



Ashley Mattiuzzo | Michigan



Ashley's story

Ashley Mattiuzzo is a parent liaison for *Great Start Collaborative* where she helps families find high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care. As a mother of four, she understands the struggles that many parents face when they are searching for child care. When Ashley gave birth to her first two children she was able to receive support from her family, but when she and her husband Tom moved to a different city in Michigan, the challenge of finding child care that could fit their family dynamic became extremely difficult.

Tom was employed full-time and Ashley found a job working part-time. They wanted to find affordable child care that fit Ashley's part-time schedule, but they realized their city lacked child care providers or centers that could take their children. In addition, Ashley had the challenge of finding infant care for her newborn. Her experience in looking for child care led her to help other families in the state. Ashley is a committed advocate for quality child care that is affordable *and* accessible, especially for families with non-traditional hours. She believes a family should not have to choose between work and child care.

Child Care Stats in MI
The cost of infant care in Michigan is nearly as much as 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 439,359 children under the age of 6 in Michigan 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.