

New CCDBG Money is Making a Difference: Document the Impact

In March 2018, Congress enacted the largest funding increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)'s history. Since then, states have begun putting the funding to good use. To show how this investment is helping children, families, and child care providers—and to make the case for greater investments in the future—**state advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders should start collecting stories and data now.** The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and National Women's Law Center (NWLC) would like your help in documenting how this additional funding is expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care.

Collected stories and data should demonstrate how states are using the funds for the priorities identified by Congress:

- Implementing the CCDBG reauthorization law by improving the quality and safety of child care programs, increasing provider payment rates, and meeting health and safety standards;
- Helping more low-income, working families get affordable, high-quality child care; and
- Meeting the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours.





Although the effects of the funds may not be evident yet, you can take several steps now to ensure they are documented over time:

- Get a baseline. Have parents who have been unable to receive child care assistance struggled to pay their bills? Have families on waiting lists for child care assistance been unable to access stable child care? Have providers in your state or community been affected by low payment rates? Collect information now—before states start investing the new funds. Make a plan to collect similar information periodically in the coming months and years, as states begin to increase payment rates, reduce waiting lists, increase professional development opportunities, or expand the supply of child care. Collecting baseline data for comparison purposes will allow us to document changes resulting from the new funds—and illustrate the gaps that remain.
- Collect stories. Individual stories about children, parents, and providers affected by the new child care funding help us make a compelling case to Congress and the media for sustaining and expanding the funding. Stories might be used to show:
 - How a family receiving child care assistance—due to expanded eligibility criteria or a reduced waiting list—can now get high-quality child care that promotes their child’s development;
 - How a parent receiving child care assistance is able to get and keep a job;
 - How a provider operating a child care program in a low-income neighborhood can maintain and grow her business when more families get assistance and can afford her program; and
 - How increased payment rates help a provider improve the quality of her program’s care and the compensation she can pay her staff.
- Share your stories. Make sure to pass along your stories and data to CLASP and NWLC. We will compile the information to paint a broader picture for your state’s Congressional delegation and other key members of Congress about the importance of the funding, and the need to continue building on it.

With your help in collecting stories and demonstrating the impact of the new funds, we can ensure the investment is sustained and advocate for additional increases. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both approved funding measures for FY 2019 that maintain the \$2.37 billion increase for CCDBG. CCDBG discretionary funds are subject to the yearly appropriations process, so we must continuously make the case for child care investments, and we need more!

We are excited to work with you to maintain these new CCDBG dollars so they can continue to help children and families! For more information or to share your stories and updates, contact us at hblank@nwlc.org or cjohnsonstau@clasp.org.