



## January 2020 Legislative Update

As 2019 ended Congress finally completed the federal budget for 2020. They plan to spend a total of \$4.746 trillion. \$479 billion of this is the interest on the national debt. As a part of this budget the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) will receive a \$550 million increase over 2019 for a total budget of \$5.826 billion in 2020. While we at NCCA are glad to be able to announce an increase in CCDBG, we are very disappointed that it remains underfunded. In fact, only 1 in 6 families who qualify for childcare assistance currently receive it. Even though CCDBG has had increases in 2018 and now again in 2020 the grant is still less than FY 2001 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

The truth is unless we can interest enough childcare providers to engage in a unified and very vocal campaign to get the attention of our US lawmakers this will not change. Every year Congress makes the decision on how much “discretionary” money will go towards the children’s budget which includes the CCDBG. Did you know that while children are 25% of our nation’s population the total children’s budget is barely 7%? In fact, the dollars spent on the interest of the national debt is more than what is spent on children.

**In 2020 we are asking YOU, our members, to enlist the support and membership of others you know in the early care and education profession. Our VOICE together in advocacy must become larger and louder if we hope to achieve the changes needed to secure a positive future for young children, their families, and YOU, the hard-working early care and education professionals.**

Thank you for your membership and participation in advocacy!

Cindy Lehnhoff  
Director of NCCA