

TALKING POINTS: Funding for Child Care Programs

THE ASK TO STAFFERS

Please urge your Boss to **protect and prioritize child care in any upcoming funding packages**. This includes strengthening and prioritizing investments in trusted federal child care programs including the [Child Care Development Block Grant](#) (CCDBG), [Head Start & Early Head Start](#), and [Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five](#) (PDG B-5).

TOP POINTS TO MAKE

- Two thirds of all children ages five and younger need some form of child care because all of the available parents in their home are working.
- Existing federal programs – like the **Child Care Development Block Grant, Head Start, and PDG B-5** – provide the foundation for child care in this nation. But although these programs benefit millions of children each year, they reach only a fraction of those who are eligible to receive them. To provide meaningful, affordable options for parents, they must be strengthened.
- Quality child care is both **pro-work and pro-family**, and Congress plays a key role in addressing these realities to give families a wider range of options to meet their child care needs. In this year's funding negotiations, we are urging Congress to support increased funding for child care programs to support more young children, their families, and their communities.
- Funding these programs isn't just good policy—it's good, common sense. Making child care more affordable and accessible for families with little ones not only provides young children with vital opportunities to learn and grow, it also strengthens family finances, supports a thriving workforce, and boosts the economy.

THE SPECIFICS

- The child care community is urging Congress to use the levels [set by the bipartisan Senate Appropriations Committee last year](#) for FY2025 at total **\$2.3 billion increase over FY24**
- Increasing **CCDBG** to \$10.35 billion (a \$1.6 billion increase over FY24.)
- Increasing **Head Start** to \$12.97 billion (a \$700 million increase over FY24.)
- And funding **PDG B-5** at \$315 million (the same level as FY24.)

A FEW SUPPORTING POINTS

- Families with young children **need support NOW**. They can't push pause on their child care needs and hope to deal with it a few years down the road - kids don't work like that!
- [In recent polling](#), voters overwhelmingly said increasing federal funding for child care is an important priority and a good use of tax dollars including 72% of Republicans, 70% of Independents and 90% of Democrats.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **22.9 million:** Number of children ages 0-5 in the United States.
- **65%:** Percent of these children who live in a home where all the adults are working.
- **\$11,600:** Average annual cost of child care today - more than triple what it was in 2001.
- Find [specific data for your state](#) here.