

GABRIELA VILLAGOMEZ MORALES



GABRIELA'S STORY

Gabriela Villagomez Morales is a single mother of four and has never been able to afford child care for her children. Instead, her mother watches the kids while Gabriela is at work. She struggles to make a better life for herself and her children. Still, she's caught in a bind. Gabriela makes too little to pay for out-of-home care, but too much to qualify for child care subsidies that would allow her to manage financially. When her children were younger, her two sons attended Head Start and her two daughters attended Early Head Start. This was their only interaction with the early education system. Currently, her children attend public school and Gabriela has become a parent ambassador at each school.

Gabriela believes that regardless of income, all families should be able to put their children in reliable, affordable, high-quality child care. Without that option, many families like Gabriela's may find it difficult to work a steady job or go back to school in order to make a better life for their children.

CHILD CARE STATS IN WA

Millennial parents in Washington spend on average 54.6% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 99.5% of their household income for center-based child care.

There are 305,932 children under the age of 6 in Washington who could be in need of child care.

Congressional Requests: 2018

Provide a \$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in FY 2019. These new funds will help hundreds of thousands of low-income children gain access to high-quality care and help states better meet the needs of families.

Co-sponsor the Child Care for Working Families Act. This legislation would more than double the number of children eligible for assistance under CCDBG, and support the child care workforce.

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