

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) is pleased that Hillary Clinton has offered a strong proposal to increase families' access to high-quality child care. The average cost of full-time child care nationally is more than \$17,000 for an infant and more than \$12,000 for a 4-year-old, according to Child Care Aware of America. For families making the minimum wage, this cost can deplete 30% or more of their monthly income. In 23 states, the cost of child care is higher than in-state college tuition. Below is what Hillary Clinton has offered to do to help families afford child care.

Hillary Clinton's plan

- 1) Cap the cost of child care: Under her plan, families would not pay more than 10% of their income in child care costs.
- 2) Provide increased access to on-campus child care for parents who are going to college. The Clinton campaign estimates that will benefit 250,000 children. Also provide scholarships of up to \$1,500 a year to help student parents afford child care.
- 3) Double the funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs to provide comprehensive, full-day, high-quality services to low-income families.
- 4) Provide high-quality pre-K education for all 4-year-olds in the country.
- 5) Improve the quality of child care by increasing wages for child care workers which will reduce turnover and increase worker quality.
- 6) Expand evidence-based home visiting programs.

Cost and Pay For

Depending on how much of this plan is enacted, the cost could be up to \$20 billion a year. The Clinton campaign has proposed to pay for these proposals by increasing government child care subsidies, providing various forms of tax relief to low- and middle-income families, and increasing taxes on high-income households.

Conclusion

SCAN believes that Hillary Clinton's plan will provide relief for many families currently struggling with the cost of child care. By ensuring that all 4-year-olds will have access to high-quality preschool, her plan offers every child a strong start in life. In addition, her plan helps

families with the increasing costs of child care, up almost 25% over the last decade. By limiting the cost for families, it will encourage parents to enter the workforce and provide families with more money in their pockets. Along the same lines, her proposal to increase child care worker wages will attract more talent and help lift many of these workers out of poverty. SCAN also supports Secretary Clinton's plan to double the investment in Head Start, Early Head Start, and home visiting programs such as the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. This program has been shown to significantly improve maternal and child health, development, and learning.

Overall, SCAN strongly supports Secretary Clinton's aggressive proposal to increase families' access to high quality child care.