



UPLAN's Recommendations for the Federal Policy Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Families across the country are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our health, economic security, education, safety, and general well-being. While the three federal relief packages passed in the early days of the crisis offer important support, they do not go far enough. The United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN) calls for the following from our national elected officials and policy leaders:

We promote *real* parent engagement in education and other family-serving systems.

Therefore, we recommend:

Increased funding and bold policy solutions to close the digital divide, including hardware and training for parents, teachers, and school and district leaders. All families need access to broadband internet and working devices such as hotspots, laptops, tablets, and headphones. Families with special needs need access to technology that meets universal design requirements. Children need this to connect with teachers, classrooms, and the curriculum. Families need it to communicate, partner, and raise our perspectives with schools and family-serving organizations.



We fight to increase access and affordability of child care, early care and education.

Therefore, we recommend:

Congress provide at least \$50 billion to support the child care, early care and education system. Specifically, funds are needed to:

- Pay providers to cover operating costs (whether they are closed for public health reasons or serving children of essential workers).
- Eliminate copayments and tuition for families (whether they are staying home or attending programs) while ensuring educators are fairly paid.
- Provide materials and training to educators regarding health and safety practices.
- Offer virtual learning when appropriate and mental health supports for families.
- Support providers to navigate the small business loan application process.



We advocate to protect immigrant families and children. Therefore, we recommend:

- Expanded COVID-19 testing, diagnosis, and treatment available and accessible to all, regardless of immigration status. Currently, many of the expanded health services are offered through Medicaid, but the eligibility requirements exclude many immigrants.
- Removing the requirement to have a Social Security number to access a "recovery rebate."



As parents, we know what our communities need. We demand that national policy makers and elected officials promote the bold, comprehensive, equitable solutions that these times require.

To contact your representatives in Congress, visit: www.govtrack.us/congress/members and enter your home address. The names and phone numbers of your Senators and Representatives will be listed.

Contact UPLAN at uplan@unitedparentleaders.org to let us know more about the impact of the crisis in your community and how we can partner to elevate parents' voices during this time.