

JUSTINE FLORES



JUSTINE'S STORY

Justine Flores is a nurse, child care provider, and mother living in East Los Angeles. After leaving an abusive relationship, she was a single mother raising three children on her own when she applied for child care subsidies so she could go back to work. Justine was on a wait list for a subsidy for over a year before she finally received the assistance she needed. With the help of her child care subsidy, she was able to work and go to school, where she earned a director credential in early childhood education. Now, she is the owner of Flores Family Child Care and works as a registered nurse on the weekends – all while raising her three children.

After seeing the wait lists and gaps that affect parents trying to access subsidies, Justine became an advocate to make the system work better for parents, providers, and most importantly, children. She joined a parent council committee, became a Community Voices Ambassador, and

started volunteering at a local child care agency, church, and school. Justine is passionate about sharing her story and the importance of affordable, high-quality child care for families and children – and most significantly, about making sure legislators understand that child care is early learning and not just babysitting.

CHILD CARE IN CALIFORNIA

- A single parent in California spends 60.4% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 112.8% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in California is more than the annual cost of tuition at a four year state college.

2019 CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Provide a \$5 billion increase to FY 2020 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to ensure more children and families gain access to high-quality, affordable, and safe child care.