

When Child Care Works, America Works

About *Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care*

Affordable, high-quality child care helps children, families, and communities prosper. Children in child care learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Child care gives parents the support and peace of mind they need to be productive at work. And child care helps our nation stay competitive, with a strong work force now and in the future. When America supports child care, we encourage children, families, and our nation to reach their full potential.

Despite these benefits, high-quality, affordable care remains hard to find in communities across the country. The National Women's Law Center and a number of children's advocacy groups recognized the need to address this persistent problem, and saw an opportunity to take action. Together, we researched and wrote *Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care*. This Agenda provides a blueprint for the Obama administration and Congress as they consider the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, changes to the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the development of new legislation to support children ages birth to five. The Agenda provides policymakers with concrete steps to take to support child care that offers children the stimulating, nurturing environments that enable them to thrive and offers parents the dependability that allows them to be productive at work.

The Agenda proposes comprehensive, systemic reforms to meet four goals:

- Child care will be healthy and safe.
- Children will be in stimulating early childhood and after-school environments that will help them succeed in school and in life.
- Families of infants and toddlers will have increased access to high-quality care.
- Low- and moderate-income families will have help in meeting the high cost of care.

Under the Agenda, the federal government will ensure that states have sufficient funding to accomplish these goals and will support research, technical assistance, and coordination efforts to implement them.

Child care is a resource used by a vast majority of working mothers and children in the U.S. Child care offers valuable opportunities to children, parents and employers, but there is important work to be done to improve and expand child care options. That's why we are asking individuals and organization to help us in the following ways:

- [Sign up and support the Agenda](#)
- [Subscribe to NWLC's blog](#)
- Place a notice about the Agenda on your website or Facebook page
- Learn more about successful strategies to implement the Agenda from across the country
- [Share your thoughts and your stories on child care](#)

To learn more about the Agenda and NWLC, please go to the [Frequently Asked Questions section](#) or contact us at info@nwlc.org.