

NADIA GONZALEZ

NADIA'S STORY

Nadia Gonzalez currently works for Career Pathways, assisting parents with children access child care subsidies; helping them overcome obstacles while working toward a GED, technical certificate, or associate degree; and preparing them for employment.

Nadia is the mother of a 12-year-old son and three-year-old daughter. Full-time, high-quality child care allowed her to continue working when they were young. Her daughter was born prematurely at 26 weeks and was in the hospital for her first five months of life. When it came to placing her in local child care, Nadia had to find a place that was prepared for her daughter's multiple therapies and able to give her a lot of one-on-one attention. The personal care Nadia's daughter received in her first years of life helped her meet all her developmental goals.



Nadia is a strong supporter of high-quality child care because she has experienced what it can do in the lives of both parents and children. She knows how much work goes into the shaping of young minds as they develop, which has led her to fight for higher wages for child care providers.

CHILD CARE IN ARKANSAS

- A single parent in Arkansas spends 33% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 49.1% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in Arkansas is nearly the same as 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.