



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Education and Workforce Program

Data shows that there is a critical lack of access to high-quality childcare for children from 0- 3 in communities across the country. There is a real need for policy change and innovative local solutions to advance access to high-quality education and care. And, if policy change is to be sustainable, the business community and chambers of commerce need to be engaged partners.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USCCF) views high-quality childcare as a two generation challenge/solution. On average, U.S. companies lose \$3 billion annually as a consequence of child-related absences. Access to affordable, high-quality childcare is vital for working parents—enabling them to stay in the workforce, be their most productive while at work, and continue to learn and gain the necessary skills to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Quality care also prepares the workforce of tomorrow, laying the foundation for future academic, economic, and social success. Early education leads to more effective public schools, increased tax revenue, less crime and incarceration, and ultimately, more educated and skilled workers. USCCF and chambers across the country continue to engage businesses on high quality early childhood education in a variety of ways to support their communities, employees, and ultimately, their bottom line.

Over the next year, USCCF is partnering with PCI to better connect the business community with early education partners and advocates to help build the capacity of chambers of commerce and USCCF members as advocates for high-quality early childhood programs for children from 0- 3 at a local, state, and national level as well as build the capacity of PCI grantees, and others in the early childhood community to better understand how to connect with and engage the business community and chambers of commerce as partners and advocates through:

Case Studies

Building off the success of Louisiana's 'Losing Ground' report, which quantified the impact of a lack of childcare in in the state, USCCF will produce a new case study highlighting the work happening in Georgia by GEEARS and the Metro Atlanta Chamber. This case study will provide clear guidance to other states interested in replicating the report to demonstrate how investing in high-quality childcare benefits a state's bottom line. USCCF will also profile an early childhood development program in a state where the business community is engaged with one of PCI's focus communities.

Message Guide

As the voice of the business community, USCCF has frequently been asked by community groups, early childhood alliances, and advocacy organizations about the messages that most resonate with the business community. Unlike our existing toolkit which is aimed at a business audience, this guide would be focused towards PCI grantees. It would share our experience in building meaningful and sustainable business engagement and provide advice on the messages that best resonate with different business audiences when it comes to early childhood development programs serving children 0-3.

Strategy Session

USCCF strategy sessions are a powerful way of engaging chamber leaders from across the country by educating attendees on all the technical aspects of state and federal policies in the education space. A strategy session is a 2 day, 1 night event, generally hosted outside of DC, which brings together between 30 – 40 chamber education and workforce specialists, advocacy partners, and other expert organizations to discuss critical policy issues and share best practices during valuable networking time. USCCF will host one strategy session focused on infant and toddler care to bring together chamber education and workforce specialists from at least 15 PCI target communities and/or states, as well as state/community representatives from PCI grantees.

Webinar series

USCCF will host a series of 3 webinars on issues pertaining to business engagement in early childhood education. In designing these webinars, USCCF will look to address the unique challenges in the 0-3 space through a range of topics such as how to communicate with business leaders on infant/toddler

care, how to build meaningful partnerships with uncommon allies to advance infant/toddler care, and how to sustain business engagement and partnerships in the 0-3 space.

USCCF 'On Demand'

5 'Live Chats'. USCCF will facilitate a question and answer session online with PCI grantees using Facebook, Twitter, or another social media platform to answer questions from PCI grantees about business engagement in early childhood programs for infants, toddlers, and their parents.

Bi- Weekly 'Office Hours': USCCF is dedicated to being a helpful partner for all PCI grantees and has set aside 3 hours bi-weekly for calls and face-to-face meetings with PCI grantees and other organizations to build their capacity in engaging with and connecting with the business community. This time will be used to connect PCI grantees and other organizations with relevant chambers, facilitate calls or meetings, provide advice on roundtables and other events, share knowledge, and to help build connections.

***To get engaged with any of USCCF's early childhood education portfolio, please contact:
Caitlin Codella Low (ccodella@uschamber.com).***