

Building Child Care for a Better Future Act

Summary: The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear the need to rebuild a stronger, more robust and more equitable child care system. Prior to the pandemic, too many working families struggled to access affordable, quality child care, especially if they lived in areas where there are few to no options for nearby, affordable child care. This bill addresses the child care gap by providing new, permanent funding so that states, tribes, and territories have the critical resources they need to develop a child care infrastructure that better serves all families.

Expands Mandatory Child Care Funding

- Increases annual funding for the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) to \$10 billion per year (a \$6.45 billion increase per year).
- Increases the amount of CCES funds reserved for Indian tribes and tribal organizations to 5% of funds.
- Increases the amount of CCES funds reserved for territories to 4% of funds.
- Reserves funds for technical assistance and evaluation.

Provides Grants to Improve Child Care Supply, Quality, and Access

Appropriates \$5 billion to the CCES annually to provide grants to improve child care supply, quality, and access in areas of particular need.

- Funding will not be subject to matching requirements.
- To access funds, states, District of Columbia, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and territories will identify in their Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (CCDBG) plans areas in particular need for child care, describe how funding will be used to improve the supply, quality, and access of child care in those identified areas, and describe how community members were consulted to identify community-specific needs.
- Funding can be used for CCDBG purposes including:
 - Increasing child care slots in child care facilities and family child care homes;
 - Establishing or expanding the operation of community or neighborhood-based family child care networks;
 - Providing funding for construction and renovation of child care facilities and family child care homes;
 - Providing start-up funding, technical assistance, support for improving business practices, and support navigating real estate financing and development processes;
 - Providing guidance to child care providers on negotiating with landlords or applying for land or home ownership;
 - Recruiting child care providers and staff;
 - Supporting professional development and training for the child care workforce, including through apprenticeships, partnerships with labor unions or labor-management partnerships, and partnerships with public and nonprofit institutions of higher education;
 - Maintaining an effective and diverse early care workforce by increasing total compensation, providing wage supplements or bonuses, or offering wage and retention rewards; and
 - Contracting with an intermediary with experience securing private sources of capital financing for child care facilities or other low-income community development projects to provide technical support.