

Building Power for What Comes Next: Lessons from Grassroots Child Care Organizing **Across the States**



Tuesday, July 7, 2026
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM ET

Learn about:

- How grassroots organizing builds community power
- Lessons from child care leaders across the states
- What trust-based philanthropy makes possible



[ECFUNDERS.ORG/EVENTS](https://ecfunders.org/events)

THE **RAISING
CHILD CARE
FUND**

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

Webinar Overview

- Welcome & Introductions
- Facilitated Conversation
*Building Power for What Comes Next: Lessons from Grassroots
Child Care Organizing Across the States*
- Live Q&A
- Closing

Our Theory of Change

We make grants to community-based organizations to:



LIFT VOICES

Lift parent, early educator, caregiver, and ally voices and increase their participation in crafting equitable policy solutions in states and/or communities.



BUILD POWER

Build effective coordination among RCCF grantee partners and advocacy groups, community groups, parents, early educators, caregivers, and allies.



EXPAND EQUITY

Expand financial resources to secure increased and equitable funding to quality child care, including through intentional strategies to reach and prioritize children and families most affected by injustice and inequity.

2025 Collective Impact

THE RAISING CHILD CARE FUND

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

By the Numbers

617,000
people reached

EVEN IN A NON-ELECTION YEAR

25,000+
people joined actions

DESPITE A FEARFUL CLIMATE



80+
FTEs organizing

FOR CHILD CARE JUSTICE

100%
lead STATEWIDE
STRATEGY

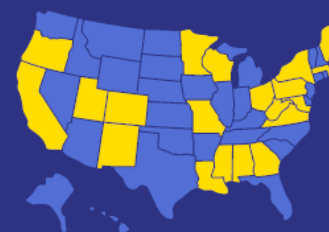
All grantee partners are
members of their state's
leadership of organizing
and advocacy strategy;
14 are leads or co-leads

100% organize
ON INTERDEPENDENT ISSUES
including paid leave, economic
and tax justice, racial equity,
and voting rights

RAISING CHILD CARE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

One-third of RCCF grantee
partners are in the South,
where investment in child care
is particularly low

19
states
and DC



Grantee Partners in 19 States & DC

5 Lessons From 2025



1.

Multi-year support allows grassroots groups to build power:

the staff, membership, financial backing, and influence needed to both act on opportunities and take on challenges. Securing long-term funding remains very difficult, which makes RCCF a lifeline for some of our grantee partners.

2.

Grassroots groups sustain communities in crisis.

The networks of trusting relationships created by RCCF grantee partners enable, in emergencies, mutual aid and other forms of responsiveness to community needs beyond a group's core issues.

3.

Organizing is deep, trust-based work, and it requires more staff.

RCCF support has enabled grantee partners to increase FTE staff—the number of people working on behalf of the community—and reduce burnout, as well as develop leadership pipelines to hire from within the community. Expanding statewide power will depend upon more support from state and national donors.

4.

Politicians aren't brave without backup.

Consistent pressure from the people provides the political cover to take action. Organizing is what moves local and state leadership in the direction parents and providers (not corporations and lobbyists) want them to go. This is especially true when it comes to putting more public dollars into child care.

5.

When funders join forces, big ideas turn into bold action.

Funders of the RCCF pool and state funders are able to take action they wouldn't have taken alone. In a harsh climate, the natural reaction is to pull back. Even in a comfortable climate, it's easy to stay in learning mode. Working together provides the energy to push forward. RCCF enables funders to make and sustain a long-term commitment to building people power across the country—together.

Joining Us Today

THE RAISING CHILD CARE FUND

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative



Cate Blackford

Director of Public Policy



Amy Jo Hutchison

Campaign Director, WV State
Moms Force, Workplace Justice,
Early Learning



Tamara Lunan

Director,
Care Economy Project



Ashley Shelton

Founder, President and CEO



Thank You for Joining Us!



Coming Soon: The Raising Child Care Fund 2025 Impact Report

Be among the first to explore stories, lessons, and insights from grassroots child care organizing across the country.

Watch your inbox and RCCF's channels for the official release.

Stay connected: ecfunders.org/rccf

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