

## Childcare Assistance for Families Experiencing Homelessness

The JRLC has been a strong advocate for Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The program provides financial assistance to low-income families so that parents can work or pursue education and children can receive nurturing care in a safe, stable environment. In many cases, parents pay a portion of the childcare costs, based on their income. The program helps provide childcare to 30,000 Minnesota children each month. Last year we successfully worked to pass family-friendly amendments that provide stability to children, parents and providers using the program.



This year we are working with the Kids Can't Wait coalition to address childcare needs of eligible families experiencing homelessness. Parents without safe, affordable childcare cannot look for work or participate in the education program necessary to make them employable.

We are asking for two changes to the CCAP program, both involving families experiencing homelessness. First, we support an expedited process for homeless families to apply for the Program and to learn if they are eligible. Second, we support changes to the program to allow homeless families to participate in CCAP for up to three months without needing to meet the work or education requirements.

Both changes are designed to bring stability to children experiencing homelessness and afford their parents a genuine path to finding employment, housing and addressing other basic family needs. With the changes, children experiencing homelessness will be supported, encouraged and provided stability during a time of family crisis. Parents will have a reasonable amount of time to create stability for their families. Once the parents have found work or are enrolled in school, they would be eligible under the terms of the current program.



**Minnesota Catholic Conference**  
**Islamic Center of Minnesota**  
**Jewish Community Relations Council**  
**Minnesota Council of Churches**