



Federal Child Care and Universal Prekindergarten Funding (*Build Back Better*)

February 2022



- › **\$1.75 trillion**
 - 4 weeks of Paid Family Leave
 - 1 year extension of the \$3,600 ARPA child tax credit
 - Universal pre-kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-old children
 - Significant expansion of child care subsidy funding
- › Social Infrastructure vs. Physical Infrastructure
- › Passed the House on November 19, 2021



CHILD CARE

- › Significant expansion of child care subsidy to families up to 250% of state median income (SMI).
- › Creates a copayment system similar to that used in health insurance.
- › Copayments on a sliding fee scale, based on income level.
- › Eligibility phased in over a 4-year timeline, beginning in FFY2022 with families making 100% or less of SMI.
- › Licensed center-based and family child care homes are eligible to participate. Faith-based providers are also eligible.



UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN



Partnership between federal and state governments.



Expand access to – rather than replace – existing state pre-kindergarten programs (as applicable).

MIXED-DELIVERY MODEL

- Incorporating public schools, private providers, family child care, and Head Start.
- States must develop plans to ensure equitable distribution and attest that the pre-K plan will not endanger access to infant-toddler care.

ELIGIBILITY

- 3- and 4-year-old children will be eligible, independent of income. Must have turned **3 or 4 by cutoff date** established by states for kindergarten entry.



ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

- › Governor will designate a **lead agency**.
- › **1,020 hours** per year minimum.
- › States will attest that they have developed **rigorous, developmentally appropriate program standards**.
- › By the end of 6 years, **teachers will be required to hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood**, with provisions to “grandfather” in teachers who have taught pre-K for 3 of 5 years prior to enactment.
- › **Pay parity** with elementary school teachers.
- › Additional funds for programs providing **comprehensive services**.



- › **Increase wages** for early childhood educators to drive supply and quality
- › **Increases options and decreases costs** for families to drive affordability and accessibility
- › **Increases support** for quality and the ECE workforce to drive economic return on investment

WHERE WE STAND NOW



- Currently in Senate: discussion on next steps and reformed bill
- Senator Burr: child care bill to reauthorize CCDBG adding in many components of BBB
- State Efforts to supplement:
 - **New York:** The proposed Early Learning Child Care Act ([Senate Bill S7615](#)) to establish an early learning child care fund to provide subsidies for children to attend early learning child care programs. The Universal Child Care Act ([Senate Bill S7595](#)) would establish and fund a free and universal child care system
 - **Washington DC:** Council redirecting tax dollars to provide child care teachers bonus and pay parity to elementary educators
 - **Hawaii** [HB 1940/SB 2701](#) Appropriates \$2.9 million in general funds to increase early childhood educator wages. Increases pay to a minimum of \$17/hour for early childhood educators working in rural areas and child care deserts.
 - **Arizona** Representative Abraham introduced a bill on high-quality pre-k (2.8.22); HB2817 (teacher professional development support); Senator Quezada SB1520 (early literacy program fund)



- › **Contact your US Senators and Representatives**
 - › **Number of eligible families on waitlist**
 - › **Economic impact**
 - › **Workforce needs**
- › **Engage with gubernatorial campaigns**
- › **Support and share professional pathways and workforce registry**
- › **Encourage families to get involved**
- › **Sign onto NAEYC's Letter of Support**