

# STATE CHILD CARE ADVOCACY ACTIONS

## IN ONLY 5, 15, 30 AND 60 MINUTES

As a resident, you see firsthand how state and local policies impact the child care and early education landscape in your community. You want to see stronger local investments in quality early childhood initiatives. You want child care regulations that lead to safer, more accessible child care programs. But, who has time to advocate for these things? You are in luck! Local and state policy makers are often more accessible for advocates to engage, and less hindered than federal policymakers. With these tips on how to make small investments of your time, you will be able to influence child care systems in your community!

### 5 MINUTE ACTIONS

In the time it takes to change a diaper, you can...

- ☐ [Register to vote](#)
- ☐ [Donate](#) to support the cause! Put your financial contribution to work fighting for high quality, accessible, and affordable child care.
- ☐ Locate your [child care resource and referral state network](#). Follow them on social media to learn about upcoming legislation on local child care issues and share with your social networks
- ☐ Identify [your state and local officials](#). Each of those listed below can be important contacts for advocacy efforts.
  - ☐ Child Care Regulators: Code enforcement, health department, child care licensing and state health and human services department for children and families
  - ☐ Policymakers, including your city council members, mayor, governor, district state representative, and state senators
- ☐ Find out [who represents you](#) at state level by entering your address.
  - ☐ Print it off, write it down, or take a picture so you remember!
  - ☐ Take note of their social media handles so you can tag them in social media posts.

### 15 MINUTE ACTIONS

In the time it takes to give a child a bath, you can...

- ☐ Learn about your state's legislative process and important dates:
  - ☐ When are state budgets finalized?
  - ☐ When are state legislators in session?
- ☐ Who is on the state committees overseeing policy in early childhood education and child care?
- ☐ What bills are being introduced in the state legislature in support of your priorities?

### 30 MINUTE ACTIONS

In the time it takes to fold a load of laundry, you can...

- ☐ Email or call your local elected official or regulator to share your story and discuss their priorities around child care and early education.
  - ☐ Make sure to indicate you are a constituent
  - ☐ Have a specific "ask" ready when you make contact. Example: *I want to talk about code enforcement's efforts to identify and address unlicensed child care providers that are operating illegally.*

#### CONTACT

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- Better yet, schedule an in-person meeting and gather local child care facts to share with them!
- Participate in public comment opportunities
  - In many states, Child Care Licensing Regulations are pre-published for public comment. Search for [your state's regulatory office](#) and learn more.
  - The Child Care Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) of 2014 federally mandated key child care requirements be implemented in states. Funding to implement these requirements are through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and requires that states submit a state plan every three years. Prior to finalizing the plans, each state must allow 30 days for public comment.
    - [Locate your state's plan](#) to learn how they are addressing key federal child care requirements.
    - Participate in open comment periods by sharing your personal story and why you think high-quality, safe, and affordable child care should be accessible to all families.
- Learn about your local and state resources for families and child care regulations:
  - [State family resources](#)
  - [State Fact Sheets](#)

## 1 HOUR ACTIONS

**In the time it takes for your child to nap, you can...**

- Attend a town hall meeting or a local city/county council meeting hosted by your state legislator and ask questions or share your personal story.
- Meet with your local or state officials and your [child care resource and referral agency \(CCR&R\)](#).
- Write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper.
- VOTE! Learn where state and local candidates stand on important child care issues and cast your vote in primary, mid-term, and general elections.

**Have a bit more time to commit to advocacy actions? Here are some additional tips...**

- Work with your local CCR&R to coordinate or host a site visit at a local early care and education program for legislators to learn more about the importance of early childhood education.
- Host or attend a fundraiser that supports child care and early education causes in your area.
- Canvass the community in support of political candidates whose vision and ideas are in alignment with practical and meaningful policy solutions for families.

## HELPFUL ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- [Child Care Aware® of America – Take Action](#)
- [Child Care Works](#)
- [State by State Licensing Database](#)
- [Mapping the Gap: Examining Child Care Supply and Demand Across the Country](#)

### CONTACT

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