



"Parents create people" says Marc C. Bornstein, Head of Child and Family Research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,

Hello friends,

In the midst of these difficult times, we hope you and your family are staying healthy and safe.

The Covid-19 crisis makes it clear: when it comes to caring for children, parents are essential. The pandemic has highlighted the vastly different circumstances, health concerns, and needs of families. It has brought into stark relief the need for inclusive family policies that provide all parents with essential financial support and the freedom to choose how to care for their children.

Among these vastly different circumstances are these: Some families face the danger of a parent working on the frontlines of Covid-19 - and we're thinking especially of the doctors and nurses, all those working in hospitals and healthcare facilities through these dire circumstances. Many families are dealing with loss of income; among them are those who were already living in poverty or on the edge of poverty. Some are worried about paying their rent and feeding their children. Other families have had their children's childcare or school disrupted, and scrambled to figure out how and what to change in order to have time for needed caregiving. In general, families who already had a parent at home were better positioned when everyone suddenly had to stay home.

Parents nurture their children, who grow up to be future citizens. Societies must nurture parents if families, communities and the nation are to thrive. As Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Director of the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, says:

**"If we want to create the best environment for learning and healthy development for young children, we have to make sure that the adults who care for them are having their needs met as well."**

In 2020, we have advanced the narrative about inclusive family policies on social media, in webinars and at Zoom meetings. We are involved in ongoing dialogue with diverse people and organizations,

On an ongoing basis, we study the work of our nation's renowned developmental scientists as well as write articles, guest posts and letters to the editor about inclusive family policies.

In addition to this advocacy, we regularly update our website to provide affirmation, information and resources for families during the pandemic. Please join us on social media - and help by sharing our posts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and our brand new [Pinterest](#) page.

Two invitations for you:

This Thursday (sorry for the last-minute notice) – December 10 – join us in an informal Zoom meeting as we talk about caregiving and the pandemic, U.S. family policy, Family and Home Network's [Campaign for Inclusive Family Policies](#) and possible next steps on advocacy.

And an invitation to be the first to join our January-February 2021 Transitioning Home workshops (no cost). We haven't announced this on social media yet, we'll start doing that soon. There are two groups forming, go here, to our [Family and Home Community](#), to join one of the groups: Tuesdays at 1 pm OR Thursdays at 3:30 pm. Workshops meet online for 90 minutes once a week, for six weeks - with about an hour of readings to do between meetings.

Have you seen media reports about parents having to cut back on paid employment or even quitting a job in order to care for their children? These reports focus on middle-class families and frame the care as a burden, a constraint preventing parents (especially mothers) from pursuing career goals. We want to shout: it's a pandemic, people! Let's think about the families who don't have enough food, who live in small apartments with toddlers, who are giving birth at such a stressful time.

What do you think about the way the media is covering families during the pandemic? We're concerned about reports that frame the care of children as a burden, a constraint preventing parents (especially mothers) from pursuing career goals. We know that many parents had to cut back on paid work hours or even quit a job in order to care for their children. We know some find this difficult but we're more worried about families who don't have enough food, who live in small apartments with toddlers, who are giving birth at such a stressful time. We know there's no one-size-fits-all family.

Let's support policies for ALL families - inclusive family policies. Please help us do that by making a financial [donation](#) in support of our work.

Please let me know if you have questions, comments - or if you'd like to work with us as a volunteer.

Catherine Myers  
Executive Director  
[cmyers@familyandhome.org](mailto:cmyers@familyandhome.org)

**Can you help by making a financial contribution to support our work?**

t{{Disclaimer}}

Family and Home Network  
P.O. Box 72134  
Durham, NC 27722  
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).