

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman

U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member

U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we are writing to respectfully request that you provide
robust funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Recognizing the need to direct taxpayer resources to programs that can demonstrate a return on
federal investments, quality child care—which has a strong evidence base—plays a crucial role in
supporting children's healthy development, learning, and school readiness, while also enabling
parents to work, train, or pursue education advancement. By removing barriers to affordable,
high-quality child care, CCDBG improves future opportunities for children and also empowers
parents to choose the child care that best fits the needs of their family.

CCDBG is a key component of the long-standing, federal-state early childhood education
partnership. Through CCDBG, the federal government works with every state to support local
programs to address the individual needs of children and families, while also prioritizing parental
choice. CCDBG creates a solid foundation upon which states are building their own child care
systems, by leveraging federal funding to create and expand high-quality early learning and care
opportunities beyond what is possible with state funding alone.

For years, families at every income level have struggled to find high-quality care, and only 15
percent of eligible children received support through the CCDBG subsidy program.¹ Child care
providers, many of which are small businesses themselves, operate on razor-thin margins while
contending with workforce shortages, resulting in a limited supply of care for working families.

Lack of access to child care remains a barrier to the economic success of parents and employers
alike. A recent survey of small business owners highlighted that 71 percent of small business
leaders think that access to high-quality, affordable child care is essential or important to
strengthening the economy and helping workers.² The same survey indicated that in the past

¹ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/260361/CY2015ChildCareSubsidyEligibility.pdf>

² <https://www.ffyf.org/why-it-matters/political-demand/polling/voter-small-business-poll-2022/>

year, one in three small businesses reported multiple child care-rooted workforce problems, noting that the reliability of workers, recruitment and retention of qualified workers, as well as the expansion of their business, has been more challenging. Additionally, a recent report by ReadyNation indicates that insufficient access to child care costs working parents up to \$78 billion per year in lost earnings, businesses up to \$33 billion per year in lost productivity, and taxpayers up to \$21 billion per year in lost revenue for a total economic impact of \$122 billion each year.³ Given the importance of this program to working families across the country and the fundamental role of child care in our economy, there is a critical need for robust CCDBG funding.

Congress has made bipartisan investments in CCDBG in recent years, which have helped states to meet critical quality and safety standards, take steps toward decreasing costs to parents, reduce waitlists, and support local providers; still, much work remains. As states continue to work to ensure parents have a wide-range of choices to meet the individual child care needs of families across the country, we encourage you to prioritize funding for CCDBG which increases access to quality child care for working families.

Child care is the linchpin for our country's economy. Accessible, high-quality child care is indispensable for working families, offering parents better job stability and overall economic security, setting children on a path to success, and supporting economic growth. For these reasons, we urge you to include robust funding for CCDBG in the FY2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We hope to continue to work with you to support investments in quality child care as the appropriations process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,

XX

Member of Congress

³ <https://www.strongnation.org/articles/2038-122-billion-the-growing-annual-cost-of-the-infant-toddler-child-care-crisis>