

## UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE



Working parents have difficulty finding affordable, high quality childcare.

~ \$9,000/yr. for 4 yr. olds

~ \$10,000/yr. for 1-3 yr. olds<sup>1</sup>

DHHS deems 7% of income for childcare to be affordable. 2/3 of families spend more than 7%.<sup>2</sup>



### Gender Roles Persist

A 2012 Pew Research survey showed that while 70% respondents believed working full time was an ideal situation for men with small children, only 12% thought the same for women. Data also show that women are more likely to adjust their work schedules to meet family needs.<sup>3</sup>



### Power Dynamics

Lack of accessible, quality childcare keeps women out of the workplace and at an economic disadvantage to men, especially women of color who also face racial oppression.<sup>4</sup>



### Policy

Today, most families rely on a dual income in order to make ends meet. Despite this, workplace and public policies are still based on the assumption that families have an unpaid caregiver to tend to family and household responsibilities.<sup>5</sup>



### COVID-19 Pandemic

The childcare crisis has been exacerbated by the closure of childcare centers and increased financial distress for families.



## NAMING THE LOCAL CHALLENGE

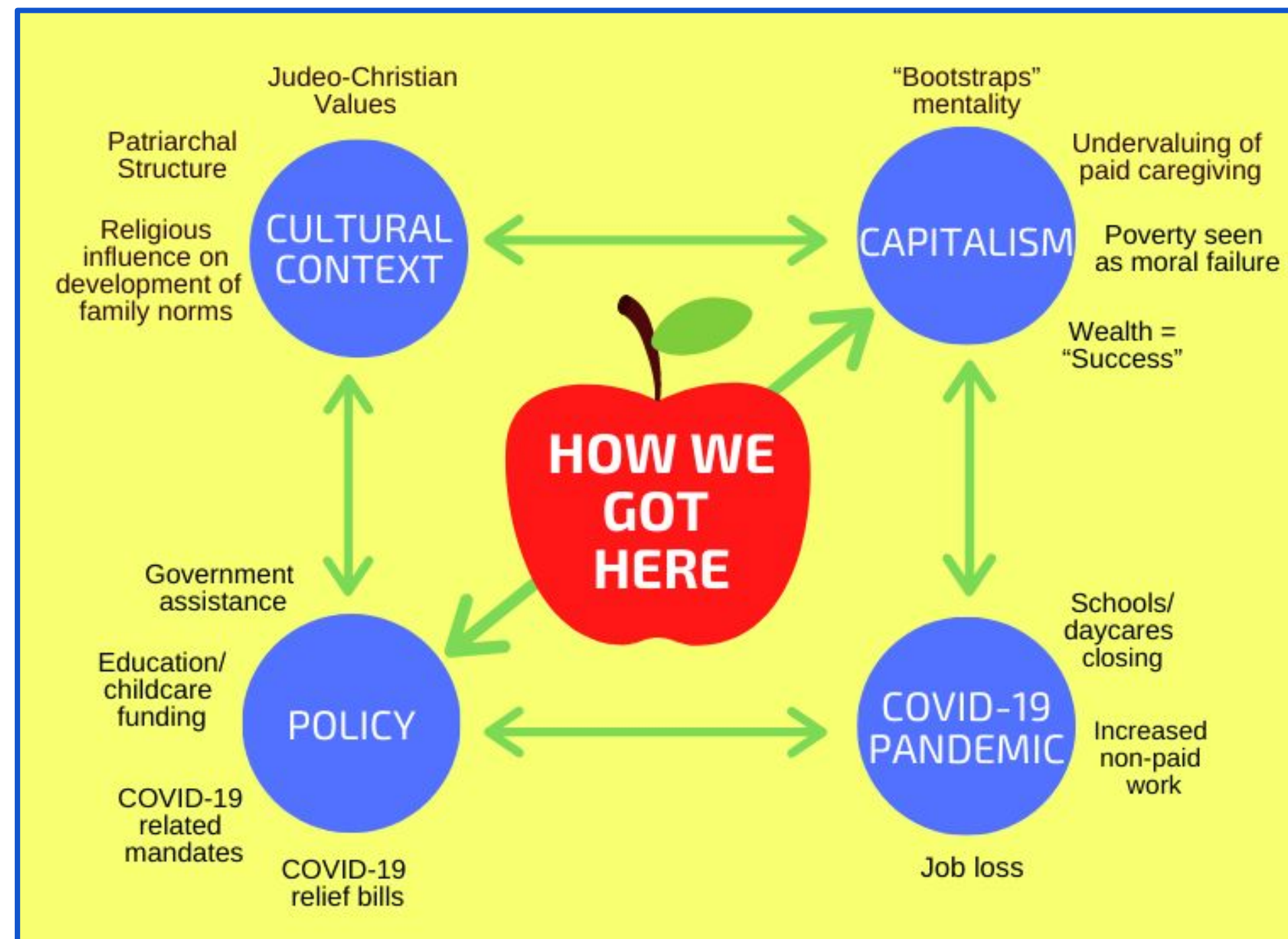


No Pre-K funding by local Forsyth County, NC government.<sup>6</sup>

The Pre-K Priority in Forsyth County through Family Services is a campaign to make Pre-K accessible to all four-year-old children in Forsyth County, NC<sup>6</sup>

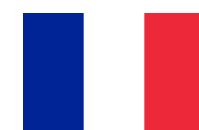
# Exploring the Current American Childcare Crisis

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## COMPARING GLOBAL APPROACHES

Below are three examples of countries that currently have policies for publicly-funded childcare.



France → 80% of women work → Families pay on a sliding scale for childcare for infants and toddlers. "The French government devotes about 1% of GDP to child care, more than twice as much as the United States does."<sup>7</sup>



Finland → provides free universal childcare → from age of eight months until age seven (typically the start of school) → Costs of childcare in Denmark "are capped at 30% of the actual cost for nurseries, kindergartens and after school centres. Typical fees are less than DKK 3,900 (\$590) per month."<sup>7</sup>



Norway → families receive allowance for flat-rate child benefits "...of NOK 1,054 (\$123), per child per month, which is doubled for lone parents → Kindergartens are open up to 10 hours per day and charge a maximum fee of NOK 2,500 (\$290) per month. → parental leave is paid at full pay for the first 44 weeks or at 80% if parents opt to take 54 weeks."<sup>7</sup>

## TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEM

- ▲ Expanding child tax credits
- ✳ Passing of Family Savings for Kids and Seniors Act
- Funding for Pre-K Priority by Forsyth County, NC local government
- Granting paid parental leave
- Arranging onsite, employer childcare
- ★ Passing bailout for childcare providers
- ▼ Providing safeguards to keep parents employed during national and global crises
- ☆ Shifting the community perspective towards a stronger sense of collective responsibility for the education and care of children

## IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES

- ★ Families make childcare decisions on what is best for their children and their family.
- ★ Parents who want to stay home with their children are able to do so without financial struggle.
- ★ Parents are able to take off as much time as needed for their children.
- ★ Families with working parents can trust that their children are well cared for and being provided with quality opportunities for emotional and educational growth
- ★ Caretakers do not have to max out their capacity in order to be financially successful
- ★ Greater economic equality, particularly for women of color

### References

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