Early Childhood Education in Nebraska

State and federal funding enables more than 29,261 children and families in Nebraska to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

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

- $64.6M Head Start and Early Head Start²
- $55.0M CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- $6.5M CCDBG State Match⁴
- $312.1M CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- $28.7M State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- $1.3M MIECHV⁹
- $4.3M IDEA Part C¹⁰
- $3.6M IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- $18.4M TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- $11.6M Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

**Nebraska Quick Facts**

- 3,380 Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁵
- 16.05% Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁶
- 2,038 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁷
- 9.19% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁸
- 4,725 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁹
- 9.1% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁰
- 12,806 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²¹
- 228 Families Served by MIECHV²²
- 1,895 Children Served by IDEA Part C²³
- 4,189 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁴
- 26.88% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁵

**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.¹⁶

In Nebraska

6.7% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁶

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 78.6% in 2019 to 74.1% in 2021.¹⁷

Nationwide¹⁸

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.
Nebraska 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 Nebraska**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$11,960 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$10,660 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Neatly, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>12.4% Married Parents, 41.0% Single Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>11.1% Married Parents, 36.5% Single Parent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average price of child care is $11,050 per year.

**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**: $11.12
- **Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary**: $23,140
- **Federal Minimum Wage**: $15,080

Quality

Met 7/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards.

**The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding**

In Nebraska, 36,270 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

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

**Affordability**

The average price of child care is $11,050 per year.

**Need**

- Population Under Six: 157,731
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 13.56%
- 72.59% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce.

**Access**

- 28% of Nebraska residents live in a “child care desert.”
- For Hispanics/Latinos and rural families, this percentage is even higher.

**Quality**

- Met 7/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards.