Early Childhood Education in Texas

State and federal funding enables more than 417,895 children and families in Texas to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.1

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Texas

- $676.3M Head Start and Early Head Start2
- $866.5M CCDBG and Mandatory Funds3
- $79.1M CCDBG State Match4
- $5.9B CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES5 | CRRSA6 | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)7
- $1.0B State-Funded Pre-K8
- $19.4M MIECHV9
- $65.6M IDEA Part C10
- $37.4M IDEA Part B, Sec. 61911
- $339.2M TANF12 Early Learning and Care Expenditures13

Texas Quick Facts

- 49,324 Children Enrolled in Head Start14
- 16.07% Eligible Children Served by Head Start15
- 14,998 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start16
- 4.00% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start17
- 97,086 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds18
- 14.00% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds19
- 196,221 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K20
- 3,333 Families Served by MIECHV21
- 27,020 Children Served by IDEA Part C22
- 29,913 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 61923
- 196,221 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K24
- 31.85% 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.14

In Texas

8.8% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.15

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 58.5% in 2019 to 63.9% in 2021.16

Nationwide17

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.
Texas Early Learning
and Care Snapshot

Need
• Population Under Six: 2,385,333
• Under Six Living in Poverty: 21.44%
• 59.22% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access
• 48% of Texas 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 $9,401 per year
• The median household income is $92,562

Quality
• Met 4/10 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 Infant Care in Texas

Center-Based
$10,826 per year
Married Parents: 11.7% of Median Income
Single Parent: 38.0% of Median Income

Home-Based
$9,391 per year
Married Parents: 10.1% of Median Income
Single Parent: 33.0% of Median Income

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 Worker Hourly Rate

$10.15
Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

$21,120

Federal Minimum Wage

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

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.

1 This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, 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 | Office of Child Care (OCC) FY2020 CCPD Allocations Based on Appropriations | 4 Ibid | 5 OCC CARES Act CCDBG Supplemental Funding Allocation for States and Territories | 7 OCC Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021 Allocations for States and Territories | 9 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) | 10 U.S. Department of Education (ED) | Ibid | 12 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 13 Office of Family Assistance TANF FY2019 Financial Data | 14 Council for a Strong America | 16 Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health 2019 | 17 Rapid-EC Survey, March 2022 | 18 Office of Head Start Performance Indicator Report (PIR) | 19 PIR and U.S. Census Bureau (Census) | 20 OCC FY2020 CCPD Preliminary Data Tables | 21 Center for American Progress (CAP) - Early Learning in the U.S.- 2021 | 22 OCC FY2020 CCPD Preliminary Data Tables | 23 Center for American Progress (CAP) - Early Learning in the U.S.- 2021 | 24 NIEER | 25 HRSA | 26 ED | 27 Ibid | 28 Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care) | 29 CCAoA (for married couple) | 30 Ibid | 31 NIEER (includes preschool, Head Start, and Special Education) | 32 Ibid | 33 Ibid | 34 Ibid | 35 NIEER | 36 Ibid | 37 CCPD | 38 Maryland Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2021 | 39 Federal poverty guideline for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is $25,750 per year. | 40 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)