



FIRST FIVE
YEARS FUND



2023

The FFYF Federal Guide

To Early Learning and Care Programs





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When lawmakers ensure that families have access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education, they are helping to set children on a path to achieve their full potential.

They are also:



Supporting local businesses



Responding to the real-world concerns of voters



Strengthening local economies



Bolstering pragmatic policies supported broadly across the country



Supporting working families

Few issues have such a strong return on investment for families, children, and local economies. We look forward to working with you on these critical issues.





01

Overview



About First Five Years Fund (FFYF)

First Five Years Fund is the leading bipartisan federal advocacy organization working to ensure all children from birth through age five have equitable access to affordable, comprehensive, high-quality care and education to support their healthy development and help them achieve their full potential in school and life.



Through extensive policy, government relations, and communications expertise, FFYF works with federal policymakers on both sides of the aisle to build consensus and galvanize support for greater federal investments and policies that result in increased access to high-quality early childhood education, with an emphasis on:

- Promoting investments in opportunities that are integrated from birth through age five;
- Ensuring policies lead to programs that are high-quality and comprehensive in scope; and
- Focusing first on serving those children most in need.

FFYF helps align best practices with the best possible policies and political opportunities to help Congress and the administration develop federal solutions that work for children, families, taxpayers, as well as states and communities. Early childhood development is a practical, nonpartisan issue – so we collaborate with a

diverse and wide range of federal and state partners, business and thought leaders, and policymakers to help build consensus and craft strategies to achieve early childhood opportunities that provide lasting economic and social returns.

The 118th Congress has the opportunity to invest in America’s children, working families, and the economy through high-quality early childhood education. This resource book is an introduction to the foundational early learning and care programs that originate at the federal level and are funded by Congress. It works alongside the [FFYF Blueprint for Progress](#), which contains resources and information that policymakers can use to support the care and education of children from birth through age five.

We hope these resources foster an interest in early learning and care and welcome questions and future discussions.

Contact Us

To learn more about these federal programs or ways to get more involved with early learning and care opportunities (e.g., joining the bipartisan Congressional Pre-K and Child Care Caucus), contact:

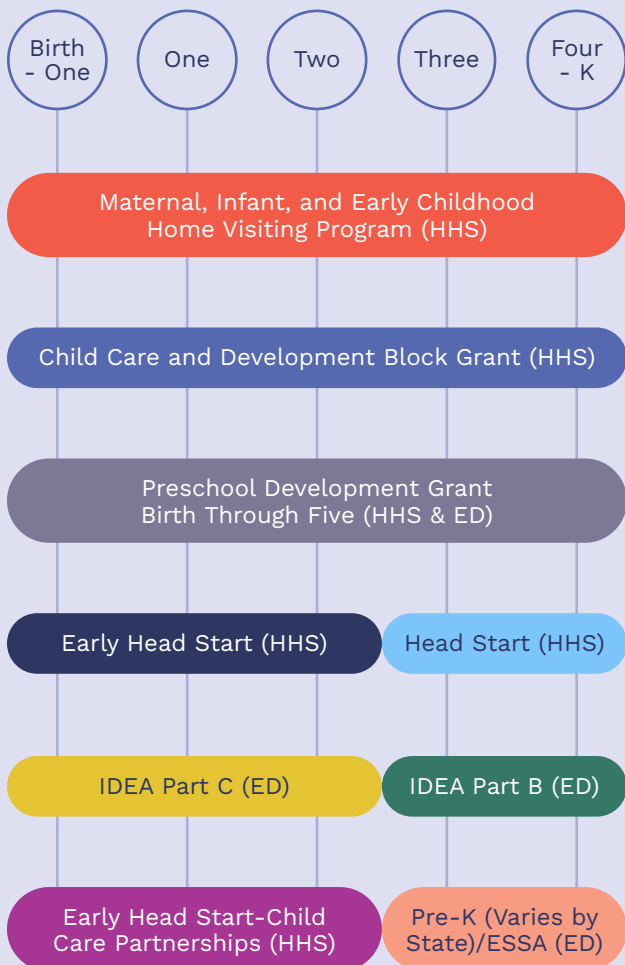
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Early Care & Education (ECE) Today

Every year, millions of children who range in age from birth through five benefit from an array of federal early learning and care programs. While there are different early learning settings and certain programs have distinct requirements, together they form a mixed-delivery system¹ that strives to support the care, education, and healthy development of children, prioritizing children from low-income families, parental choice, and children’s individual needs.

Federally Funded Early Learning Support by Ages Served



A well-designed and adequately financed early care and education system is an integral pillar of support for a robust economy and our children’s long-term success. However, young children and families face a variety of barriers to accessing² affordable, quality ECE options.

Families Lack Access to High-Quality Care

More than half of American families with young children live in child care deserts, areas with more than three young children for every one licensed child care slot.³ Where care is available, often parents can’t afford it, don’t know how to find it, the hours available don’t match their work schedules, or it doesn’t provide essential language or disability supports. Overall, nearly one-third of parents (32%) report having difficulty finding child care.⁴

Families Can’t Afford the Care They Find

Even where child care is available, the cost is more than what most families can afford. Child care costs often exceed other essential family expenses, including housing and transportation, putting many low- and middle-income families in the impossible position of being forced to choose between work and care. The average annual price of care in 2021 was roughly \$10,600.⁵ This means, on average, families with two earners spend 10% of their income on child care, and in single-parent households, 35% of parent income goes to child care.⁶



Why Early Care & Education Matters

Children are born learning. What they learn in those first few years can change the course of their lives. Evidence and research overwhelmingly demonstrate that high-quality ECE are crucial components of a child's healthy development.

Investing in child care and early learning is a solution that creates upward mobility. By ensuring all children have the opportunity to build foundations for success in school and life, while also allowing parents to work or attend school, the pursuit of greater economic security becomes possible.



Economic Impact

Evidence shows that increased access to high-quality ECE programs results in short- and long-term economic benefits to individuals and society.

- Investments in high-quality ECE can generate up to \$7.30 per dollar invested.⁷
- Due to unaffordable ECE costs, parents across the country lose about \$30-35 billion in income as they often have to reduce working hours or leave the workforce.⁸
- A lack of child care causes businesses to lose an estimated \$12.7 billion annually due to employee absenteeism.⁹

School Readiness

Investments in early childhood development lay the foundation for school readiness by building the cognitive and character skills that children need to do well in school and life, including attentiveness, persistence, impulse control, and sociability.

- Pre-K programs reduce the percentage of children repeating a grade by 15%.¹⁰
- Likely due to early detection and mitigation services, ECE lowers the probability of special education placement in grades 3, 4, and 5 by 10%, thereby creating more space in special education classrooms for the students who need it most.¹¹
- When a young child enters kindergarten ready for school, there is an 82% chance that the child will master basic skills by age 11, compared with a 45% chance for a child who is not school-ready.¹² Attending high-quality ECE programs increases high school graduation rates by 14%.¹³

Lifelong Gains

Investing in early childhood education creates upward mobility by ensuring all children have the foundation for long-term success in life.

- Access to stable, high-quality child care helps parents improve their labor productivity by increasing work hours, missing fewer work days, and pursuing further education.¹⁴
- Participants in high-quality ECE also showed long-term health benefits, including reduced rates of depression, smoking, and cardiovascular disease.¹⁵

Brain Development

During the first five years, children experience unparalleled brain development, making this a critical period for learning and growth. Children who receive quality early education demonstrate greater cognitive, emotional, and behavioral growth than children who do not.

- More than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second in the first few years of life.
- 90% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten.¹⁶

FFYF Resources

[High-Quality Early Learning & Care: Understanding the Proven Benefits & Need for Investment](#)

Budget & Appropriations

Federal early learning programs have consistently shared broad bipartisan support from Congress and the White House.

Authorizing legislation such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act and the Head Start Act establishes federal programs and their requirements in statute, while funding levels for programs depend on the annual budget and appropriations process. Programs supported by discretionary funding still receive annual appropriations after their authorization has expired, as is the case for CCDBG, Head Start/ Early Head Start, IDEA, and CCAMPIS. Programs that receive mandatory funding, such as MIECHV and TANF, must be reauthorized or extended in

FFYF Resources

- [Funding for Key Early Learning Programs](#)
- [ABCs of Federal Early Learning and Child Care Funding Streams](#)
- [2022 State Fact Sheets](#)

order to avoid a lapse in funding. Reauthorization is an opportunity to update the policy governing a program to better enable federal investments to fulfill program goals.

Among the 12 appropriations subcommittees in each the House and Senate, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (House) and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Senate) are responsible for most federal early learning and care programs. Over the last decade, funding increases for early learning programs have been achieved through multiple transitions in political leadership, under Democratic and Republican administrations and Congresses.

March 2022

The White House released details of President Biden's FY 2023 budget request to Congress, which would increase funding for many of the federal early learning programs, including an additional \$1.4 billion for CCDBG, \$1.2 billion for Head Start, and \$160 million for PDG B-5.

June 2022

The House Appropriations Committee released its proposed funding amounts, which include an increase of \$1 billion for CCDBG, \$1.4 billion for Head Start, and \$60 million for PDG B-5.

July 2022

The Senate Appropriations Committee released its funding proposal, with amounts similar to the House levels, including \$1 billion for CCDBG, \$1 billion for Head Start, and \$60 million for PDG B-5.

December 2022

Congressional leaders released their final FY 2023 omnibus spending package.

FY 2023 Funding for Early Care and Education

In FY 2023, Congress and the White House added more than \$2.8 billion in additional funding for federal early childhood programs, including increases of:

\$1.9B for CCDBG

\$960M for Head Start

\$25M for Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)

\$43.7M for IDEA Grants for Infants & Toddlers

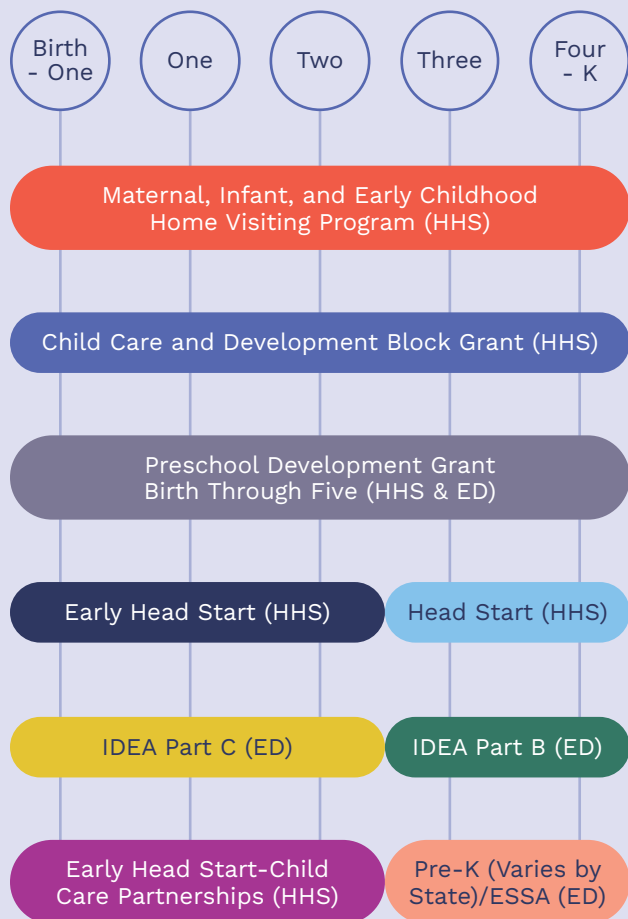
\$10.5M for IDEA Preschool Grants

\$10M for Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)

ABCs of Federal Early Learning and Child Care Funding Streams

Every year, millions of children who range in age from birth through five benefit from an array of federal early learning and care programs. While there are different early learning settings and certain programs have distinct requirements, together they form a mixed-delivery system that strives to support the care, education, and healthy development of children, prioritizing children from low-income families, parental choice, and children’s individual needs.

Federally Funded Early Learning Support by Ages Served



Head Start & Early Head Start

What It Does

Funds public and private organizations and tribal entities to deliver comprehensive early learning, health, nutrition, and family support services to children birth through age five and pregnant women who are living in poverty.

Who It Serves

Children from families with income below federal poverty guidelines (under \$27,750 for a family of 4); who are receiving TANF, SNAP, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or who are experiencing homelessness; children in foster care; Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to three, while Head Start serves children ages three through five.

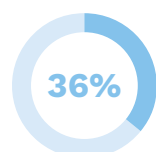
\$11,996,820,000

FY 2023 Funding (\$960 million above FY 2022)

Head Start

542,033

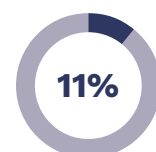
Children Served Nationwide¹⁷



Early Head Start

209,558

Children Served Nationwide¹⁹



Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)

What It Does

Early Head Start grantees partner with child care providers—both home- and center-based—who serve children receiving child care subsidies to help them meet Head Start standards and provide comprehensive wrap-around services.

490

Grants Awarded

32,905

Number of Children Served in 2021²¹

Child Care and Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG)

What It Does

Funds states, territories, and tribal entities to develop and implement a subsidy program for low-income families with children under age 13 (the majority of children served are under 5; subsidies can be used for care of children ages 5-13 while they are not in school) and improve the quality of child care available.

Who It Serves

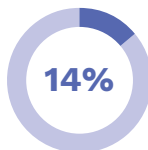
Children from families with income below 85% of the state median income (85% of the U.S. median is \$80,527 for a family of 4²²); additional state limits allowed.

1,489,200

Children Served Nationwide²³

\$11,571,387,000

FY 2023 Funding



Eligible Served²⁴

- \$8,021,387,000 discretionary (\$1,856,057,000 above FY 2022)

- \$3,550,000,000 mandatory

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

What It Does

Funds states, territories, and tribal entities to develop and implement evidence-based, voluntary home visiting services to families considered at-risk; home visitors meet with parents one-on-one from pregnancy through their child's kindergarten entry to help lay the foundation for the health, education, development, and economic self-sufficiency of the entire family.

Who It Serves

Children from families living in “at-risk” communities as identified in a statewide needs assessment.

\$500,000,000

FY 2023 Funding (\$100 million above FY 2022)

140,000

Children Served Nationwide²⁵

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

What It Does

IDEA Part C provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities ages birth to 3 years; IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 provides special education and related services to children ages 3 through 5.

Who It Serves

Children with a disability.

IDEA Part C

786,275

Children Served Nationwide²⁶

\$540,000,000

FY 2023 Funding (\$43,694,000 above FY 2022)

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

502,391

Children Served Nationwide²⁷

\$420,000,000

FY 2023 Funding (\$10,451,000 above FY 2022)



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

What It Does

Awards block grants to states to design and operate programs that help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency, including child care, state preschool, and other early education programs.

Who It Serves

Financially needy families with children; exact financial eligibility rules and benefit amounts are determined by states, which have discretion over program requirements.

\$1,431,470,537

FY 2021 Federal Expenditures²⁸

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)

What It Does

Provides campus-based child care programs to college students, including before- and after-school services.

Who It Serves

Low-income parents who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

11,000

Approximate Number of Parents Served²⁹

\$75,000,000

FY 2023 Funding (\$10 million above FY 2022)

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)

What It Does

Competitive grant program to help states strengthen early childhood systems for children from birth through age five. In the first year, funds state-level needs assessments and strategic planning with the goals of: maximizing parental choice, improving transitions within early care and learning programs and with elementary schools, and improving overall quality of programs.

Who It Serves

All 56 states, territories, and commonwealths were eligible to apply for initial grants.

52 jurisdictions

Received 3-year implementation grants

28 jurisdictions

Received initial planning grants

\$315,000,000

FY 2023 Funding
(\$25 million above FY 2022)



COVID-19 Relief

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, child care received over \$50 billion in relief funding as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to keep the child care market afloat and prevent massive nationwide closures. While this funding offered a critical lifeline to the nation's already struggling child care sector, these temporary funds expire in September 2024, and states are facing a potential fiscal cliff of \$48 billion.

Without federal improvements and investments, child care providers will continue to close their doors, driving up wait times and prices and further devastating working families and the business community.

CARES

Passed March 25, 2020 and provided a significant infusion of funding into existing federal programs that support the ECE of young children, including \$3.5 billion for CCDBG, \$750 million for Head Start, and extending the \$16.5 billion for TANF through November 30, 2020.

A more detailed analysis of how the CARES Act benefited children, families, and child care providers is available [here](#).

CRRSA

Passed December 21, 2020 and included \$10 billion in funding to stabilize the child care industry, as well as funding for Head Start, K-12 and higher education, and direct financial assistance to families.

ARPA

Passed February 27, 2021 and provided \$14.99 billion in supplemental CCDBG funding and \$23.98 billion for states to provide child care stabilization grants to qualified child care providers to help maintain the pre-pandemic supply of child care.

As of June 30, 2022, ARPA child care [stabilization grants reached](#) over **200,000 providers** and impacted as many as **9.5 million children**.³⁰ According to a [national sample of child care administrators](#), ARPA funds helped prevent nearly 75,000 permanent child care closures, saving more than 3 million spots for young children who need care and education.³⁰



COVID-19 Relief Funding

	CARES	CRRSA	ARPA		Total
	Funds must be obligated: Sept 30, 2022	Funds must be obligated: Sept 30, 2022	CCDBG Funds must be obligated: Sept 30, 2023	Stabilization Grants Funds must be obligated: Sept 30, 2022	
	Funds must be liquidated: Sept 30, 2023	Funds must be liquidated: Sept 30, 2023	Funds must be liquidated: Sept 30, 2024	Funds must be liquidated: Sept 30, 2023	
CCDBG-Stabilization	\$3.5B	\$10B	\$15B	\$24B	\$52.5B
Head Start	\$750M	\$250M	\$1B		\$2B
MIECHV			\$150M		\$150M
IDEA Part C Part B, Sec. 619			\$250M \$200M		\$450M

In each of the major relief packages Congress has passed, CCDBG has been a primary mechanism for providing funding to child care providers and for ensuring access to child care for thousands of working families – including essential workers.

FFYF Resources

[COVID-19 Child Care Relief Funding: Timeline & Deadlines](#)



02

Early Care & Education Programs

Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

Program Overview

CCDBG funding allows states to provide child care subsidies for low-income families with children under 13. This discretionary funding is combined with mandatory funds from the Child Care Entitlement to States into a single, unified federal child care funding stream. The majority of these funds serve children under 5, with the remainder supporting care for older children during out of school time (afterschool and summer programs). These subsidies help remove barriers to affordable, high-quality child care—whether in center- or home-based settings. Further, the law allows states to pair state and federal funds to improve the access and quality of child care available to families within existing state and local systems. In this way, CCDBG plays a critical role in ensuring young children are accessing high-quality early learning experiences that support their healthy development and prepare them for kindergarten while their parents work or attend school.

- 1990**
CCDBG enacted under Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act to provide child care subsidies to working families
- 1996**
Amended and reauthorized by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act
- 2014**
Amended and reauthorized with key health, quality, and safety revisions
- March 22, 2022**
CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2022 introduced in the Senate
- December 1, 2022**
CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2022 introduced in the House

Last Authorized
November 19, 2014

Expired
September 30, 2020

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Families with children from birth to age 13 whose income is below 85% of the state median income. (Average \$80,527 annually for a family of 4.) States can set income eligibility below that ceiling, and many do.
Delivery Method	Eligible families can apply to the state's lead agency for a subsidy. Families who receive a subsidy may choose any child care provider that meets state health and safety requirements. In some states, providers receive a voucher or child care certificate from a parent. In others, they are paid directly through a contract with the state.
Number of Children Served Monthly	<u>1,396,500</u> ³¹
Percent Served Based on Eligibility	<u>14%</u> of children eligible under federal rules receive CCDBG subsidies. ³²
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$8.02 billion (\$1.85 billion over FY 2022)

CCDBG Funds

Using an established federal formula, states, territories, and tribal entities receive grant awards from the Department of Health and Human Services.

→ Parents

Families can use vouchers to help cover the cost of care if a provider/program agrees to accept them.

→ Providers

Grants and contracts represent agreements between the subsidy program and child care providers to designate slots for subsidy-eligible children.

Program Impact

States can use CCDBG funds for activities that include:

- Improving the quality and safety of child care programs
- Raising payment rates for child care providers
- Meeting health and safety standards
- Increasing income eligibility limits or broaden other eligibility criteria to help more low-income, working families get affordable, high-quality child care
- Meeting the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours
- Promoting family engagement with outreach and consumer education
- Recruiting and retaining a well-qualified, effective workforce
- Supporting continuous quality improvement

FFYF Resources

- [CCDBG COVID-19 Relief Funding At-a-Glance](#)
- [CCDBG Fact Sheet](#)



Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)

Currently there are only a handful of tax credits and deductions that support families with children and the CDCTC is the only credit designed to help parents with the cost of work-related child care expenses. The credit allows families to claim a percentage of dependent care expenses relative to their adjusted gross income (AGI). FFYF has [recommendations](#)³³ for Congress to strengthen the CDCTC by expanding its value and making it fully refundable to ensure it reaches the families who would most benefit.

ARPA made changes to the CDCTC for tax year 2021 to:

- Make the credit fully refundable
- Increase the maximum credit rate to 50%
- Increase the phaseout threshold from \$15,000 to \$125,000
- Increase the amount of expenses that are eligible for the credit to \$8,000 for one qualifying individual and \$16,000 for two or more qualifying individuals (such that the maximum credits are \$4,000 and \$8,000)
- Add a phaseout (0-20%) for those with an AGI above \$400,000, such that taxpayers with income in excess of \$500,000 are not eligible for the credit

- 1954**
Congress provided an itemized deduction for child care expenses in the amount of \$600 incurred for the care of children under the age of 12 and other dependents
- 1976**
The deduction was then converted into the CDCTC
- 2001**
Congress approved a temporary increase to the credit
- 2012**
Bipartisan majority voted to keep the expansion permanent
- 2021**
The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) made changes to the CDCTC for tax year 2021

Program Impact

According to a [December 2020 survey](#)³⁴ of parents with children under age 5:



This relief may:

- Increase mothers' participation in the workforce
- Allow for spending on other necessities, such as food and housing
- Have positive impacts on young children's development

FFYF Resources

- [Tax Code Supports](#)
- [Understanding the Difference Between the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit - and Why We Need Both](#)

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)

Program Overview

Established within the Higher Education Act, CCAMPIS is the only federal program that exclusively provides campus-based child care programs to low-income college students, including before- and after-school services. Administered by the Department of Education, CCAMPIS provides child care services through students' own institution, by contracting with community partners, or by offering subsidies so parents can choose the child care provider that best meets their needs. CCAMPIS seeks to help student parents balance child-rearing and school, graduate, and provide long-term economic stability for their families.

- Nearly 4 million undergraduate students, or 22% of all undergraduate students, are raising children.³⁵ Undergraduate student parents have fewer financial resources than students without children, and the high cost of child care can make it difficult to graduate.
- There is no state in which a student parent can work 10 hours per week at the minimum wage and afford both tuition at a public college or university and child care.³⁶
- If a student parent holds a minimum-wage job, they would need to work 54 hours per week, on average, for 50 weeks, to fully cover the net price of higher education (i.e., the amount the student is responsible for, after all federal, state, and institutional aid has been applied) and the cost of center-based child care.³⁷



October 7, 1998
CCAMPIS authorized through amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965

1999
First CCAMPIS grants received from U. S. Department of Education

March 15, 2022
CRRSA lifted the previous maximum for CCAMPIS awards from 1% of Pell award funding to 3% and allowed for a new grant minimum of \$90,000, triple the prior minimum of \$30,000

Last Authorized
August 14, 2008 (HEA)

Expired
September 30, 2014, then extended to September 30, 2015

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves

Low-income parents who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Approximate Number of Parents Served Annually

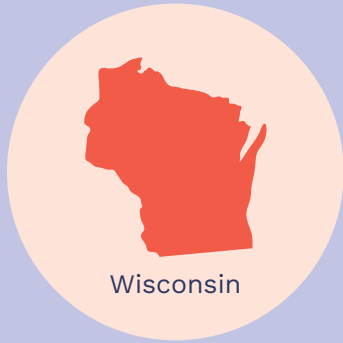
11,000,³⁸ which accounts for less than 1% of undergraduate students with children under age 18.³⁹

Number of Higher Education Institutions Served

In FY 2021, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to 327 institutions of higher education.⁴⁰ The average grant amount was \$157,257.

FY 2023 Federal Funding

\$75 million (\$10 million above FY 2022)



Wisconsin

Spotlight⁴²

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has used CCAMPIS funding since 1999 to subsidize child care costs, providing full-time, full-year care to almost all of its CCAMPIS students. Data collected from 2005-2015 show that:

90%

of the 123 student parents enrolled in the program either graduated or are making progress toward degrees. This is far higher than the national statistics of only

27% of single student parents and

39% of married student parents who attain a degree or certificate within six years of enrollment.

70%

of these students maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better over this time.



Program Impact

Data tracking and information from grantees suggest that CCAMPIS participants have higher retention and completion rates than average students, as well as excellent academic performance.⁴³

FFYF Resources

[The Higher Education Act \(HEA\) Overview](#)

Head Start Programs

Head Start

Program Overview

Head Start programs provide a continuum of high-quality comprehensive services including early learning, health, nutrition, family engagement, and support services, and meet common quality standards outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). Head Start delivers these services to children (ages 3 through 5) and their families who are experiencing poverty. Programs also have the flexibility to customize services and program models based on the needs of families in specific local communities. This approach also allows many programs to combine Head Start funding with other federal and state funds for pre-K, child care, or other early care and education services to maximize the impact of public funds.

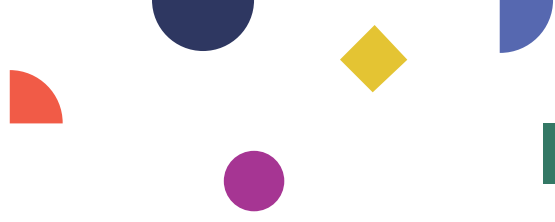
- 1965**
Established by President Lyndon Johnson as part of his War on Poverty Initiative
- 1975**
Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) Published
- 1994**
Reauthorized and established Early Head Start
- 1998**
Reauthorized to expand to full-day and full-year services
- 2007**
Reauthorized with bipartisan support and instituted a 5-year grant cycle

Last Authorized
December 12, 2007

Expired
September 30, 2012

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Children ages 3 to 5. Children from families with income below federal poverty guidelines (under \$27,750 for a family of 4); who are receiving TANF, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); or who are experiencing homelessness; children in foster care. Head Start programs are required to ensure that at least 10% of enrollment slots are occupied by children with disabilities.
Delivery Method	Head Start is designed to meet community needs and can be center-based, home-based, or an approved locally-designed variation.
Number of Children Served in the 2021-2022 School Year	<u>542,033</u> ⁴⁵ A May 2022 survey of the National Head Start Association's members found that the average center had 30% of its staff positions unfilled. ⁴⁶ In 2021 , about 745,000 children and babies were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start, down from 970,000 before the pandemic. ⁴⁷
Percent Served Based on Eligibility	<u>36%</u> Eligible Served. ⁴⁸
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$12 billion total funding for Head Start and Early Head Start (\$960 million over FY 2022)



There are 1,600 local [Head Start](#)⁴⁴ programs operating across America, in every state and territory in the country. In light of this, there is significant diversity across the communities in which the program operates—rural, suburban, urban, migrant and seasonal, and those found on American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) reservations. Decades of research shows that participation in Head Start has both short- and long-term positive effects for Head Start children and their families.

Program Impact

Compared to children with similar individual and family characteristics who don't attend Head Start, **children who attend Head Start:**

- Demonstrate marked academic and social [progress](#).⁴⁹ Head Start children perform better in cognitive and language development and have better executive functioning skills
- Are more likely to enter kindergarten with the [skills they need to learn](#)⁵⁰
- [Are more likely](#) to graduate high school⁵¹
- [Are more likely](#) to have hearing and vision screenings, to have health insurance, to have received dental checkups, and to be immunized⁵²

Parents whose children attend Head Start:

- Have [increased engagement](#) in their children's learning⁵³
- Are more likely to [advance their own education](#) than other parents of youngsters from low-income families⁵⁴

FFYF Resources

[Head Start and Early Head Start Fact Sheet](#)

Relevant Resources

[National Head Start Association State Fact Sheets](#)



Early Head Start

Program Overview

Early Head Start (EHS) provides comprehensive child development and family supports including home visiting; parent engagement; high-quality child care; and nutrition, health, and behavioral health services to infants and toddlers (under age three), pregnant women, and their families who are experiencing poverty. EHS programs promote children’s development, support parents in their role as children’s first teachers and primary caregivers, and help families make progress toward self-sufficiency—all while being customized to local and family needs. Research shows that participation in EHS benefits both children and families. EHS children make gains in cognitive, behavioral, and language development, compared to non-participants; those who continue to Head Start are more ready for kindergarten; and positive impacts are sustained through at least fifth grade. Parents’ participation in EHS also improves their parenting skills, including father engagement.

- 1994**
Early Head Start established during the reauthorization of Head Start
- 1998**
Head Start reauthorized to expand to full-day and full-year services
- 2007**
Reauthorized as part of the Head Start Act with the same emphasis on competition and high-quality, comprehensive services

Last Authorized
December 12, 2007 (as part of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act)

Expired
September 30, 2012

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	<p>Young children prenatal to age 3.</p> <p>Children from families with income below federal poverty guidelines (under \$27,750 for a family of 4); who are receiving TANF, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); or who are experiencing homelessness; children in foster care.</p> <p>Early Head Start programs are required to ensure that at least 10% of enrollment slots are occupied by children with disabilities.</p>
Delivery Method	Early Head Start programs are designed to meet community needs and can be center-based, home-based, or an approved locally-designed variation.
Number of Children Served in the 2021-2022 School Year	<p><u>209,558</u>⁵⁵</p> <p>A May 2022 survey of the National Head Start Association’s members found that the average center had 30% of its staff positions unfilled.⁵⁶ In 2021, about 745,000 children and babies were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start, down from 970,000 before the pandemic.⁵⁷</p>
Percent Served Based on Eligibility	<u>11%</u> Eligible Served. ⁵⁸
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$12 billion total funding for Head Start and Early Head Start (\$960 million over FY 2022)

EHS operates in a range of communities across America—rural, suburban, urban, migrant and seasonal, and those found on American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) reservations. Despite its success, EHS serves only a small percentage of eligible children due to insufficient funding.

Program Impact

Compared to children with similar individual and family characteristics who don't attend Early Head Start, **children who attend Early Head Start**.⁵⁹

- Are more likely to be immunized and to receive services if they have a diagnosed disability
- Show significantly better emotional, behavioral, language, and cognitive development
- Are 93% less likely to be placed in foster care (for families in the child welfare system)



Early Head Start families are more likely to receive services related to employment, education/job training, early intervention, and more compared to other parents of youngsters from low-income families.

FFYF Resources

[Head Start and Early Head Start Fact Sheet](#)

Relevant Resources

- [National Head Start Association State Fact Sheets](#)
- [National Head Start Association Early Head Start Home Visiting and Support for Pregnant Women Brief](#)

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)

Program Overview

EHS-CCP is a competitive federal grant program that pairs Early Head Start grantees with local child care providers, both in-home and center-based, to expand access to high-quality child care and comprehensive support for infants and toddlers from low-income families. The program builds on the existing strengths of Early Head Start and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies, which allow low-income families to access high-quality child care. In addition to benefiting these children and their families, the program improves the quality of care for all children in participating child care centers and family child care homes—even those who are not receiving subsidies.

In recent years, 490 Early Head Start grantees partnered with child care centers and in-home child care providers across the country to provide enhanced quality child care for approximately 52,100 infants and toddlers. In this way, EHS-CCP’s innovative and efficient approach of layering EHS-CCP and child care subsidy funds has been shown to improve the quality of care across communities while also expanding access to these essential services for children from low-income families.

- 2013**
 EHS-CCP Established
- 2015 | Round 1 Grants**
 - Congress allocated \$500 million for the first round of grants
 - 275 grants to support high-quality EHS services to approximately 32,000 infants and toddlers
- 2017 | Round 2 Grants**
 - Congress allocated an additional \$135 million for new grants
 - 75 grants, adding approximately 7,000 slots for infants and toddlers
- 2019 | Round 3 Grants**
 - Congress allocated a combined \$165 million for new grants
 - 78 grants, adding approximately 8,000 slots for infants and toddlers
- 2021 | Round 4 Grants**
 - Congress allocated a combined \$165 million for new grants
 - 62 grants, adding approximately 5,100 slots for infants and toddlers

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Supports children from low-income families by partnering Early Head Start grantees with child care providers in a variety of child care settings, including center- and home-based child care. Early Head Start serves children from low-income families from birth to age three.
Delivery Method	Early Head Start grantees work with child care providers to improve quality and provide comprehensive services to children and families.
Number of Children Served in 2021	<u>32,905</u> ⁶⁰ Grantees must reapply for these awards every five years.
Grants Awarded to Date	490
Grant Details	The median grant amount was <u>\$1.4 million</u> . ⁶¹ The median amount provided to child care partners was \$7,875 per partnership slot.
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$1.005 billion ⁶²

Long-Term Program Outcomes⁶³

- A highly educated and fully qualified ECE workforce
- Increased community supply of high-quality early learning environments and infant/toddler care and education
- Well-aligned early childhood policies, regulations, resources, and quality improvement support at national, state, and local levels
- Improved family and child well-being and progress toward school readiness

By infusing new resources into the existing marketplace for child care, programs can afford to raise the quality of the services they offer, also known as the No-Cost Ripple Effect⁶⁴

- More than **half** of EHS-CCP partners have leveraged other funds to provide vision, hearing, dental, speech, developmental, nutritional, and lead screenings for all children served, not just those enrolled in the EHS-CCP.
- More than **1 in 3** partners have provided mental health screenings, health or mental health services, and speech or physical therapy to all children.

FFYF Resources

[EHS-CCP Fact Sheet](#)

Relevant Resources

[Supporting Providers in Obtaining Their Child Development Associate Credential: Lessons from One Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships Grantee](#)



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Program Overview

IDEA ensures states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 7 million eligible children and youth with disabilities across the country, including infants and toddlers. Programs for young children with disabilities play a significant role in early childhood education and development. Ensuring that young children have access to inclusive early interventions during this fundamental period for learning, behavior, and health means that children will get the appropriate services and supports they need to be equipped for success in school. Under the original IDEA legislation, the federal government committed to cover 40% of the cost of special education, but legislative efforts to fully fund the program have not yet been realized. Currently, the federal contribution is around 14%, meaning states are required to make up a significant portion of the funding.

- November 29, 1975**
Enacted
- January 1, 1990**
Reauthorization and amended to IDEA
- August 6, 1986**
Reauthorized and amended to add infants and toddlers with disabilities
- December 3, 2004**
Reauthorized
- December 10, 2015**
Amended through Public Law 114-95, the ESSA

Last Authorized
December 3, 2004

Permanently Authorized
Part B, Children with Disabilities

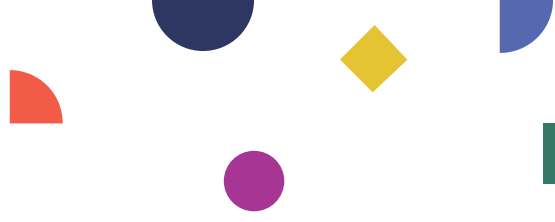
Expired
September 30, 2011: Part C, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Part D, National Activities

IDEA Part C At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities ages birth to 3 years.
Delivery Method	An Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed by a team of parents and all providers who work with the child/ family. Depending on the child's needs, early intervention services might include counseling, home visits; occupational, physical, or speech therapy; hearing loss services; health, nutrition, assistance with service coordination; assistive technology devices and services; and transportation.
Number of Children Served in the 2020-2021 School Year	<u>786,275</u> ⁶⁵
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$540 million (\$43.7 million over FY 2022)

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Provides special education and related services to children ages 3 through 5.
Delivery Method	An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is an annual written plan designed to meet the child's unique educational needs. The IEP is developed by a team made up of a school district representative, general and special educators, an individual who can interpret evaluation results, and the parents of the child.
Number of Children Served in the 2020-2021 School Year	<u>502,391</u> ⁶⁶
FY 2023 Federal Funding	\$420 million (\$10.5 million over FY 2022)



Unmet Need

Fewer young children have been receiving early intervention services and there has been a decrease in referral rates.⁶⁷ From 2019-2020, the number of children birth to age two served by IDEA Part C services declined by 63,847 or 15%.⁶⁸ All but 3 states (DC, SC, WY) reported decreases in the percentage of children served.

Under-identification could create an uptick in referrals in elementary schools, as children who were eligible but did not receive services will likely need increased support.



Program Impact

High-quality early intervention services can change a child’s developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. Services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including⁶⁹:



Gross and fine motor skills



Language and communication



Cognitive development



Behavioral health

Studies have shown that likely due to early detection and mitigation services, early childhood education lowered the probability of special education placement in grades 3, 4, and 5 by **10%**.⁷⁰ This creates more space in special education classrooms for the students who need it most.

FFYF Resources

[IDEA Early Intervention and Preschool Programs Fact Sheet](#)



Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Program Overview

The MIECHV program provides federal funds to states, territories, and tribal entities to develop and implement evidence-based, voluntary home visiting services to improve family outcomes. The home visiting programs, made possible by MIECHV, pair families who often have limited support and resources with trained home visitors, including health, social service, and child development professionals. These professionals meet with parents one-on-one, often from pregnancy through their child’s kindergarten entry, to help lay the foundation for the health, development, education, and economic self-sufficiency of the entire family. Tailored home visiting services can break generations-long cycles of poverty, addiction, and abuse, making MIECHV a critical piece of the continuum of care for children from birth through age five.

- 2010**
MIECHV Created
- 2018**
Reauthorized at a funding level of \$400 million a year
- September 20, 2022**
The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022 introduced
- December 2, 2022**
The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022 passed the House
- December 30, 2022**
The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022 was signed into law

Last Reauthorized
December 30, 2022

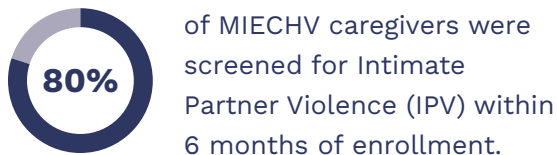
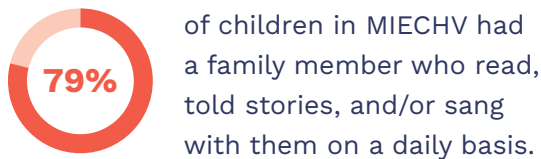
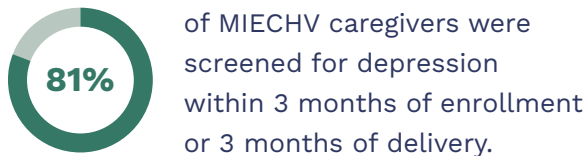
Expires
September 30, 2027

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves	Families living in “at-risk” communities as identified in a statewide needs assessment.
Delivery Method	In FY 2022, <u>20 models</u> were approved for funding, which means they have met the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) criteria for effectiveness as well as statutory requirements for eligibility. ⁷¹ The models vary in the number of home visits during a set period of time and the specific population their intervention targets. Professionals meet with parents in their homes from pregnancy through their child’s kindergarten entry to provide mentoring and support on children’s health and development; positive parenting techniques; and long-term planning. During the pandemic, visits transitioned to telephone or video visits, helping families identify COVID-19-related resources and continue access to critical health, early care and education, and family economic support.
Number of Parents and Children Served in FY 2021	MIECHV served <u>140,000 parents and children</u> (71,000 families) in 925,000 home visits. ⁷²
Federal Funding	FY 2013 - FY 2022: \$400 million annually American Rescue Plan⁷³: \$150 million FY 2023: \$500 million, FY 2024: \$550 million, FY 2025: \$600 million, FY 2026: \$650 million, FY 2027: \$800 million



MIECHV Program Impact on Children and their Caregivers in FY 2021⁷⁴:



Research shows that MIECHV home visiting programs can lead to:



FFYF Resources

- [MIECHV State Fact Sheets](#)
- [MIECHV Fact Sheet](#)
- [The Necessity of MIECHV: A Blog Series](#)

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)

Program Overview

Created as part of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, the PDG B-5 program is a competitive federal grant that supports states and territories as they work to improve their existing early childhood systems and create effective mixed-delivery models. The inclusion of PDG B-5 in ESSA marks the first time that Congress dedicated specific funds to promote high-quality early childhood education in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). PDG B-5 affirms the importance of early learning in ensuring all children have the strongest possible start in life and represents a unique opportunity for the federal government to leverage the central role of states in leading early childhood coordination and quality efforts. All PDG B-5 grant applications must be approved by the governor.

This funding offers unique opportunities for states to consider the full range of programs, services, and funding streams that support children from birth through age 5 and their families and empowers states to improve their systems.

The grants encourage states to focus on five major activities:

- Aligning existing programs
- Maximizing parental choice
- Building on the success of existing programs
- Fostering partnerships among stakeholders
- Leveraging data for continuous improvement



- 2015**
PDG B-5 established through the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- 2018**
46 states/territories received initial planning grants
- 2019**
6 additional states/territories received initial planning grants and 20 states were awarded 3-year renewal grants
- 2020**
8 of the states/territories that received an initial grant in 2019 were awarded a renewal grant
- 2023**
21 states received new planning grants and 21 states received renewal grants through another round of grant awards

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves

All 56 states, territories, and commonwealths were eligible to apply for initial grants.

Grantees in States/Territories

- Since the program's inception in 2018, **54** jurisdictions have received initial planning grants.
- **48** jurisdictions have received renewal grants. The renewal grantees have designed their implementation models with the promise of 3 years of federal funding.

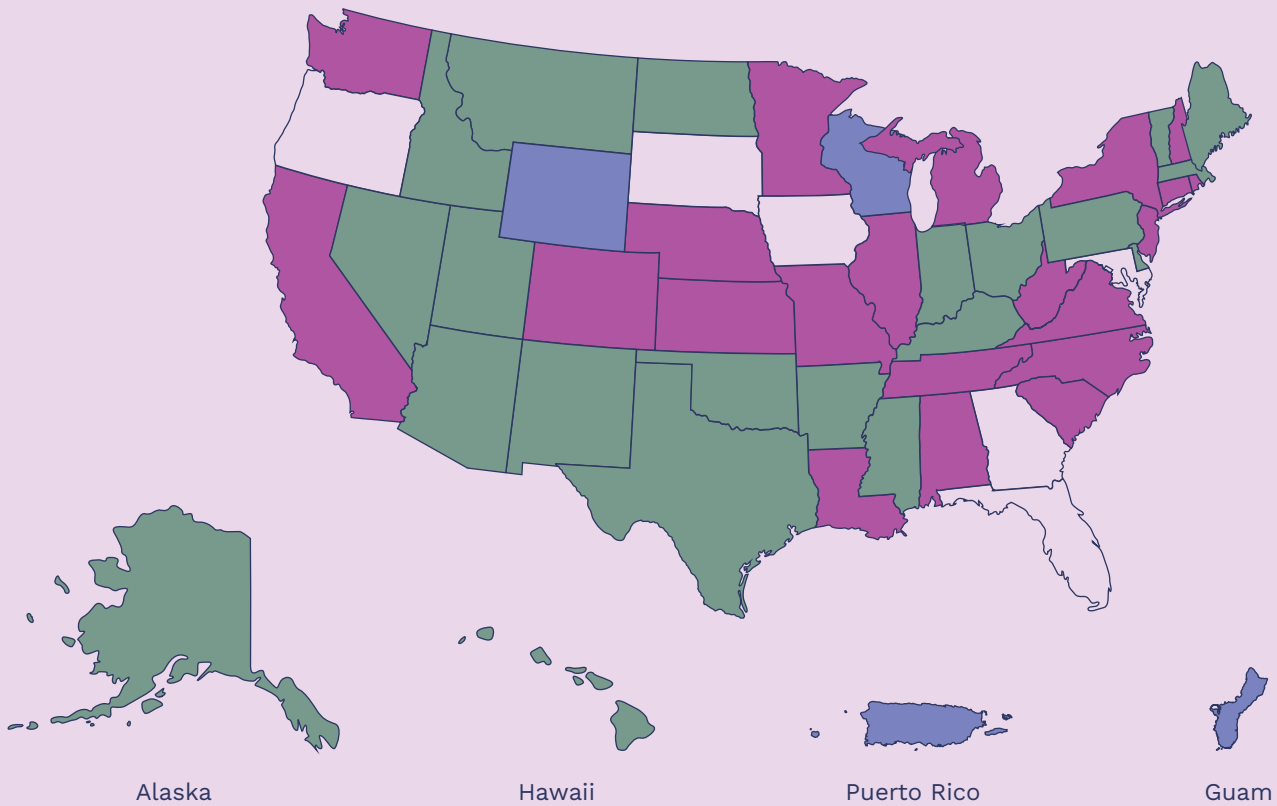
A summary of funding amounts for both the initial and renewal grants is available [here](#).⁷⁵

FY 2023 Federal Funding

\$315 million (\$25 million over FY 2022)

In the fall of 2018, when the initial planning grants became available, there was overwhelming interest in the new PDG B-5 program. In December 2018, **46 states** received initial one-year grants to conduct a state-level needs assessment and create a strategic plan that optimizes existing early childhood education (ECE) resources.

Then, in December 2019, all of the initial applicants chose to continue this work by applying for an extremely competitive second round of implementation grants. Due to limited funding, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) was unable to award funding to all interested applicants and therefore only 20 states were able to receive federal funding in the second year of the grants to implement the strategic plans.



2023 Planning Grantees

Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

2023 Renewal Grantees

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont

3rd Year of Renewal Funding

Guam, Puerto Rico, Wisconsin, Wyoming

*Note: This map refers only to states that participated in the 2023 grant cycle. Some of the planning grantees have been awarded PDG B-5 funding in the past.



Grantees' Use of Funds

Current and proposed activities of the renewal grantees demonstrate that states are successfully using these funds to reach more children and families, whether by shifting resources to where they're most needed or realizing efficiencies within their existing systems.

FFYF Resources

[PDG B-5 Fact Sheet](#)



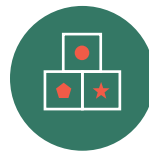
FY 2023 Grant Cycle

Building on the success and tremendous state interest in the program, in January 2023, ACF awarded approximately \$300 million to 21 planning grantees and 21 renewal grantees. This includes \$17.6 million for the renewal grants awarded to 4 states/territories in 2021. In the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity, ACF encouraged the use of these grants to consider the changing needs of children and families created by the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in strategies that will address those needs, including supporting and strengthening the early care and education workforce.

FFYF will be reviewing state funded applications as soon as they become available and look forward to sharing more on this program in the near future.

Program Impact

PDG B-5 can improve:



Family engagement in their children's early learning



Transitions for children and families across child care and elementary schools



The overall quality of early learning that young children experience



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Program Overview

The TANF program provides grants to states to design and operate programs that support low-income families, including through increased access to child care and early education opportunities, which helps parents to enter or return to the workforce. Since its creation in 1996 as a replacement for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, federal regulations and guidance have allowed TANF funds to support or expand a broad range of child care and early education initiatives in states. Among other uses, current law allows states to transfer up to 30% of their TANF funds to the CCDBG. Further, regulatory guidance specifically allows states to spend TANF funds for early education. While states have great discretion in how to spend their block grant funds, they must do so consistent with the [four purposes of the law](#).⁷⁶ Additionally, TANF funding is intended to supplement, not supplant, initiatives underway in states and territories to broaden educational supports, including child care, pre-kindergarten, Head Start, and kindergarten.

- 1996**
President Bill Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) into law, which replaced the AFDC with the TANF program
- 2006**
TANF Reauthorized
- September 30, 2018**
TANF Expired
- Received numerous extensions
- September 30, 2022**
Included in a continuing resolution
- December 20, 2022**
Received an extension in the FY 2023 omnibus bill

Last Authorized
February 8, 2006

Expires
September 30, 2023

At a Glance

Who this Program Serves

Low-income families.

Delivery Method

In addition to providing direct cash assistance to families, states may transfer up to 30% of their federal TANF funds to CCDBG to increase the amount of funding that provides child care subsidies to low-income families under that program.

Monthly Number of Children and Parents Served in FY 2020

In an average month, [447,200 adults and 1.6 million children](#) received TANF cash assistance.⁷⁷

Federal Funding

In total, **\$7.8 billion** of federal TANF funds and state maintenance of effort (MOE) funds went to early care and learning expenditures in FY 2021.

In FY 2020, 49 states and the District of Columbia transferred some amount of their TANF funds to early care and learning programs.



Program Impact

Income support programs can improve children’s academic, health, and economic outcomes.⁷⁸

A major study found that cash assistance directly improves infant brain development, and is associated with higher language, cognitive, and social skills.⁷⁹

FFYF Resources

Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures for Child Care and Early Learning in FY 2021



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