



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Courtney Pendleton
YMCA of San Diego County
cpendleton@ymca.org
714.926.8106 cell

COVID-19: YMCA Childcare Resource Service Providing Enhanced Child Care Referrals to All Local Families Seeking Child Care

San Diego County families can call 1-800-481-2151 for assistance in finding a licensed provider during crisis;

Special phone line for health care, first responder, law enforcement and military families: 619-952-0242

SAN DIEGO – March 18, 2020 – At the YMCA of San Diego County, the safety and well-being of our communities has always been our top priority. With schools across the County closed, and the Governor suggesting it is unlikely they will reopen before summer break, YMCA Childcare Resource Service (CRS) is helping families in need of child care find the options that might work for their families.

YMCA's CRS department offers families options with open child care centers and family child care homes who are licensed and inspected.

"For 40 years, YMCA CRS has been the key connector between families and childcare providers in San Diego County," says Kim McDougal, Executive Director of YMCA Childcare Resource Service. "We are honored to serve our community now by enhancing our referral services for all families seeking care during this crisis."

San Diego County families looking for care can **call 1-800-481-2151** to discuss their child care needs with an advisor, who will complete a specialized search to identify the licensed child care options. Advisors will call providers on the family's behalf to see which providers have open slots and may meet their needs best.

Advisors are available Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Families can also conduct online searches themselves by visiting www.ymcasd.org/childcarereferrals.

YMCA CRS is committed to supporting health care, first responders, law enforcement and military professionals and is also offering a dedicated line, staffed at all times, to contact an advisor. **These families can call 619-952-0242.** If the phone line is busy, YMCA CRS will return calls as soon as possible.

As of March 18, there are thousands of licensed child care programs still open in San Diego County. YMCA CRS encourages families and employers to connect with the child care providers that are already offering care in their communities, and may have extra capacity to serve additional children at this time.

"We are hearing from many childcare providers that they are still open," said Laurie Han, Department Head for Childcare Resource and Referral at YMCA CRS. "Many providers want to continue serving the families they know and love, and are eager to serve additional families while implementing recommended practices for prevention of transmission. This includes small groups, cleaning and sanitation."

About the YMCA of San Diego County

The YMCA of San Diego County is the largest Y association in the nation, serving nearly 500,000 San Diego County residents and employing more than 5,500 people. Through a variety of programs and services focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y unites men, women and children - regardless of age, income or background - to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind and body. Visit www.ymcasd.org to find your local YMCA or call (858) 292-YMCA (9622).

###