

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2025

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Child Care Advocates, Providers Call on MDHS to use TANF for CCPP

Who: Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative (MLICCI), Child Care Directors Network Alliance (CDNA), Mississippi Delta Licensed Child Care Providers, MS Black Women's Roundtable (MS-BWR), child care providers, parents, legislators, and workforce advocates

Speakers to Include:

- Child care advocacy organizations urging use of TANF funds
- Child care providers sharing stories of enrollment loss
- Parents impacted by the certificate freeze
- Business and workforce development leaders
- Rep. Zakiya Summers, MS-68

What: Press Conference to urge MDHS to use TANF funds and lift the hold on child care certificates

When: Thursday, April 24, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

Where: Mississippi State Capitol, South Steps

Why: Thousands of Mississippi families are at risk of losing access to affordable child care due to the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) pausing new and renewal applications for the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP). This crisis is impacting providers, working families, and the state's economy. Organizers will present a solution: <u>use existing TANF</u> funds to sustain the program and avoid devastating cuts.

Media are encouraged to attend and cover this urgent call to action. Interview opportunities available on site. For more information, visit: <u>www.mschildcare.org</u>,