

# The 6th Annual Arizona Early Childhood Public Policy Forum

Collective Impact: Unifying our  
Voices for Child Care

Saturday, January 20, 2024

[Resources and handouts](#)

[azaeyc.org/2024ppf](https://azaeyc.org/2024ppf)



# Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Special Guest Speaker: Linking Your Story with Data for Effective Advocacy
3. Arizona Town Hall Process
4. “Advocating for Early Childhood Education and Our Communities”
5. Report Read-Out
6. Next Steps to Take Action



# Welcome and Introductions



This effort was funded in part by a grant from [Voices for Healthy Kids](#), an initiative of the American Heart Association.



# **Welcome, Early Childhood Advocates**

January Contreras, J.D.

President & CEO, Children's  
Action Alliance

For note-taking and reference only.  
Not for distribution.

# Unifying Our Voices for Child Care

- The facts are clear: supporting quality child care and early education improves family well-being, **strengthens communities**, and **grows our state's prosperity**.
- Funding quality ECE is a smart investment that makes sense and *cents*! Every \$1 invested has a return on investment of \$9.
- The state must take an **active role** in funding quality early care and learning. [Read the AZECA Legislative Priorities.](#)

# What Parents, Providers, and Communities Need (and Deserve)

Invest \$100M in FY25 to **maintain access to quality, affordable child care** for Arizona's children and families. *State funds will help eliminate an impending waitlist.*

**Allocate annual funding** from the state general fund that matches federal early learning dollars and expands access.



# Other Legislative Asks for 2024

- Invest \$50 million for a grant program to improve **child care facilities** and build new child care classrooms and programs.
- Expand **eligibility** for child care subsidies from 165% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 85% of state median income (SMI) or 300% of FPL.





# Linking Your Story with Data for Effective Advocacy

Mónica Susana Villalobos, M.A.

President & CEO, Arizona

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce





Arizona Town Hall is a private nonprofit organization founded in 1962 for the purpose of **educating, engaging, connecting, and empowering people to resolve important issues.**

Much of the success of Arizona Town Hall lies in the fact that the process incorporates the knowledge, thoughts, and ideas of all the participants. The Town Hall process has been adapted and utilized by many other groups who strive to create solutions by drawing upon diverse views and building informed coalitions. [Arizona Town Hall Process](#).

# Small Group Discussions

1. Consider your story and experience. What does quality child care mean to you personally?
2. In what ways would state investments in child care benefit you, parents, the community, and businesses?
3. How can you connect your story to the statewide legislative priorities?



# Advocating for Early Childhood Education & Our Communities

Dr. Eric Bucher, Arizona AEYC

[ebucher@azaeyc.org](mailto:ebucher@azaeyc.org)

# Boosting the Economy, Contributing to Communities



When Beyoncé and Taylor Swift perform in cities across the U.S., they boost the local economy, bring people together, and foster joy and community.

You know who else does that every day of the year? **Early care and education providers.**

# Our Taxes, Our Priorities

**Early childhood education—and quality child care—is a public good.** It contributes to the *well-being* of communities.

These are OUR **taxpayer dollars**. It's our right and obligation to advocate that they're directed into programs that improve access, benefit children and families, and enhance the vibrancy of our communities.

# A Historic Step

Governor Hobbs' proposal to invest \$100 million in child care in the FY25 budget will:

- Ensure more than 5,000 qualifying families retain access to child care assistance without being placed on an indefinite waitlist
- Continue to offer quality reimbursement rates to child care providers
- Lower barriers to enrollment for families by continuing to waive costly or prohibitive registration fees

[Read the FY2025 proposed executive budget.](#)

# It is Urgent, and It is Time!

For nearly two decades, the state of Arizona has not invested general funds into early care and education since a complete wipe of all matching funds in 2008 due to the recession.

Almost all of Arizona's early childhood system is federally funded (e.g., Head Start, CCDF), and much of the rest is matched by First Things First tobacco revenue dollars.



# **Town Hall Report Read-Out**

Tara Jackson, President, Arizona  
Town Hall

For note-taking and reference only.  
Not for distribution.



# Making an “I Will” Statement

Think about the important talking points we developed collectively. Over the next day, few days, and/or month, what will you do to act on what you learned?

Start with “I Will...”, and write down your commitment statement.

# Thank you to our Guest Speakers

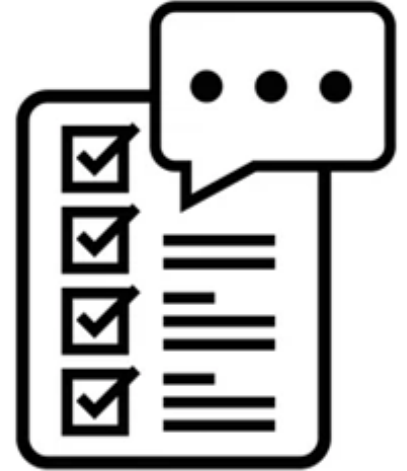
We appreciate your insight and knowledge! As a thank you, we prepared a framed piece of children's beautiful artwork of the Arizona desert to deliver to you.

[azaeyc.org/artatthecapitol](https://azaeyc.org/artatthecapitol)



# Survey and Certificate

- Please take a few moments to complete a brief 5-minute survey [here](#).
- 2.5 PD hours are available in the AZ Early Childhood Workforce Registry. If you would like to be marked as “Attended”, include your ID number in your survey response.



*A PDF certificate is available on the survey completion page.*

# Overview of Logistics for Early Childhood Day at the Capitol



INVEST IN CHILD CARE: IT'S EVERYONE'S "BUSINESS"

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DAY  
AT THE CAPITOL**



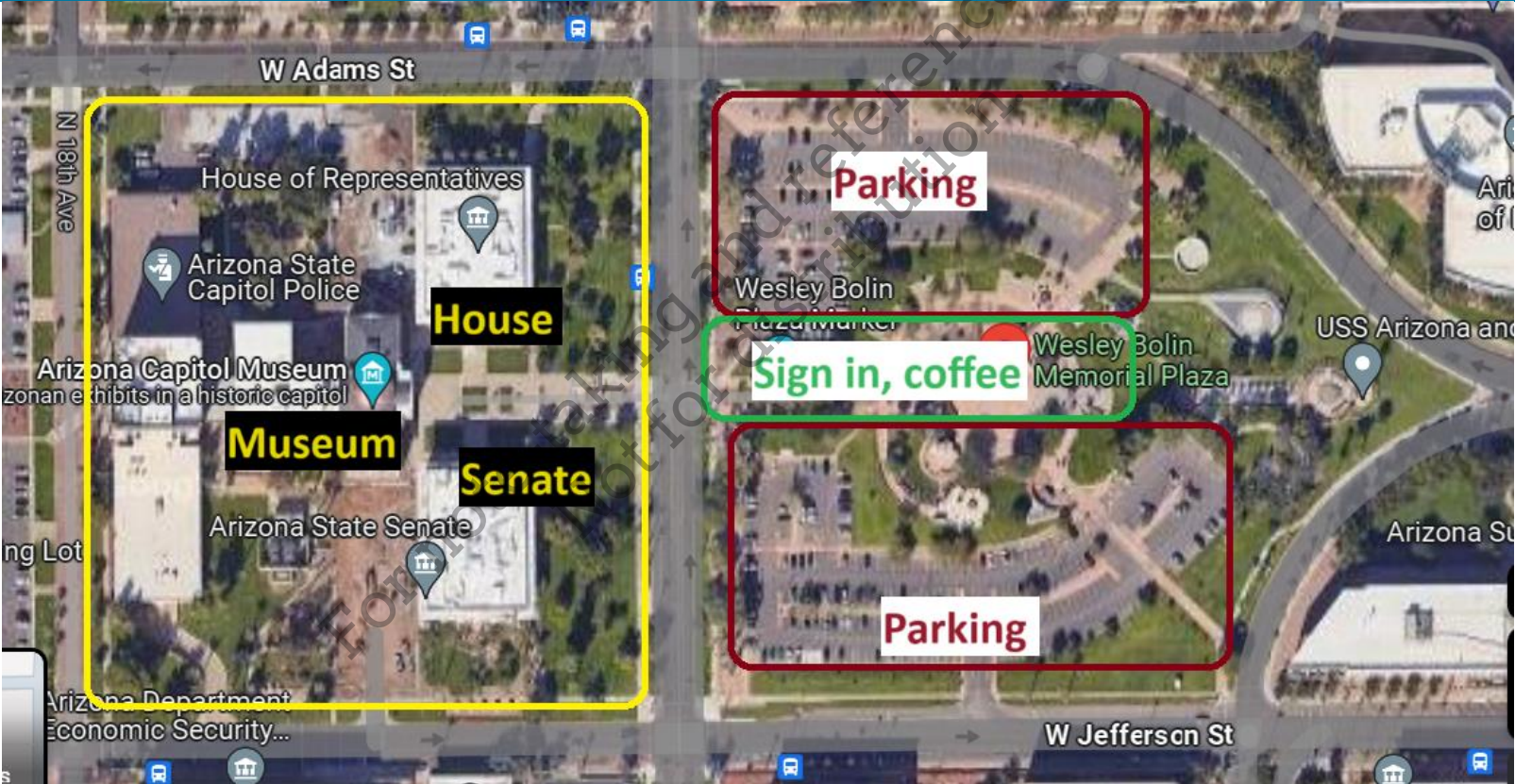
**JANUARY 22, 2024**

# Agenda for Monday, January 22

Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, [1700 W Washington St, Phoenix 85007](#)

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and networking
- 9 a.m. Welcome from AZECA Leadership Team
- 9-11 a.m. Plaza activities, networking, committee hearing, storytime
- 10 a.m. Tour of the Capitol and House Chamber/Floor  
*Hosted by Rep. Consuelo Hernandez*
- 11-noon Lawmaker Panel (House Basement, Copper Room)  
*Facilitated by Chris Herbst with Rep. Annalise Ortiz, Rep. Jennifer Pawlik, and Sen. Ken Bennett*

# Map and Parking



# Activities throughout the Day

**ECDC Map It!** Help us track where all our attendees are coming from for the 2024 Arizona Early Childhood Day at the Capitol! First, scan the QR code.

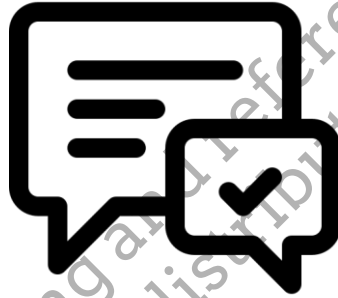
Next, select your city and state then upload a photo of you during the event! You can also add a comment about why access to quality child care is important.



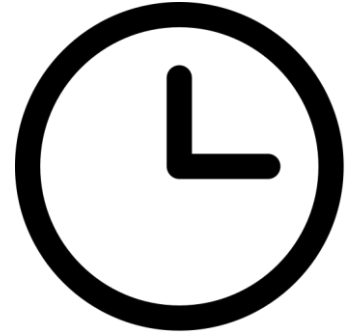
# Tips for a Successful Event



Dress business casual and prepare for inclement weather



Network with other community champions and build relationships



Be on time for your meeting with a lawmaker (*if scheduled*)