



2024

# CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) IN THE U.S.\*

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that allows states to provide child care assistance to low-income working families with children under age 13. In the U.S., 64% of these funds serve children 5 and under.<sup>1</sup> These subsidies provide working parents with access to quality child care in a setting of their choice.

## HOW CCDBG WORKS

Using an established federal formula, funding is awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to states, territories, and tribal entities. In the U.S.:

**\$10,614,901,079** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds<sup>2</sup>

**\$1,269,893,588** CCDBG State Match<sup>3</sup>

**\$976,162,281** TANF Transferred to CCDBG<sup>4</sup>

Through a Lead Agency, states allocate the funds to support:

**Families:** Eligible families use subsidies to help cover the cost of care (if a provider/program agrees to accept them).

**Providers:** Lead Agencies work with providers to designate slots for subsidy-eligible children. Funding also helps to recruit and retain a qualified, fairly compensated workforce.

**Quality Care:** Lead Agencies are required to have child care licensing in place to ensure children are served in quality, safe environments. Funding also supports continuous quality improvement.

## CCDBG & FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

CCDBG subsidies help remove barriers to affordable, quality child care. Families receiving a subsidy may choose any participating child care provider (center-based, home-based, those providing nontraditional hour care, etc.).

Under federal rules, children whose parents are employed or participating in training/education programs and whose household income is under 85% of the State Median Income (SMI) are eligible, as are children in need of or receiving child protective services. Lead Agencies have the flexibility to design their own subsidy programs and may also choose to set additional requirements or set lower income eligibility rates.

**On average in the U.S., states have capped eligibility at 62% of SMI. This would mean a family of three is eligible if they make: \$3,989 or less per month (\$47,871 per year).<sup>10</sup>**

Lead Agencies can choose to prioritize certain populations.

## CCDBG IN THE U.S. NEED VS. REACH

**22,982,579** Children 5 and under<sup>5</sup>

**14,813,607 (64%)** Children 5 and under with all available parents in the workforce<sup>6</sup>

**6,280,772 (27%)** Children 5 and under eligible for CCDBG<sup>7</sup>

**839,226** Children 5 and under served by CCDBG<sup>8</sup>

**13%** Eligible children served by CCDBG due to insufficient federal funding<sup>9</sup>

## HOW MUCH DO FAMILIES PAY FOR CARE IN THE U.S.?

Copayments for a three-person family earning \$30,000 per year range from:

**\$0** per month. **\$477**

In 24 States/Territories

in Nevada

The median monthly copayment is \$10.<sup>11</sup>

Families that do not receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs. For instance, the price of center-based infant care ranges from:<sup>12</sup>

**\$607**

Mississippi

per month.

**\$2,039**

Massachusetts

---

## CCDBG subsidies provide working parents with access to quality child care in a setting of their choice.

---



### CCDBG & PROVIDERS

In the U.S., 209,077 child care providers accept CCDBG subsidies.<sup>13</sup>

Child care providers are reimbursed by the state to offset the costs of serving children with subsidies. ACF recommends that Lead Agencies set provider reimbursement rates at the 75th percentile of the market rate, based on data from a market rate survey (MRS).<sup>14</sup> This is the price that the lowest 75% of child care programs reported charging.

However, there is a significant gap between how much providers are reimbursed and how much it costs to provide care. Learn more about provider reimbursement rates [here](#).<sup>15</sup>

**The Consequences: On average in the U.S., providers are only reimbursed 51% of what it actually costs to care for an infant in a center-based program.**<sup>16</sup> Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to maintain fiscal stability and provide high-quality care. Some are forced to charge working families higher fees to compensate.



### CCDBG & QUALITY

To receive CCDBG funds, Lead Agencies must have child care licensing requirements in place to ensure children are served in quality, safe environments. These requirements differ by state. Lead Agencies may establish different rules depending on the setting (e.g., center-based, home-based) and may exempt some providers from licensing requirements altogether (e.g., faith-based programs).

#### ► U.S. Teacher Qualifications

Educators play a crucial role in supporting children's development. Education and training requirements ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills.

In most states, there are multiple pathways to qualification. Requirements may include a minimum age, education level, and/or prior work experience. In 12 states, no formal education is required. In 13 states, a high school diploma/GED is the minimum qualification.<sup>17</sup>

Learn more about minimum requirements for directors and teacher assistants in U.S. [here](#).<sup>18</sup>

#### ► U.S. Teacher-Child Ratios<sup>19</sup>

Teacher-child ratios are crucial for safety as well as ensuring high-quality and individualized interactions. Providers receiving CCDBG funds must adhere to ratios set by the state.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following ratios for child care centers:<sup>19</sup>

Infant	1:3
Toddler	1:4 for age 1-2
Preschool	1:7 for age 3 1:8 for age 4

There is significant variation across states. In the U.S., the range for teacher-child ratios is:<sup>20</sup>

Infant	1:3
Toddler	1:4-1:12 for age 2
Preschool	1:8-1:20 for age 4



*\*The statistics in this fact sheet refer to the sum or average across 50 states and D.C.*

For more information or to ask us a question about CCDBG your state, contact FFYF at [mail@ffyf.org](mailto:mail@ffyf.org).

Scan or click the QR code for full references and links.