Early Childhood Education in Maine

State and federal funding enables more than 15,855 children and families in Maine to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Maine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start and Early Head Start²</td>
<td>$44.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²</td>
<td>$25.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG State Match⁴</td>
<td>$2.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁹</td>
<td>$160.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Funded Pre-K⁸</td>
<td>$25.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIECHV⁴</td>
<td>$6.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C¹</td>
<td>$3.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹</td>
<td>$3.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF¹ Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³</td>
<td>$20.5M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maine Quick Facts

1.789 Children Enrolled in Head Start²
14.32% Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁰
1,034 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start²⁰
19.14% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start²¹
3,312 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²
12.2% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³
4,579 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁴
1,770 Families Served by MIECHV²⁵
878 Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁶
2,493 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁷
27.14% 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 Maine

8.1% 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 67.9% in 2019 to 74.7% 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.
Maine Early Learning and Care Snapshot

**Need**
- Population Under Six: 77,391$^{29}$
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 15.09%$^{30}$
- 67.24% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce$^{37}$

**Access**
- 22% of Maine residents live in a “child care desert”$^{32}$
- For Hispanics/Latinos and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher$^{33}$

**Affordability**
- The average price of child care is $9,355 per year$^{34}$
- The median household income is $94,782$^{35}$

**Quality**
- Met 9/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards$^{36}$

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### High Price of Care$^{37}$
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

#### Annual Price of Infant Care in Maine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$10,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$8,686</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Percent of Median Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.$^{38}$

#### Child Care Workers Hourly Rate
- $12.89

#### Federal Minimum Wage
- $15,080

#### Poverty Line*
- $26,810

#### Of providers who received stabilization grants:
- 37%

#### Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations

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### The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In Maine, 28,969 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.$^{39}$

#### 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.

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