

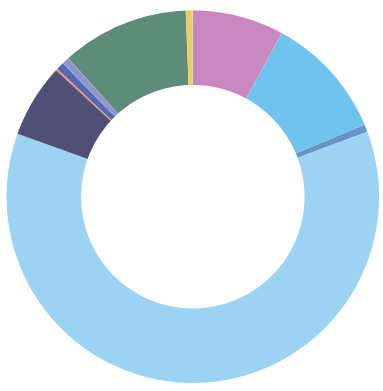


Early Childhood Education in North Carolina



State and federal funding enables more than 87,887 children and families in North Carolina to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in North Carolina



- \$229.3M ● Head Start and Early Head Start²
- \$310.3M ● CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- \$18.6M ● CCDBG State Match⁴
- \$1.8B ● CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- \$185.4M ● State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- \$3.7M ● MIECHV⁹
- \$20.4M ● IDEA Part C¹⁰
- \$17.9M ● IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- \$318.5M ● TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- \$17.4M ● Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

North Carolina Quick Facts

13,000
Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁹

10.88%
Eligible Children Served by Head Start²⁰

5,109
Children Enrolled in Early Head Start²¹

3.57%
Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start²²

26,325
Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³

13.4%
Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁴

23,718
Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁵

561
Families Served by MIECHV²⁶

8,935
Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁷

10,239
Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁸

16.82%
Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁹

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 North Carolina

16.8% 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 65.1% in 2019 to 63.9% 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.

North Carolina Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need

- Population Under Six: 726,199³⁰
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 21.44%³¹
- 63.20% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce³²

Access

- 44% of North Carolina residents live in a “child care desert”³³
- For Hispanics/Latinos and rural families, this percentage is even higher³⁴

Affordability

- The average price of child care is \$9,832 per year³⁵
- The median household income is \$91,329³⁶

Quality

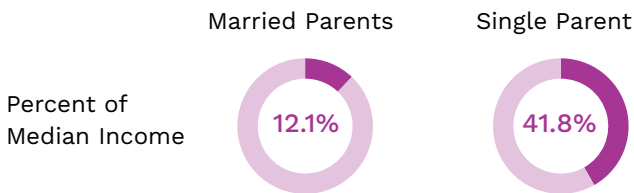
- Met 8/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards³⁷

High Price of Care³⁸

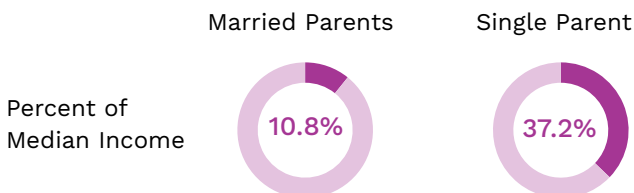
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in North Carolina

Center-Based ————— \$11,046 per year



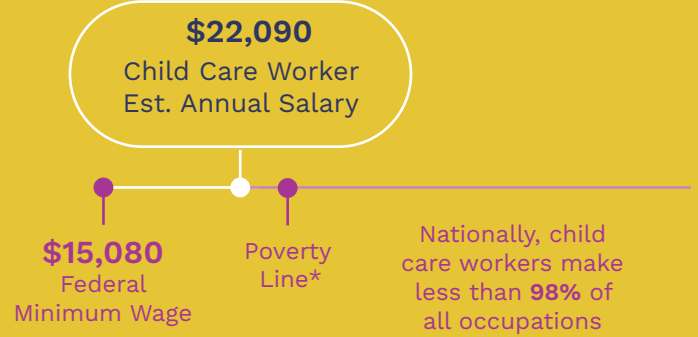
Home-Based ————— \$9,836 per year



Low Compensation for Early Educators

Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.³⁹

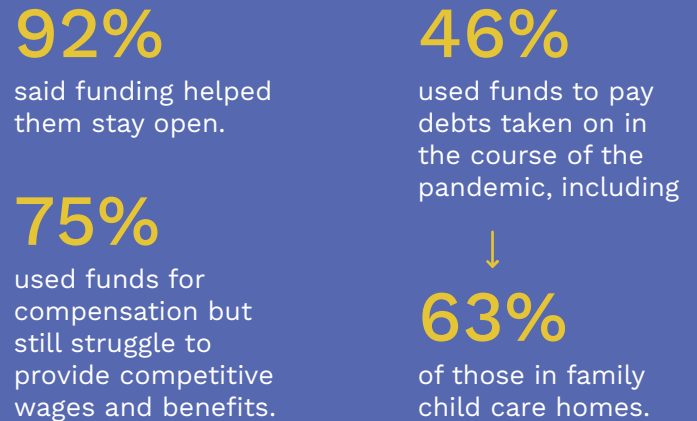
\$10.62 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate



The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In North Carolina, 107,877 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.⁴⁰

Of providers who received stabilization grants:⁴¹



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, Sec. 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) GY2021 CCDF Allocations (Based on Appropriations) | 4 Ibid | 5 OCC CARES Act CCDBG Supplemental Funding Allocations for States and Territories | 6 OCC Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021 Allocations for States and Territories | 7 OCC American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supplemental Stabilization and CCDF Discretionary Funding Allocation Tables for States and Territories | 8 National Institute for Early Education Research - State of Preschool 2021 (NIEER) | 9 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) | 10 U.S. Department of Education (ED) | 11 Ibid | 12 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 13 Office of Family Assistance TANF FY2019 Financial Data | 14 OCC (includes non-federal match amount) | 15 Council for a Strong America | 16 Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health 2019 | 17 Committee for Economic Development (CED) | 18 Rapid-EC Survey, March 2022 | 19 Office of Head Start Performance Indicator Report (PIR) | 20 PIR and U.S. Census Bureau (Census) | 21 PIR | 22 PIR and Census | 23 OCC FY2020 CCDF Preliminary Data Tables | 24 Center for American Progress (CAP) - Early Learning in the U.S., 2021 | 25 NIEER | 26 HRSA | 27 ED | 28 ED | 29 NIEER (includes preschool, Head Start, and Special Education) | 30 Census | 31 Census | 32 Census | 33 CAP defines “child care desert” as any census tract with more than fifty children under age five that contains either no child care providers OR more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots. | 34 CAP | 35 Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care) | 36 CCAoA (for married couple) | 37 NIEER | 38 CCAoA | 39 Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2020 | * 2019 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is \$25,750 per year. | 40 The Century Foundation | 41 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)