

NAEYC's Children's Champions: A Lot of Love

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, early childhood education is feeling the love! So today, we are sending our love right back to...

...Congress, for introducing the Child C.A.R.E. Act

On Wednesday, February 10, Senator Casey (D-PA), Representative Crowley (D-NY), and Representative Frankel (D-FL) introduced the Child Care Access to Resources for Early Learning Act (Child C.A.R.E. Act). "The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is proud to support the Child C.A.R.E. Act in its focus on expanding infants' and toddlers' access to high-quality child care; its inclusion of early education professionals as the linchpin of quality; and its significant effort to ensure that our nation's policies catch up to what we know makes a difference for young children and their families," said Rhian Evans Allvin, Executive Director of NAEYC. "By building on the Child Care and Development Block Grant with a bold vision and critically important investments, Congress has the opportunity to support families so they can work, support children so they can learn and grow, and support the workforce so they can provide the kind of high-quality care that we all want and that we know our children need."

This bill is designed to ensure that families with infants and toddlers who are living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and need child care have access to high-quality child care by the end of FY 2026. It would advance the early childhood profession by supporting payment rates that reflect the cost of high-quality child care and increase compensation; and it would further the recommendations from the *Transforming the Workforce* report from the National Academies of Sciences by strengthening the skills and competencies of the workforce.

You can show some love by:

joining the National Women's Law Center, NAEYC and other partners next Wednesday, February 17 at 2pm EST for an #investinkids Twitter Storm and reaching out to your members of Congress to ask them to become co-sponsors of this bill

...and President Obama, for lifting up early learning in the FY17 Budget

If a budget is a statement of values, then this [final budget](#) from President Obama clearly conveys this Administration's deep understanding of and appreciation for the importance of the early years.

Key elements of the budget request related to early childhood education include:

- \$2.97 billion in discretionary CCDBG funding, an increase of \$201 million over FY2016
- \$6.58 billion in mandatory CCDBG funding, an increase of \$3.7 billion over FY2016, part of a broader proposal to increase mandatory CCDBG funding by \$82 billion over the next ten years
- \$9.6 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$434 million over FY2016, which includes \$10 million to support the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
- \$450 million in additional funding for Title I Grants under ESSA, which can be used to support early learning
- \$350 million for Preschool Development Grants, an increase of \$100 million over FY2016
- \$1.3 billion in mandatory funding in 2017 and \$75 billion over 10 years to support universal high-quality preschool programs for all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families
- Over \$1 billion to support programs focused on attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, with a focus on pathways, professional development and compensation
- Over \$1 billion for some higher-education focused programs, including America's College Promise, which would create a new partnership with states to make two years of community college free for responsible students, as well as initiatives focused on streamlining student loan forgiveness and year-round Pell grant availability - all of which are important to current and future early childhood educators

NAEYC is grateful for the priorities laid out in this budget request, and we look forward to working with the President and Congress to make smart and needed investments that support our children and those who love, educate and care for them.

Stay tuned for more on the appropriations process, and get ready to speak up and speak out!

P.S. More links to love -

ESSA passed. Now what? Read NAEYC's [recommendations for regulations](#)

Find out how much your [state is spending on preschool funding](#)
Keep track of [bills in your state legislature](#) that matter to children and families

Are you a NAEYC member? [Cast your vote](#) for the Governing Board & Bylaws Revision

[The difference between equity and equality](#) (You'll never forget this graphic)

[3 Facts & 3 Challenges](#) to keep in mind for PreK this election season
And make sure you're voting for [Early Ed for President](#) #earlyedin16
The [biggest policy mistake](#) we're making year after year (Can you guess?)

Celebrate #BlackHistoryMonth with [Because of Them We Can](#)

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