

# CHILD CARE FISCAL CLIFF ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

**idaeyc**

Idaho Association for the  
Education of Young Children

**On Monday, Idaho's Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee failed to give spending approval for the DHW child care supplemental ARPA dollars (\$43M). Because they did not approve the funds – 3,600 individual child care providers and 700 facilities may not receive any more payments beginning immediately. To end this prematurely will be devastating to this industry and many programs will not survive this abrupt ending. Many parents who count on access to child care to work may see their centers close or tuition to go up considerably.**

These funds are being used to provide \$300 per month wage enhancement grants to individual child care teacher and monthly facility grants to child care programs to support operations. These are not new dollars – the funding is there – DHW just needs approval to spend the funding. This funding was intended to expire at the end of June 2023. Providers have always known this funding would end at end of June and have been planning for it.

**Your lawmakers need to hear from you about the need to continue to support Idaho's Early Childhood Professionals and the families who rely on them.**

## **CHILD CARE INDUSTRY SUPPORT TALKING POINTS :**

- The Idaho Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant has enabled us to retain and hire staff. Once that runs out, we will not be able to keep staff without raising tuition costs on families who are already struggling to afford it.
- Our families depend on reliable, affordable child care so they can work and provide for their families. Without the support of these programs many providers will either have to reduce enrollment or close their doors altogether.
- We don't have enough child care options to meet the needs of our community's families. If the Phase 4: Idaho Child Care Grant and Idaho Child Care Wage Enhancement Grants are no longer available, we will see further reduction in child care availability.
- Child care providers are the backbone of our economy. Without access to affordable and reliable child care, parents can't work and provide for their families and employers won't have the workforce they need.
- We have not yet recovered from the effects of the COVID pandemic. Rising costs for food, rent, and supplies, and the inability to staff our business to a level where we would be able to operate in the black are all issues that put us in danger of closing our doors once this funding runs out.



**As early childhood professionals, parents, and community members, YOU are the strongest and most effective advocate.**

# CALL OR EMAIL YOUR LAWMAKERS TODAY!

Each Idaho resident has one State Senator and two State Representatives. Find their contact information by visiting:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator/>



It may be difficult to get in touch with a lawmaker directly over the phone, but you can always leave a message on their voicemail or with their staffer. With both emails and phone calls, legislators often take tallies of those that support or oppose a particular issue.

## HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT & SHARE YOUR STORY :



### PREPARE

Before making the call or sending your email, write down exactly what you want to say so you can get your message across in the most effective and succinct way.



### IDENTIFY YOURSELF

Start by identifying yourself and why you are calling/writing. Let them know where you live (are you a constituent?), as well as where you work. Share how many families/children you serve, etc.



### EDUCATE

Tell them more about child care in Idaho. What is the availability of child care in your area? Are parents being turned away? Are costs too high? Utilize the list of talking points on the front page.



### PERSONALIZE

Why is this important for YOU? Share the tangible effects the loss of funding will have on you and your families. Is there a quick story that explains why you want them to support child care?



### CONNECT IT

Lawmakers often overlook how essential child care is to the larger economy and workforce. Make the connection between the essential service you provide and the economic wellbeing of your community.



### MAKE IT MEMORABLE & BRIEF

Lawmakers and their staff receive hundreds of emails and calls every day. Do what you can to make yourself memorable and to not take too much of their time.



### CALL FOR SPECIFIC ACTION

Make a specific ask of your lawmaker (or their staff) to support the child care industry through the continuation of these programs. Make sure they know what they need to do. Feel free to follow up if you don't receive a response to an email or voicemail.

For more information please email [advocacy@idahoaec.org](mailto:advocacy@idahoaec.org) .