



A JUST FUTURE BEGINS WITH BOLD IDEAS.

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CHILD CARE SYSTEM

High-quality, affordable child care is out of reach for many working women and families. It is also one of the chief barriers for women attempting to re-enter the workforce, sustain employment, or advance in their careers.



- **Universal Availability and Access.** Child care should be universally available regardless of the age of the child or household income. No family should contribute more than 7 percent of their household income to care for a child from birth to 13 years old. There should be universal access to high quality universal preschool.
- **Improvement of Program Quality by Implementing Federal and State-Level Early Care Education Standards and Coordination.** A national care plan should work to address disparate quality regulations and guidelines for providers and identify a set of standard learning goals and competencies for children in care.
- **Increased Compensation for Early Care Educators to Attract and Retain Skilled Educators and Caregivers.** For publicly funded care programs, state and local government should increase spending on subsidies. The federal government should provide matching funds for salary increases to states, increase tuition assistance and loan forgiveness for early childhood teachers, and develop competency-based career ladders for workers.[1]

[1] Bassok, Daphna, Et al. Memo: Building a cohesive, high quality early childhood system. December 19, 2016. Brookings Institute