

Policy, Process, and Messages for Federal Advocacy

Policy

High Level

- CCAoA is pushing Congress to make a robust investment in child care in the budget reconciliation bill they are crafting right now.
- As a supporter of the Child Care for Working Families Act, we are encouraging Congress to build off of that piece of legislation. The American Families Plan, proposed by President Biden (also known as the Build Back Better plan or agenda), includes the broad strokes of the Child Care for Working Families Act.
- During September the House of Representatives developed legislative language for the Build Back Better Act. CCAoA has resources available explaining the details of that proposal: <https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/what-does-the-build-back-better-act-mean-for-child-care>.

Process

- The budget reconciliation process has several steps:
 - o Both the House and Senate pass the same budget, which includes instructions for Committees to draft language on a number of topics and reach a specific amount of spending and saving. **(done)**
 - o These steps can happen in both the Senate and House simultaneously or one chamber can go first.
 - Committees propose language as instructed and within their jurisdictions. **(in progress in the Senate)**
 - Language is approved, or passed out of, Committees. **(in progress in the House)**
 - Language from Committees is combined into a single bill.
 - Both Chambers pass the same bill.
- At the end of September, Congress set a new internal, nonbinding deadline of October 31 to finalize the legislation. They also indicated that they will be negotiating a lower total funding amount, which might lead to cuts for child care.
- [Learn more](#) about the rules of the budget reconciliation process, which Congress is using to consider this legislation

Messages

- [CCAoA has a set of talking points](#) available that can be adjusted to fit meetings, calls, and other advocacy opportunities. Adding stories or state data can make an impact when you speak with policymakers.
- The goal when talking to Members of Congress is:
 - o Cultivate support for as high of an investment in child care and preschool as possible. The House of Representatives proposed child care and early learning program included \$450b.
 - o Cultivate support for passing the overall reconciliation bill. If Members of Congress bring down the total amount, that could mean less money for child care, urge them not to cut child care.

- If appropriate, express support for other priorities including paid leave, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (which covers child care expenses) and the Child Tax Credit, which supports the children, families, and communities we work with. CCAoA joined over 500 organizations urging Congress to maintain all of these provisions in the Build Back Better Act: <https://www.ffyf.org/500-children-family-advocacy-groups-from-all-50-states-unite-behind-child-care-paid-leave-and-child-tax-credit-provisions-in-build-back-better-act/>

Supporting Research

- While we do not know exactly how implementation will work in every state, analysis shows that:
 - This funding could serve 8.27 million more young children – an 11-fold increase. State by state data from National Women’s Law Center, The Century Foundation, and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP): <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/StatebyStateFS.pdf>
 - Co-payments would vary based on income and be capped for many families, ranging from no out-of-pocket costs for families earning under 75 percent of the SMI to co-payments capped at 7 percent of income for families earning under 150 percent of the SMI. State by state information from CLASP: https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2021/08/CLASP_CappingCopyChildCare_final.pdf
 - Use Child Care Aware of America’s 2020 report, *Picking up the Pieces*, to show how much families in your state contribute on average to child care currently. State by state information: <https://www.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PUTP-Appendices-FINAL-9-18-20.pdf>
 - Under the House-introduced Build Back Better Act, in 32 states, a typical family would save more than \$100 per week on child care. Information from the Center for American Progress: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2021/09/22/503993/build-back-better-act-greatly-lower-families-child-care-costs/>

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