

# Child Care Advocacy Guide



## OUR CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN MASSACHUSETTS IS BROKEN

- **Families** struggle to find and afford care. In Massachusetts, families pay as much as 50 percent of their household income for private infant care.
- **Educators** can't afford to stay in the field because their pay is so low. More than 15% of child care workers in MA live below the poverty line.
- **Child care providers** struggle to pay educators more than minimum wage and keep their businesses afloat, even with high tuition rates.

## WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

- 1. Comprehensive Child Care Reform:** We're fighting for a high-quality early education and care system that is equitable, affordable, and accessible for ALL families.
- 2. A Fully Funded Child Care System:** We believe that early education and care is a public good and must be funded as one.
- 3. A System That Works For Everyone:** We want to ensure that all families have access to high-quality early education and care and that requires building a system that works – for families, educators and providers.

**LEARN  
MORE AND  
JOIN OUR  
FIGHT!**



## HOW WE'RE GETTING IT DONE

### 1. Enacting Legislation:

Neighborhood Villages supports the passage of legislation that would:

- Make care more affordable for ALL Massachusetts families.
- Create a sustainable funding source for quality care
- Promote increased compensation for early educators.

### 2. Funding Child Care in the Massachusetts State Budget:

We are fighting for sustained and increased public funding for key elements of the Commonwealth's early education and care sector.

### 3. Building a Better Child Care System through:

- Increasing income eligibility for families applying for public child care financial assistance.
- Reducing barriers to family ability to apply for and obtain child care financial assistance.
- Raising the child care subsidy reimbursement rate for providers.
- Making public, direct-to-provider operations grants permanent.
- Sustained funding for training and professional development programs for Massachusetts' early educators.
- Development of an alternative methodology for calculating the true cost of providing high-quality child care.