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CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR CHILDCARE APPROVED IN TWO-THIRDS OF U.S. STATES, A LANDMARK VICTORY FOR VOTE MAMA FOUNDATION

With a recent decision in Hawai'i, 33 states plus Washington, D.C. have now approved Campaign Funds for Childcare.

Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization tracking the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare and working to authorize the measure in all 50 states.

NEW YORK — Vote Mama Foundation proudly announces a significant milestone: **Campaign Funds for Childcare has now been approved in [two-thirds of U.S. states](#)**. This groundbreaking achievement highlights the ongoing efforts to build a more representative government and remove the financial barriers facing parents and caregivers running for office across the country. Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working to authorize [Campaign Funds for Childcare](#) in all 50 states and will remain at the forefront of advocating for the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare for all state and local candidates.

The journey to pass Campaign Funds for Childcare began in 2018 when Vote Mama Foundation Founder and CEO, Liuba Grechen Shirley, endured the realities of being a mom on the campaign trail while running a historic campaign for Congress. She became the first woman to successfully petition the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and receive federal approval to use Campaign Funds for Childcare. This precedent-setting decision received bipartisan support. Since this milestone, 68 federal candidates have utilized the provision, reflecting its impact and necessity. The FEC decision, however, only applies to federal candidates. Vote Mama Foundation has led the charge to authorize Campaign Funds for Childcare in all 50 states and expand this resource to all state and local candidates.

33 states plus Washington, D.C. now permit the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare. According to a [recent Vote Mama Foundation report](#), usage has increased exponentially among those who have been historically excluded from elected office. Since 2018, spending has increased by [662 percent](#) for federal candidates and by [2.156 percent](#) for state and local

candidates. Campaign Funds for Childcare is transforming our political landscape and empowering more parents and caregivers to run for office.

It is no secret that the cost of childcare is a barrier holding parents and caregivers back, and it is a hurdle that crucially harms their representation in elected office. According to 2022 data from Vote Mama Foundation, [5.3 percent of state legislators and 6.8 percent of Congress members](#) are mothers of minor children. With two-thirds of U.S. states now permitting Campaign Funds for Childcare, representative government is closer than ever, and more advocates for American children and families can make a run for office.

“By passing Campaign Funds for Childcare in two-thirds of the states across the country, the political system is evolving to include more parents, caregivers, and champions for family-friendly policies. This is a momentous step toward a more inclusive and effective government,” **said Liuba Grechen Shirley, Vote Mama Foundation Founder and CEO.** “When I first petitioned the FEC in 2018, I faced significant doubt and skepticism. Our country has progressed a long way since my campaign. Since then, we’ve seen a movement that has not only transformed the political landscape but also changed the conversation about who can and should run for office. This milestone is not only a win for parents and caregivers but for democracy itself, and is a testament to the power of collective advocacy and governance. While we celebrate this major victory, our work is far from over. We will continue to push for reforms that ensure every parent and caregiver has the opportunity to lead without the financial burden of childcare.”

Background:

Vote Mama Foundation is the foremost authority tracking the access and usage of Campaign Funds for Childcare and is the only organization working to authorize the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare in all 50 states. To date, 33 states (plus Washington, D.C.) have approved the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare.

Vote Mama Foundation is the leading source of research and analysis on the political participation of mothers in the United States. It works towards gender equity by normalizing mothers of minor children running for and serving in office, naming and dismantling the barriers that keep moms out of office and out of power, and enabling legislators to pass family-friendly policies. Vote Mama Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To learn more about Vote Mama Foundation and Campaign Funds for Childcare, visit votemamafoundation.org

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