

# CHILDCARE FOR ALL

JANESE  
LEWIS GEORGE  
FOR DC MAYOR

DC has the highest childcare costs in the nation. At the same time, many childcare workers earn poverty wages. Implementing universal affordable childcare will help thousands of families and workers manage their costs at a time of rising prices, and provide every DC child with a strong start in life.

**The Plan:** We're already halfway to universal affordable childcare through existing subsidy and workforce programs. Janeese Lewis George will build on what's already working. Her plan has three components:

## COVER MORE FAMILIES

- Every family will be eligible for childcare assistance and families will spend no more than 7% of their household income on childcare, with many families paying less and some paying nothing.
- That means if your family is earning less than \$100,000 a year, you will spend no more than \$600 a month on childcare.
- Janeese will ensure costs stay low by expanding the childcare subsidy to every DC family over a phased timeline. The subsidy will be funded by federal and local dollars. Janeese will prioritize funding for universal affordable childcare in her annual budgets and consider closing tax loopholes to fund universal affordable childcare.
- Families will still apply and choose their childcare setting: licensed centers, family childcare homes, or registered Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care.

## INCREASE CHILDCARE SUPPLY

- Janeese will boost investments in FFN Care and provide microgrants to skill up these caregivers without forcing them into center-based licensing systems.
- Janeese will co-locate infant and toddler programs in DC Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter school buildings with excess capacity, as well as in underutilized District-owned facilities.
- A dedicated facilities grant fund will allow providers to purchase property or build out current space, prioritizing neighborhoods with the greatest unmet need.

## INVEST IN WORKFORCE

- Janeese will build on the success of the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund to guarantee wages and benefits that are comparable to those of DCPS teachers covered by union contract.
- Janeese will continue to partner with our unions to create good, safe jobs.
- Janeese will work to maximize enrollment in affordable early childhood education degree and certification programs, allowing different entry points for people with different starting points.

**We Can Get This Done:** DC proved that bold investments work by successfully implementing universal Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 and the Pay Equity Fund. Now DC must lead again by adopting universal affordable childcare.