

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, it hasn't changed the need to celebrate and support children and the adults who love, care for, and educate them. With this [America for Early Ed](#) toolkit, we encourage you to take time during #woyc21 to lift up your advocacy voice on behalf of the children, families, and educators in your community to make sure #ECEwins!

APRIL 12: MUSIC MONDAY!

JOIN THE CHORUS
FOR CHANGE!

Every year, thanks to the great work of NAEYC Affiliates, partners, and friends, Week of the Young Child proclamations and resolutions are signed by Governors, Mayors, City Councils and more, all across America! This year, kicking off on #MusicMonday, we want all of your state and local elected officials to be singing from the same songbook, and joining the chorus to advance the early childhood education profession as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Week of the Young Child™!



TAKE ACTION

1. Work with your [states' Affiliates](#) and advocates to [help policymakers sign state and local proclamations](#) that honor and advance the early childhood education profession as part of the WOYC®.
2. [Put your proclamation on the map](#) once you've secured a proclamation and share pictures on social media of your proclamations using #woyc21. Tag the elected officials who signed them and thank them for being champions and supporters of early childhood education and educators!

Need inspiration?

[See Twitter for what NAEYC's affiliate leaders and partners did in 2020.](#)

If you don't have proclamations to share, you can use these sample social media posts instead:



I'm joining the chorus for change to advance the #earlychildhood education profession! The time is NOW for elected officials to value, support, and compensate early childhood educators for the complex and important work they do! #ECEwins #ChildCareisEssential #woyc21



I'm celebrating Music Monday by joining the chorus for change to advance the early childhood education profession! We are past the point where elected officials must value, support, and compensate early childhood educators for the complex and important work they do! #ECEwins #ChildCareisEssential #woyc21

APRIL 13: TASTY TUESDAY

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A RECIPE FOR EQUITABLE SUCCESS

Our goal is to nurture a more diverse and inclusive generation of young children who thrive through their experiences of equitable learning opportunities in early learning programs. Thus, all early childhood educators have a professional obligation to advance equity as part of their work alongside, and in partnership with, young children and their families.



TAKE ACTION

1. Read (or revisit) NAEYC's [Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education position statement](#) and learn more about living out the Advancing Equity position statement by exploring our [equity resources webpage](#), a collection primarily focused on elevating resources that support educators in teaching for equity.
2. As [we stand together for equity and justice](#), we ask you to share how you are advancing equity in your own practice. Post your responses and reflections on social media using #EquityInECE!

APRIL 14: WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

LEARN TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, BUILD TOGETHER

Thanks to the tireless work of early childhood educators and allies, along with champions in Congress and the leadership of the Biden Administration, on March 11 the American Rescue Plan was passed. Included in the plan is an historic \$39 billion in child care relief that will allow child care programs across states and settings to meet their most urgent needs, thereby stabilizing the essential sector that anchors America's economy and recovery.



TAKE ACTION

1. Watch (and share with a colleague) these two webinars specifically aimed to help child care providers and early childhood educators better understand what is in the American Rescue Plan and how they can access these supports:
 - [“Spend Every Dime: How \\$40 Billion Can Change Child Care”](#) — This webinar focused on how states and ECE advocates can work together to ensure that child care relief dollars are spent quickly, effectively, equitably, and in ways that lay the groundwork for substantial, sustainable change.
 - [“Understanding Federal Funding: What's in it for Family Child Care?”](#) — This bilingual English and Spanish webinar celebrated the approval of the American Rescue Plan and discussed the historic investment of \$39 billion for child care and what it means for family child care.
2. Work with your [states' Affiliates](#) and advocates to center the voices of educators and families as your state spends [their share of the federal funding](#). Stay persistent, engaged, and vocal!

APRIL 15: ARTSY THURSDAY

DESIGN WITH PURPOSE: A FRAMEWORK BY THE FIELD FOR THE FIELD

“By design, the Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession was created by the field for the field, and it holds the promise, if systematically implemented, to upend the structural inequities that lead to lack of access to higher education and chronically low compensation with limited health insurance and retirement benefits for the early childhood education profession.” — Rhian Evans Allin, NAEYC CEO



TAKE ACTION

1. Learn more about the [Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession](#) and take steps to [Unlock Compensation and Benefits](#) for early childhood educators across states and settings.
2. [Watch & Talk: Hold a Virtual Gathering](#) in your community to review the Unifying Framework’s recommendations and make a plan for action!

APRIL 16: FAMILY FRIDAY

FINDING BALANCE

“Perhaps more than ever, mental health and social interactions have been on the minds of many over the past year. A pandemic, ongoing systemic injustices, and a contentious political season combined to create uncertainty and stress for adults and children alike. What do these stressors mean for the mental health of our youngest learners? In what ways can early childhood educators nurture the social and emotional lives and learning of children from birth through age 8?” — Social & Emotional Development: For Our Youngest Learners & Beyond by Annie Moses, Stefanie Powers and Kathy Reschke



TAKE ACTION

1. Explore the special collaborative [Young Children issue with ZERO TO THREE](#), which focuses on the emotional health of infants and toddlers and their social and emotional development.
2. Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members’ role as young children’s first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories on NAEYC’s Facebook page or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc21 as we celebrate the unique role families play in their children’s learning and development.