

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding allows states to provide child care subsidies for low-income families with children under 13. The majority of funds serve children under 5, with the remainder supporting care for children ages 5-13 while they are not in school. These subsidies help remove barriers to affordable, high-quality child care—whether in center- or home-based settings. Further, the law allows states to pair state and federal funds to improve access and quality of child care available to families within existing state and local systems. In this way, CCDBG plays a critical role in ensuring young children are accessing the high-quality early learning experiences that support their healthy development and prepare them for kindergarten while their parents work or attend school.

Administration of Program

Discretionary funds appropriated for CCDBG are combined with mandatory funds under the Social Security Act into a single, federal child care funding stream known as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services administers CCDF dollars, which are allocated to states, territories, and tribal entities based on a formula. States then design their own subsidy programs in compliance with federal eligibility and quality requirements, with the ability to establish their own additional requirements.

At a Glance

■ **Created:** 1990

Who This Program Serves:

Families with children from birth to age 13 whose income is below 85% of the state median income. States can set income eligibility below that ceiling, and many do.

(Average \$80,527 annually for family of 4.)

Number of Children Served:

An estimated 1.4 million children received child care subsidies monthly in FY2019.

Percent Served Based on Eligibility:¹

14% of all children eligible under federal rules.

Delivery Method:

Eligible families can apply to the state's lead agency for a subsidy. Families who receive a subsidy may choose any child care provider that meets state health and safety requirements. In some states, providers receive a voucher or child care certificate from a parent. In others, they are paid directly through a contract with the state.

FY2022 Federal Funding:

\$9.715 billion
(\$6.165 billion discretionary,
\$3.550 billion mandatory)

¹ FY2017 (Bipartisan Policy Center)

