



2020 Impact Report

Equity Must Start at Birth

Under 3 DC Coalition





Our Values

All children deserve a strong beginning and a limitless future. Our work will be successful because we lead with our values, stand in our convictions, and engage in innovative strategies.



Racial Justice

Addressing racism is central to Under 3 DC.



Economic Mobility

Being poor is not a character flaw. Not being able to afford more doesn't mean you don't deserve better.



True Diversity

There is power in a coalition consisting of different economic, gender, generational, institutional, and professional voices.



Real Ownership

People closest to the pain should be closest to the power, and driving and informing the work.



Structural Equity

Our near-term wins should also serve the long-term District vision that remedies systemic disparities.



Leverage Strengths

We are all experts in our own areas. So, we honor and build on the strengths, knowledge, and skills of our communities

Table of Contents

4

Letter from
Coalition Director

5

Making an Impact

6

Coalition Members

7

Introduction

10

Year in Review

11

Mobilized Communities

12

Amplified Voices of
Early Educators

13

Secured Child Care
Stabilization Funds

14

Amplified Voices
of Families

15

Stopped Cuts to the
Child Care Subsidy

16

Amplified Voices
of Professionals

17

Protected Birth-to-Three
Health and Education

18

Timeline of Impact

19

Looking Ahead

21

Coalition Leadership

A Message from Our Coalition Director



It was day 2 of the 2020 National Maternal & Infant Health Summit, and I was glued to the Promoting Opportunities for Young Parents panel.

Watching this group of teen parents share their challenges, hopes, and solutions was inspiring. It reminded me of the fact that early education impacts all of us, and in many different ways. At any point in our lives we may be a child in early education, an adult trying to secure early education for a child, or someone who may work or has worked in early education. Or we may know someone having to make tough decisions about affording early education.

The panel reminded me of my early education journey. My mother gave birth to me soon after her 16th birthday. She secured assistance that allowed her to pay \$20/month (\$100/month in today's money) for infant care while she went to high school full-time. So, my teen mother enrolled herself back into school and enrolled me in an infant program.

My mother's need to access child care is one that many working parents—of various marital statuses, incomes, ethnicities, and zip codes—

have experienced. Three years before I was born, President Nixon vetoed a bipartisan bill to implement universal early education. Although the federal government did enact a similar program during World War II and still provides early education for military families, Nixon's rationale for vetoing the bill was that it would, "create a disincentive for wives to stay in the home."

Not much has changed for child care since the 1970s. Given the realities of our economy, parents, grandparents, or others raising children are working hard to make ends meet. It never ceases to amaze me how many of our challenges can be solved if folks had access to safe, affordable, quality child care. This is why I fight. So my daughter can have access to child care when she'll need it someday.

DC families' affordability concerns, along with those of underpaid early educators, and an insufficient supply of child care slots, brought forth the fight for Birth-to-Three. The crisis of 2020 called for our Coalition to shift its focus from working toward implementation of the law to fighting for the sector's survival. The coronavirus pandemic revealed what many of us have always known: child care is essential. There cannot be a just economic recovery for

The coronavirus pandemic revealed what many of us have always known: child care is essential.

the District without a strong early education system. It is indeed a public good.

As we look ahead to the new year and the ongoing public health crisis, we will continue to fight to preserve and build upon crucial investments in early education. Fully funding and implementing Birth-to-Three is more necessary now than ever. My family's journey, although not unique, feeds my passion for this campaign. Therefore, I hope you join us in the belief that every child in the District deserves a strong start—regardless of their zip code, family income, or their parents' age.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Jarrett".

Ronald Jarrett
Coalition Director



We are Making an Impact

Under 3 DC Connects the Dots 2020 Impact

- Preserved early childhood funding
- Won emergency public funding
- Amplified “Child Care is Essential”
- Reversed proposed budget cuts

The coronavirus pandemic shook the District and the nation to its core this year.

But Under 3 DC’s early childhood educators, parents of young children, advocacy groups, and community-based organizations amplified the fact that child care is essential to DC—as a business and as a service to families.

After pivoting away from ambitious plans to advance Birth-to-Three in mid-March, Under 3 DC fought to preserve essential health and education services for children and families. The most important victory was protecting District funding for health and subsidized child care programs, reversing the mayor’s cuts, and winning support for our plan to provide emergency grants to help stabilize the child care sector.

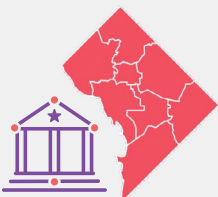
To do this, Under 3 DC mobilized the District’s community of early education stakeholders—including educators, parents, community groups, and business owners—to engage with local officials online

during the city’s budget process, elevating their concerns to DC’s Council and other policymakers.

Through a series of virtual town halls, lobby days, #SaveDCChildCare rallies, public hearings, and letters to government agency leaders, Under 3 DC applied enough pressure to leave such a strong impression that our community made an impact! We protected the sector from unforeseen disaster.

Although COVID-19 lingers, and the economic challenges facing the District are uncertain, Under 3 DC will continue its work to protect and expand public investments in early childhood development. Research has shown its value. And as we all look forward to what will be our new normal, child care is essential to a just recovery for the District and the nation.

Every child—regardless of their family income or zip code—deserves an opportunity to thrive.



Birth-to-Three for All DC Amendment Act of 2018¹

The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are critical to their success. The Act, which became effective on October 30, 2018, seeks to remedy the fractured support system for DC families, especially those in Black and brown communities.

It expands access to critical educational, social, and health services and professionals in ways that meet every parent’s needs in the District of Columbia.

One essential highlight: Setting DC on the path to making child care more affordable, more available, and of higher quality for the city’s infants and toddlers.

We are Stronger Together

Our coalition welcomes anyone working toward a more equitable and just DC for all. Together we're fighting for full funding for the programs, services, and workforce necessary for families with young children to thrive.



National Children's Center



Executive Committee




The First Three Years Impact a Lifetime

Research shows that a child’s cognitive, social, and emotional development during their first three years of life is essential to their long-term health development.

Their growth is dependent on their environment, and it’s shaped by the quality of care and education they receive.²

As the District’s children take essential steps towards building language and socialization skills, they deserve early learning environments that are easily accessible. And their communities need the resources and opportunities all families need to thrive.



A child’s brain develops rapidly from birth to age three—faster than any other phase in life.³

DC’s capacity to provide these services for families falls significantly short of what is necessary for our city to become a place where all children can grow up healthy.⁴

Regional advocates, policymakers, and community leaders have worked together in recent years to improve the District’s early education system

and close the achievement gap. Some progress has been made, but there is still much work to be done.

Public Investments in Early Learning Pays Off

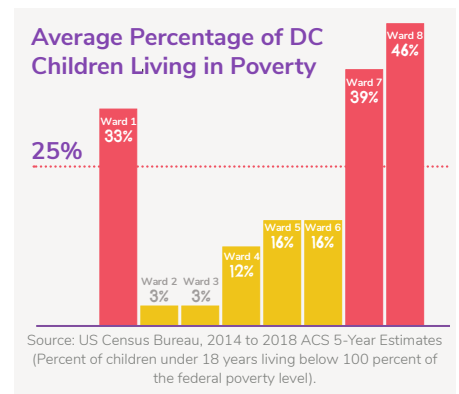
Almost 72 percent of 3-year-olds and 86 percent of 4-year-olds are enrolled in classrooms across DC as a result of the Pre-K expansion, according to the District’s Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).⁵ National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data shows these students see positive outcomes in their academic performance. We can see the impact of public investment in early education by examining DC’s 4th graders’ improved academic performance. They are the first to be tested since the Pre-K expansion.

Still Glaring Inequities Exist

Long-standing structural barriers of social and economic discrimination woven into years of government policies have proved hard for Black and Latinx families to overcome as they seek better outcomes for their children.

The Black infants and toddlers in the District who stand to benefit the greatest from high quality child care and education programs are the least likely to have access to them because of the high cost and low supply.

Studies on maternal and infant health show that public access to healthy births remains low for these families of color. These disparities can perpetuate further inequities that a child experiences throughout their development in school and life.



A healthy beginning should not be determined by zip code. But recent closings of maternity wards East of the River offer evidence that a lack of prenatal care access widens gaps seen long after birth. By the time many families of color reach the point of deciding on child care, they are often far behind DC’s white families and find themselves disconnected from available resources.



Child Care is a Public Good

More than 20,000 District families seek high-quality child care each year, but only one-third of them find admission.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the average cost of child care is \$2,020 a month.⁷ It is an expense that far exceeds what an average Black and Latinx DC family can afford to pay.

\$2,020

The average monthly cost of infant care in the District is the highest in the nation.⁷

Child Care Is Essential to the DC Economy

Child care is an essential public good—for working families and the economy. And in the District, like elsewhere, it is critical for women.

According to the Center for American Progress, “women, and mothers, in particular, make up a significant proportion of the labor force, and their employment and wages are

vital to the overall health of the labor market and the U.S. economy.”⁸ In DC, 90 percent of Black women are the breadwinners for their families.⁹ And as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, they are more likely to serve in essential roles that pay low wages and rely heavily on child care.¹⁰

Many of these women are working in early education and barely earn enough to get by. They play crucial roles in maintaining city-wide systems of support for infants and toddlers. And often serve as the primary resource for identifying, implementing, and assessing developmentally appropriate goals and expectations for families.

Birth-to-Three Seeks to Close Gaps in Child Care

The District’s economy cannot survive if we don’t close the gaps in access, affordability, and child care quality. Reversing the long-standing inequities experienced by communities of color—the backbone of DC—require more public investment.

One major component of Birth-to-Three that seeks to do this is the District’s child care subsidy program,

which directly reimburses child care providers for the cost of serving low-income families.

More than 5,000 infants and toddlers and over 4,000 three-to-five-year-olds received support in 2019.¹¹ But there are not enough District providers to meet the needs of every family that is eligible to participate in the program.



More than 1 in 4 families live in areas with no or few child care options.¹²

Birth-to-Three seeks to increase the subsidy rates paid to child development homes and centers each year until payments cover the full cost of care.¹³ The law also requires OSSE to increase the maximum allowable family income for eligible families and ensure that no family pays above 10 percent of their income.

Additionally, the law expands the subsidy program by 2028, intending to include all infants and toddlers in the District, regardless of household income.



Under 3 DC Fights for Full Birth-to-Three Implementation

The District’s early childhood education community came together in early 2020 as Under 3 DC, to support Birth-to-Three in its entirety.

One significant goal is to build a better-connected, more supportive early childhood system that works for all DC families. In addition to increasing public investments in child care, health, and education programs, the law establishes better coordination between programs to ensure that all early childhood stakeholders possess the information necessary to help eliminate long-standing disparities in neighborhoods.

An Integrated Early Childhood System Benefits All DC

Today, there is often a disconnect between the multiple agencies that serve young children and families. Parents must navigate confusing systems, and early childhood services are in silos. Under 3 DC prioritizes the coordination of care and services that families of infants and toddlers need most to flourish.

We must work diligently to shift attitudes and mindsets about what is a public good if we are to find success at building an integrated early childhood education system in the District.

All District families should have access to high-quality early child care. I have been fighting for the full funding and implementation of Birth-to-Three so that more families have the equitable resources and services they need for their children can reach their full potential.



Brianne K. Nadeau
Ward 1 Councilmember

Parents Want and Need Support

All families with young children run short on time and resources. Birth-to-Three strengthens existing District programs by increasing public investments in DC’s infants’ and toddlers’ mental, physical, behavioral, and social-emotional health.

DC has a set of great programs to help parents navigate the early years of their children’s lives. But parents may not even know that services like home visiting and lactation consultants exist, and not all programs receive adequate funding.

Paying for Quality in Early Education Pays Off

Birth-to-Three also increases teacher compensation for early childhood educators. It requires OSSE to develop a teacher compensation scale that is on par with DC Public Schools.

DC child care workers earn an average of \$15.25 per hour.¹⁴ This income is not enough for anyone living in this expensive city. It also

fails to acknowledge early educators’ required training and skills. The low pay means that many leave for better-paying positions as soon as they can.

Increasing pay for early educators would go a long way toward strengthening the workforce’s stability. Particularly for women of color, who are its majority. Better pay would also ensure the quality of education children receive.

Legislative Champions

Two District Councilmembers—Vincent Gray and Brianne Nadeau—have been strong supporters and continue to champion Birth-to-Three. They helped identify funding opportunities for the legislation and highlight maternal-infant and health services being impacted by the pandemic.

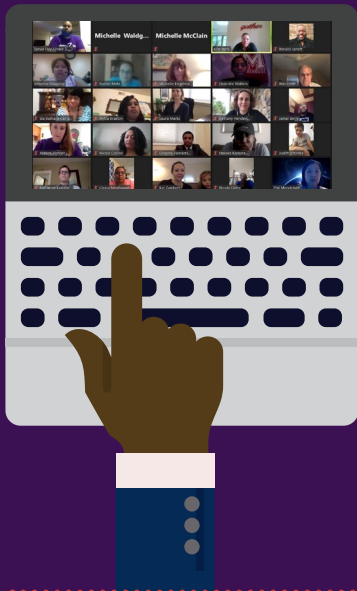
The work we accomplished this year with their support moves our city one step closer to a healthier path and a brighter future.

A young child with curly hair is shown in profile, looking out a window. The child is wearing a white face mask and a grey and black striped sweater. They are holding a bright orange ball with black lines. The background is a bright, slightly blurred window with white frames.

A Year in Review

Under 3 DC continues to engage in critical conversations with District Councilmembers and government officials about this ongoing public health crisis and its lingering impact on DC families and early childhood development and health programs. We will persist in pushing for policies that limit the effect that COVID-19 financial shortfalls could have on young children, their families, and those who do the work of caring for them. Our collective of early childhood educators, parents with young children, advocacy groups, health professionals, and community-based organizations is busily mobilizing communities across the District and growing its reach to ensure that Under 3 DC is heard, loud and clear.

We Mobilized Communities to Speak Truth to Power Online



ORGANIZING

Hosted **6** virtual town halls

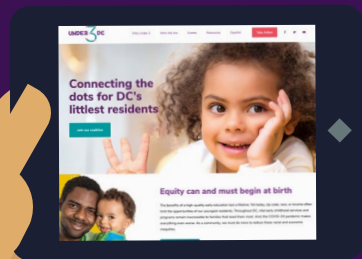
Brought together 100+ professionals plus 300+ parents, community leaders, and early childhood experts to meet virtually with DC Council members, staff, and agency leaders. Coordinated and participated in 4 rallies.



DC BUDGET HEARINGS

50+ Coalition members submitted testimony

24 Coalition members testified live for the DC Council Budget Hearings. In fact, 15% of the Committee of the Whole speakers were Under 3 DC community stakeholders.



RESEARCH AND POLICY

1,500+ DC residents, **85** providers, and **35** organizations signed on

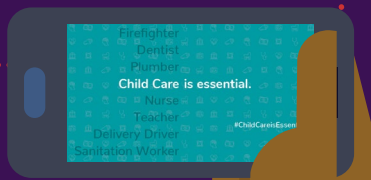
Surveyed 106 child care providers, wrote 4 coordinated letters to policymakers, published 7 program briefs, and built community consensus with letter writing campaigns.



EARNED MEDIA

Earned **26** placements in local and national media

Raised awareness with specific mentions of Under 3 DC including placement of over 20 direct quotes, 5 coalition member opinion pieces, 3 press releases, and 6 blogs.



OWNED MEDIA

Launched a new website and social media campaigns to **establish an online presence**



500 Tweets
1,500 Retweets
300K Impressions



1,383 Petition signers
121K Reach
754K Impressions



10 Emails
1,347 Subscribers
45% Open Rates

We Amplified Voices of Early Educators

Reduced class sizes to meet new CDC guidelines and increases in cleaning costs are expenses we cannot simply transfer to families.



Berna Artis
Head of School, School For Friends

Many families depend on the early learning programs we provide in our homes. Young children must be safe in our home-based programs.



Muluwork Kenea
Director, Amen Family Child Care

Smart District money should go to the game changers with the highest ROI. Ensuring a strong, quality ECE system will give immediate payoff by getting parents safely back to work.



Pyper Davis
Executive Director, Educare DC

A full economic recovery in DC will be impossible without child care. Educators are reopening with costly, new requirements and limitations on class sizes without stimulus or other relief. Stabilization funding for the child care sector is essential.



Carrie Thornhill
President, DC Early Learning Collaborative



Rosa Peleaz Registered Family Provider Brightwood

I am a registered family child care provider in Ward 4. When COVID-19 hit, I was immediately out of work and have been for over two months. It was not easy to become a registered family home provider because I speak only Spanish, but because I am passionate about caring for young children, I did it. But all that hard work was devastated when I suddenly lost all my families.

So, when Many Languages called me to support me to build a mutual aid group, I was able to quickly reach out to over 20 families. I built a database, a group chat, and began to see what struggles families with young children were facing during the pandemic. They were totally desperate. People had no food, no Pampers, no baby gates.

Currently, I am starting up my business. It is hard. I need disinfectant. Lots of it. I need supplies. I just started caring for two infants, but the families have such drastically different lives—it is like a tale of two cities. One's parents were able to telework. Meanwhile, the other's mother; has had no work for over eight weeks. She is a restaurant worker, and she has only recently picked up some part-time work. I've chosen to care for her child FOR FREE for over two weeks to help her get back on her feet. **Because of the lack of government support, the burden of helping families is financially falling on me. I have a big heart, but this shouldn't fall on me.**

Translated from Spanish.



We Secured Child Care Stabilization and Enhancement Funds

We're Fighting for Child Care Businesses

ASK: +\$10M in stabilization funds

Help to re-open and stay open



Cover payroll during public health closure



Pay rent during public health closure



Implement new health and safety measures

ASK: +\$10M in enhancement funds

Help to offset lower revenue and higher expenses



More staff to reduce class sizes



Daily deep cleaning for child care facilities

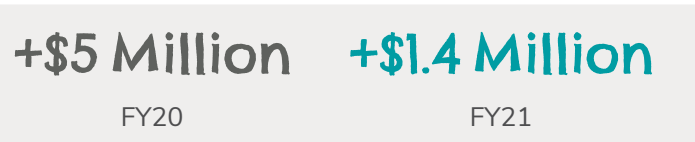


COVID-19 related absences subsidized

Child care providers and business owners told us that COVID-19 was threatening the sector's survival. An Under 3 DC survey of providers backed up this assessment and shaped our budget ask.

We asked for \$10 million in stabilization funds and for \$10 million to help offset the higher operating costs related to the pandemic.

The sector saw no cuts. However, the amount we secured illustrates that much more work remains, especially as the public health crisis lingers.



Its results also inspired us to take one more step—stand on our core value of establishing and promoting equity across the District and press the DC Council for an emergency fund to save child care businesses. Many parents in communities of color needed them to stay open because working from home was not an option for them. And providers and business owners needed to protect their livelihoods and earn a living.



106

Child Care Providers Surveyed

6,500

DC may lose more than 20% of child care slots without dedicated public funding.¹⁵

We Amplified Voices of Families



My mom was the best person I could think of to care for our family's young children. This is how we do things in my culture—we stay in the same house together and we all care for each other, all the generations. My children suddenly lost their grandmother in the pandemic, without even getting to hug her goodbye. Now I don't know what I will do.



Flor Morales

Home visiting was a dramatic help coming back from the jail system. It was vital for my mental health as well as reuniting me with my family and kindering with my children. When I came home, I was living in my car and they were there every step of the way. Home visiting was a dramatic help in my life.



Christopher Spangler

It is virtually impossible to maintain a standard quality of life without having multiple streams of income. DC needs to rebuild our early education system with good paying, stable careers, and not continue to exploit the labor of our women of color.



Nykia Braxton

Katrice Fuller Parent of Five DC PAVE

I am the mom of five boys trying to maintain my job and attempting to offer a school and child care setting at home during this pandemic. **It is not only difficult for me, but it is truly taking a toll on my kiddos. Especially the babies.**

I firmly believe that high-quality child care is the key to revitalizing DC. In my opinion, prior to the pandemic our city was in the midst of a poverty, homelessness, and educational equity crisis.

With proper access to high-quality child care—places and spaces that I can trust to nurture and educate my babies developmentally and socially—I can join the workforce and contribute to our city's economy while supplementing my family's income. This then stabilizes my family's finances and allows for us to find somewhat affordable housing, if there's even such a thing in DC.

Affordable and accessible child care is literally the path to an economically stable, safe, and stronger DC. I'm bothered that the DC budget does not reflect that.

We need all of our city's leaders to be more invested in child care and early childhood education, now more than ever.



We Stopped Cuts to the Child Care Subsidy Program

The Child Care Subsidy Helps 5,173 Infants and Toddlers Access Affordable, High-Quality Child Care

Lower income families receive vouchers to help offset child care costs.

OSSE pays providers the difference between these families' contribution and a set daily reimbursement rate.

Still, More Must be Done

Only 11,257 licensed child care slots are available for infants and toddlers in DC.

Almost 5,000 more slots are needed for infants and toddlers predicted to be eligible for the subsidy in 2023.

15,000 more slots are required to have one for every infant and toddler predicted to live in DC in 2023.

Sources: America Community Survey population estimates; OSSE Performance Oversight Responses; Office of the CFO – Child Care Subsidy Updated Fiscal Impact Statement (9/14/18)

When we heard that Mayor Bowser cut \$5 million from the program in her fiscal year 2021 budget, we sprang into action.

Bringing Under 3 DC's broad community together, we created a plan to get the cuts reversed while being respectful of the fact that almost every other essential city service was in our same boat.

Child Care Subsidy

OSSE Budget

FY19 \$69.4 million (before Birth-to-Three)

FY20 \$77.6 million

FY21 \$74.8 million WIN!
(includes \$5 million protected from cuts)

All funding levels have been adjusted for CPI-U inflation.

One of our first steps was to survey child care providers to determine if the talk of struggle was real. It was. The data and stories of their trying to survive the pandemic was so sector-shaking that the survey laid the groundwork for our argument to change lawmakers' minds. A series of virtual town halls, action alerts, and direct advocacy to the DC Council helped to seal the deal, convincing the council to erase the \$5 million deficit from their budget.

Winning this fight ensured that the Black and Latinx families most likely to bear the pandemic's brunt would not lose the support they needed in educating their young children. And it helped keep many of the District's early educators in business and able to serve the communities who need them the most.

Saving child care ensures that families have a safe place for their children to grow and thrive while enabling parents to work, whether at their regular job site or from home.



Kathy Hollowell-Makle
Executive Director, DCAEYC

We Amplified Voices of Professionals

Healthy Futures is a vital additional resource for families. It's incredibly, incredibly important. At our center, 40-45% of our children have varying abilities and special needs. Parents have dreams and hopes for their baby and then the baby is born with needs that they need assistance with. It's difficult to find child care for a child with different types of abilities.



Kisha Lee
National Children's Center

I've received many case referrals from **Help Me Grow** and every one has been a complicated one with many interacting systems and high levels of acuity. The impact of having a supportive team when you have no other support cannot be underestimated.



Ruthie Arbit, Psychotherapist
Early Childhood Innovation Network

A significant racial disparity exists among the **Certified Lactation Consultants**. To address this, we've developed an affordable preparatory certification class that has been subsidized through the Department of Health. We've had 56 racial, ethnically, differently abled, and sexually diverse individuals participate to date.



Dr. Michal Young
DC American Academy of Pediatrics



Luis Chavez
Parent Resource Worker
Home Visiting Program
Mary's Center

We provide materials and developmental support to new and expecting moms in the District. Most of the families that I work with are experiencing some form of crisis. They rely on us to connect them with resources that are vital, such as housing, access to food, access to health care, and general support.

I personally worked with a homeless couple who had a one-year old baby. This family had been living in their car for several months before the father was involved in a car accident that left the car completely destroyed. This forced the family to start sleeping outside in the cold winter with nothing but a few blankets and the baby's car seat.

I was able to immediately enroll them into WIC and Medicaid. I then worked with the family and Virginia Williams [Family Resource Center] to get the family housed and off the streets. This family stated that the home visiting program saved their lives and came to their aid when they felt the most hopeless.

Often, we are the safety net for people who fall through the cracks of the system and find themselves facing a crisis that has a potential to put babies in danger.



We Protected Birth-to-Three Health and Education Programs

Under 3 DC believes that every DC family should have access to the support they need to ensure their child's healthy development.

We advocated hard this year, understanding that the added chaos and stress because of the COVID-19 crisis makes caring for the mental and behavioral health of children, parents, and educators more necessary than ever.

Healthy Futures

Department of Behavioral Health
FY20: \$1.5 million
FY21: \$2.5 million WIN!
(**\$1.5 + \$1 Enhancement**)

What it is: An early childhood behavioral health program that embeds a mental health professional in child care settings to promote positive social and emotional development in young children.

What is in Birth-to-Three: A requirement that expands the program to 75 new sites each year. There will be 136 sites by the end of 2021.

HealthySteps

Department of Health
FY20: \$300,000
FY21: \$300,000 WIN!

What it is: An infant-toddler developmental health program that integrates an early childhood developmental specialist into pediatric primary care teams to help families resolve common and complex concerns that physicians often lack time to address.

What is in Birth-to-Three: An expansion of the program to one additional program site each year. Three program sites are currently operational.

Help Me Grow

Department of Health
FY20: \$80,000
FY21: \$80,000 WIN!

What it is: A phone service program that connects expectant parents and families of infants and toddlers with resources to foster positive maternal and early childhood health and development.

What is in Birth-to-Three: A comprehensive early childhood data system that will track, store, and share developmental health data for children up to age 5 and serve as the referral and intake mechanism for the Home Visiting program.

Home Visiting

Department of Health
FY20: \$710,000
FY21: \$710,000 WIN!

OSSE (Early Head Start)
NOT YET FUNDED

What it is: A family support program that offers personalized preventative and early-intervention services and resources to expectant parents and families with young children. These include in-home support, parent education, and screening and referrals to other essential District services.

What is in Birth-to-Three: The funding prescribed can support a range of programs, programmatic supports, and infrastructure-building to strengthen the District's early childhood system. The act includes an additional requirement for local expansions to a federally-funded early childhood family support program (Early Head Start Home Visiting).

Lactation Certification

Department of Health
FY20: \$103,000
FY21: \$103,000 WIN!

What it is: A credentialing program for lactation consultants that provides participants with the required clinical experience and mentoring necessary to pursue a career in the field.

What is in Birth-to-Three: The establishment of a program that increases access to healthy breastfeeding counseling services for DC families.

A Year of Transformation, A Year of Impact

October 2019

- Shift from policy to on-the-ground focus (coalition established in January 2019)

November 2019

- Campaign agenda and key messages development

December 2019

- Campaign agenda and key messages consensus building

January 2020

- Letter to policy makers: FY21 budget priorities

February 2020

- Public launch of Under 3 DC with new name and new website
- Birth-to-Three program briefs
- FY21 Mayor's budget engagement forums

March 2020

- Coalition director hired (Lead agency transition from DC Working Families to DC Action for Children)
- Virtual town halls: Child care community COVID-19 emergency response
- Letter to policy makers: Emergency relief policies for child care providers and families

April 2020

- Virtual town halls: Child care community COVID-19 emergency response
- Letter to policy makers: COVID-19 child care stabilization
- Child care provider survey (106 respondents)

May 2020

- FY21 budget campaign kick-off
- Study brief: DC can't have an economic recovery without child care investments
- Virtual town hall: Child care and out-of-school time
- Letter to policy makers: Reopen DC committee

PANDEMIC

NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT SYSTEMIC RACISM BEGINS

June 2020

- FY21 budget hearings testimony
- Facebook ad campaign launch
- Virtual town hall: Supporting healthy families
- Letter to policy makers: Emergency relief policies for child care providers and families

July 2020

- FY21 budget legislative meetings advocacy
- Letter to policy makers: FY21 budget petition
- Save DC child care rally
- Won \$5 million for child care businesses emergency relief
- DC paid family leave and \$15 minimum wage start

August 2020

- FY21 budget approved with Birth-to-Three program funding sustained
- Restored \$5 million cut for Child Care Subsidy
- Protected all health and education programs including Healthy Futures expansion
- Won \$1.4 million more for child care businesses emergency relief

September 2020

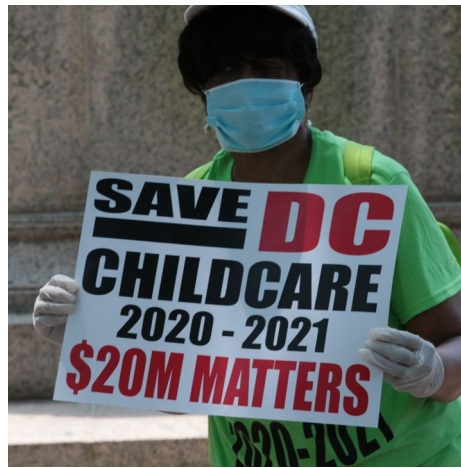
- Coalition strategic planning

Looking Ahead

The District, like the nation, is navigating its way through an unprecedented time. Uncertainty lies ahead. Saving child care will likely be the clarion call once again for Under 3 DC as it marches forward toward a new budget season. Our broad community will have to prove its worth as an essential public good.



We are Just Getting Started



We will strengthen our standing by expanding our umbrella.

Engaging parents of older children, a broader spectrum of community-based organizations, more middle-income families, the business community, and others who understand that DC will not make an economic recovery that touches and lifts every community without child care.

There will be more neighborhood petitions, virtual town halls, socially-distant rallies, testimony at Mayoral and DC Council hearings, and media campaigns to guarantee that our community is seen and heard.

Under 3 DC will also dig deeper to study early educators' compensation, investigate revenue-raising options and continue to propose budget solutions that move the District closer to the goal of fully-funding and implementing Birth-to-Three for All DC.

The District's children, their families, and early childhood educators are counting on us.



Strong Voices for Under 3 DC

Our executive committee members represent organizations dedicated to transforming DC's early childhood system. Their talented leaders bring subject matter expertise, on-the-ground experience, and proven track records in the District with game-changing campaigns. The Under 3 DC campaign is staffed and led by professionals from DC Action for Children and Jews United for Justice.

Executive Committee

Kimberly Perry

Executive Director
DC Action for Children

Carrie Thornhill

Executive Director
DC Early Learning Collaborative

Tazra Mitchell

Policy Director
DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Dr. Matt Biel

Co-Director, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Early Childhood Innovation Network

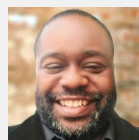
Jacob Feinspan

Executive Director
Jews United for Justice

LaDon Love

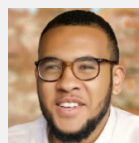
Executive Director
SPACeS in Action

Core Team



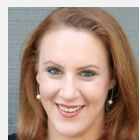
Ronald Jarrett

Coalition Director
DC Action for Children



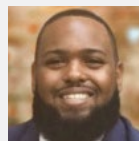
Jarred Bowman

Policy Analyst
DC Action for Children



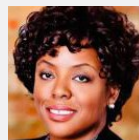
Joanna Botner

Legislative Director
Jews United for Justice



Jamar Day

Lead Organizer
DC Action for Children



Tawana Jacobs

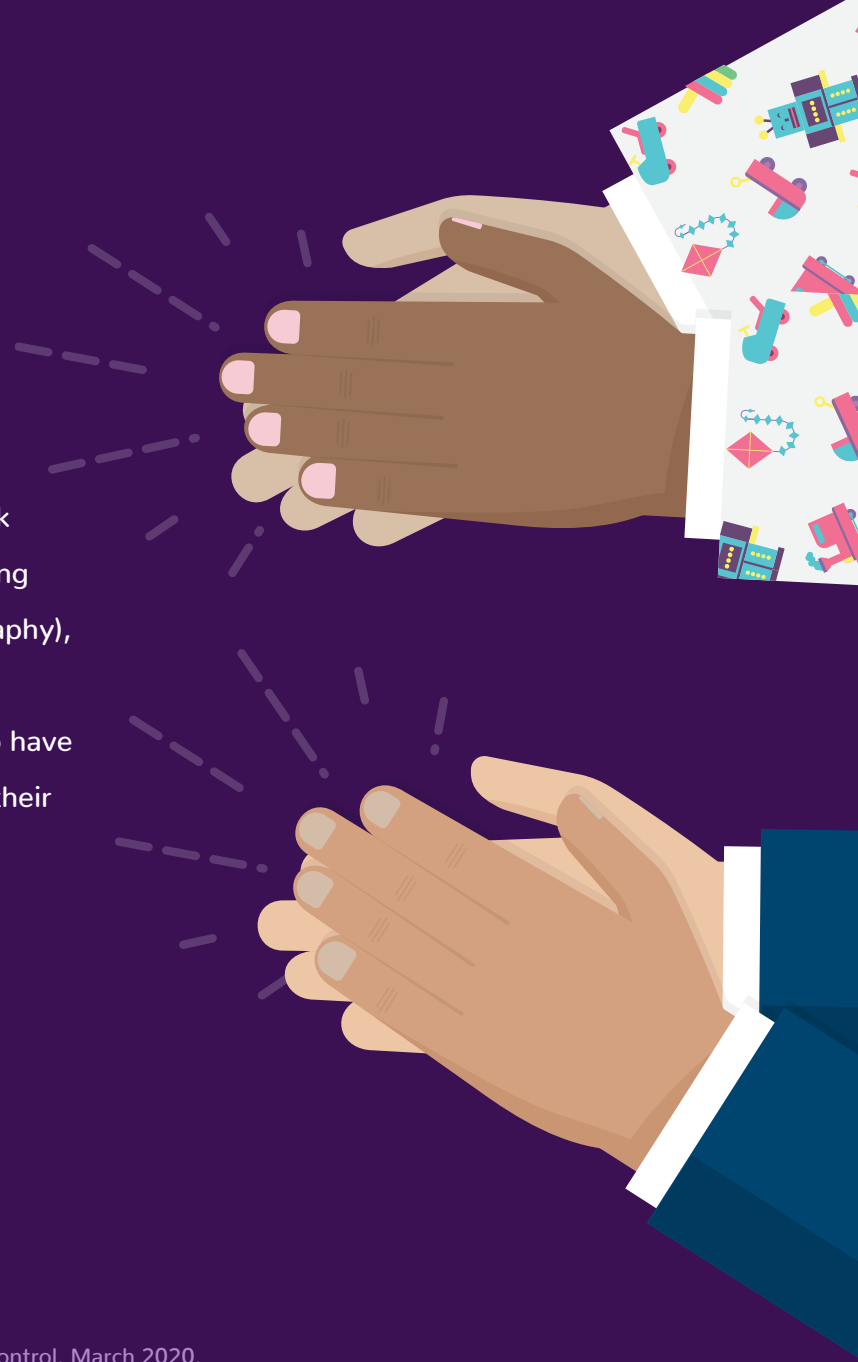
Senior Communications Manager
DC Action for Children

We also acknowledge the generous support of all the individual donors and funders who have supported our Birth-to-Three work since its inception.



Round of Applause

Under 3 DC is grateful for the generous support of our countless coalition partners that make our work possible. We would also like to thank those including Bainum Family Foundation (Liza Harbison Photography), Fair Budget Coalition, Jews United for Justice, and SPACES in Action (LaDon Love photographer) who have generously granted us permission to use some of their photos in the campaign.



Endnotes

- 1 B22-0203. Birth-to-Three for All DC Act of 2018.
- 2 Early Brain Development and Health. The Center on Disease Control. March 2020.
- 3 The Science of Early Childhood Development. The Center on the Developing Child. Harvard University. December 2018.
- 4 Steven Jessen-Howard, R. (n.d.). Understanding Infant and Toddler Child Care Deserts. Center for American Progress. October 2018.
- 5 District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent Fiscal Year 2018 Pre-K Report. 2018.
- 6 The Cost of Child Care in DC. The Economic Policy Institute. July 2019.
- 7 Ibid. The Cost of Child Care in DC.
- 8 Sarah Jane GylInn. Katie Hamm. The Economics of Caregiving of Working Mothers. The Center for American Progress. December 2019.
- 9 Breadwinner Mothers by Race/Ethnicity and State. Institute for Women's Policy Research. September 2016.
- 10 Elise Gould and Heidi Shierholz. Not everybody can work from home: Black and Hispanic workers are much less likely to be able to telework. Economic Policy Institute. March 2020.
- 11 Performance Oversight Responses Q16. Office of the State Superintendent of Education. 2020.
- 12 Rasheed Malik, Katie Hamm, Leila Schochet, Cristina Novoa, Simon Workman, and Steven Jessen-Howard. America's Child Care Deserts in 2018. Center for American Progress. December 2018.
- 13 Ibid. B22-0203. Birth-to-Three for All DC Act of 2018.
- 14 Ibid. The Cost of Child Care in DC.
- 15 Steven Jessen-Howard, Coronavirus Pandemic Could Lead to Permanent Loss of Nearly 4.5 Million Child Care Slots. Center for American Progress. April 2020.

Equity can—and must—start at birth.



Under 3 DC
info@under3dc.org
(202) 234-9404

Under3DC.org

[!\[\]\(9dfdaff1d86ba3c1f8353b4d1b61b8c5_img.jpg\) Under3DC](#) [!\[\]\(bcef2083a617d3f771f1bcdf2f97158d_img.jpg\) Under3DC](#) [!\[\]\(2c64db98cee6d30f87a54305b47fe92d_img.jpg\) Under3DC](#)

A signature campaign of DC Action for Children.