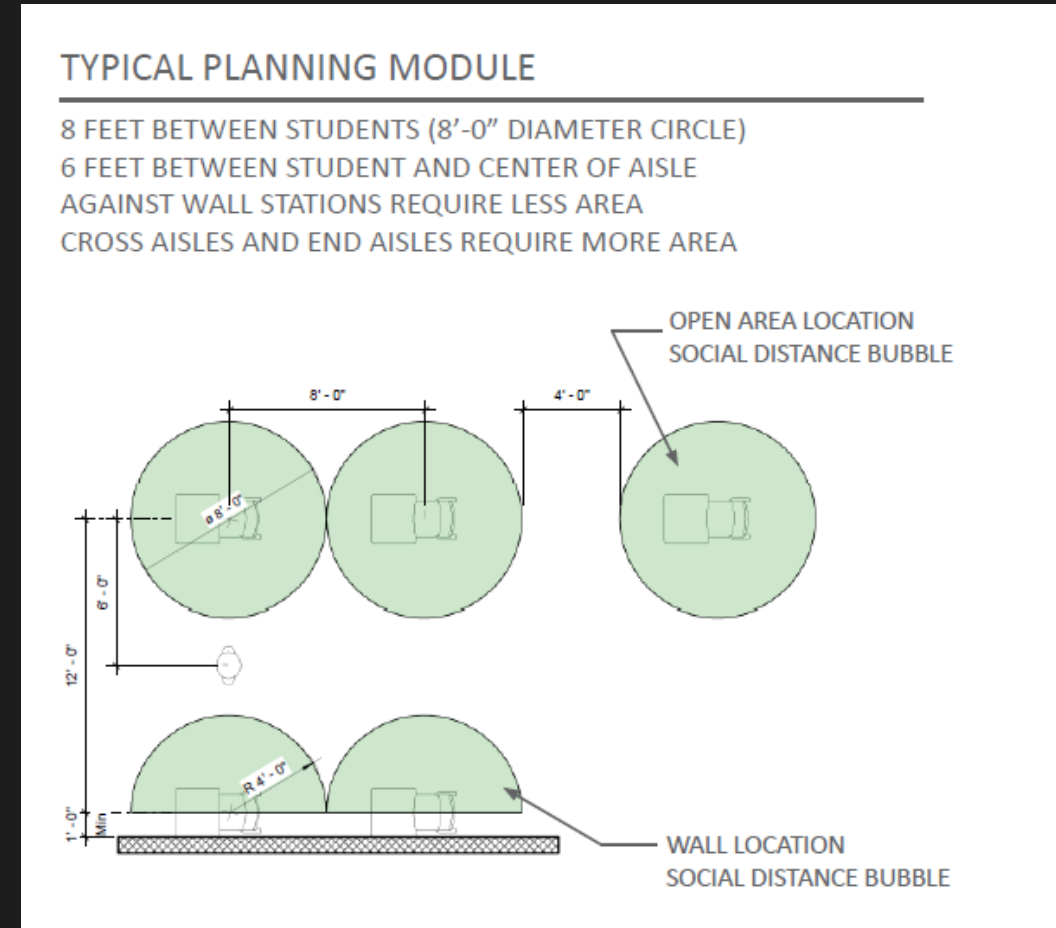
| Survey Respondents            | Half Day             | Full Day             | Total                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| LCG/LCPS Employees – Survey 1 | 46                   | 1,455                | <b>1,501</b>         |
| LCG/LCPS Employees – Survey 2 | 37                   | 389                  | <b>426</b>           |
| General LCPS Students         | 1,246                | 4,838                | <b>6,084</b>         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1,283 – 1,292</b> | <b>5,227 – 6,293</b> | <b>6,510 – 7,585</b> |

# Space Considerations

- Space should provide the following:
  - Desk space for independent virtual learning
  - Recreation space – preferably both indoor and outdoor if possible
  - Staff space
  - Sick child space away from others
  - Staging space for pick up/drop off
  - Ways to secure or ensure safety
- Multiple locations around the county preferable
- Planning for entire school year due to uncertainty of duration of need (leases will be 10 months)

# Space considerations (cont'd)

- Every child should have approximately an 8 ft. circle of space to be properly distanced when seated (or half if seated next to a wall)
- Space for circulation and staff were also considered when planning



# Program Considerations

- Ability to facilitate synchronous learning as well as asynchronous and recreation
- Routine and structure that supports individual learning
- Staffing ratio of 10:1
- Keeping children in cohorts of 10 and reducing mixing of groups
- Ensuring social distancing and good hygiene per CDC and VDH guidance
- Daily health checks at drop-off outside the building

# Types of Facilities Considered

| Facility Type      | Examples  | Considerations  |
|--------------------|---|---|
| County-owned space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comm. Centers, Rec Centers, libraries, office space</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Displaces other programs</li><li>• Some spaces not suitable for child care</li></ul>  |
| Schools space      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classrooms</li><li>• Expansion of CASA/YAS spaces</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Could interfere with school facilitation activities</li><li>• Would need to work in concert with hybrid phase in and with existing CASA/YAS activities</li></ul>  |
| New Leased Space   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Former childcare centers/private schools</li><li>• Commercial office space</li><li>• Vacant retail spaces</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considerable cost</li><li>• Some spaces not suitable for child care or younger grade levels</li><li>• Some spaces take time to modify</li><li>• Would need to have space to facilitate the recreational portions of program</li></ul> |
| Conference Space   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conference centers</li><li>• Hotels</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not easy to secure</li><li>• Other activities potentially going on in same location</li></ul>   |

# Summary of Need vs. Space

(as of August 17, 2020)

|                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Employee Need                     | 426 – 1,501          |
| Community Need                    | 6,084                |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>6,510 – 7,585</b> |
| Current Probable Seats            | 1,006                |
| Potential Additional Seats        | 1,262                |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>2,268</b>         |
| <b>Community Need Addressed</b>   | <b>1,842</b>         |
| <b>Community Need Unaddressed</b> | <b>4,062</b>         |

Includes co. facilities,  
schools, leased  
childcare facilities

Includes leased spaces  
staff is still working on –  
office, conference and  
retail (these vary widely  
in terms of est. ability to  
execute)

- These numbers are based on actual survey responses, however staff is planning for a flexible program that could adjust with the need and within Board direction

# Allocation of Seats – Option 1

- Address LCG/LCPS Employee Needs only
  - Does not require additional leased space; county and school facilities provide adequate space
  - Potentially maintains county and school services
  - Staffing would be maximized
  - Other services (i.e. nutrition, transportation) may be easier to deliver

Estimated cost to address this option:\$9.85 million  
(CARES Act request)

# Allocation of Seats – Option 2

1. Address LCG/LCPS Employee Needs first
2. Lease space from former childcare centers and any other readily available spaces that can be executed before September 8 (potentially 1,006 slots total)
  - Free and reduced lunch qualifying families and those with special needs given first priority using a RECTRAC lottery

Estimated cost to address this option: \$16 million

# Allocation of Seats – Option 3

1. Address LCG/LCPS Employee Needs first
2. Lease space from former childcare centers and any other readily available spaces that can be executed before September 8 (approximately 1,006 seats)
  - Free and reduced lunch qualifying families and those with special needs given first priority using a RECTRAC lottery
3. Lease additional space (office, conference, retail) and bring additional seats on line as available – about 1,000 – 1,200 seats by October (total 2,200)

Estimated cost to address this option: \$34.3 million

# Allocation of Seats – Overview of Costs by Option

| Estimated Expenditures           | Option 1 – Employees Only | Option 2 – Employees + public seats by Sept. 8 ( | Option 3 – Employees + public seats as available |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Personnel                        | \$956,800                 | \$1,246,800                                      | \$2,810,800                                      |
| Lease Costs                      | \$0                       | \$135,700  | \$421,300  |
| Operating Costs                  | \$26,000                  | \$80,000   | \$168,000  |
| One-time costs                   | \$20,000                  | \$25,000   | \$265,000  |
| <b>Total (monthly)</b>           | <b>\$982,800</b>          | <b>\$1,598,200</b>                               | <b>\$3,400,100</b>                               |
| <b>Total (school year)</b>       | <b>\$9,828,000</b>        | <b>\$15,982,000</b>                              | <b>\$34,001,000</b>                              |
| <b>Total (annual + one time)</b> | <b>\$9,848,000</b>        | <b>\$16,007,000</b>                              | <b>\$34,266,000</b>                              |

- Personnel for this program is expected to come from PRCS and potentially some non-school based positions from LCPS
- Meals and transportation as potential components of this program are currently being considered by staff and are not included in the numbers shown above

# Potential Childcare Fees

| Rate Groups             | Full Day Monthly Rate | Half Day Monthly Rate |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Standard                | \$764 – \$1,006       | \$389 – \$511         |
| Staff                   | \$382 – \$694         | \$195 – \$354         |
| Reduced Lunch Qualified | \$344 – \$596         | \$175 – \$304         |
| Free Lunch Qualified    | \$230 – \$398         | \$117 – \$203         |

- Staff working on developing suggested rate scale – above is an estimate
- CARES Act funding could cover a portion of the program costs for approximately the first 4 months
- Goal of charging fees:
  - Recover costs above what CARES will cover
  - Ensure that the program is affordable and relatively market competitive so as not to adversely effect the private daycare industry

# Timeline

Poll Board for final decisions

Week of  
8/17

- Board Member briefings and input
- Refine costs, staffing model, programming
- Prepare RECTRAC for registration process
- Continue to negotiate and execute leases

Week of  
8/24

- Online registration using RECTRAC
- Continue to negotiate and execute leases
- Prepare county, school and leases sites
- Execute staffing plan, train staff

Week of  
8/31

- Information to registered families
- Continue to prepare sites
- Continue to negotiate and execute leases

Week of 9/7

- School and childcare begins for employees and general public based on seats available and Board Direction

Space secured by this date will set the seats available on first day of school