



Early Childhood Education in Washington, D.C.



In D.C., state and federally funded early childhood opportunities serve more than 20,824 children and families¹

High-quality early childhood education (ECE) is proven to dramatically improve a child’s opportunities for a better future—particularly children from low-income families—while offering parents improved job stability and overall economic security. Research shows that every \$1 invested in the education and care of children from birth through age five generates \$7.30 in return for our country. To ensure all children can access high-quality early learning and care, the federal government partners with states to support local efforts and innovations.

Over time, ECE programs have been created to meet the diverse needs of children and families. A 2017 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that these programs work in conjunction to benefit those they serve.

Much of the progress at the state and local level has been made possible by strong partnerships with the federal government aimed at expanding access and increasing quality for more children. Many state and community programs are funded exclusively with federal dollars, while others leverage federal funding to create and expand high-quality early learning and care opportunities beyond what is possible with state funding alone. The purpose of this resource is to provide a snapshot of what ECE looks like in D.C. To learn more about the specific programs we reference here, read FFYF’s [ABCs of Federal Early Learning and Care Funding Streams](#) resource.

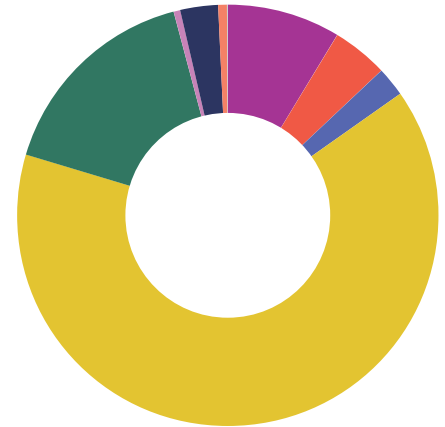
D.C. QUICK FACTS

Population Under Six²	51,714
Under Six Living in Poverty³	25.44%
Children Enrolled in Head Start⁴	2,309
Eligible Children Served by Head Start⁵	41.96%
Children Enrolled in Early Head Start⁶	1,224
Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start⁷	14.03%
Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds⁸	972
Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds⁹	No Data
Families Served by the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood, Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)¹⁰	215
Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K¹¹	13,492
Children Served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C¹²	823
Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹³	1,789

¹ This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, CCDF, MIECHV, state-funded Pre-K, and IDEA Parts B Sec. 619 and C. In some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in D.C.

Head Start and Early Head Start ¹⁴	\$31.9 M
CCDBG and Mandatory Funds ¹⁵	\$15.7 M
CCDBG State Match ¹⁶	\$8.3 M
State-Funded Pre-K ¹⁷	\$236.7 M
TANF ¹⁸ Funds transferred to early learning and care ¹⁹	\$59.5 M
MIECHV ²⁰	\$1.9 M
Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five ²¹	\$10.6 M
IDEA Part C ²²	\$2.5 M
IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 ²³	\$241,030



Early Childhood Education and the D.C. Economy

There are 34,524 children under age six with all available parents in the workforce.²⁴ In addition to the significant impact of early childhood education on children and families in the short and long term, early learning and care can have an immediate impact on state economies. Access to affordable child care can increase labor force participation and support parents seeking additional education and training, which contributes to higher earnings over an individual's lifetime.

In D.C., an estimated
5,693 JOBS
 are sustained by the
 child care sector.

25

Lack of Supply and High Cost of Care Challenging for Working Families

The cost of care in D.C. remains a hurdle for many parents who wish to enter or remain in the workforce. Limited access to high-quality, affordable child care presents an additional challenge for working families. Simultaneously, the supply of home-based care, which is often the more affordable and flexible option, has decreased since 2010.

\$23,666
 is the average annual cost of
 center-based infant care in D.C.

14.6% of the state
 median income

26, 27

In D.C., the child care
 industry has an estimated
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
\$277 M
 including revenue generated
 by child care providers and
 spillover or related productivity
 in other sectors.

31

In D.C.,
27%
 of residents live in a
 "child care desert".

30

\$16,737
 is the average annual cost of
 home-based infant care in D.C.

2.8%
 decline in
 availability of
 home-based
 care from 2010
 to 2016.

28, 29

² U.S. Census Bureau - 2017 Community Survey Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (Population for whom poverty is determined) ³ Ibid.
⁴ Office of Head Start Performance Indicator Report (PIR) ⁵ PIR and U.S. Census Bureau ⁶ PIR ⁷ PIR and U.S. Census Bureau ⁸ Office of Child Care FY2017 CCDF Data Tables ⁹ <https://StateofChildCare.org/> ¹⁰ Health Resources and Services Administration ¹¹ The National Institute for Early Education - State of Preschool 2018 ¹² U.S. Department of Education ¹³ Ibid. ¹⁴ Office of Child Care ¹⁵ Office of Child Care FY2018 CCDF Allocations (Including Redistributed Funds)
¹⁶ Ibid. ¹⁷ The National Institute for Early Education - State of Preschool 2018 ¹⁸ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ¹⁹ Office of Family Assistance TANF FY2017 Financial Data ²⁰ Health Resources and Services Administration ²¹ Office of Child Care ²² U.S. Department of Education ²³ Ibid. ²⁴ U.S. Census Bureau ²⁵ Committee for Economic Development ²⁶ Child Care Aware of America Cost of Care ²⁷ Ibid. ²⁸ Ibid. ²⁹ Committee for Economic Development ³⁰ Center for American Progress defines "child care desert" as any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers OR more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots. ³¹ Committee for Economic Development