Early Childhood Education in Utah

State and federal funding enables more than 28,203 children and families in Utah to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Utah

- $82.8M  Head Start and Early Head Start²
- $95.0M  CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- $7.5M  CCDBG State Match⁴
- $573.9M  CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- $1.9M  State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- $3.2M  MIECHV⁹
- $8.2M  IDEA Part C¹⁰
- $5.7M  IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- $35.1M  TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³

Utah Quick Facts

- 4,755  Children Enrolled in Head Start²⁸
- 17.19%  Eligible Children Served by Head Start²⁹
- 1,878  Children Enrolled in Early Head Start³⁰
- 7.83%  Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start³¹
- 7,564  Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²
- 9.5%  Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³
- 2,083  Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K³⁴
- 474  Families Served by MIECHV³⁵
- 4,298  Children Served by IDEA Part C³⁶
- 7,151  Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁷
- 12.31%  Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁸

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 Utah

- 6.6% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁵

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 59.9% in 2019 to 54.6% 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.
Utah Early Learning and Care Snapshot

- Population Under Six: 298,752
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 10.92%
- 51.58% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce
- 77% of Utah residents live in a “child care desert”
- For rural families, this percentage is even higher
- The average price of child care is $8,805 per year
- The median household income is $92,495
- Met 3/10 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 Utah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$11,232 per year</td>
<td>$8,400 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$10.47 per hour</td>
<td>$15,080 per year</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.

$10.47 Child Care Worker Hourly Rate

$21,780 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Utah, 17,467 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

92% said funding helped them stay open.

46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including

75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.

63% of those in family child care homes.