

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Cole, Ranking Member Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you work to finalize Congress's disaster relief package, we urge you to include at least \$100 million¹ in funding for early care and education as a starting point in aiding child care programs in this time of crisis in light of Hurricanes Helene, Milton, and Beryl; the Maui fires; and other recent natural disasters. We are grateful that the [administration's disaster aid request](#) includes funding for the Office of Head Start.

Child care is a vital service to the community and essential to recovery and rebuilding efforts—first responders, business owners, and working families all need it to keep these local economies going. The speed at which child care can recover after a disaster may also affect the overall pace of the community's recovery, and recovering quickly can provide continuity of care to children and families. Recovery of child care services can minimize the psychological impact of disaster and promote resiliency in children and adults.

We respectfully request that Congress include at least \$100 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). CCDBG is the most effective and efficient way to distribute funds following the improvements made during the disbursement of *American Rescue Plan Act* funds.

We saw at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic how essential it is to adopt a streamlined process for child care providers to access funds quickly and easily and should adopt lessons learned, including that:

- It must include both licensed and license-exempt home-based child care providers.
- Include funding for trusted, local organizations in direct contact with caregivers and providers.

¹ This estimate is based on a past disaster relief package for hurricanes Fiona and Ian in 2023, which included a similar funding level of \$100 million for CCDBG (Public Law 117-328 - Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023).

- Providers will have maximum flexibility to use these funds as they see fit, including facilities' repair and replacement, continuing to pay educators, and covering additional operating costs.
- Funds should do no harm: ideally, they should not negatively impact tax or benefits status or be burdensome to access.
- Timing matters - the needs shift, so when and with what rules funds are delivered will matter, and this supports maximum flexibility.

Child care programs need funds to repair or replace facilities, continue to pay early educators, and meet operating costs on the path to reopening and stabilizing. With a shortage of early educators already, we must prioritize preserving this existing workforce.

The severe shortage of affordable, accessible child care in affected states—compounded by the devastating impacts of recent disasters—is too significant for any one family or employer to address on their own. A crisis of this scale needs sustained investments that meet the needs of our children, families, and communities.

Congress must immediately provide at least \$100 million in disaster relief child care dollars to address the current crisis. Additionally, we continue to urge Congress to pass emergency supplemental funding for child care and early learning to stave off the impacts of the *American Rescue Plan Act* funding expiration, increase funding for child care and early learning programs in the FY25 budget, and continue to lay the groundwork for the sustained and transformative funding needed to ensure high-quality, affordable child care is accessible for all families.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

National Women's Law Center

All Our Kin

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

The Arc of the United States

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Care in Action

Caring Across Generations

Center for American Progress

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Chamber of Mothers

Child Care Aware® of America

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Defense Fund

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Change Action

Council for Professional Recognition
dot2dot Consulting, LLC
Early Care and Education Consortium
Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS)
The Early Opportunities Initiative
Educare Learning Network
Family Values @ Work
Family Values @ Work Action
First Children's Finance
First Five Years Fund
First Focus Campaign for Children
Home Grown
Institute for Policy Studies, Poverty Project
Jewish Women International
Kids Included Together (KIT)
LENA
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)
Moms First
Mother Forward
National Association for Family Childcare (NAFCC)
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Child Care Association
National Children's Facilities Network (NCFN)
National Community Action Partnership
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Head Start Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Save the Children
SchoolHouse Connection
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Small Business Majority
Start Early
TOOTRIS Child Care On-Demand
Voices for Progress
YWCA USA
ZERO TO THREE

State & Local Organizations

Northern and Interior Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children, Alaska

Arkansas Early Childhood Association, Arkansas
Children's Action Alliance, Arizona
BANANAS, Inc, California
Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network, California
Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc., California
San Mateo County Family Childcare Organization, California
Black Californians United for ECE, California
Build Up California, California
California Child Care Resource And Referral Network, California
Child Care Law Center, California
Children Now, California
County Welfare Directors Association of California, California
NCJW CA, California
Parent Voices, California
Thriving Families California (TFC), California
Clayton Early Learning, Colorado
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children, Colorado
NCJW CO, Colorado
CT Early Childhood Alliance, Connecticut
Hartford Family Child Care Educators Community, Connecticut
DC Action, Washington, DC
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section, Florida
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children, Florida
Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Florida
Florida Policy Institute, Florida
NCJW SPA, Florida
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta Section, Georgia
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, Georgia
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., Hawaii
Maui Family YMCA, Hawaii
Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HIAEYC), Hawaii
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Hawaii
Ho'oikaika Partnership, Hawaii
Common Good Iowa, Iowa
NCJW Chicago North Shore, Illinois
Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children (GoAEYC), Illinois
Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children, Illinois
NCJW Chicago North Shore, Illinois
Kentucky Voices for Health, Kentucky
NCJW Louisville Section, Kentucky
Agenda for Children, Louisiana
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, Louisiana
Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, Massachusetts
Strategies for Children, Massachusetts

Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine
Maine Children's Alliance, Maine
Maine People's Alliance, Maine
Family Child Care Alliance of Maryland, Maryland
Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC), Maryland
Maryland State Family Child Care Association, Maryland
National Council of Jewish Women Maryland SPA, Maryland
Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Michigan
Michigan's Children, Michigan
Kids Count on Us, an initiative of ISALAH, Minnesota
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis, Missouri
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative, Mississippi
Child Care Resources, Inc, Montana
Montana Family Childcare Network, Montana
MRB Connects, North Carolina
Family Childcare & Center Enrichment Foundation INC, North Carolina
North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association (NCIMHA), North Carolina
NC Licensed Child Care Association, North Carolina
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc., Nebraska
Family ChildCare Association Instilling Tolerance & Hope - F.A.I.T.H., New Jersey
NCJW/Essex, New Jersey
NCJW New Jersey, New Jersey
NJ Citizen Action, New Jersey
Kelly's Learning Academy LLC, New Mexico
OLÉ, New Mexico
Alliance for Quality Education, New York
ECE on the Move, New York
Empire State Campaign for Child Care, New York
NY Association for the Education of Young Children, New York
National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland, Ohio
Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children, Ohio
Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Ohio
Ohio Voices for Learning: A Reggio-Inspired Forum, Ohio
OKAEYC, Oklahoma
Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children, Oklahoma
Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, Oklahoma
Children's Institute, Oregon
Family Forward, Oregon
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, Oregon
Family Child Care Advisory Council & Quality Influential Professionals NAFCC Affiliates, PA
NCJW, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Child Care Association, Pennsylvania
NCJW Rhode Island, Rhode Island

Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, Rhode Island
South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association, South Carolina
NCJW-TN, Tennessee
National Council of Jewish Women Austin section, Texas
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas
ADFW Child Care Family Child Care Network, Texas
Virginia Alliance of Family Child Care Association
Virginia Organizing, Virginia
Let's Grow Kids, Vermont
Akin, Washington
Pathwaves Washington, Washington
Washington Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, Washington
Washington State Family Child Care Association, Washington
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Wisconsin
Sunbeam Child Care Center LLC, West Virginia
TEAM for West Virginia Children, West Virginia
West Virginia Association for Young Children, West Virginia
West Virginia Association for Young Children, West Virginia