

# SOSHA CHANEY



## SOSHA'S STORY

Sosha was a single mother working nights and struggling desperately to find child care she could trust. Now, Sosha is married, and a passionate advocate serving as a parent representative on the local Head Start/ Early Head Start Policy Committee and the Equity and Diversity Council at Children's Mercy Hospital. Sosha credits her children's full-day early learning program, Operation Breakthrough, with helping the entire family move closer to meeting their goals for educational success and economic stability. In addition to being a nationally accredited Head Start center, Operation Breakthrough provides wrap-around services that support an array of family needs.

Sosha recognizes that not all families have been so fortunate, so she wants to confront the three main challenges she sees working families face: access to reliable, education-based child care that meets the needs of families working non-traditional hours; affordable, high-quality child care options; and funding and support for early childhood programs that offer wraparound services to families.

## CHILD CARE STATS IN MO

Millennial parents in Missouri spend on average 44.9% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

In Missouri, single parents pay 41.% of their income for infant center care.

There are 297,018 children under the age of 6 in Missouri 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.**

### PARENT ADVOCATE

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