

Fran Simon

From: Elizabeth DiLauro and Amanda Perez <policycenter@zerotothree.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Fran Simon
Subject: The Baby Monitor: The Policy Response to COVID-19

Emergency COVID-19 response at the federal and state levels and next steps for babies | [View it in your browser](#)

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POLICY &
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The Baby Monitor

ZERO TO THREE POLICY AND ADVOCACY NEWS

March 19, 2020



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Federal Update



Emergency COVID-19 Response Legislation and Next Steps for Babies

As the COVID-19 pandemic shuts down child care centers, as well as a range of service providers and workplaces, it is impacting not only the physical health of families with young children, but also threatening their economic and emotional well-being. [Hear directly from families across the country.](#)

Yesterday, after several days of negotiation and strong advocacy from concerned organizations and individuals, Congress passed the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* (FFCRA), containing several key provisions to bring needed stability to babies and families:

- Increased funding for **emergency medical assistance** for the duration of the pandemic;
- Increased funding for the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** and the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** to fight food insecurity as families lose wages and children lose access to free or reduced-price meals in school or child care;
- Emergency **paid sick days** and **paid leave** to allow workers to stay home if they are sick or they need to care for a sick family member, or to care for children whose child care programs or schools are closed; and
- Extended federal funding for **unemployment compensation**, offering essential money for families who lose their jobs in the crisis.

This legislation offers a critical first step to provide emergency resources to address the pandemic and represents a down payment on what American families and babies need to get through this public health event. But it does not go far enough to fully sustain families with infants and toddlers through this crisis and beyond.

ZERO TO THREE is now calling on Congress to respond to our [Ten Legislative Recommendations for Infants and Toddlers during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). These asks will shore up the systems and services, in particular child care, that babies and families rely on.

[Get involved](#) by asking Congress to take immediate action to further support babies and families through this pandemic.

State Update



States Address Child Care Issues in the Shadow of COVID-19

Across the nation, states are in different stages of creating and implementing policies to protect and support children, families, and child care providers as COVID-19 impacts all areas of their residents' lives. Proactive and positive changes that some states are making include:

- Waiving parent co-pays for child care services;
- Expanding family eligibility for subsidy support;
- Increasing the number of days that a child care provider can be paid when a child is absent from the program;
- Ensuring that providers can be paid if they close the program due to COVID-19;
- Tracking program closures and slot openings on state helplines;
- Providing emergency child care for government social services staff and/or first responders when other programs have closed;
- Providing paid sick leave for child care staff;
- Extending unemployment benefits to self-employed workers, including family child care providers;
- Ensuring provider access to cleaning supplies and food for children; and
- Creating mechanisms for families to continue to access food for children via the Child and Adult Care Food Program if their child care settings have closed.

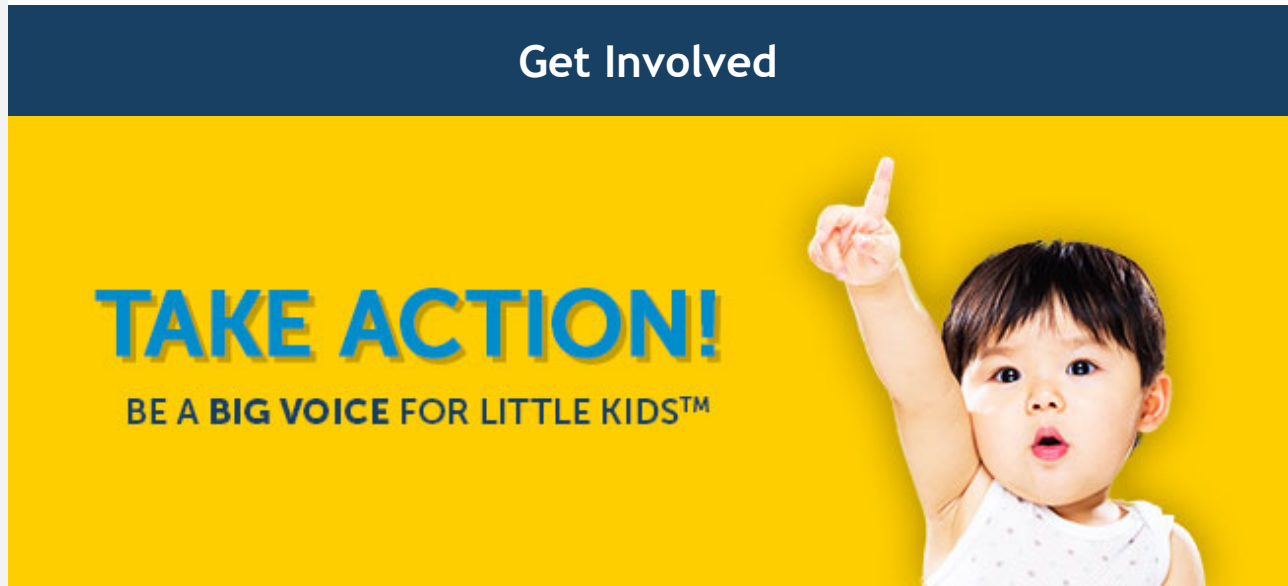
As states look for solutions, it is critical that they maintain crucial safeguards for young children, particularly around adult-child ratios, group sizes, and health and safety practices and training. Changing these safeguards may put our youngest children and their child care

providers in more danger of COVID-19 transmission.

To help you stay up-to-date with how states are approaching the pandemic, the Alliance for Early Success is collecting and maintaining [the latest strategies and resources](#) by state.

As you address this pandemic in your state, please reach out to us at ZERO TO THREE at policycenter@zerotothree.org for support in finding resources related to a specific topic or to connect with other policymakers or advocates. Our staff are tracking changes and resource development to help you quickly find what you need.

Get Involved



COVID-19: Ask Congress to Take the Next Step for Babies

Infant-toddler advocates know that the COVID-19 crisis will hit babies and their families particularly hard. As the [State of Babies Yearbook: 2019](#) showed, families with babies and toddlers already are disproportionately low-income, and the youngest children experience high rates of food insecurity, as well as living in crowded housing. We thank Congress for their speedy action in passing the *Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act*, but know that it is not enough to stabilize families and address longer term impacts of this crisis.

[Urge Congress to take the next step in shoring up the systems and services that babies and families need, particularly child care.](#)

Resources and Publications



Feature

Addressing the Policy Needs of Family Child Care Providers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Join All Our Kin, ZERO TO THREE, and a group of national organizations for a [rapid response webinar](#) this Monday, March 23 from 12 pm to 1:30 pm EDT on the current policy needs of family child care providers. Faculty will share survey data that illuminates policy needs and priorities from the field; discuss what is being done at the federal, state, and local levels; and identify resources and next steps to support family child care providers.

Child Care is Essential and Needs Emergency Support to Survive

Child Care Aware of America has updated their [State by State Resource Map](#) with information regarding COVID-19 and child care closures. The map includes information for all 50 states,

Child Care is Essential and Needs Emergency Support to Survive

In response to the ongoing public health emergency, the National Association for the Education of Young Children released a list of recommendations for policymakers as they make critical and time-sensitive decisions. The [statement](#) includes steps that states and districts can take to support child care workers and the broader child care system.

Guide to the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

This [paper](#) from the Food Research & Action Center explains how federal nutrition programs, including the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP), can be used to help communities meet nutrition

the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

needs before, during, and after a
disaster.



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