The lack of adequate funding has hampered states’ ability to provide quality child care to working families. Currently, only 1 in 6 families who qualify for child care assistance receive it.

States continue to request and receive waivers from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to delay implementation of the new requirements, particularly background checks. Additionally, FY2017 saw the lowest number of children served by the grant in nearly 20 years.

Despite the reauthorization, Congress failed to provide sufficient funding to help states make quality child care available to millions of families that need it. Today, states use resources from other federal funding streams, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), to ensure families don’t lose critical access to child care.
WHY CCDBG MATTERS IN UTAH

In FY2018, Utah received a historic $25.4 million increase in CCDBG funding. This funding has been crucial in helping Utah implement CCDBG reauthorization requirements and implement its new quality rating and improvement system, Child Care Quality System (CCQS).

Despite these improvements, Utah still needs more funding to expand access to working families. Currently, Utah does not have a waitlist for child care subsidy payments. This is due to conservative qualification guidelines that may result in preventing families from access. Yet with the average cost of infant care in Utah at $7,344 in a home and $9,708 in a center, families still cannot afford child care. In fact, on average a single parent would need to spend 33.9% of his/her income to afford center-based care.

Utah has worked hard to eliminate barriers to allow families easier access to programs, including removal of the copayment for families living at or below the poverty rate. These measures, along with higher market rates, are crucial for enabling providers to accept families on the subsidy.

Increasing CCDBG funding would help expand child care access for Utah families. Utah will use additional funds to broaden its eligibility criteria for receiving subsidy. It could also increase income thresholds to be eligible for child care and include a broader range of education and training activities as eligible activities that would expand access to child care subsidies.

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP IN 2019

CCDBG remains underfunded, despite the funding increase in FY 2018 of $2.4 billion. While this funding allowed states to begin the intense work of revising their child care systems to help thousands of children and families gain access to high-quality care, it did not fully meet the critical need for high-quality child care.

In fact, even with CCDBG’s historic increase, federal funding for child care is still $1 billion less than FY2001 levels, when adjusted for inflation. Given the population growth since 2001, it is clear that states still do not have enough funding to meet the needs of families.

For this reason, we ask that Congress increase CCDBG funding by an additional $5 billion in FY2020. This will help states meet the 2014 requirements and increase the number of children served.