



Children's Advocacy ALLIANCE

March 17, 2020

Via E-mail

Governor Steve Sisolak
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street.
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Early Childhood COVID-19 Recommendations

Dear Governor Sisolak,

As Nevada manages the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) recognizes that this is a difficult time for all, and we greatly appreciate the preventative measures that you and the rest of your administration have implemented up to this point. The first priority of our state is the health of our citizens through access to appropriate testing, health care, and preventative measures, and we are working to diligently update a [list](#) of resources relevant to the children and families of Nevada.

In this time of national crisis, CAA is reaching out to emphasize the need for additional financial support and policy changes needed to ensure access to child care for essential service personnel as well as the longevity of our child care industry going forward. It is important that Nevada recognizes and reacts to the short- and long-term effects this will have on children, families, and child care businesses. As a state, we have an opportunity to bolster supports that protect our children, families and child care industry before we become heavily affected by the spread of COVID-19.

While negotiations are happening at the federal level, we ask for continued coordination at the state and local levels to ensure child care providers are supported and informed at this time. In addition to utilizing the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) [guidance](#) on flexibility in spending Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) resources in response to federal or state declared emergency situations, CAA is recommending the following short-term protections:

1. **A plan for all essential service personnel (including grocery, emergency, and health) to access emergency child care.** This should include an outreach strategy and increased financial support to all *existing* child care providers (including home-based, family friend and neighbor, and center-based) who choose to stay open to serve our community.
2. **Provide guaranteed unemployment compensation and paid sick leave to all small business employees affected by COVID-19.** Since businesses in Nevada with less than 50 employees are not required to provide paid [sick leave](#), this leaves many of our child care providers without an ability to care for themselves, their families, or their communities in this time of need (Nevada Labor Commission).

Governor Sisolak
March 17, 2020
Page 2 of 2

3. **Ensure that child care licensing can financially help child care providers meet increased health and safety needs.**
4. **Develop a long-term plan to restore the economic stability of our child care workforce.**

The Children's Advocacy Alliance is currently working closely with CCDP and national partners focused specifically on the early childhood community throughout the country. We have compiled a list of resources relevant to the early childhood field [here](#), but should you need any assistance in synthesizing and mobilizing around this information, we are more than happy to assist, including connecting you to our national technical assistance partners.

Thank you again for all the work you and your administration have and continue to do to ensure the health of all our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Busker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Busker, Interim Executive Director
Children's Advocacy Alliance

Contact: Jared Busker, 702.637.0927
Jared.Busker@caanv.org