



United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

First Focus on Kids Coalition Early Childhood Education Advocacy Network

Feeling inspired to act? Here are a few things you can do right now to act:

- 1. *Sign up to stay connected and informed*: The Preschool Promise is a local coalition with the goal that every preschooler in Pima County has access to high quality preschool. <u>https://www.thepreschoolpromise.org/get-involved</u>
- 2. **Donate supplies** to local child care centers in need, such as gloves, hand sanitizer, bleach, thermometers, hand soap, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, handmade masks, etc.: To donate, contact Emily Rebro: <u>Emily.Rebro@pima.gov</u>
- 3. Contact your lawmakers to let them know that high-quality childcare matters to you:

Federal Level Advocacy:

- 1. Tweet <u>#FundChildCare</u> to share stories, promote advocacy, and promote change.
 - Ask members of Congress to support childcare by investing \$50 billion in the <u>#childcare</u> system in the HEROES Act. <u>Click here to take action.</u>

State Level Advocacy: Contact your State Lawmakers and urge them to:

- 1. Appropriate the \$88 million in federal childcare funds Arizona will receive as a part of the CARES Act
- 2. Use a portion of the CARES Act funding to **waive or delay licensure fees for childcare providers** until the COVID19 crisis has passed and **direct DES to develop grants/loans/stipends** to help further offset the business losses they have incurred due to the shut-down orders
- Appropriate \$13 million annual increase in federal funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and use it for provider rate increases to bring the state closer to the federal minimum requirement

Local Level Advocacy:



Please ask the council and mayor to remember that childcare, whether center or home based, is small business that is crucial to reopening economic recovery. It creates employment directly and allows parents to work. Additionally, direct support to pay childcare fees may make the difference between families' ability to return to work or not. Please include childcare in all aspects of the Resiliency grants, and work to ensure that young children have safe, high quality educational opportunities while their parents earn a living and contribute to Tucson's economic future.

- 4. *Elevate the issue*: Share your story or what you learned today with everyone you know: with friends, family, co-workers
- 5. Come back for more conversations: Watch for more emails from us and invitations for more conversations like this
- Host your own screening! There are other versions and lengths of this video available for screening both in person and live. Contact Kelly Larkin at <u>executivedirector@sazaeyc.org</u>