

Subject: The White House Needs to Hear from You

The year is almost up – can you believe it? As advocates, we know that as December wanes, January rapidly approaches. January might mark the end of the winter holidays, but it marks the beginning of another season: the federal budget season!

And it's up to President Obama to kick it off – he's working on his budget recommendations for the next fiscal year, FY13, as they are released in February. Make sure the President hears from you on the importance of early childhood investments today – call 202-456-1111 to be connected to the White House comment line!

We want the president to start the budgetary process on a high note by preserving and strengthening early childhood. With all of the competing priorities in Washington these days, though, we need your help to make this happen. The early childhood community is coordinating its efforts to maximize the impact, and we're calling on you for backup!

Will you make sure the President hears from us? **TODAY, Monday December 19, call the White House at 202-456-1111!** When you reach the comment line, please say:

- Your name
- Where you are from
- Your organizational affiliations, if any
- Please tell the President to preserve, support, and strengthen early childhood investments including child care, Head Start, and Early Head Start, Section 619 and Part C, and the Early Learning Challenge as he works on his FY 2013 budget. In a time of economic fragility, supports like early childhood give children a strong start and help their parents go back to work.

With your help, we are working for a better future for our community and America's families. **Your voice counts – please call the White House today at 202-456-1111.** Calling only takes a few minutes, but it's an extraordinarily important way to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support for early childhood. We'll keep you updated as the budget process progresses!

Sincerely,