



**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

# Why Congress Must Pass Child Care Funding to Address the Child Care Crisis Now

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 expired on September 30**. The additional \$15 billion for CCDBG will expire next September.

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**.

**Now that the ARPA stabilization dollars have expired, child care programs across the country will begin 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.

**SCAN TO TAKE ACTION.  
TELL CONGRESS:  
FUND CHILD CARE NOW!**

