Early Childhood Education

State and federal funding enables more than 7,843 children and families in Montana to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.1

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Montana

- $57.6M  Head Start and Early Head Start2
- $24.3M  CCDBG and Mandatory Funds3
- $2.0M  CCDBG State Match4
- $149.0M  CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES5 | CRRSA6 | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)7
- $4.4M  MIECHV8
- $3.6M  IDEA Part C9
- $1.9M  IDEA Part B, Sec. 61910
- $10.6M  TANF11 Early Learning and Care Expenditures12

Montana Quick Facts

- 2,677  Children Enrolled in Head Start7
- 57.38%  Eligible Children Served by Head Start19
- 1,167  Children Enrolled in Early Head Start19
- 14.54%  Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start19
- 1,200  Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds21
- 10.7%  Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds21
- 1,326  Families Served by MIECHV23
- 603  Children Served by IDEA Part C24
- 870  Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 61922
- 14.86%  Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE26

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.13

In Montana

7.0% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.14

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 65.5% in 2019 to 75.8% in 2021.15

Nationwide16

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.
Montana Early Learning and Care Snapshot

- Population Under Six: 72,664
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 16.23%
- 61.21% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

High Price of Care

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

Annual Price of Infant Care in Montana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$8,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Montana, 3,709 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

- Of providers who received stabilization grants: 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including 63% of those in family child care homes.

Low Compensation for Early Educators

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

$10.84 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$22,540 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

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, E, and H, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.