

# Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships

**E**arly Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) is a competitive federal grant program that allows Early Head Start grantees to partner with local child care providers, both in-home and center-based, to improve the quality of care and expand the capacity and benefits of Early Head Start. Through these partnerships, the best of Early Head Start programs are reaching more children in a variety of settings while maximizing federal dollars.

Since 2013, the partnership grants have offered an innovative and efficient model that maximizes funding by joining together the strengths of child care and Early Head Start to increase access to high-quality learning, while also expanding access to essential services such as health and developmental screenings, for our youngest and neediest children.

## ● Maximizing Program Strengths

The partnerships' ability to bring together the strengths of Early Head Start and child care are especially beneficial.

Child care centers and family child care providers:

- Often offer more flexible and convenient full-day, full-year services for working families.
- Have experience providing care that is responsive to the cultural, linguistic, and social needs of families and their local communities.

## At a Glance

### ■ Created:

- 2013

### ■ Who this Program Serves:

- Supports children from low-income families by partnering Early Head Start grantees with child care providers in a variety of child care settings, including center-based and home-based child care.
- Early Head Start serves children from birth to age three from low-income families.

### ◆ Number of Children Served <sup>1</sup>:

- In 2017, 275 Early Head Start grantees partnered with over 1,400 child care centers and 1,000 home-based child care providers.
- 32,000 infants and toddlers were directly supported in 2017.
- 7,800 additional children in centers and classrooms do not qualify for Early Head Start but benefit indirectly from improved quality.

### ● Delivery Method:

- The Department of Health and Human Services awards grants to Early Head Start programs who partner with child care providers.

### ■ Current Federal Funding:

- FY 2019: \$805 million

<sup>1</sup> 2017 ([https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/eecd/ehs\\_ccp\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/eecd/ehs_ccp_brochure.pdf))



Early Head Start has a proven record of providing quality instruction and comprehensive services to children and families. The partnerships:

- Provide resources for the Early Head Start grantees to help their child care partners meet Head Start Performance Standards and improve the quality of child care.
- Provide comprehensive wrap-around services, such as developmental screenings related to children’s health, nutrition, and other needs.

**The partnerships’ ability to bring together the strengths of Early Head Start and child care are especially beneficial.**

### 📌 Increasing Access to Quality

Currently, Early Head Start reaches only 7 percent of eligible children from birth through their third birthday. EHS-CCPs allow more children to access Early Head Start-quality care through program coordination in order to maximize the reach of public funds.

The partnerships improve the overall quality of care at participating child care centers and family child care homes by:

- 📌 Reducing ratios of children to adults, so all children in a partnership classroom benefit from more personalized attention;
- 📌 Improving professional development for teachers;
- 📌 Adopting a high-quality curriculum;
- 📌 Leveraging funds to provide vision, hearing, dental, speech, developmental, and nutritional screenings for all children served, not just those enrolled in the EHS-CCP.



In exchange for agreeing to meet Head Start Performance Standards, child care providers receive access to critical resources including coaching, professional development, materials and curricula, equipment, facilities, and in many cases, higher pay. Federal funds also support technical assistance to help Early Head Start grantees implement the partnerships successfully.



### ■ Continued Need

FFYF supports increasing federal funding to help address the needs of young children from low-income families, and is committed to identifying opportunities that will result in more children accessing high-quality learning opportunities. EHS-CCP provides an innovative model to improve access to high-quality care and learning for more children. FFYF supports building upon the investment in Head Start and the expansion of the EHS-CCP initiative.