

# Democratic Proposal Would Expand Child Care Assistance to Nearly 230,000 Children

## Summary

On December 8, Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) outlined federal spending priorities that would support hard-working families, including a proposal to double the discretionary funding appropriation for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).<sup>1</sup> Their proposed increase of \$2.9 billion for CCDBG would give states needed resources to expand child care assistance to nearly 230,000 additional children. It would also provide sufficient funds for states to implement the 2014 bipartisan reauthorization of CCDBG to improve the health, safety, and quality of child care.

**Child Care Assistance is Critical for Children and Parents.** The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies for low-income families and to improve child care quality for all children. Access to stable, affordable, high-quality child care matters for parents and their children. Without it, parents struggle to secure and maintain employment and achieve economic stability. Their children miss out on the educational and developmental benefits of quality care that prepare them for success in school and in life.<sup>2</sup>

**Many Working Parents Lack Access to CCDBG.** Despite the critical importance of child care, five out of six children eligible for CCDBG don't get help due to shortfalls in federal funding. In fact, because of Congress's failure to sufficiently fund the program, CCDBG serves the fewest children in its history.<sup>3</sup> Under CCDBG's state-federal partnership design, both the federal government and states provide funding and states have discretion to set policies under broad federal parameters. Because states make policy decisions in the context of budget constraints, including setting their own income eligibility requirements, few families are getting the help they need to stay in the workforce. For example, a working family with an income above 150 percent of poverty (\$30,630 a year for a family of three) could not qualify for assistance in 15 states.<sup>4</sup>

## CLASP Analysis

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for administering CCDBG, estimated that the cost of implementing the requirements specified in the 2014 CCDBG reauthorization would be \$775 million in the 2018 federal fiscal year.<sup>5</sup> This does not, however, account for the costs of maintaining current caseloads, which CLASP estimates at \$612 million, based on an inflation-adjusted per-child subsidy rate.<sup>6</sup> If CCDBG funding is increased by \$2.9 billion, after accounting for fully funding the implementation costs of reauthorization and the inflationary costs of maintaining the current number of children served, the remainder of the increased funds would provide child care assistance for an additional 226,000 children in the 2018 fiscal year.

## Allocation of Proposed \$2.9 Billion Increase in Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Funding

States and Territories	FY 2017 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2017 Federal Discretionary Funding	Total FY 2017 Federal Funds	FY 2018 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2018 Federal Discretionary Funding with proposed \$2.9 billion increase	Total FY 2018 Federal Funds with proposed \$2.9 billion increase
Alabama	\$41,591,438	\$53,211,567	\$94,803,005	\$41,591,438	\$106,423,134	\$148,014,572
Alaska	\$7,942,993	\$5,330,830	\$13,273,823	\$7,942,993	\$10,661,660	\$18,604,653
Arizona	\$57,228,884	\$71,548,419	\$128,777,303	\$57,228,884	\$143,096,838	\$200,325,722
Arkansas	\$21,578,934	\$33,627,244	\$55,206,178	\$21,578,934	\$67,254,488	\$88,833,422
California	\$296,534,581	\$305,025,145	\$601,559,726	\$296,534,581	\$610,050,290	\$906,584,871
Colorado	\$39,335,047	\$35,388,683	\$74,723,730	\$39,335,047	\$70,777,366	\$110,112,413
Connecticut	\$35,356,643	\$18,403,626	\$53,760,269	\$35,356,643	\$36,807,252	\$72,163,895
Delaware	\$9,892,836	\$7,673,726	\$17,566,562	\$9,892,836	\$15,347,452	\$25,240,288
D.C.	\$7,532,798	\$4,613,753	\$12,146,551	\$7,532,798	\$9,227,506	\$16,760,304
Florida	\$136,768,341	\$168,392,993	\$305,161,334	\$136,768,341	\$336,785,986	\$473,554,327
Georgia	\$94,076,749	\$119,098,590	\$213,175,339	\$94,076,749	\$238,197,180	\$332,273,929
Hawaii	\$12,366,704	\$10,253,716	\$22,620,420	\$12,366,704	\$20,507,432	\$32,874,136
Idaho	\$12,667,835	\$16,761,609	\$29,429,444	\$12,667,835	\$33,523,218	\$46,191,053
Illinois	\$124,490,145	\$99,949,491	\$224,439,636	\$124,490,145	\$199,898,982	\$324,389,127
Indiana	\$62,312,477	\$64,661,860	\$126,974,337	\$62,312,477	\$129,323,720	\$191,636,197
Iowa	\$25,355,263	\$24,583,773	\$49,939,036	\$25,355,263	\$49,167,546	\$74,522,809
Kansas	\$26,215,959	\$25,907,113	\$52,123,072	\$26,215,959	\$51,814,226	\$78,030,185
Kentucky	\$40,031,472	\$51,659,553	\$91,691,025	\$40,031,472	\$103,319,106	\$143,350,578
Louisiana	\$39,762,938	\$50,190,947	\$89,953,885	\$39,762,938	\$100,381,894	\$140,144,832

States and Territories	FY 2017 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2017 Federal Discretionary Funding	Total FY 2017 Federal Funds	FY 2018 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2018 Federal Discretionary Funding with proposed \$2.9 billion increase	Total FY 2018 Federal Funds with proposed \$2.9 billion increase
Maine	\$8,652,889	\$9,058,151	\$17,711,040	\$8,652,889	\$18,116,302	\$26,769,191
Maryland	\$54,377,375	\$36,159,418	\$90,536,793	\$54,377,375	\$72,318,836	\$126,696,211
Massachusetts	\$76,330,738	\$35,600,524	\$111,931,262	\$76,330,738	\$71,201,048	\$147,531,786
Michigan	\$80,806,089	\$84,093,752	\$164,899,841	\$80,806,089	\$168,187,504	\$248,993,593
Minnesota	\$53,178,185	\$38,301,126	\$91,479,311	\$53,178,185	\$76,602,252	\$129,780,437
Mississippi	\$22,714,627	\$39,441,663	\$62,156,290	\$22,714,627	\$78,883,326	\$101,597,953
Missouri	\$56,052,311	\$53,776,359	\$109,828,670	\$56,052,311	\$107,552,718	\$163,605,029
Montana	\$8,445,856	\$8,062,011	\$16,507,867	\$8,445,856	\$16,124,022	\$24,569,878
Nebraska	\$21,405,244	\$15,608,411	\$37,013,655	\$21,405,244	\$31,216,822	\$52,622,066
Nevada	\$18,065,902	\$25,644,183	\$43,710,085	\$18,065,902	\$51,288,366	\$69,354,268
New Hampshire	\$10,422,155	\$5,950,074	\$16,372,229	\$10,422,155	\$11,900,148	\$22,322,303
New Jersey	\$71,850,826	\$51,268,591	\$123,119,417	\$71,850,826	\$102,537,182	\$174,388,008
New Mexico	\$19,825,518	\$24,266,523	\$44,092,041	\$19,825,518	\$48,533,046	\$68,358,564
New York	\$198,811,338	\$128,772,569	\$327,583,907	\$198,811,338	\$257,545,138	\$456,356,476
North Carolina	\$122,191,128	\$96,485,950	\$218,677,078	\$122,191,128	\$192,971,900	\$315,163,028
North Dakota	\$6,692,234	\$4,452,984	\$11,145,218	\$6,692,234	\$8,905,968	\$15,598,202
Ohio	\$129,835,276	\$96,109,356	\$225,944,632	\$129,835,276	\$192,218,712	\$322,053,988
Oklahoma	\$47,349,754	\$39,418,116	\$86,767,870	\$47,349,754	\$78,836,232	\$126,185,986
Oregon	\$39,261,813	\$32,418,277	\$71,680,090	\$39,261,813	\$64,836,554	\$104,098,367
Pennsylvania	\$116,495,106	\$84,194,586	\$200,689,692	\$116,495,106	\$168,389,172	\$284,884,278
Puerto Rico	\$0	\$32,119,537	\$32,119,537	\$0	\$64,239,074	\$64,239,074
Rhode Island	\$11,392,558	\$6,598,817	\$17,991,375	\$11,392,558	\$13,197,634	\$24,590,192

States and Territories	FY 2017 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2017 Federal Discretionary Funding	Total FY 2017 Federal Funds	FY 2018 Federal Mandatory Funding	FY 2018 Federal Discretionary Funding with proposed \$2.9 billion increase	Total FY 2018 Federal Funds with proposed \$2.9 billion increase
South Carolina	\$34,541,957	\$50,745,932	\$85,287,889	\$34,541,957	\$101,491,864	\$136,033,821
South Dakota	\$6,727,707	\$7,204,792	\$13,932,499	\$6,727,707	\$14,409,584	\$21,137,291
Tennessee	\$71,447,607	\$66,923,895	\$138,371,502	\$71,447,607	\$133,847,790	\$205,295,397
Texas	\$227,663,227	\$292,749,787	\$520,413,014	\$227,663,227	\$585,499,574	\$813,162,801
Utah	\$34,075,715	\$33,286,976	\$67,362,691	\$34,075,715	\$66,573,952	\$100,649,667
Vermont	\$6,622,210	\$3,698,482	\$10,320,692	\$6,622,210	\$7,396,964	\$14,019,174
Virginia	\$63,771,330	\$55,372,339	\$119,143,669	\$63,771,330	\$110,744,678	\$174,516,008
Washington	\$79,381,323	\$48,937,453	\$128,318,776	\$79,381,323	\$97,874,906	\$177,256,229
West Virginia	\$17,421,401	\$18,028,084	\$35,449,485	\$17,421,401	\$36,056,168	\$53,477,569
Wisconsin	\$54,095,069	\$42,824,078	\$96,919,147	\$54,095,069	\$85,648,156	\$139,743,225
Wyoming	\$6,095,820	\$3,544,566	\$9,640,386	\$6,095,820	\$7,089,132	\$13,184,952

Source: *FY 2017 CCDF Allocations*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2017, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/fy-2017-ccdf-allocations-including-redistributed-funds>.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, "Senator Sanders and Senator Warren, 'Our Priorities'", *The Bernie Sanders Show*, December 6 2017, <https://www.facebook.com/senatorsanders/videos/10156559109107908/>.

<sup>2</sup> Christine Johnson-Staub, Hannah Matthews, *CCDBG: A Critical Support for Working Families*, CLASP, 2017, <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2017/04/CCDBG-A-Critical-Support.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Christina Walker, Hannah Matthews, *CCDBG Participation Drops to a Historic Low*, CLASP, 2017, <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/public/resources-and-publications/publication-1/CCDBG-Participation-2015.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Karen Schulman, Helen Blank, *Persistent Gaps: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2017*, National Women's Law Center, 2017, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2017-1.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Final Rule of September 30, 2016, Child Care and Development Fund Program, Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 190 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-09-30/pdf/2016-22986.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Our estimate assumes the costs of maintaining a caseload of 1.4 million children based on the most recent participation data from FY 2015. In FY 2015, \$8.5 billion in CCDBG expenditures provided funding for a monthly average of 1.4 million children. We inflate the per-child rate in 2015 to calculate the number of slots and funding needed in 2018.