



Early Childhood Education in Wyoming



In Wyoming, state and federally funded early childhood opportunities serve more than 8,819 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 Wyoming. To learn more about the specific programs we reference here, read FFYF’s [ABCs of Federal Early Learning and Care Funding Streams](#) resource.

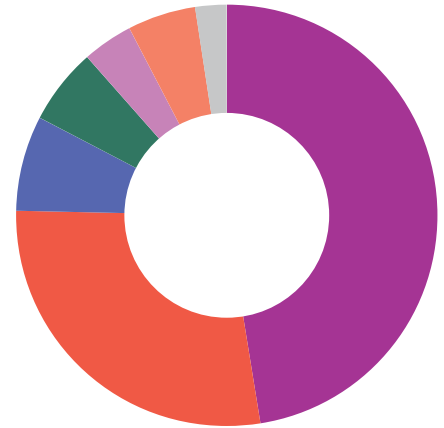
WYOMING QUICK FACTS

Population Under Six ²	42,936
Under Six Living in Poverty ³	15.75%
Children Enrolled in Head Start ⁴	1,424
Eligible Children Served by Head Start ⁵	24.09%
Children Enrolled in Early Head Start ⁶	461
Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start ⁷	5.45%
Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds ⁸	2,130
Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds ⁹	9.50%
Families Served by the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood, Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) ¹⁰	180
Children Served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C ¹¹	1,205
Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 ¹²	3,419

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 Wyoming

Head Start and Early Head Start ¹³	\$20.9 M
CCDBG and Mandatory Funds ¹⁴	\$12.3 M
CCDBG State Match ¹⁵	\$3.2 M
TANF ¹⁶ Funds transferred to early learning and care ¹⁷	\$3.6 M
MIECHV ¹⁸	\$1.7 M
IDEA Part C ¹⁹	\$2.3M
IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 ²⁰	\$1.1 M



Early Childhood Education and the Wyoming Economy

There are 28,403 children under age six with all available parents in the workforce.²¹ 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 Wyoming, an estimated

3,836 JOBS

are sustained by the child care sector.

22

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

The cost of care in Wyoming 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.

\$10,394 is the average annual cost of center-based infant care in Wyoming.

12% of the state median income

23, 24

In Wyoming, the child care industry has an estimated

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$156 M

including revenue generated by child care providers and spillover or related productivity in other sectors.

28

In Wyoming,

34%

of residents live in a "child care desert".

27

\$7,995 is the average annual cost of home-based infant care in Wyoming.

32.8% decline in availability of home-based care from 2010 to 2016.

25, 26

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 U.S. Department of Education ¹² Ibid. ¹³ Office of Child Care ¹⁴ Office of Child Care FY2018 CCDF Allocations (Including Redistributed Funds) ¹⁵ Ibid. ¹⁶ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ¹⁷ Office of Family Assistance TANF FY2017 Financial Data ¹⁸ Health Resources and Services Administration ¹⁹ U.S. Department of Education ²⁰ Ibid. ²¹ U.S. Census Bureau ²² Committee for Economic Development ²³ Child Care Aware of America Cost of Care ²⁴ Ibid. ²⁵ Ibid. ²⁶ Committee for Economic Development ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Committee for Economic Development