

Building Support for Child Care

The Obama Administration's strong interest in early learning presents an extraordinary opportunity to make the case that children in high-quality child care develop the skills they need to succeed in school. And right now, as the public's attention is focused on the country's economic challenges, it is critical that leaders understand that child care is an important community infrastructure that is key to supporting economic recovery.

We have the power to make real progress right now — but only if we speak up and ask others to do the same. Here's how we move forward:

Sign On

- Have you signed on to support the Agenda? Voice your support of the high-quality affordable child care by signing on (as an individual or as an organizational supporter). You can also find out which organizations in your community are already supporting the agenda.
- Urge community organizations and their members to sign on in support of the agenda and participate in efforts to support high-quality affordable child care.

Speak Up!

- [Share a story](#) about your positive experiences with child care. Stories from parents and organizations can help lawmakers understand why it's so vital that they commit to making progress on this key issue.
- Write a letter to the editor or op-ed on child care. To get started, you can [look at some past letters](#) to the editor written using our talking points. Contact your local media and let them know about the important role child care plays in your community.
- Blog! And post comments on blogs you read. Visit womenstake.org for NWLC's latest blog posts on child care for inspiration. Also, here are a few national blogs whose readers might be interested in hearing from you about child care:
 - [Daily Kos](#)
 - [Feministing](#)
 - [Momma Politico](#)
 - [MomsRising](#)
 - [Moms Speak up](#)
 - [Morning Side Mom](#)
 - [The Motherhood](#)
 - [Politics for Moms](#)
 - [Pundit Mom](#)

- Insert child care into state and local dialogues about education and the economy. Ask to speak at relevant meetings about the role of child care in your community and state.

Educate Our Leaders and Pursue Legislative Change

- Organize a visit for state and local officials to local programs to see first-hand the impact of high-quality child care on the lives of children, families, and your community.
- Arrange meetings with local, state, and federal lawmakers to discuss the role of child care and in your state and community.
 - Provide officials with first-hand accounts from adults and children in the state who will benefit from implementing the agenda.
 - Show them a list of local community leaders and national organizations that have signed on in support of the agenda.
 - Write up and share brief, informative, and moving stories of families without access to quality child care.
- Explore opportunities for increased investments and improved policies at the state and local level to support a vibrant child care system. The agenda provides detailed strategies for child care reform.