



## Child Care Development Block Grant 2020 Issues and Actions

**The National Child Care Association (NCCA)** has been a trusted, nonpartisan voice for licensed providers of quality early care and education centers since 1987. It was formed to be an influential voice at state and national legislative tables. The NCCA began as a federation of state associations that appointed state leaders to serve as the Board of Directors at the national level. In recent years, membership has been extended to individuals and centers in order to raise a larger and more unified voice for the licensed early childhood community.

As an organization made up of Early Childhood Professionals, we have known for many years that 90% of brain development occurs between the ages of 0-5 years. When a young child attends a high-quality licensed early care and education program, they are provided the opportunity to become enthusiastic life-long learners. As we know this is more important than ever due to the rapid changes we see in today's work world. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said:

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."*

### **As members of the NCCA, we are advocates for changing the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant law as follows:**

- Require all providers of early care and education to be licensed by the state in order to participate in the CCDBG program. When a center that cares for young children is not licensed, important health and safety procedures can be easily overlooked.
- Require higher subsidy reimbursement for proven quality early care and education providers in all states. Many states have already adopted what is known as a tiered reimbursement system. In those states' subsidy payments are available to providers who demonstrate a higher standard of delivering quality program by achieving a quality rating from their state agency and/or becoming nationally accredited by an approved professional organization.
- Require versus recommend all states to minimally pay a reimbursement rate that is at the 75 percentile or above based on an all-inclusive market rate survey. In many states, the current reimbursement rates are still below the recommendation. Where this is the case, high-quality programs cannot accommodate the financial needs of at-risk, low income families without operating at a loss. In some cases, providers will accept the low reimbursement rates and then raise their private pay customer rates to help balance the budget. Unfortunately, this often results in lower middle- income parents being priced out of quality programs.



- Require all states to pay for children based on enrollment versus attendance. In most cases, private pay parents must pay for their child whether they are in attendance or not. This guarantee's that this child will maintain their enrollment in a dedicated classroom with their assigned teacher. This is a first step towards achieving continuity of care for a child. While the current CCDBG law emphasizes the importance of continuity of care, it leaves out this requirement as the foundation for establishing it. Unfortunately, many states still only pay for a child receiving subsidy when they are in attendance.

**As Members of NCCA we are Advocates for receiving funding that allows us to deliver high-quality licensed ECE programs!**

In order to achieve our goal of serving more children in high-quality licensed early care and education centers, we are actively advocating for a \$5B increase in the Child Care Development Block Grant in 2020. The current funding for the CCDBG is leaving too many low- and moderate-income children without access to high-quality licensed early care and education. Even with the generous increase of \$2.4 billion dollars in 2019, the grant is still only serving 1 out of 6 children eligible to receive benefits. The grant is also funded at \$1B less than in FY2001 (adjusted for inflation). During that time period, 1.8 million children were served by the grant compared to 1.4 in recent years.

As a member of NCCA and therefore a voice for high quality licensed ECE providers please contact your US and state legislators regarding these issues and the actions you would like for them to support. The more VOICES they hear, the better chance we have of making positive changes for children, families and early childhood professionals.

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**Resources:**

**Child Care Aware of America**  
**Early Child Education Consortium**  
**Office of Child Care**