

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S FACILITIES NETWORK

Children Lack the Early Care and Education Facilities They Need

- An estimated **4.6 million children in working families** lack access to the early care and education facilities they need – that's about one third (32 percent) of all the children in working families nationwide.
- More than half the states (27) have an unmet need of at least 25 percent.
- The shortage of early childhood facilities is even more severe in lower-income urban and rural communities, where unmet need often exceeds 50 percent.

Investing in Early Care and Education Facilities Leverages Resources, Increases Access and Boosts Employment

- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and other nonprofit facilities entities that specialize in developing early care and education facilities offer the most cost-effective and efficient approach to expanding the supply of quality facilities.
- Nonprofit facilities entities can leverage a relatively small public investment with additional private capital by at least four times, multiplying the total investment in child care facilities and serving even more children.
- Investments in early childhood facilities directly create employment opportunities in two ways: by creating immediate new construction jobs and new early care and education jobs.
- Expanding the supply of child care strengthens labor markets by providing out-of-work parents with the support they need to find and keep new jobs.

Quality Is the Lynchpin to Success

- *High-quality* early childhood programs and facilities are a long-term generational investment proven to contribute to positive child development, increased school achievement, increased economic activity and decreased crime and delinquency, producing long-term savings in public sector expenditures or at least \$7 for each \$1 invested.
- But *quality facilities* are crucial. Research demonstrates that poorly designed and crowded facilities undermine the ability to achieve these positive results for young children.

The Child Care Facilities Financing Act of 2009 (H.R. 1685 / S. 1002) Helps Address Facilities Needs

- Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to experienced non-profit community development entities for early care and education facilities capital funds
- Funds would provide financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of center-based or home-based early care and education facilities or equipment, and technical assistance to undertake facilities-related projects in low-income communities across the country.