



Delaware Association for the
Education of Young Children

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deaeyc Amplifies Warning of Child Care Crisis Amid Federal Funding Freeze

Wilmington, DE — The Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (deaeyc) is sounding the alarm over recent Executive Orders that have paused federal funding disbursements. This action has a profound impact on children and families in Delaware, as well as the organizations that provide essential care, education, and resources.

Early education and child care providers are crucial to Delaware's workforce and economy. The funding pause could affect a wide range of programs that support lower-income households, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, state grants for child care, Head Start, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (SNAP/WIC).

Without these programs, more than 18,000 Delawareans may lose access to child care, food for their children, and the ability to continue working. Additionally, thousands of children who attend after-school programs may lose access if federal funding for these businesses is delayed or eliminated. Child care providers may have to reduce program hours, limit services, or close entirely, affecting numerous Delaware households with children.

"A funding delay risks the continued operation of child care programs, including before and after school programs across the state," says Kim Bryda, President of deaeyc. "Child care providers, many of which are women and minority-owned small businesses, have little ability to cover expenses while awaiting financial decisions from the federal government."

The funding delay exacerbates the existing funding crisis faced by child care providers. Without immediate intervention or clarity on when disbursements will resume, the long-term sustainability of these essential organizations is at risk. The economic impact of child care program closures will exacerbate workforce shortages across all sectors of Delaware's economy.

Deaeyc calls on federal agencies and policymakers to urgently resolve this issue and provide clear communication and support to impacted organizations. Additionally, deaeyc urges state and local leaders, philanthropic organizations, and community members to explore interim measures to enable nonprofits to continue their critical work during this period of uncertainty.

“A funding delay will have a disastrous impact on child care and other industries. We must act now,” says Lisa Miller, Executive Director of deaeyc. “Governor Meyer and Lieutenant Governor Gay have prioritized early education, and we are hopeful that their leadership, in partnership with our federal legislators, will protect child care providers and emphasize the importance of this funding.”

Deaeyc remains committed to supporting Delaware’s child care providers. In partnership with child care leaders across the state, supporting agencies, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), deaeyc continues to advocate for the resources and policies necessary to sustain child care in Delaware.

About deaeyc:

The Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (deaeyc, pronounced “day-see”) is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the leading membership association for those working with and on behalf of children from birth to age eight. Founded in 1969, deaeyc serves and acts on behalf of the needs, rights, and well-being of all young children and their families in Delaware.

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