Early Childhood Education in Washington, D.C.

State and federal funding enables more than 18,424 children and families in D.C. to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in D.C.

$36.8M • Head Start and Early Head Start²
$17.1M • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
$1.0M • CCDBG State Match⁴
$87.3M • CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
$248.5M • State-Funded Pre-K⁸
$1.6M • MIECHV⁹
$3.6M • IDEA Part C¹⁰
$0.4M • IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
$37.4M • TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³

D.C. Quick Facts

183
Children Enrolled in
Head Start¹⁴
3.75% Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁵
1,617
Children Enrolled in
Early Head Start¹⁶
22.34% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁷
1,296
Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²
6.9% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³

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 D.C.

6.4% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁵

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 84.1% in 2019 to 68.1% 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.
**D.C. Early Learning and Care Snapshot**

- Population Under Six: 52,395
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 19.46%
- 74.11% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

- 27% of D.C. residents live in a “child care desert”
- For Hispanics/Latinos and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

- The average price of child care is $18,334 per year
- The median household income is $197,375

- Met 4/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards

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**High Price of Care**

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

**Annual Price of Infant Care in D.C.**

**Center-Based**

- Married Parents: $24,378 per year
- Single Parent: $18,425 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
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</table>

**Home-Based**

- Married Parents: $15,080 per year
- Single Parent: $15.36 per hour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
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**Low Compensation for Early Educators**

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

- **$15.36** Child Care Workers Hourly Rate
- **$31,950** Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

**The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding**

In D.C., 14,181 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

- 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.

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**Need**

- **92%** of those who used ARPA funds said funding helped them stay open.
- **75%** of those in family child care homes used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- **63%** of those in family child care homes.

**Access**

- 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005 ● ffyf.org

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**Affordability**

- Met 4/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards

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**Quality**

- **92%** of those who used ARPA funds said funding helped them stay open.
- **75%** of those in family child care homes used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- **63%** of those in family child care homes.

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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, C, and F, as well as children under age five served by more than one program.