

# SOSHA CHANEY

## SOSHA'S STORY

Sosha Chaney was a single mother working nights and struggling desperately to find a child care provider she could trust. Now, she is 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 nonstandard hours; affordable, high-quality child care options; and funding and support for early childhood programs that offer wrap-around services to families.

## CHILD CARE IN MISSOURI

- A single parent in Missouri spends 42.2% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 67.7% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in Missouri 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.

