Early Childhood Education in Rhode Island

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Rhode Island

State and federal funding enables more than 11,769 children and families in Rhode Island to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Rhode Island

- **$33.8M** • Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$24.6M** • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$3.0M** • CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$125.0M** • CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- **$14.4M** • State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$7.3M** • MIECHV⁹
- **$3.6M** • IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$2.6M** • IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$42.8M** • TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- **$11.6M** • Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

Rhode Island Quick Facts

- **1,546** Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁵
- **12.41%** Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁶
- **819** Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁷
- **8.58%** Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁸
- **1,824** Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁹
- **9.8%** Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁰
- **1,848** Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²¹
- **1,608** Families Served by MIECHV²²
- **2,040** Children Enrolled in State-funded Pre-K²³
- **2,084** Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁴
- **21.27%** 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 Rhode Island

15.3% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁶

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 75.1% in 2019 to 78.6% 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.
Rhode Island Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need

- Population Under Six: 66,160\(^1^0\)
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 16.12%\(^{31}\)
- 70.60% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce\(^{22}\)

Access

- 47% of Rhode Island residents live in a “child care desert”\(^{33}\)
- For Hispanic/Latino families, this percentage is even higher\(^{34}\)

Affordability

- The average price of child care is $11,733 per year\(^{35}\)
- The median household income is $109,110\(^{36}\)

Quality

- Met 10/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards\(^{37}\)

High Price of Care\(^{28}\)

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

Annual Price of Infant Care in Rhode Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>$13,780 per year</td>
<td>$11,700 per year</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>38.4%</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.\(^{39}\)

- Child Care Worker Hourly Rate: $12.01
- Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary: $24,980
- Federal Minimum Wage: $15,080

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Rhode Island, 10,569 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.\(^{40}\)

Of providers who received stabilization grants:\(^{41}\)

- 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 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 (MIECHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, Sec. 901 and C, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.