

MASSACHUSETTS

YANAIRA VALENZUELA

YANAIRA'S STORY

Yanaira Valenzuela went from living in a bedroom with her two children in New York to having her own apartment in Massachusetts. Leaving her family and support network behind was one of the hardest choices she's had to make for her growing family.

Leaving her mother in New York, who cared for her children while she worked, Yanaira now lived in a new state with no real support system. So, she joined a wait list for child care subsidy in Massachusetts. She couldn't wait for the subsidy to come through before looking for a job though, so she did the best she could until she received a call for an interview. Coming out of that interview, she knew she had gotten the job, but then had to worry about who would care for her children and how she

could afford it once she started working. It was when she got home from her interview that she received the news she would be receiving a child care subsidy. Her children started going to child care the same week Yanaira started her new job, without the burden of the full cost of child care to worry about on top of her other costs.

CHILD CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS

- A single parent in Massachusetts spends 70.3% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 142.9% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in Massachusetts 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.

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