

Advances in State Child Care Policy and Advocacy Since the Pandemic

The list below comes from participants at the “No Turning Back” breakout session about how states can continue to accelerate political momentum and power for child care after Build Back Better. Participants were asked to describe successes since the pandemic on post-it notes related to either child care policy or funding, or increasing political power for the issue.

If you would like to learn more about any of the items below, please contact Daniela Villasmil, Policy Associate, at dvillasmil@earlysuccess.org.

Advancing Policy/Funding

Access and Eligibility

- IN Temporarily increased eligibility rates, with potential to make permanent
- MD Streamline subsidy application
- MD Do away with child support enforcement
- MD Implement presumptive eligibility
- MD Expand eligibility to 75 percent of state median income
- NY Raised eligibility from 200 percent of FPL to 300 percent
- NY Eliminated 17.5-hour work requirement for college students receiving child care assistance
- NY Expanded subsidy access to undocumented children in New York City
- RI Expanded family income eligibility for first time in 20 years
- WI Categorical eligibility for children in 0-3 services for child care subsidy

Copay

- MD Did away with almost all family copayments
- NY Lowered copays to 10 percent of income over the poverty threshold
- RI Permanent 7 percent cap on copays statewide

Funding

- AL First state line item for child care - \$17.5 million
- MA \$490 million trust fund established for early ed
- NM Passed Constitutional Amendment 1 to commit permanent funding for early childhood education
- IL \$54 million increase funding for Preschool for All/Early Childhood Block Grant (with infant-toddler “set aside”)

Quality

- TX Required providers accepting subsidies to participate in QRIS

Subsidy Rates

- AZ Reimbursement rate rose to 75th percentile of market rate

- IN Increased subsidy rates by 20 percent across the board
- MD Increased rates to 70th percentile of market rate
- NC Used ARPA funds to temporarily increase rates to latest market rate survey (75th percentile)
- NY Raised rates from 69th to 80th percentile of the market rate
- TX Enhanced reimbursement rates by 25 percent
- WI Increased rates from around the 30th percentile to the 65th percentile

Workforce/Providers

- AL Payment based on enrollment, rather than attendance
- CA Paid family leave increases for low-income workers
- CA Payment based on enrollment, rather than attendance
- DC Raised revenue for a Pay Equity Fund dedicated to ECE compensation
- NJ “Thriving by Three” signed into law with state funding to address infant-toddler child care deserts throughout the state
- NJ Continue payment based on enrollment, not attendance – at least through June 2023
- RI Cutting checks from government to child care educators directly for the first time (\$3,000 per year)
- WA Funding to help child care teachers afford health care premiums
- WI \$30 million to REWARD stipends and wage supplements included in Child Care Counts
- WI Moving to enrollment-based FT/PT rates, with standard extended care payments

Building Political Power

- IL Growing grassroots, parent and provider coalition through [“We, the Village”](#) campaign
- IN Re-establishment of Early Learning Advisory Committee
- MA The [“9:30 Calls”](#) helped increase engagement and leadership from the field
- NY More robust communications efforts: coordinated op-ed’s in outlets across the state from different voices; constant social media presence; off-the-record conversations with reporters
- NY Cultivated new political champions through education
- NY Cultivated providers and parents to be leaders in the campaign
- MO Raised funding to develop and implement a statewide campaign for child care and home visiting
- MO Developing meaningful family and provider engagement through our fellowships and sharing more seats of power with those impacted by the policies we work on
- MO Working with bipartisan group of political and business leaders, as well as parents and providers, to develop an investment blueprint – a strategic 5-10 year plan on what it will take to elevate and fully support ECE
- WI Increased parent engagement through Wisconsin Partners
- WI Parent and Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet at the Department of Children and Families
- WI Advancing Equity in the ECE Workforce

WI 700+ news stories quoting Main Street Alliance members, focused on child care
WI Built multi-sector coalition: www.raisingwisconsin.org