

Ruth J. Friedman, Ph.D.
Short Biography

Dr. Friedman is a national leader on early childhood policy with over 25 years of experience in child and family public policy. She is currently a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation and previously served as Director of the Office of Child Care at the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the Biden administration. Appointed during the pandemic, she led the Office of Child Care to rapidly and strategically deploy relief to child care programs across the country at a critical time for the sector and for families, leveraging more than \$50 billion in supplemental child care funding to help keep programs open and lower child care costs for families. As director, she oversaw the administration of the Child Care and Development Fund program, the \$12 billion federal program that helps families afford child care and improves the quality of care for all children and achieved major child care policy reforms on behalf of children, families, and child care providers. Previously, Dr. Friedman advanced the early childhood education agenda in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than a decade on behalf of Representative George Miller (D–CA), the House Education and Workforce Committee, and House Democrats, working on laws and initiatives on Head Start, pre-K, child care, home visiting, and early intervention, as well as on family poverty, child abuse prevention, juvenile justice, and youth safety. She has also worked as an independent consultant, providing policy, political, and child development expertise to think tanks, advocacy organizations, researchers, foundations, and other stakeholders. Dr. Friedman has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and an M.A. in public policy.