

Rebuilding a Better Child Care Infrastructure Act

Summary: The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear the need to rebuild a stronger, more robust child care system. Prior to the pandemic, many working families struggled to access affordable, quality child care, especially if they lived in areas where there are little to no options for nearby and affordable child care for families. The Rebuilding a Better Child Care Infrastructure Act addresses the child care gap by providing new, long-term funding so that states, tribes, and territories have the resources they need to reconstruct a child care infrastructure that better serves all families.

Expands Mandatory Child Care Funding

- Appropriates an additional \$3 billion to the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) for fiscal years 2021 through 2025.
- Allows territories to be eligible for CCES funding and reserves 2% of annual appropriations for them.
- Increases the amount of CCES funds reserved for Indian tribes and tribal organizations to 3%.

Creates Pandemic Child Care Assistance Grants

- Appropriates \$10 billion in additional funding to the CCES to states, District of Columbia, tribes, and territories for fiscal year 2021 to address child care needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- Funding will not be subject to matching requirements.
- Funds may be used to support any purpose already identified in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) including funding flexibility established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Expands the definition of essential workers from the CARES Act definition to include the child care workforce, child welfare workforce, domestic violence prevention workforce, and prevention services workforce.

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

- Appropriates \$15 billion in funding to the CCES for fiscal year 2022 to improve the child care supply, quality, and affordability in areas of particular need.
- Funding will not be subject to matching requirements.
- To access funds, states, District of Columbia, tribes, and territories will identify in their CCDBG plans areas in particular need for child care and describe how funding will be used to improve the supply and quality of child care in those identified areas.
- 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 and assistance to new providers;
 - Supporting professional development and training for the child care workforce;
 - Establishing or increasing payment rates for child care.