Early Childhood Education in South Dakota

State and federal funding enables more than 9,144 children and families in South Dakota to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.\(^1\)

**Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in South Dakota**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start and Early Head Start(^2)</td>
<td>$53.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG and Mandatory Funds(^7)</td>
<td>$21.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG State Match(^4)</td>
<td>$2.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES(^3)</td>
<td>$135.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIECHV(^9)</td>
<td>$1.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C(^3)</td>
<td>$3.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Sec. 619(^10)</td>
<td>$2.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF(^11) Early Learning and Care Expenditures(^12)</td>
<td>$0.8M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Dakota Quick Facts**

- 2,845 Children Enrolled in Head Start\(^7\)
- 34.15% Eligible Children Served by Head Start\(^14\)
- 981 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start\(^9\)
- 7.60% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start\(^20\)
- 2,346 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds\(^21\)
- 8.9% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds\(^22\)
- 171 Families Served by MIECHV\(^23\)
- 917 Children Served by IDEA Part C\(^24\)
- 1,884 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619\(^22\)
- 18.18% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE\(^24\)

**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 South Dakota**

- 4.1% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.\(^14\)

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 84.3% in 2019 to 75.5% in 2021.\(^15\)

**Nationwide**\(^16\)

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.

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South Dakota Early Learning and Care Snapshot

- Population Under Six: 72,932
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 18.40%
- 71.54% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access

- 43% of South Dakota residents live in a "child care desert"
- For rural families and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

Affordability

- The average price of child care is $6,225 per year
- The median household income is $92,744

High Price of Care

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

Annual Price of Infant Care in South Dakota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price per Year</th>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$7,426</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$5,491</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$9.99 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$20,770 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

Low Compensation for Early Educators

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In South Dakota, 10,056 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:

- 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

The Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Hourly Rate</th>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Minimum Wage</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Line*</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>