



NAFCC

National Association for Family Child Care

NAFCC Policy & Advocacy: A Year of Impact and Progress



Advocacy in Action: Behind the Scenes with NAFCC

Behind every piece of legislation that supports family child care (FCC) educators is a story of persistence, collaboration, and advocacy. At NAFCC, advocacy is not just about influencing policy—it’s about centering the voices of FCC educators and building a system that reflects their lived experiences and priorities. With every meeting, conversation, and campaign, we work to amplify their leadership, highlight their contributions, and ensure their needs are at the heart of child care reform. This is what advocacy in action looks like.

August Advocacy in Action: A Movement of Leadership and Change

In August, **NAFCC State Representatives** and family child care educators across more than 10 states stepped into the spotlight, leading NAFCC’s

“August Advocacy in Action” campaign. This initiative was a rallying cry for equitable funding and policies, driven by the voices and leadership of FCC educators determined to create meaningful change.

State Representatives and educators such as **Trina Averette, Clarrissa Baker, Vantionette Savage,**

Corrine Hendrickson, Kathy Baker,

Minette Taylor, Tiffany Taylor, Maria Amado, Kim Spiegel, Tiffany Jones, and Kenia Reinoso spearheaded advocacy efforts, hosting program visits, engaging directly with lawmakers, and sharing their stories in virtual and in-person meetings. These interactions brought the realities of family child care directly to decision-makers, highlighting the vital role FCC plays in the child care system and the communities it serves.

The “August Advocacy in Action” campaign was a testament to the power of collective advocacy and the leadership of FCC educators.

Learn more <https://nafcc.org/2024-advocacy-day/>



Celebrating FCC Educators Through Storytelling

Stories have the power to inspire change, and NAFCC is committed to amplifying the voices of FCC educators through projects like the [*We Are Family Child Care* documentary](#) and the [*Make a Circle Film* Campaign](#).

The ***Make a Circle*** campaign has brought national attention to the skill, joy, and dedication of FCC educators, while the ***We Are Family Child Care*** documentary, created by NAFCC in collaboration with Fola Studios, showcases the profound impact of their work.

These films remind us of the resilience, innovation, and leadership FCC educators bring to their communities every day.



Ways and Means: Elevating FCC Voices in Policy Discussions

True policy change begins with understanding. That's why NAFCC was proud to join FCC leaders, including **state representatives, Leaders Shaping Leaders cohort participants, policy fellows**, and members of our broader network, in a recent meeting organized by congressional staffers from the Committee on Ways and Means. During this gathering, these leaders shared their powerful stories of navigating financial pressures and barriers like limited access to affordable home insurance while operating home-based programs.

The educators, including **Mary Curry, Corrine Hendrickson, Kim Spiegel, Cheryl Morman, Stephanie Jackson, Tiffany Jones, and Kenia Reinoso**, passionately described their dual roles as caregivers and business owners, shedding light on the challenges they face in sustaining high-quality care while managing the realities of running a small business. These discussions were not just impactful—they were necessary, highlighting the urgent need for equitable policies that reflect the realities of family child care.

Through efforts like these, NAFCC is ensuring that FCC educators are more than part of the conversation—they are leading it.

Keeping FCC Educators Informed: CCDF and Head Start Final Rule Webinar

Understanding policy changes is critical for FCC educators to thrive in a rapidly evolving child care landscape. To support this, NAFCC collaborated with the Office of Early Childhood Development to provide a detailed briefing on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule and the Head Start Final Rule.

This session was designed to equip FCC educators with the tools and insights needed to adapt to these updates and to maximize the opportunities they present. Educators learned about the specific impacts of the CCDF Final Rule on family child care, including shifts in quality standards, increased funding opportunities, and measures to expand access for families.

The briefing also covered less-discussed changes in the Head Start Final Rule, emphasizing how they align with FCC programs and what they mean for educators working in these environments. Through this initiative, NAFCC ensured that FCC educators were informed, prepared, and empowered to navigate these critical policy updates.

1. [Webinar Recording and passcode: k*91qw1h](#)
2. [Presentation Slides](#)
3. [Q & A](#)

Meeting with Congressional Staffers: Addressing Home Insurance Barriers

Access to affordable home insurance remains one of the most pressing challenges for FCC educators. Recently, NAFCC met with congressional staffers conducting research to develop legislation addressing this issue.

In these discussions, NAFCC provided insights into the unique challenges FCC educators face as both caregivers and business operators. Many FCC educators operate from their homes, which serve as both personal sanctuaries and professional spaces. This dual use creates insurance gaps that jeopardize their programs and livelihoods.

By offering practical recommendations and highlighting the stakes for FCC educators, NAFCC is laying the groundwork for policies that provide much-needed financial relief and security.

Housing Community of Practice: Advancing Solutions Together

Housing stability is foundational to the success of family child care programs, yet many FCC educators face barriers in securing affordable and suitable spaces for their work. Recognizing this challenge, NAFCC convened a Housing Community of Practice, bringing together FCC educators and housing experts to identify practical solutions.

The group included **BriTanya Brown, LaTonta Godboldt, Brenda Campbell, Susan Randolph, Tiffany Jones, Alexa Plewa, Mary Curry, and Jennifer Ortiz**, who collaborated



to explore strategies that address housing instability. This collaborative effort culminated in the release of a housing report and position statement, outlining actionable recommendations to address housing instability. This initiative reflects NAFCC's commitment to creating systemic change and ensuring FCC educators have the stability they need to thrive in their communities.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Erwa77RJGIXx5UkubFMubBEv_T22XKe4oEVTt_5i3K7G6q4xeoDna6WpM1Dgh8w6.awhRDD4Vm9SqM6IH

Passcode: T9nQ&un!

Extreme Heat Focus Group: Tackling Climate Challenges

As climate extremes intensify, family child care educators are navigating unprecedented challenges. Rising energy costs, aging infrastructure, and record-breaking heat waves have put additional strain on their programs. To address these realities, NAFCC convened a focus group of FCC educators from across the nation.

The group included **Wanda Chandler Tillman, Yolanda Thomas, Lisa Finnie, Rosemarie Regan, Gayle Thomsen, Carmela Gates, and Octavia McLaurin**, who shared their firsthand experiences and brainstormed innovative solutions, from energy efficiency upgrades to policy recommendations. These conversations underscored the urgent need for support to help FCC educators maintain safe, comfortable environments for the children in their care. NAFCC remains committed to ensuring educators have the tools and resources to meet these climate challenges head-on.

Policy Fellows: Expanding Pre-K Opportunities for FCC Educators

Advocacy is driven by leadership, and NAFCC's **policy fellows** are breaking new ground in expanding opportunities for FCC educators. A recent report, ***Including Home-Based Family Child Care Programs into State's Pre-K Expansion: Lessons Learned from Maryland***, offers a blueprint for integrating FCC programs into state Pre-K systems.



Authored by **Kenia Reinoso** and **Tiffany Jones** in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood, the report highlights Maryland's success in creating inclusive, sustainable Pre-K opportunities that leverage the strengths of FCC educators. It serves as an invaluable resource for states looking to expand access while ensuring FCC educators are central to early education efforts.

[Read the Report Here](#)



Advocating for Leadership: Supporting Vantoinette Savage's Appointment



In North Carolina, NAFCC had the privilege of supporting **Ms. Vantoinette Savage**, an **NAFCC Board Member, Affiliate Leader, and North Carolina State Representative**, in her successful appointment to the **North Carolina Governor's Board for the Child Care Commission**.

Ms. Savage has long been a champion for FCC educators, using her platform to advocate for equitable policies that uplift children, families, and educators alike. When the opportunity arose for her to join this influential board, NAFCC provided a letter of recommendation highlighting her unwavering leadership and decades of service. Her appointment ensures that the voices of FCC educators are represented at the highest levels of state governance, influencing policies that directly impact the communities they serve.

Elevating Awareness Through Our Blog

At the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), we harness the power of storytelling to illuminate the experiences of family child care (FCC) educators, driving awareness and action. Our blog serves as a platform to share their insights and innovations, offering valuable lessons for policymakers, advocates, and communities committed to strengthening the child care system.

In "[Lessons from Family Child Care Educators in Rural Communities](#)," educators like [Terry Whitworth](#), [Kristy DeGraaf](#), and [Melissa Rudack](#) share how they transform their homes into learning spaces despite rural challenges.

"[Advancing Equity and Sustainability for FCC Educators](#)" features **NAFCC state representatives** and other educators from Wisconsin, Maryland, and Delaware, addressing inequities like low wages and limited benefits.

Most recently, "[Celebrating the Trailblazing Leadership of Vantoinette Savage: Appointed to the North Carolina Child Care Commission](#)" highlighted **NAFCC state representative, board member, and affiliate leader Vantionaette Savage's** remarkable journey. From her advocacy in the wake of Hurricane Helene to her dedication to uplifting family child care educators, her story is a testament to the power of leadership and resilience.

These stories inspire action and highlight the vital role FCC educators play in child care, showing how their voices and leadership shape stronger communities and policies nationwide.

These stories inspire action and highlight the vital role FCC educators play in child care.





In the Spotlight: FCC Educators in the News

Advocacy is most powerful when it amplifies real voices and lived experiences. Family child care (FCC) educators have recently been featured in impactful stories, highlighting their challenges and contributions.

In a [MarketWatch article](#), **NAFCC State Representative Brooke McDonald** discusses the financial burdens of student debt. [Pluribus News](#) features **Erica Phillips, NAFCC Executive Director**, addressing concerns over child care funding. A story from [EdSurge highlights Tessie Ragan, NAFCC State Representative](#), navigating extreme heat challenges, while The [Hechinger Report](#) features **Laverne Cheeseboro** advocating for debt forgiveness for FCC educators. **Hayley Village Penned an OpEd** highlighting the story of how the lack of safety nets for early educators impacts both caregivers and the children they serve. These stories emphasize the critical need for systemic change to support FCC educators nationwide.

By sharing these stories, we amplify the voices of FCC educators and highlight the systemic changes needed to support their work.

Advocacy in Action: Assessing FCC Educators' Needs through our Annual Survey

Recent survey data from the NAFCC Annual Survey for FCC educators provides a clear picture of the challenges they face and their advocacy priorities. Of the **669** respondents, **58%** identified retirement planning as a top policy issue, followed by access to paid time off (**51%**), health insurance (**40%**), and financial subsidies (**31%**). At NAFCC, we're using this data to drive meaningful change.

From targeted campaigns like *August Advocacy in Action* to offering professional development courses, accessible advocacy toolkits, and our Action Center, we are equipping FCC educators with the tools they need to overcome barriers and create sustainable futures. Together, we will continue amplifying their voices and addressing these pressing challenges.

Highlighting the Power of Community at the National Conference

One of the standout moments of the year was our Plenary Panel at the [NAFCC National Conference](#), focusing on the **Importance of Building Community and Including Families in Home-Based Child Care Advocacy**.

Panelists **Cheryl Morman, Fran Gladney, Cynthia Davis, and Erica Gallegos** shared powerful insights on grassroots organizing and family engagement, emphasizing the critical role of community-driven advocacy in shaping child care policy. This session underscored how collaboration with families and communities can drive meaningful change for family child care educators and the children they serve.



Culminating a Year of Growth and Impact

This year, NAFCC made a historic leap in leadership within the policy space by appointing **Ronald Jarrett** as our first-ever **Director of Policy and Public Affairs**.

This groundbreaking role solidifies our commitment to ensuring family child care (FCC) educators have a seat at the table in shaping child care policy. This achievement was made even more meaningful through the participation of FCC educators in the interview process.



Svitlana Uniyat, Corrine Hendrickson, Tiffany Jones, Kenia Reinoso, and Kim Spiegel lent their voices and expertise to help shape this milestone.

Ronald's leadership ushers in a new era of advocacy for FCC educators, paving the way for systemic change and lasting impact.

Together, We Can Make a Difference

NAFCC is dedicated to building a future where family child care is valued and supported, but we can't do it without you.

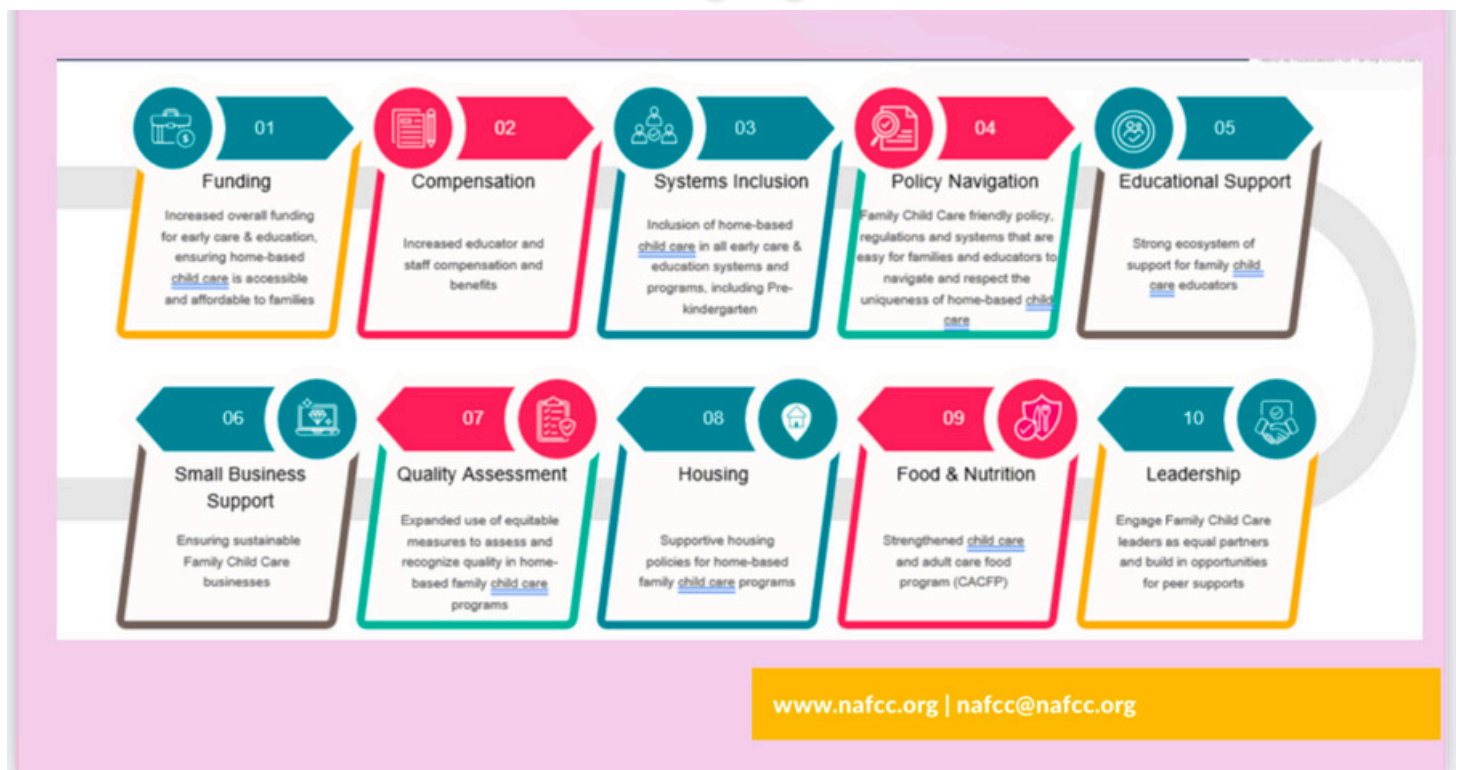
[Join our community](#) to gain access to advocacy tools, professional resources, and a network of like-minded FCC educators.

Get involved by [attending the National Conference](#), joining [Leaders Shaping Leaders](#), or applying to become an NAFCC State Representative or Policy Fellow. Advance your skills through [professional development courses](#) and amplify your advocacy efforts with our [Action Center](#).

Together, we are shaping a stronger, more equitable system for FCC educators. Don't wait—take the next step in your journey today.

[Learn More and Get Involved](#)

NAFCC Emerging Priorities



NAFCC Policy & Advocacy: Leading the Charge for Change