



First Five Years Fund



Create a **smarter, stronger, healthier, and more productive** America through early childhood education

First Five Years Fund (FFYF) is dedicated to increasing federal investment in high-quality early childhood education programs for children from birth through age five. We aim to help elevate early childhood education as a priority for the nation, leveraging bipartisan support and contributing to improvements in funding and quality.

ACHIEVE UPWARD MOBILITY THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood education for children from low-income families is one of the best ways to promote upward mobility that pays off for individuals and society. Every child needs effective high-quality early childhood development from birth to age five, yet research shows that low-income children are the least likely to get it. Parental education, early learning for infants and toddlers, quality child care, and preschool make up the continuum of resources necessary for effective early childhood education.

Those who experience quality early care and learning have better education, health, social, and economic outcomes in life—increasing their productivity and reducing the need for expensive social spending on remediation in education, social services, and incarceration later in life. Unfortunately, only a fraction of the children in need have access to early childhood education, and an even smaller percentage are enrolled in high-quality programs.

CONVERT PUBLIC SUPPORT INTO POLICY ACTION

FFYF's nationally recognized public opinion polling on early childhood education has shown consistently high and growing bipartisan support for more state and federal investment in birth-to-five early childhood programs. We work with advocates, policymakers, both political parties, and the media to leverage public support into federal policies that help states innovate, build, and expand high-quality early childhood programs.

Leveraging bipartisan support into legislative action

FFYF is in its fourth year of demonstrating widespread, bipartisan public support for more federal investment in state and local early childhood programs. Our poll is used in Washington to illuminate the political opportunities that accompany supporting strengthening families, better education, health, and social outcomes for young children. The national poll is supplemented with state polls in key battleground states during presidential and midterm elections. State polling is done with local partners, who also use the results to advance their state and federal legislative advocacy. For the full findings from our 2016 national poll and information to our polls in key swing states, visit <http://ffyf.org/2016-poll/>.



A history of success against steep odds

Congress has passed several bipartisan early childhood laws and programs, reaffirming the growing momentum around birth-to-five investments. The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act in November 2014 ensures more children from low-income backgrounds can access quality child care that is safe, healthy, and promotes learning and development.

The multi-year extension of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program provides \$800 million over the next two years to continue successful state and local home visiting models that help parents support their child's early development. Congress and the Administration worked together to reauthorize our nation's largest education law, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) now called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It creates historic new pathways for state and local leaders to increase access to early learning opportunities, even establishing a dedicated funding stream for early childhood education through the Preschool Development Grants Program.



A billion reasons to focus on appropriations

Getting legislation passed is one thing; getting it funded is quite another. For the past four years, early childhood education programs have come out big winners in very tight fiscal times.

Congress passed the 2016 funding bill which included almost \$1 billion additional dollars for early childhood education. On the heels of President Obama’s recent budget request to Congress, our ongoing appropriation strategy with advocates and those on Capitol Hill will remain a top priority.

MAKE PROGRESS BY BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

FFYF cultivates close working relationships with White House officials, federal agency leaders, Democratic and Republican members of Congress, as well as federal/state advocates and thought leaders. Together, we advance evidence-based early childhood policies that are as practical as they are purposeful to make sure our youngest learners are ready for school and life. Our goal to ensure more children have access to high-quality early childhood education will only be accomplished when the federal government commits to substantial partnerships that support state and local programs, innovation and implementation.

FFYF also recognizes that progress happens over time and that increases in federal funding, access, and quality are as likely to happen by reforming existing programs as they are by creating new opportunities for children.



The First Five Years Fund supports increased investments in early childhood education. Learn more about how you can get involved and help bring high-quality early childhood education to more children across the nation by visiting www.ffyf.org for more information.