

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer,

We deeply appreciate the initial investments made through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help mitigate the impact of the current public health crisis on children, families, and child care providers. The \$3.5 billion in emergency funding provided through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), along with other supports provided in the package, such as paid leave and loans for small businesses, are a critical first step in helping child care providers and families survive the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19. As the scope and scale of the devastation grows, however, it is clear that additional support is needed that reflects their essential status in providing care to the children of front-line workers and serving as the bedrock for a future recovery and we are already hearing from state child care administrators that CARES funding will not be enough to meet the need. In a preliminary review of new survey data from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), half of respondents report that their center is completely closed, and another 15% report that they are closed to everyone except children of essential personnel. This, along with the data on the implications of state-mandated closures, translates into hundreds of thousands of program closures across the country, plus many more programs who are operating with significantly reduced enrollment. Since NAEYC's first survey indicated that nearly half of programs would not survive a closure of more than two weeks without support, we know that the long-term viability of child care, and therefore the viability of our nation's economy, is dependent on additional financial relief from Congress. Congress must act to support additional, significant, and dedicated funding for child care to offer immediate relief to the sector.

This crisis is affecting all parts of the child care industry, whether providers are part of the existing subsidy system or the private-paying market. Closures critical to preventing the spread of the virus, some mandated by states, and some reflective of educators' and parents' difficult decisions, have left tens of thousands of child care providers without the means to pay their basic operating expenses. At the same time, some providers are risking their own health to provide care for the children of essential personnel, including medical professionals, delivery drivers, grocery store workers and first responders, who simply cannot continue their critical work on the front-lines of the coronavirus pandemic without this care. As these providers remain open, they face additional expenses and insufficient resources to support the necessary measures they must take, including paying substitutes, purchasing protective and cleaning supplies, operating for

longer hours, and making staffing adjustments to create small groups that protect children, families, and staff. The pressure is not on educators and providers alone, however. Our nation's child care system currently rests in large part on families' ability to pay for it, and families, especially families with low incomes, should not be in a position of having to shoulder that burden during a time when job security is low, wages are compromised, and children need to be kept safe.

The need for a functioning child care system is also critical for getting families back to work and school as we recover from this crisis. The profound gaps in our child care infrastructure already cost American families and the economy about [\\$57 billion each year](#) in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue. If Congress does not take action to ensure that child care providers can serve essential workers now, and survive until this crisis ends, so that they and families around the country can return to work, that loss will grow exponentially, impeding the full recovery of the American economy. In addition, beyond the immediate needs to keep the industry afloat during this crisis, we must rebuild our system to ensure that all families have access to high-quality, affordable child care provided by educators who are [paid what they deserve](#) and supported. A well-resourced, equitable child care system is essential for our economic recovery. We must invest the public dollars and pursue the changes needed to realize this promise.

The emergency funding provided through CCDBG is an important first step in helping to support the child care system during this economic and public health crisis, but it is not sufficient. Because child care is a [\\$99 billion industry](#), much larger and ongoing investments will be needed to preserve the child care system so that it works for children, families, educators, businesses, and our nation's economy. Child care's essential status demands dedicated relief that acknowledges the unique needs of a system that was already teetering on the edge of financial viability before this pandemic. Specifically, **we request that Congress provide at least \$50 billion in total funding dedicated to child care to offer immediate relief to providers, educators, and families during this crisis.**

This funding must include enough flexibility to address the needs of particular communities and families for the duration of this crisis -- since rules about closure, essential workers, and many functions of child care are determined at the state level -- while still maintaining strong health and safety requirements that are especially important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding must allow funding for needs that they identify, including (but not limited to):

- Paying providers to cover ongoing operating costs while they are closed for public health reasons, or open but with reduced enrollment to serve children of essential workers;
- Providing essential duty pay for child care workers in programs that are remaining open during the crisis;
- Providing materials, resources, training and other public health supports regarding health and safety practices;
- Eliminating copayments or tuition for families during this public health and economic crisis while ensuring that providers are still paid;
- Funding and paying substitute educators where needed and available;
- Purchasing materials for providers that cannot afford or find supplies.

- Providing virtual learning opportunities when appropriate and mental health supports for families; and
- Support for helping child care providers navigate small business loan application processes.

Without these investments, we risk the disintegration of our child care infrastructure, leaving children, families, and child care workers with no system to return to as we recover. At the beginning of this crisis, nearly 50% of child care providers predicted that they would not survive more than two weeks of closures without support; many of these closures have begun, and without a clear end in sight, the widespread effects are already being felt. Providers that remain open are struggling to cover their operational costs, with reduced enrollment, especially as they try to protect the wellbeing of their workers and the families they serve during this pandemic. Parents are also struggling – as child care and school closures have forced many parents to stay at home without work, and they are unable to afford tuition or co-payments to hold their spots in child care programs.

Child care is an essential need for millions of children and families, and it will continue to be the backbone of our economy both during and after this crisis, but only if additional funding is provided to keep it afloat. In order to protect and preserve our child care system for child care providers, workers, and the children and families they serve, we urge lawmakers to provide at least \$50 billion in aid targeted to the child care sector. In addition, as we look ahead to our eventual recovery, Congress should also advance solutions that comprehensively address the gaps in our child care system that contributed to these needs.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

9to5

A Better Balance

A Brighter Beginning Childcare

A Kid's World

A to Z Daycare Center

AAIMS Montessori School

ABC Education LLC

Addiction Connections Resource

Adelante Mujeres

Advocates for Children and Youth (Maryland)

Advocates for Children of NJ

African American Health Alliance

AFSCME Oregon Child Care Providers Together

All About Kids Daycare Inc

All about me Learning Center, Inc.

All Our Kin

All Stars Academy & Early Learning Center, Inc.

Allgood Learning Inc.

Alliance for Equity in Montessori Education

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
All-Options
Amazing Explorers Academy
Amazing Life Games Preschool
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Early Childhood Alliance
Arizona Head Start Association
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards
BANANAS
Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center
BEAUTIFUL's ANGELS
Bells Ferry Learning Center
Better Life Lab at New America
Big Mama's Daycare
Blue Ridge Preschool and Daycare
Bright Start Preschool
Brilliant Beginnings Academy
BUILD Initiative
Building Blocks Learning Center
Building Bridges Early Learning Center
Butterfly Bunch
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
CAPPA Children's Foundation
Caring Across Generations
Catholic Charities Early Learning
Cedars Preschool
Center for American Progress (CAP)
Center for Children's Initiatives
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Center for Research on Early Childhood Education
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Chars Family Daycare Inc.
Child and Family Policy Center
Child Care Aware® of WA
Child Care Aware® of America
Child Care Centers of Marshfield
Child Care Food Program Round Table
Child Care Law Center
Child Care Resource Center
Child Care Resource Network
Child Care Resources (MA)
Child Care Resources (WA)

Child Care Services Association
Child Development Center of Central
Child Welfare League of America
Child360
Childcare Network
Childcare Network (GA)
Children Unique
Children's Alliance
Children's Ark Academy
Children's Action Alliance
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Aid
Children's Council of San Francisco
Children's Defense Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Institute
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
City of Norwalk, Child Development Program
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
Clarkston First Baptist Academ
CLASP
Clayton County Healthier Generations Project
Clayton Early Learning
CLIX North Atlanta
Closing the Women's Wealth Gap
Coalition for Social Justice
Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators
Coalition on Human Needs
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)
Cocokids
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Commonwealth Children's Fund
Community Change Action
Community Organizing and Family Issues
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC)
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Connecticut Voices for Children
Cornerstone Academy
Cornerstone Early Learning Center
Cornerstone Schools

Courthouse Academy
Crayons Day Care
Creative Kids Learning Center, LLC.
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Day Care Council of New York
DC Action For Children
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children
Delaware Head Start Association
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Discovery Children's Academy
Discovery Point #51
Discovery Point #52
Discovery Point 43
Discovery Point 52
Discovery Point 67
Discovery Point CDC 8
Discovery Point Child Development 46
Discovery Point Cumming
Discovery Point Suwanee
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Doulas Latinas
Drew Child Development Corporation
Early Care & Learning Council
Early Childhood Consulting Group
Early Edge California
East Gate Kids
East5ide Unified Unido
Ebenezer Child Care
ECE ON THE MOVE
Educare Central Maine
Educare Learning Network
Edwards Family Child Care Learning Home
Erikson Institute
Every Child Matters
EveryChild California
Family Child Care Association of Maine
Family Equality
Family Values at Work
First 5 Association of CA
First 5 LA
First Focus Campaign for Children
First Up
Florida Head Start Association
Forum for Youth Investment
Fresh Start Early Learning Center
Futures Without Violence

GASP! Georgia After School Program Inc.
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
Georgia Child Care Association
Get Ready to Learn Kuna!
GoAEYC- Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children
Goddard Cumming North
Golden Kidz Child Care Center LLC.
Grand Kids Child Care Center
Greater Spokane Inc.
Groundwork Ohio
Grow n' Learn Inc.
Growing Room Auburn/Opelika
Growing Room, Inc.
H.E.R.O.'s Instillment Academy
Happy Dayz Child Care Learning Center
Happy House Nature School
Harvest Rain Early Learning Academy
Hawaii Association for the Education Of Young Children
Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Heidi Oppegard
HIGH HOPE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Idaho Head Start Association
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
IL Head Start Association
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois AEYC
Imaginative Minds Academy dba The Goddard School
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
In The Beginning Child Development Center, LLC
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Institute for Childhood Preparedness
Institute for Educational Leadership
Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
Iowa Family Child Care Association
Iowa Women's Foundation
Jacobs Ladder Educational Childcare Center, inc
Jay and Rose Phillips ECC at the Boulder JCC
Johnson's Learning Center
Just Kids Christian Academy
Justice for Migrant Women
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice
Kandy Kane Learning Center
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children (KSAEYC)

Kaplan Early Learning Company
Kentucky Head Start Association
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Kidango
Kiddie Koop DayCare Center, Inc.
Kids Forward
Kids' Galaxy
Kids 'R' Kids
Kids 'R' Kids #39
Kids 'R' Kids 8 FL
Kids 'R' Kids fl 15
Kids 'R' Kids International
Kids 'R' Kids Johns Creek
Kids 'R' Kids Johns Creek Morton Road
Kids 'R' Kids #44 GA
Kidsville Developmental Programs
Kidz Ink Academy of Early Academics
Kidz Kastle Daycare Center
Kidz University
KidZCommunity
Kinderberry Hill Child Development Centers
Kingdom Kare Childcare Center
Kreative Kids Academy Inc.
Ks Head Start Association
La Petite Academy - Panola Road
Lake Dow Learning Academy
Latino Network
"Le Bunnies" Early Learning Academy Inc.
Learning Ladder Christian Childcare
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
LemonTree Academy
Let's Grow Kids
Lil Hands Daycare
Lil' Spuds Daycare and Preschool
Lina Lane's Learning Center
Little Den Early Learning Center
Little Guppy Child Development Center, Inc
Little Ones Learning Center
Little Treasures Child Care Home Inc.
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Lots of Love Learning Center
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Low Income Investment Fund
Lower Columbia Hispanic Council
Madalyn's House Childcare Center

Magic Years Child Care Gallery Inc
Main Street Alliance
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Community Action Association
Maine Head Start Directors Association
MaineAEYC
Maks Learning
Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.
Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC)
Maryland Family Network
Maryland State Child Care Association
Massachusetts Association for Community Action
Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children
Meadows Montessori School
Metropolitan Family Service
Michigan Head Start Association
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan's Children
Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board
Minnesota Child Care Association
Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc.
Mississippi Head Start Association
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
MomsRising
Montessori Educational centers
Montessori Joy Learning Center
Mother's Love Child Care & Learning Centers
MS Black Women's Roundtable
Mt. Elizabeth Academy
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
MyVillage
NAACP
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Child Care Association (NCCA)
National Children's Facilities Network (NCFN)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Diaper Bank Network
National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
National Head Start Association
National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Nature Natures Farm School
NC Child
NC Institute for Child Development Professionals
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children
Neighborhood Villages
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children
New America Early & Elementary Education Policy Team
New Horizon Academy
Nicole Camplen
NJAEYC
NJSACC, the Statewide Network for NJ's Afterschool Communities
North Dakota Head Start Association
Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children
NY Association for the Education of Young Children
Oak Grove Kids
Oconee Preschool Academy
Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
OLÉ
Once Upon A Time Academy
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC)
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Head Start Association
Oregon Montessori Association
Oregon Pediatric Society
Our Children Oregon
PACE., Inc
Parent Ambassadors of Washington State
Parent Voices CA
Partnership for America's Children
Pathways LA
PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union
Peaceful Learning Center, LLC
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children
Pennsylvania Child Care Association
People of Faith Early Learning and Childcare Center LLC
PLAYCARE INC
Policy Matters Ohio
Poligon Education Fund
Portland Children's Museum

Powell's Learning & Development Center Inc.
Power Pac Illinois
PRE4CLE
Precious Moments Child Development Center
Precious Years ELC
PREP Academy of Learning. LLC
Preschoolpics.org
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Prodigies Child Care Management
Professional Family Alliance of Georgia
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Puerto Rico Association for the Education of Young Children
Region 9 Head Start Association
Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United
RESULTS
RESULTS DC
Rex Childcare and Early Learning Center
Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC)
Rhode Island Child Care
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RI Association for Infant Mental Health
River Green Academy
Sara Stearns
Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)
SC Association for Early Care and Education
Schoolzin Schoolzout Christian Learning Center
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sequoia's Treehouse Children's Center
Service Employees International Union
Seven Branches Academy
Siri & Co LLC
Sister/Sister Learning Center
Sister/Sister Learning Center LLC
Small Wonders Child Development Center
Song of the South Learning Academy, Inc.
SoulShine PreSchool
South Carolina AEYC
Starr's Mill Academy
Strategies for Children
Strawn & Co., Insurance
Sunshine House Early Learning Academy
Swipe Out Hunger
Teach, Love & Care Learning Center
Teaching Loving Caring II LLC
Teaching Strategies

Tender Years Learning Corporation
Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education
The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
The Care Institute
The Children's Center at Mulberry
The Children's Agenda
The Children's Courtyard Douglasville
The Children's Partnership
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Fox Den Childcare LLC
The Goddard School
The Goddard School Buckhead
The Goddard School Flowery Branch
The Goddard School of Crabapple/Alpharetta2
The Goddard School of Peachtree Corners, GA
The Goddard School of Sandy Springs, Georgia
The Goddard School of Vinings
The Goddard School of West Cobb
The Goddard School of Woodstock
The Greenlining Institute
The Imagine Institute
The Learning Station
The National Child Care Association
The Sunshine House
The Sunshine House Early Learning Academy
The Suzuki School
The Wisconsin Partnership
The Women's Fund of Central Ohio
Think Small
Thomasville Community Resource Center
To Bee or Not To Bee
Towne Lake Academy
Trinity Lutheran Church & Academy
Trying Together
Under the Magic Pine Tree Childcare Center
UNICEF USA
Union for Reform Judaism
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way Worldwide
Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Vision y Compromiso
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Progress

Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Virginia's Children
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP
West Virginia Head Start Association
White Oak Leaning Center
Winnford Academy
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association
Wisconsin Head Start Association
Women & Girls Foundation
Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative at Saint Mary's College
Women's Fund of Rhode Island
Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation
Women's Law Project
WOMEN'S WAY
Woodlawn CDC
Yellow Duckies Family Child Care
YMCA Alliances of ME and NH/VT
YWCA of Greater Atlanta
YWCA USA
YWCAs of NYS
ZERO TO THREE