



## TELLING YOUR STORY

audience: policymakers, elected officials

### BUILDING YOUR STORY

**I AM A:**

*parent, grandparent, child care professional, teacher, dreamer, my family,*

**MY CONTEXT IS: (where and when, places, peoples, experiences)**

*time, location, community, events,*

**I HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY: (challenges, barriers, obstacles)**

*housing, child care, making ends meet, stress*

**MY OUTCOMES ARE: (results, impacts, meaning)**

*Impact: my life, my kids, my job, my families health,  
Results: able to make ends meet, buy food, pay bills without assistance, reenter the workforce,*

**MY CALL TO ACTION IS: (changes, policies, legislation/bills)**

*families like mine need, my community needs, the economy needs, legislators must,*



## STORY EXAMPLES

### EXAMPLE 1:

*Last year, I found out I was going to have my first child. My husband and I were so excited. One of the first things I did was visit my local child care resource and referral agency to get a list of licensed child care providers in my area. We found a couple programs we loved and put our name down on the waitlists. My daughter was born 8 months ago, and I am still waiting to find a spot. While we wait, we've had to piece together care from family, friends, and part-time babysitters. This isn't working for anyone. The stress is not healthy for my husband and I, the inconsistency is not healthy for my daughter, and many times it affects our work schedule, so it isn't working for my employer either. Our system is broken and families like mine are suffering. Families need affordable and accessible child care now.*

### EXAMPLE 2:

*Two years ago I was a young professional working at a non-profit organization that I loved. I was given six weeks of unpaid leave when my husband and I had our first son Johnny. When Johnny turned six weeks old, I had to return back to work and send Johnny to child care. Johnny had allergies, asthma, and other health complications as an infant, so he was ill a lot of the time and needed extra care. My employer did not offer paid leave, so I eventually had to resign from my job. This caused a huge financial burden for my family. If I would have had paid family and medical leave benefits, I would have been able to take care of Johnny, feel less stressed, and been able to continue working to support my family financially.*

### EXAMPLE 3:

*After growing up in the foster care system myself, I struggled as a new parent. People always say there is no "manual" for raising children, and I was at a loss. I am a mother of two and when my youngest son Jack came along he experienced developmental delays. I was so grateful that I was referred to the local home visiting program. The home visitor came to my home and helped me with so many different aspects of parenting including what to look for developmentally and ways I could help Jack progress towards crucial milestones. The support the home visiting program empowered me to promote my son's development and helped to connect me to other resources and supports in my community.*