Early Childhood Education in New Jersey

State and federal funding enables more than 117,880 children and families in New Jersey to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.1

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in New Jersey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start and Early Head Start</td>
<td>$178.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG and Mandatory Funds</td>
<td>$170.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG State Match</td>
<td>$33.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES</td>
<td>$935.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRRSA</td>
<td>$874.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)</td>
<td>$843.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Funded Pre-K</td>
<td>$10.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIECHV</td>
<td>$17.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C</td>
<td>$17.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Sec. 619</td>
<td>$14.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures</td>
<td>$14.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five</td>
<td>$14.5M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Jersey Quick Facts

- 8,971 Children Enrolled in Head Start29
- 13.87% Eligible Children Served by Head Start30
- 3,391 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start31
- 6.67% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start32
- 27,755 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds33
- 14.1% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds34
- 46,895 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K35
- 5,387 Families Served by MIECHV36
- 12,040 Children Served by IDEA Part C37
- 13,441 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 61938
- 33.36% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE39

In New Jersey

11.5% 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 68.0% in 2019 to 62.6% 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.

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 New Jersey

11.5% 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 68.0% in 2019 to 62.6% 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.
New Jersey Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need

- Population Under Six: 622,243
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 14.14%
- 67.48% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access

- 46% of New Jersey residents live in a “child care desert”
- For rural families and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

Affordability

- The median household income is $133,609

Quality

- Met 8/10 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 Care in New Jersey

Center-Based Infant Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Median Income</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$16,471 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.

$12.59 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$26,180 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

$15,080 Federal Minimum Wage

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In New Jersey, 161,583 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.