



First Five Years Fund

Legislative Successes

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Omnibus Annual Appropriations Act

House: 318-109, Senate: 65-33—Enacted December 18, 2015.

Invested nearly \$1 billion in new money for early care and education.

This meant significant increases in funding for major federal programs, including an additional \$326 million for CCDBG and \$570 million for Head Start. The spending bill also ensures \$250 million to continue funding the initial 18 states that received PDG.

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

House Vote: 255-163, Senate Vote: 93-0—Enacted December 18, 2015.

Established to address concerns that the tax code did not adequately address that families with more children have less income to pay taxes—families who are eligible can access a tax credit of up to \$1,000.

First enacted into law in 1997 as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act, Congress established the Child Tax Credit. The credit was subsequently expanded again in the Economic Growth and Tax Reconciliation Act of 2001, the Jobs Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, the tax credit was made permanent. Congress established the credit to address concerns at the code didn't adequately address the fact that families with more children have less income.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

House: 359-64, Senate: 85-12—Enacted December 10, 2015.

The biggest education law—replaced its outdated predecessor No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

ESSA: (1) Shifts decision-making responsibility to states with federal guardrails for quality. (2) Incorporates early learning provisions throughout. (3) Authorizes dedicated funding for early learning through the PDG (this is the first early learning program authorized in the law since its inception over 50 years ago).

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

House: 392-37, Senate: 92-8—Enacted April 16, 2015.

Home visits, conducted by nurses, social workers, and trained professionals, support pregnant women and families with young children access critical resources in the early years.

The extension of MIECHV under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 maintained its current funding levels of \$400 million per year. The partnership between families and home visitors improves health and development, prevents child injuries, reduces ER visits, reduces domestic violence, improves family economic self-sufficiency, and improves the coordination and referrals for other community resources. Many families who participate in voluntary home visiting live in rural parts of the country, a long distance from critical services, making the support they receive from home visiting all the more critical to child and family outcomes.

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

House: Voice, Senate: 98-1 —Enacted November 19, 2014.

First enacted in 1996, CCDBG is the primary federal funding source providing financial assistance to low-income working families that access child care.

The reauthorization incorporated feedback from local, state, and national advocates with improvements to child care safety, quality, access, affordability, and continuity of care. States have the opportunity to use federal dollars to invest in early learning, enabling them to build upon local innovations to coordinate an early childhood system, and lets states take the lead on increasing access to preschool.

Reauthorization updates the statutes governing the biggest federal program supporting young children to reflect necessary reforms. These reforms ensure more children from low-income backgrounds can access high-quality child care that is safe, healthy, and promotes learning and development.