Early Childhood Education in California

State and federal funding enables more than 452,463 children and families in California to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in California

$1.3B  Head Start and Early Head Start
$829.4M  CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
$157.2M  CCDBG State Match
$5.1B  CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES | CRRSA | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)
$2.0B  State-Funded Pre-K
$19.0M  MIECHV
$79.2M  IDEA Part C
$60.8M  IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
$763.0M  TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures
$17.4M  Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

California Quick Facts

50,486  Children Enrolled in Head Start
13.28%  Eligible Children Served by Head Start
26,454  Children Enrolled in Early Head Start
7.19%  Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start
108,432  Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
8.5%  Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
157,106  Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K
2,684  Families Served by MIECHV
45,189  Children Served by IDEA Part C
62,112  Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
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62,112  Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
25.11%  Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE

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.

In California

6.6% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues. Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 60.6% in 2019 to 59.2% in 2021.

Nationwide

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.
California Early Learning and Care Snapshot

High Price of Care
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in California

Center-Based ______________ $17,384 per year

Married Parents
Single Parent
Percent of Median Income
16.7% 53.8%

Home-Based ______________ $11,718 per year

Married Parents
Single Parent
Percent of Median Income
11.2% 36.3%

Low Compensation for Early Educators
Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

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<tr>
<th>Child Care Workers Hourly Rate</th>
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<td>Federal Minimum Wage</td>
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<td>Poverty Line*</td>
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Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations.

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In California, 472,486 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, including
75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
63% of those in family child care homes.

The Central Role of Early Care and Education in Child Well-Being
California’s children, families, and communities benefit from high-quality child care, however, the children of low-income families are more likely to attend low-quality programs.

Source: NIEER State of Preschool 2021

* 2019 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is $25,750 per year.

1 This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, Sec. 305 and C, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.