



Early Childhood Education in Illinois



Opportunities made possible through state and federal investment

High-quality early childhood education is proven to dramatically improve a child’s opportunities for a better future—particularly children from low-income families. If we, as a nation, want to ensure all children have access to high-quality early learning, there must be strong support and partnerships from federal government to extend the reach or fill in the gaps of state efforts and innovation.

In fact, states and the federal government are crucial partners in expanding access and options for parents to provide a quality early childhood education to their children from birth through age five. Many state and community efforts leverage federal funding, which allows them to create and expand high-quality early learning and care opportunities beyond what is possible with only state funding. There are also several early childhood programs operating in all 50 states that are funded exclusively with federal dollars, while others rely on a combination of federal, state, local, and even private funding.

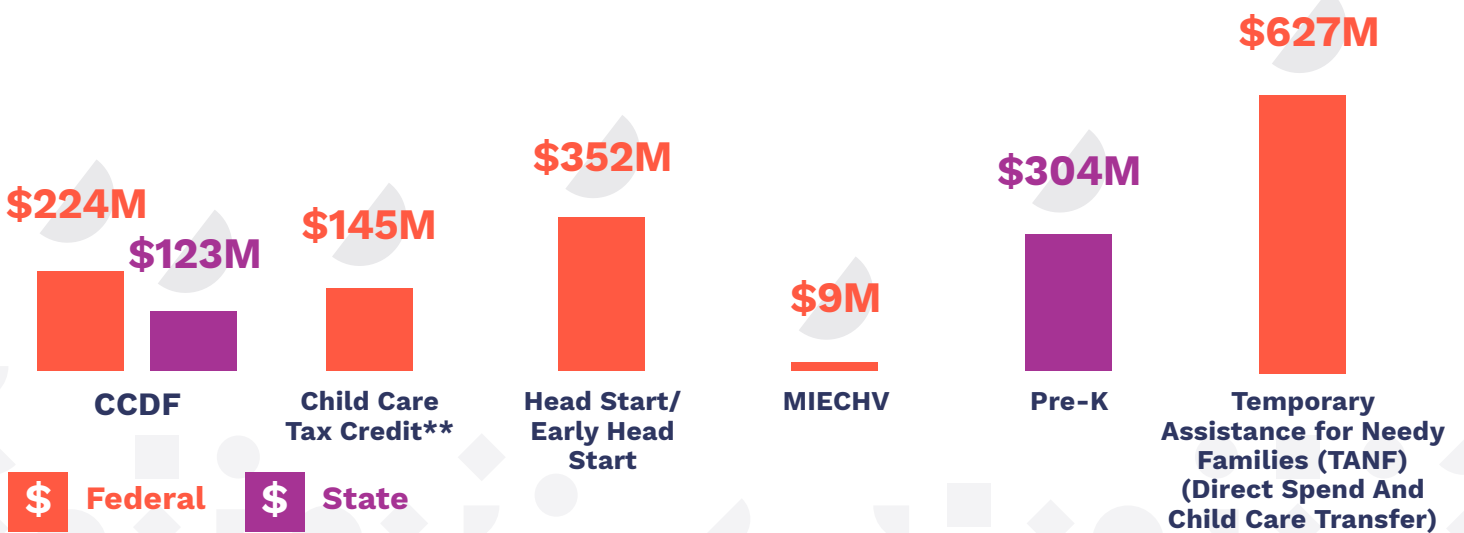
This fact sheet provides an abbreviated overview of state- and federally-funded early childhood opportunities in Illinois, which serve more than 400,000 children and families.*

*This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start/Early Head Start, the Child Care Tax Credit, CCDF, MIECHV, and state-funded Pre-K.

Illinois Quick Facts

Population Under Six	952,396
Percent Under Six Living in Poverty	21.1%
Children Enrolled in Head Start / Early Head Start	39,133
Families Served by the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)	2,187
Children Enrolled in State Pre-K	72,007
Families Supported by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	37,600

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Program Funding 2017



**2015 Data

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care | Health Resources and Services Administration | National Institute for Early Education Research | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care