Early Childhood Education in Delaware

State and federal funding enables more than 9,983 children and families in Delaware to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Delaware

- **$20.8M**: Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$25.4M**: CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$2.6M**: CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$146.0M**: CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES¹ | CRRSA⁵ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁶
- **$6.1M**: State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$3.7M**: MIECHV⁹
- **$3.6M**: IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$2.0M**: IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$82.9M**: TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³

Delaware Quick Facts

- **1,220**: Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁴
- **15.95%**: Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁵
- **637**: Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁶
- **6.38%**: Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁷
- **3,654**: Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁸
- **15.1%**: Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁹
- **830**: Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁰
- **607**: Families Served by MIECHV²¹
- **951**: Children Served by IDEA Part C²²
- **2,084**: Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²³
- **17.87%**: Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁴

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 Delaware

- **9.0%**: of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.²⁵

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 68.8% in 2019 to 69.5% in 2021.²⁶

Nationwide²⁷

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.
Delaware Early Learning and Care Snapshot

**Need**
- Population Under Six: 64,343
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 19.11%
- 67.62% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

**Access**
- 25% of Delaware residents live in a “child care desert”
- For rural families and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

**Affordability**
- The average price of child care is $9,218 per year
- The median household income is $106,395

**Quality**
- Met 9/10 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 Delaware**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Median Income</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>Married Parents</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>Married Parents</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>Single Parent</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>Single Parent</td>
<td>26.1%</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.

**The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding**
In Delaware, 26,738 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
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

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1. The 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. In some cases, children and families served by more than one program.
2. NIEER 2020-21 National Rankings Report
3. NIEER 2020-21 National Rankings Report
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38. NIEER 2020-21 National Rankings Report
39. NIEER 2020-21 National Rankings Report
40. NIEER 2020-21 National Rankings Report

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