

Federal Legislation for Child Care

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Child Care and Development Block Grant Act

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal funding stream for child care. Funds support quality initiatives in the states for all children, and funds provide subsidies to help eligible families pay for child care. CCDBG has been due for reauthorization in Congress since 2002. Opportunities in reauthorization include:

- *Increasing funding levels so that more eligible families can access subsidies and quality initiatives can be expanded
- *Supporting higher reimbursement rates
- *Preserving parent choice and expanding mixed delivery in state early childhood programs
- *Strengthening state requirements for child care and raising the bar on the quality of care

Representative Lowey Introduces Bill to Promote Employer-sponsored On-Site Child Care

U.S. Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY), has introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to help support high-quality child care in the workplace. The "Child Care Public-Private Partnership Act of 2009," (HR 2041) introduced on April 22, seeks to establish a business incentive grant program, offering matching funds to businesses to provide on-site child care.

Senator Casey Introduces Two New Child Care Bills

On May 7, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced two bills aimed at increasing the availability of high-quality child care for low-income children and working families (S 1000) and to provide federal support for the construction and improvement of child care facilities (S 1002). S 1000, also known as the Starting Early Starting Right Act, is similar to legislation Senator Casey introduced in the 110th Congress, but work make program funding mandatory, not discretionary as it is currently.

Congressional Hearings on Early Care and Learning

On March 17 and 19, the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee and its Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education held hearings on early childhood development and the impact of early childhood programs on young children. Witnesses included from national organizations and state program administrators. While the hearings did not focus on a specific piece of legislation, they did reinforce the ideas of a birth to five approach, that no single program solves all needs, and that child care is both early learning and a work support for parents.