Early Childhood Education in Georgia

State and federal funding enables more than 144,967 children and families in Georgia to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

**Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Georgia**

- **$243.4M** Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$319.7M** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$20.5M** CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$2.1B** CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- **$361.5M** State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$6.7M** MIECHV⁹
- **$21.9M** IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$15.7M** IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$22.2M** TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- **$4.8M** Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

**Georgia Quick Facts**

- 14,662 Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁵
- 11.60% Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁶
- 4,848 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁷
- 3.75% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁸
- 39,312 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³
- 6.7% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁴
- 66,554 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁵
- 1,461 Families Served by MIECHV²⁶
- 8,782 Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁷
- 9,348 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁸
- 31.91% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁹

**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.¹⁵

**In Georgia**

11.0% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁶

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 63.9% in 2019 to 64.3% in 2021.¹⁷

**Nationwide**¹⁸

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.
Georgia 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 Georgia

Center-Based ______________________ $8,901 per year

Married Parents

Single Parent

Percent of Median Income

9.5% 32.3%

Home-Based ______________________  $7,133 per year

Married Parents

Single Parent

Percent of Median Income

7.6% 25.9%

Quality

Need

Access

Affordability

44% of Georgia residents live in a “child care desert”
For Hispanics/Latinos and rural families, this percentage is even higher

The average price of child care is $7,538 per year
The median household income is $93,267

Low Compensation for Early Educators
Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations
Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$9.37

$19,500

Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

Federal Minimum Wage

Poverty Line*

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In Georgia, 142,621 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.

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