

A Fully Funded System



What Neighborhood Villages is fighting for:

- Ensuring that **no family pays more than 7%** for child care and that care is **free for anyone with a household income below 150% of the federal poverty line**.
- Development of a **cost methodology for early education and care** that reflects the true cost of providing high-quality care, inclusive of (but not limited to) wages and benefits, wraparound and nutrition supports, professional development, instructional coaching, and curriculum, facilities, and operations.
- **Permanent direct-to-provider operations grants** that reflect the true cost of providing high-quality care and that account for the ages, populations, and locations a program serves.
- **Setting child care subsidy reimbursement rates** at a level that reflects the true cost of providing high-quality care, with a minimum floor of the 75th percentile.
- **Increased funding for early educator professional development opportunities**, inclusive of but not limited to scholarships, tuition subsidies, and college and non-college pathways to launching or advancing a career in early education and care.
- **Investments** in how the early education and care system can build its capacity to deliver **wraparound supports** (from nutrition to mental health to housing and more) to children and families.

A **fully funded child care system** means that early educators earn a living wage for their critically important work and that quality early education and care is accessible and affordable for all families and free for those who most need it. In a fully funded child care system, the child care subsidy reimbursement rate reflects the true cost of providing high-quality care and there is adequate public funding dedicated to ensuring that all families eligible for a child care subsidy are able to receive one and to enroll their child in care. A fully funded system also includes codifying and fully funding direct-to-provider operations grants that deliver a robust baseline of funding for all licensed early education and care providers and take into account the ages, populations, and locations a provider serves.

Fully funding the child care system also means making significant investments in professional development opportunities for early educators and building the capacity of providers and the early education and care system, as a whole, to deliver coordinated, holistic wraparound supports to children and families.