

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Child Care Capacity Building

“When we invest in child care and early education, the benefits are immediate and long-lasting. Child care helps attract and retain a highly skilled workforce, brings business to the state, and improves the long-term well-being of our children.”

— Kansas Governor, Laura Kelly

To support policies that address the child care crisis, Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) offers key policy recommendations focused on increasing accessibility, affordability, and quality in child care. Their recommendations are intended to guide policymakers, business leaders, and advocates in implementing sustainable changes in the child care sector.

CCAoA’s recommendations include the following:

- I. **Increase Public Investment in Child Care:** CCAoA emphasizes that adequate funding is essential to make child care affordable for families and sustainable for providers. This includes increasing federal and state funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which helps subsidize care costs for low-income families. Expanding these funds is a critical first step toward creating a more equitable system where families are not priced out of high-quality care.
- II. **Support the Child Care Workforce:** Addressing workforce challenges is a significant priority in solving the child care crisis. CCAoA suggests competitive wages, benefits, and professional development opportunities to attract and retain skilled providers. Policies supporting financial assistance and educational pathways for early childhood educators can build a stronger

workforce and reduce turnover, which directly impacts the quality of care for children.

- III. **Promote Child Care Infrastructure and Capacity-Building:** Investment in physical infrastructure is necessary to expand and sustain high-quality child care facilities. CCAoA calls for policies that provide grants or low-interest loans to build new centers or update existing ones, especially in under-resourced and rural areas where child care deserts are common. This infrastructure investment also extends to helping states collect better data on child care supply and demand to inform policy.
- IV. **Improve Quality and Safety Standards:** Ensuring consistent quality of care across all child care settings is critical for child development. CCAoA advocates for policies that reinforce health and safety regulations, support quality rating systems, and integrate feedback from local communities. Strengthening standards across states ensures that children receive safe, nurturing environments conducive to learning and development.

For more detailed information on these policy areas, visit Child Care Aware of America's public policy section on their [website](#), which offers resources like state-by-state data, policy toolkits, and advocacy guides to support this mission further.

For more information, contact:

communitysupport@ks.childcareaware.org

ks.childcareaware.org/community-support-center/

<https://www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/public-policy/>

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