

# The Child Care for Working Families Act



*Quality child care feeds a baby's growing brain, building the foundation for the development and learning necessary for them to thrive as adults. But currently only 4% of low- and moderate-income infants and toddlers are served by the Child Care and Development Fund.*

**The Child Care for Working Families Act**, introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), would ensure that families have the quality child care they need to go to work, that children receive care that helps them learn and thrive, and that the early childhood workforce has the training and compensation its important mission requires. Overall, the bill would build on the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant to greatly expand the number of working families who could receive child care assistance, with particular incentives to meet the needs for infant-toddler care.

## **The Child Care for Working Families Act would benefit babies and families by:**

- **Ensuring that no family earning under 150 percent of state median income pays more than 7 percent of their income for child care.** This provision would greatly assist families of infants and toddlers, whose care can exceed the cost of public colleges.
- **Providing enhanced resources to help states ramp up the care available in their states, including in underserved areas.** A special 90% federal match for infant-toddler care would help solve the gaps in quality care.
- **Increasing workforce training and compensation.** The bill would ensure that all child care workers are paid at least a living wage, with a pathway to pay parity with similarly credentialed elementary school teachers, and have access to a professional development system offering them the knowledge and know-how to best support the development of the children in their care. This would help infant-toddler teachers, who on average are paid less than their preschool colleagues with similar credentials, secure better pay.
- **Providing states with substantial levels of quality funding to invest in activities, including improving infant-toddler care.** States will create or expand quality systems to raise the overall quality of care. Quality improvements would support the needs of family, friend, and neighbor care and care during non-traditional hours. These funds would help infant-toddler care, often of poor or mediocre quality, and provide young children with the developmental support they need.
- **Investing in more inclusive, high-quality child care for children with disabilities, and infants and toddlers with disabilities, by increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.** Expanded services for infants and toddlers will catch problems earlier, when they are easier and less expensive to address, helping more children get ready for school.

**Cosponsor and pass the Child Care for Working Families Act so that working families can find and afford the quality child care our babies need to thrive.**

For more information, visit <https://www.zerotothree.org/FederalAgenda2021> or contact Jim Bialick, Director of Government Relations, at [jbialick@zerotothree.org](mailto:jbialick@zerotothree.org).