



Alda Jones | Utah



Alda's story

For most of her working life, Alda Jones has been dedicated to improving the early childhood education system at the state and local level. While working in a child care center when she was 20 years old, she learned firsthand how important a providers' role is in helping children off to a successful start in life. Alda participated in a march to improve the wages of early childcare educators—and her advocacy efforts expanded from that day. She has worked at a Child Care Resource and Referral agency, served on several boards and work groups dedicated to improving the professional development of providers, and currently works at a non-profit mental health agency that serves children age 0-7 and their families. In her outreach position, Alda works to ensure that children's needs are met at their child care provider before they need to seek help from her company. Specifically, Alda and her colleagues provide observation, reflection, and coaching for early childhood educators so that as many children as possible can stay in the child care program they are enrolled in.

Alda is a strong advocate for CCDBG. Her particular ask includes federal support for more specialized technical assistance to child care programs and providers, as well as improving guidelines around ratios, environments, curricula, and expulsion/suspension policies.

Child Care Stats in UT
The cost of infant care in Utah is nearly \$3,000 higher than the annual cost of tuition at a four year college.

U.S. businesses lose approximately \$4.4 billion annually due to employee absenteeism as the result of child care breakdowns.

There are 149,484 children under the age of 6 in Utah who could be in need of child care.

Congressional Request: 2017

CCAoA is requesting a \$1.4 billion increase (over the FY 2016 level) for next year to ensure that nearly 217,000 children and families don't lose access to care, and also to help states meet the requirements of the 2014 CCDBG law.

We ask that you co-sponsor the "Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act of 2017" (H.R. 947/S.337), which would:

- Provide up to 12 weeks of leave for working families
- Enable workers to earn up to 66% of their monthly income while on leave
- Cover workers in all companies, no matter size
- Be administered through the newly created Office of Paid Family and Medical Leave

We also ask that you co-sponsor the "Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act of 2017," which would expand and enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) to reflect the realities of modern-day child care costs. The PACE Act would make CDCTC refundable and increase the credit rate, which would greatly benefit millions of working families struggling to pay their monthly bills as child care is the greatest expense after housing.