Early Childhood Education in Alaska

State and federal funding enables more than 6,896 children and families in Alaska to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Alaska

- **Head Start and Early Head Start** $58.7M
- **CCDBG and Mandatory Funds** $18.4M
- **CCDBG State Match** $3.3M
- **CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES² | CRRSA³ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷** $99.0M
- **State-Funded Pre-K** $2.8M
- **MIECHV⁹** $1.7M
- **IDEA Part C¹⁰** $3.6M
- **IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹** $2.0M
- **TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures** $14.0M

Alaska Quick Facts

- **1,622** Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁸
- 18.72% Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁹
- **691** Children Enrolled in Early Head Start²⁰
- 10.68% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start²¹
- **1,750** Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²
- 10.6% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²
- **636** Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁴
- **214** Families Served by MIECHV²⁵
- **802** Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁶
- **1,181** Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁷
- 18.13% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁸

Early Childhood Education Economic Impact

In addition to the benefits to young children, access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. Child care problems, however, adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses upward of $57 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue.¹⁴

In Alaska

- 11.6% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁵
- Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 56.0% in 2019 to 69.2% in 2021.¹⁶

Nationwide¹⁷

The percent of families that reported difficulty finding space in a home- or center-based program increased dramatically from 22% in December 2021 to 58% in January 2022.

71% of parents report that difficulty finding child care has impacted their ability to work.
Alaska Early Learning and Care Snapshot

- Population Under Six: 63,058
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 15.37%
- 57.52% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

- 61% of Alaska residents live in a “child care desert”
- For rural families and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

- The average price of child care is $10,310 per year
- The median household income is $105,852

Met 2/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards

High Price of Care

Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in Alaska

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$12,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$9,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Married Parents
  - Percent of Median Income: 11.4%
- Single Parent
  - Percent of Median Income: 32.8%

- Married Parents
  - Percent of Median Income: 9.0%
- Single Parent
  - Percent of Median Income: 25.9%

Low Compensation for Early Educators

Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

- Child Care Workers Hourly Rate: $13.21
- Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary: $27,470

- 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including
- 75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

13,927 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Alaska, 9,327 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:

- 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic.
- 75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

References:
- NIEER (includes preschool, Head Start, and Special Education)
- Office of Head Start (OHS)
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Performance Indicator Report (PIR)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)