

EARLY LEARNING FUNDING ADVOCACY EFFORTS					
PROGRAM		FY19 FUNDING LEVEL (CURRENT)	FY20 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST	FY20 ECE COMMUNITY ASK	FY20 HOUSE LABOR/HHS BILL
HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$10.06 billion	\$10.06 billion	\$11.11 billion	\$11.563 billion
	Funding Increase	+\$200 million (over FY18)	Level	+\$1.5 billion	+\$1.5 billion
	Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)	\$805 million	\$805 million	Not specified	\$1.33 billion
	EHS-CCP Increase	+\$50 million (over FY18)	Level	Not specified	+\$525 million
PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$250 million	Eliminated	\$250 million	\$350 million
	Funding Increase	Level (with FY2018)		Level	\$100 million
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$5.276 billion	\$5.276 billion	\$10.765 billion	\$7.676 billion
	Funding Increase	+\$2.45 billion (maintains FY18 funding increase + \$50 million)	Level	+\$5 billion	+\$2.4 billion

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PROGRAM		FY19 FUNDING LEVEL (CURRENT)	FY20 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST	FY20 ECE COMMUNITY ASK	FY20 HOUSE LABOR/HHS BILL
NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS NETWORK	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$63.887 million	\$63.887 million	Not specified	\$70.887 million
	Funding Increase	+\$10 million	Level	----	+\$7 million
IDEA GRANTS TO STATES	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$12.36 billion	\$12.36 billion	Not specified	\$13.36 billion
	Funding Increase	+\$86.54 million	Level	----	+\$1 billion
IDEA PRESCHOOL GRANTS (PART B)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$391.12 million	\$391.12 million	Highest Feasible Funding	\$403.4 million
	Funding Increase	+\$10 million	Level		+\$12.28 million
IDEA GRANTS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (PART C)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$470 million	\$470 million	Highest Feasible Funding	\$491.3 million
	Funding Increase	Level	Level		+\$21.3 million

Report Language from Introduction of the Overall Report

Early Childhood Education

The Committee includes nearly \$20,000,000,000 for early childhood education programs through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start, and Preschool Development Grants—an increase of \$4,000,000,000 over the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. This is the largest single-year increase ever provided for these programs.

Child care is one of the most critical needs of families with young children—but CCDBG currently reaches only 15 percent of the nearly 14 million children who are eligible to receive child care services. **The increase included in this bill will provide CCDBG-funded child care for approximately 300,000 additional children, which will also enable more parents in low-income families to remain in the workforce.**

The bill also provides an increase of \$1,500,000,000 for Head Start, including increases of \$750,000,000 for Quality Improvement Funding for Trauma-Informed Care and \$525,000,000 for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. Early Head Start reaches approximately seven percent of eligible children, but the increase in this bill will expand access to an additional 80,000 infants and toddlers from low-income families.

The Committee further recommends an increase of \$100,000,000 for Preschool Development Grants to build State and local capacity to provide early childhood care and education for children birth through five from low- and moderate-income families. This would be **the first increase for Preschool Development Grants since the program was initiated in fiscal year 2015** and it would enable continued support for additional States to implement or expand preschool program.

Head Start Report Language

The Committee recommends \$11,563,095,000 for the Head Start program, which is \$1,500,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request. Head Start promotes school readiness of children under 5 from low-income families through education, health, social and other services.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.—The Committee recommends \$1,330,000,000 for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS–CCPs) and EHS Expansion, which is \$525,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request. The EHS–CCP program brings together EHS and child care through layering of funding to provide comprehensive and continuous services to low-income infants, toddlers, and their families. The program enhances developmental services and supports for low-income infants and toddlers, and their families, by providing strong relationship-based experiences and preparing them for the transition into Head Start and preschool. The Committee understands the Office of Head Start (OHS) was only able to fund approximately 18 percent of applicants for this funding in fiscal year 2019, despite many highly-qualified grant applications. The Committee provides additional funding to support expansion of the EHS and EHS–CCPs to add over 80,000 more slots for eligible children.

Quality Improvement Funding for Trauma-Informed Care.—The Committee is aware of the rise of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) attributable to increased prevalence of substance misuse, economic hardship, home and community violence, and other traumatic experiences that can negatively impact child

development and lead to disruptions in classroom environments. The Committee recommends \$750,000,000 be allocated within section 640(a)(5) of the Head Start Act for grantees to engage in activities that support children and families who have experienced trauma, such as increasing services from mental health professionals to provide expert care and counseling to families and the Head Start workforce; providing staff training on trauma-informed approaches to service delivery; and adding staff to Head Start classrooms. Funding should be made available for all grantees, with awards not less than \$100,000 for smaller grantees, to ensure that quality improvement funding is awarded in amounts substantial enough to have a meaningful impact for children enrolled in these programs.

Tribal Colleges and Universities-Head Start Partnership Program.—The Committee directs \$8,000,000 to the Head Start program to reestablish the Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU)– Head Start Partnership Program. Only 39 percent of Indian Head Start teachers and assistants meet the national standard for qualified teachers, compared to almost 75 percent nationwide. Reinvesting in early childhood education at TCUs will help to address these disparities in the preparation of Head Start teachers in Indian Country.

Cost of Living Adjustment.—The Committee includes \$217,000,000 for a cost of living adjustment.

Service Duration.—The Committee understands that the Head Start program standard finalized in Fall 2016 that required programs to provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations over the course of at least eight months per year was based on research showing that at-risk children benefit from longer exposure to enriching early learning programs. The Committee directed funding in previous fiscal years to help Head Start programs meet the extended duration requirement. The Committee continues to encourage extended duration, especially in communities with demonstrated family need, and requests a briefing from OHS not later than 30 days after the comment period on the NPRM has closed. In addition, the Committee requests OHS to include in future budget justifications the number of Head Start slots that offer 1,020 hours of service per year duration programs. It is the Committee’s expectation that additional flexibility for providers that are not in a position to offer extended duration services at this time will not result in reductions to services to vulnerable children who would benefit from extended duration.

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.—The Committee is concerned with recent Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) enrollment declines and understands that the program may fluctuate due to reasons outside of OHS’s control, however, the Committee directs OHS to be responsive to the needs of communities as demands change. Further, the Committee supports OHS’s restoration of MSHS program funding to terminated localities and the maintenance of student enrollment levels through increased consideration of all impoverished student populations subject to transient living conditions or unstable educational environments. In order to avoid recent issues with grantee fiscal irresponsibility, the Committee directs OHS to assess program service capacity based on the aggregate of individual applicants’ regional partnerships, as opposed to a single organization’s supposed ability to conduct an equivalent nationwide program coordination. The Committee encourages OHS to partner with local academic institutions that have established regional networks of accredited resources. OHS shall submit a report to the Committee on these efforts within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

PDG Report Language

The Committee recommends \$350,000,000 for Preschool Development Grants, which is \$100,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and \$350,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 budget request. This program provides grants to States to build State and local capacity to provide early childhood care and education for children birth through five from low- and moderate-income families. The Committee understands 46 States and territories received planning grants in fiscal year 2018 to conduct needs assessments and gather data about the current early learning landscape in their States. The Committee notes that fiscal year 2019 funding may only allow about half of the States that received planning grants to receive implementation grants. The Committee includes additional funding in this bill to fund applications from the fiscal year 2019 competition that may not have received funding due to budget constraints.

CCDBG Report Language

The Committee recommends \$7,676,000,000 for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, which is \$2,400,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request. The CCDBG provides funds according to a formula to States, territories, and Tribes to provide financial assistance to help low-income working families and families engaged in training or education activities access child care and to improve the quality of child care for all children. The bill includes the largest funding increase ever provided for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. CCDBG reaches only 15 percent of the nearly 14 million children who are eligible to receive child care services. The Committee believes that significant additional investment is necessary to address large gaps in the number of eligible children served by the program. The increase included in this bill will provide CCDBG-funded child care to almost 300,000 additional eligible children, enable more low-income parents to work, allow States to expand eligibility for children and families, and raise payments to providers.

Diaper Need and Child Care.—The Committee recognizes that many low-income families spend twice as much on diapers for their children compared to families who have the means to buy diapers in bulk at low price. The Committee is deeply concerned that 1 in 3 families in the U.S. struggles to afford diapers, which leads to higher poverty and increased health risks for infants and toddlers. The Committee also notes that many child care centers, including ones under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, require parents to provide diapers for their children who attend. Therefore, the Committee requests HHS to submit a report, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, estimating the amount of diapers and diapering supplies that enrolled child care providers require for the population of children under the age of three who are served under the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the estimated cost of those diapers and diaper supplies.

National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative Report Language

The Committee includes \$70,887,000, an increase of \$7,000,000, for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative continues to be an extremely valuable resource to improve behavioral health services and interventions for children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events. The increase in funding is provided for new grants to expand support for community-based mental health clinics through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, who develop and promote effective community practices for children and adolescents exposed to a wide array of traumatic events.

IDEA Grants to States Report Language

This program provides formula grants to assist States in meeting the costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. States generally transfer most of the funds to LEAs; however, they can reserve some funds for program monitoring, technical assistance, and other related activities. In order to be eligible for funds, States must make free appropriate public education available to all children with disabilities.

The Committee recommends \$13,364,392,000 for Part B Grants to States, which is \$1,000,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request, reflecting the largest increase to the program in more than a decade. The Committee is concerned that the federal share of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities has declined and notes the critical role this increase will play in helping to reverse this trend.

In March 2019, the courts ruled that the Department’s delay of the 2016 Significant Disproportionality rule, which requires States to address racial disparities and discrimination in special education programs, was arbitrary and capricious, and thus illegal. The Committee is deeply concerned that the Department has not communicated to stakeholders or Congress how it is enforcing the rule, per the recent court decision. Therefore, within 30 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education and Labor, and the Senate

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on how it is implementing the 2016 Significant Disproportionality rule. The report shall include which data the Department is collecting to ensure compliance and all detailed guidance provided by the Department to help States comply with provisions of the regulation. The Committee notes that its SEL initiative, as described in the School Improvement Programs, Innovation and Research, and Safe Schools and Citizenship Education accounts, aims to provide schools, school districts, and States with critical tools so that they can support all students and prevent misidentification.

The Committee includes new bill language, as requested in the fiscal year 2020 budget request, that permits States to subgrant funds that they reserve under section 611(e)(2) of the IDEA to more efficiently carry out authorized State-level activities. The Committee continues to include bill language excluding any amount by which a State's allocation is reduced for failure to meet the maintenance of effort threshold from being used to calculate the State's allocation under section 611(d) of the (IDEA) in subsequent years. The Committee also continues to include bill language directing the Secretary to distribute any reduction in a State's allocation under said section to all other States based on the formula established under section 611(d), excluding those States that are penalized.

IDEA Preschool Grants (Part B) Report Language

The Committee recommends \$398,400,000 for Preschool Grants, which is \$7,280,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request. These funds provide additional assistance to States to help them make free, appropriate public education available to children with disabilities ages 3 through 5.

IDEA Grants for Infants and Families (Part C) Report Language

The Committee recommends \$491,300,000 for Grants for Infants and Families, which is \$21,300,000 more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 budget request. These funds provide additional assistance to States to help them make free, appropriate public education available to children with disabilities from birth through age 2. The Committee includes new bill language, as requested in the fiscal year 2020 budget request, to resolve implementation challenges related to funding for State Incentive Grants, a program that offers States the flexibility to expand services for children with disabilities beyond age 3.