



# Why We Should **All** Care about Child Care

## High-quality Child Care is an Investment Worth Making

Parents are their children's best teachers, but when it's time for parents to head to work, they want to know that their children are in a safe, enriching environment. Brain science shows that most of a child's brain develops in the very early years of life. When we invest in the earliest years of children's lives, we set them up for success in school and beyond.

Unfortunately, for many families, high-quality child care is out reach. In most states, child care is more expensive than in-state college tuition. And half of Americans live in child care deserts, where there are simply too few high-quality child care slots available to meet the need.

## Helping Families Access Quality Child Care

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is a federal program that allocates funds to states to assist low-income families in affording child care. Through this program, low- and middle-income families receive subsidies to cover the cost of sending their children to a qualifying center. Child care centers receiving funding must perform background checks on employees and meet health and safety, training, and inspection standards.

The result? Children receive an enriching environment so they start kindergarten ready to succeed. Parents are able to work, building greater economic stability for their families.

Businesses benefit, too. At a time of record low unemployment, businesses need more workers. When parents have stable child care, they are able to fully participate in the workforce.

## The Unmet Need

Congress increased funding for CCDBG, resulting in states being able to improve quality and clear waitlists. Unfortunately, half of eligible families still don't receive support. That leaves families scrambling and can result in parents having to make tough choices about whether it's worth it to work.

## How You Can Help

Contact your senators and representative and tell them you want more funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Visit [SavetheChildrenActionNetwork.org/ChildCare](http://SavetheChildrenActionNetwork.org/ChildCare) and act today!