

KIDSCAN'T WAIT

Kids Can't Wait is a statewide coalition of nonprofits, faith leaders and businesses that recognize the importance of a strong Child Care Assistance Program to children, parents and employers. As we move to rebuild our economy, a strong child care system is key. **We strongly support efforts to provide additional funding and reprioritize the Child Care Assistance waiting list to ensure as many eligible families have access to support as possible and to allow families to maintain their spot on the waiting list if not currently employed.**

COVID-19 has been devastating for many low-income families. Large numbers of parents lost jobs or had hours drastically reduced (48% of Minnesotans with children in their household have lost earned income since March). Other families were on the waiting list for child care assistance, hoping to work in order to move their families into economic stability. Many of these low-income workers are doing essential work in our challenging times: serving as health aides in hospitals and nursing homes, preparing food and stocking shelves for our stores, assuring facilities are adequately cleaned and other key services. 82% of parents on the waiting list either work or would move into positions in critical sectors that are keeping our economy functioning and they need adequate child care to do their part.

Providing \$11.5 million in funding now to address existing waiting lists and get parents to work immediately helps families and employers. Most families on the waiting list live in greater Minnesota or suburban counties. This state investment in child care would eliminate or dramatically reduce the waiting list in a significant number of counties.

We urge you to support this proposed legislation and providing opportunities for families and children while increasing the pool of available essential workers as we work to rebuild our state's economy.

On behalf of the coalition,
Children's Defense Fund – Minnesota
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs

Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Child Care Association
Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition