

Connecticut

‘Morning Without Child Care’ rallies held across Connecticut

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NEW HAVEN, Conn. (WTNH) — Thousands of child care providers, parents and children participated in rallies across Connecticut on Wednesday to highlight the essential role of child care.

The fourth annual “Morning Without Child Care” meant participating child care centers closed their doors while workers attended.

“Thousands of parents, advocates, educators are coming out to demand investment in early care and education,” Allyx Schiavone, the Friends Center for Children executive director, said.

For Cora D’Allesandora, there’s no ignoring the cost of her Branford day care.

“It is so expensive,” she said. “My husband and I both work full time, and we’re spending about 35% of our income on child care. It’s more than our mortgage.”

As expensive as child care is, that money is not going into the pocket of educators. The annual salary for an early childhood educator is just \$34,500, so they would also like more support from the state. Lawmakers in Hartford are currently considering several bills.

“We’re asking decision makers to support the governor’s proposal to create an early childhood trust fund, where we would put money aside each year so that early care and education are fully funded,” Schiavone said.

That sounds good to D’Allesandora, who uses child care and teaches early education at UConn.

“It’s really hard recruiting students into my program because they’re going to graduate with loans, and they’re not going to make enough money to pay their loans,” D’Allesandora said.

The fourth annual “Morning Without Child Care” rallies were scheduled for the following locations:

- New London: 7:30 a.m., TVCCA Little Learners Early Education Program, 387 Bayonet St.
- New Haven: 8 a.m., New Haven Green, 165 Church St.
- Stamford: 8:30 a.m., Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.
- Norwalk: 9 a.m., Norwalk Green, 8 Park Lane
- Torrington: 9 a.m., Kids Play Museum, 61 Main St.
- Waterbury: 9:45 a.m., Library Park, 267 Grand St.
- Bridgeport: 10 a.m., Washington Park, 475 Washington Ave.
- Stratford: 10 a.m., Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main St.
- Bloomfield: 4 p.m., Town Green, 2 Tunxis Ave.
- Danbury: 5 p.m., Hatters Park, 7 E Hayestown Rd.
- Mansfield: 5 p.m., Mansfield Discovery Depot, 50 Storrs Rd.
- Hartford: 5:30 p.m., Connecticut State Capitol: West Side, 210 Capitol Ave.
- New Britain: 5:30 p.m., The Center For Excellence, 57 Fern St.
- Cheshire: 6:30 p.m., Play to Learn, 200 Mansion Rd.