



Report from Washington: Investments in Child Care for Fiscal Year 2017

Updated May 2017

FY2017 proposals, debates and negotiations

In February 2016, the Administration released a budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2017. This was the first step in the annual funding process for federal programs. In the summer of 2016, even in a tight budget, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees called for investments in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). But, unable to complete work on the Fiscal Year 2017 funding legislation by the start of the new federal fiscal year (October 1), Congress extended their timeline by passing what is called a Continuing Resolution (CR): first extending to December 9, 2016, then again to April 28, 2017, and then one more time to May 5, 2017 as negotiations continued. During those extensions, funding for CCDBG and Head Start continued at FY 2016 levels – no increases, no changes.

Final decisions include good news for child care

At long last, the House and Senate agreed on a final package for the federal budget, rolling all of the unfinished business of separate appropriations legislation into one bill called an “omnibus.” Not only was child care *not cut* – but the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) got an increase of \$95 million – which is even more than the Appropriations Committees had approved last summer!

Administration’s Proposal February 2016	Senate Appropriations Committee Action June 2016	House Appropriations Committee Action July 2016	Final Amounts Approved by Congress and the Administration May 2017
\$200 million increase for CCDBG (discretionary funds) requested	\$25 million increase	\$40 million increase	\$95 million increase
Additional investments in the final FY2017 package that matter in the early childhood community and to families across the country: Head Start will receive an \$85 million cost of living increase. Preschool Development Grants are funded in the same amount as the previous year. Special Education Preschool Grants (Part B of IDEA) are funded in the same amount as the previous year. The Grants for Infants and Families program (Part C of the IDEA) will see a slight <i>decrease</i> in funding. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program (after-school care) will receive a \$25 million increase.			

What’s next? Lots more action!

This FY 2017 investment is a big deal considering the budget climate. Advocates worked hard at getting attention in Congress for this. But, the funding level is not sufficient to meet the needs of children, families, child care providers and our communities. NAFCC joins our national partners in urging Congress to increase CCDBG funds by \$1.4 billion for FY2018. The Center for Law and Social Policy reports that without an increase of \$1.4 billion for CCDBG, 217,000 children are at risk of losing access to child care subsidy. CCDBG of course drives the subsidy program – but it also drives the choices states make for licensing, quality, professional development, and the crucial role of family child care. The increased investment would support this work.

Find out more about the federal budget and your budget – and how the work of licensing agencies, subsidy services for working families, and the drive for high-quality child care all come together – at www.nafcc.org/federalbudget.

Meanwhile, Congress and the Administration are proposing and debating serious issues that put child and family well-being in great concern. The stakes are high. Family child care providers, your advocacy - and your work with children - makes a difference today and every day.