



Child Care and Development Block Grant Talking Points

Updated October 2010

These talking points can serve as a guide. They are suggestions for how to share points about the policies that directly impact our work in child care programs. This is not a handout to be given to the Member of Congress.

- *Basics: name of organization, number of centers, number of employees, number of children served (both private pay and subsidy)*
- We appreciate the interest and leadership shown by Congress and the Administration about what we've known for a long time: the early years matter.
- We know that learning begins at birth, and young children need good quality early care and education. We provide this at our program every day, year round.
- Low-income families can access child care programs like this through subsidies, if funding is sufficient. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the core federal program for supporting working families' access to child care and supporting the quality of that care.
 - *Suggestion 1: We enroll about [NUMBER] of children through the child care subsidy program.*
 - *Suggestion 2: We are only able to enroll [NUMBER] of children at this program through the child care subsidy program because the funding is not sufficient to cover the full cost of care for our program.*
- The "Recovery Act" investment in child care made a huge difference in our states. Parents can't work without child care, and we are so glad that Congress made this investment.
 - *Give an example of how the ARRA dollars for child care made a positive difference in reducing the waiting list, in helping children stay in care, etc.*
- There's more that can and should be done, though. And right now, we're concerned because that investment from the "Recovery Act" is going to run out. What will happen to the children being served, to their parents' jobs, and to programs like mine?
 - *Suggestion: Talk specifically about what is going on with your state budget and child care funding in your state. They need to hear why more funds are necessary.*
- **THE ASK:**
 - As you think about priorities, remember that parents can't work without child care, and early care and learning programs matter to young children.
 - Please support increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, as passed by the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees.
 - This is a priority for me, and for the [NUMBER] of families we serve right here in your district.