

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

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) 2025 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 providing access 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 program¹. 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 inhibits the economic success of parents and employers alike. A recent survey of small business owners highlighted that 80 percent of small business leaders

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

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think that access to high-quality, affordable child care is a barrier to workforce participation, and only 17 percent of small business owners say there is an adequate amount of high quality, affordable child care providers in their community.² The same survey indicated that 80 percent of small business owners support policymakers taking action to increase access to affordable child care. Additionally, a 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 child care to working families across the country and the fundamental role it plays in supporting 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 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 working 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 because it offers parents better job stability and overall economic security, sets children on a path to success, and supports economic growth. For these reasons, we urge you to include robust funding for CCDBG in the FY2025 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,



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

² <https://www.goldmansachs.com/citizenship/10000-small-businesses/US/infographics/small-business-owners-face-credit-crunch/index.html>

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

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