IGNITING POSSIBILITIES
PROMOTING INNOVATION

A Child Care Agenda for Congress, the Administration, and States:
2018 – 2019 Policy Platform

FISCAL YEAR 2019 FEDERAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

The Federal Budget represents an outline of the president’s request and, when passed, Congress’ spending priorities. Traditionally, after the budget request is submitted by the president in February of each year, Congress considers and passes its own budget resolution in April, which includes top line numbers for funding various discretionary programs including defense, health care and education. The actual allocation of funds to those programs is passed later in the year as part of the annual appropriations process, where Congress passes 12 separate bills, including one funding the departments of Health, Human Services, Education, and related agencies. Child care, early learning, Head Start, and other Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) priorities are generally included in this bill.

Fiscal Year 2018

In February 2018, congressional leaders and the White House agreed to authorize nearly $300 billion in new discretionary funding for both defense and non-defense programs through September 30, 2019. Of this amount, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) would receive an increase of $5.8 billion in FY 2018 and 2019. In March, Congress completed the FY 2018 budget and it included an increase of $2.4 billion for CCDBG ($5.3 billion total).

Fiscal Year 2019

The Trump Administration submitted its FY 2019 budget request in February, and proposed cutting CCDBG and early education programs. However, the budget request was finalized before the $300 billion congressional budget deal, which the White House supported. Congress is expected to begin working on next year’s budget this spring.

Child Care Aware® of America’s Appropriations Request: FY 2019

Child Care Aware of America advocates helping families gain access to high-quality child care and early education. With regards to child care, CCAoA recommends:

• A $1 billion increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) discretionary funding over FY 2018 funding levels ($5.3 billion) and would help hundreds of thousands of children gain access to high-quality care.

• Including legislative language encouraging states to use the funds to improve the quality and safety of child care programs and ensure that the standards are met, and increase provider reimbursement rates.

• Congress should urge the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to work with states to ensure they are meeting the needs of families with non-traditional work hours, and continue to prohibit CCDBG funding from going to providers where a serious injury or death occurred due to a health or safety violation.