



One-Pager on The Looming Child Care Crisis

How the Expiration of Pandemic Era Funds Will Jeopardize Our Child Care System Unless Congress Acts

Before anyone had even heard of COVID-19, families struggled to find quality, affordable child care, and child care providers grappled to retain staff and afford basic necessities such as electricity and food.

The pandemic only exacerbated these challenges. Thankfully, **the child care sector was sustained due to an investment of federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, which was approved by Congress and signed by President Biden in March 2021.

This funding, which included \$24 billion in child care stabilization grants, as well as an additional \$15 billion for the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, saved the child care sector from potential ruin.

Unfortunately, this **funding has always been temporary**, and the \$24 billion in stabilization grants will **expire in less than a month on September 30**. The additional \$15 billion for CCDBG will expire exactly a year later in 2024.

According to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), these relief dollars ensured that **220,000 child care programs** could remain operational, and helped **10 million children and their families** access affordable child care.

When the ARPA dollars expire, child care programs across the country will be forced to raise their prices or close their doors permanently due to a lack of resources.

The [National Women's Law Center](#), along with national, state, and local partners, are urging President Biden and Congress to provide a **minimum of \$16 billion a year in emergency child care funding** to prevent a major reduction in child care spots, staffing shortages, and increased prices that will disrupt both families and our economy.

Interested in learning more about the funding cliff? Click [here](#).