Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Mississippi

- $212.3M: Head Start and Early Head Start
- $96.9M: CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- $3.0M: CCDBG State Match
- $699.1M: CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES | CRRSA | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)
- $7.7M: State-Funded Pre-K
- $3.0M: MIECHV
- $6.1M: IDEA Part C
- $6.5M: IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
- $1.7M: TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures

Mississippi Quick Facts

- 12,959: Children Enrolled in Head Start
- 42.24%: Eligible Children Served by Head Start
- 2,831: Children Enrolled in Early Head Start
- 8.20%: Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start
- 13,923: Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- 16.3%: Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- 2,727: Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K
- 676: Families Served by MIECHV
- 1,621: Children Served by IDEA Part C
- 3,914: Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
- 29.17%: 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 Mississippi

- 6.5% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 72.3% in 2019 to 65.8% 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.
Mississippi Early Learning and Care Snapshot

- Population Under Six: 221,552
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 28.50%
- 65.41% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

- 48% of Mississippi 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 $4,904 per year
- The median household income is $81,552

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

High Price of Care

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

**Annual Price of Infant Care in Mississippi**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married Parents</td>
<td>$5,933 per year</td>
<td>$4,309 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Parent</td>
<td>$4,309 per year</td>
<td>$2,984 per year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low Compensation for Early Educators

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

- **Child Care Workers Hourly Rate**: $8.94
- **Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary**: $18,590
- **Federal Minimum Wage**: $15,080

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Mississippi, 50,026 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.

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 (MICHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, F, I, and 619, and C, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.
2. Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center
3. Office of Child Care (OCC) 2021 CCDF Allocations (Based on Appropriations) | 4 Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center
5. Ibid | 6 Ibid | 7 Ibid | 8 Ibid
9. Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care) | 10 Ibid | 11 Ibid | 12 Ibid
33. Ibid | 34 Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care) | 35 Ibid | 36 Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care) | 37 Ibid | 38 Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2020 | 39 Ibid | 40 The Century Foundation | 41 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)