Early Childhood Education in Vermont

State and federal funding enables more than 12,046 children and families in Vermont to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Vermont

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Vermont Data</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start and Early Head Start²</td>
<td>746 Children Enrolled in Head Start²⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³</td>
<td>25.36% Eligible Children Served by Head Start³⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG State Match⁴</td>
<td>513 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start⁴⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵</td>
<td>14.79% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start⁴¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CRRSA⁶</td>
<td>1,474 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷</td>
<td>14.0% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Funded Pre-K⁸</td>
<td>6,594 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K³⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIECHV⁹</td>
<td>469 Families Served by MIECHV³⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C¹⁰</td>
<td>889 Children Served by IDEA Part C³⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹</td>
<td>1,361 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF¹²</td>
<td>54.99% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Vermont

5.0% 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 70.6% in 2019 to 66.9% 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.
**Vermont Early Learning and Care Snapshot**

- **Need**
  - Population Under Six: 35,014
  - Under Six Living in Poverty: 13.32%
  - 71.79% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

- **Access**
  - 35% of Vermont 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 $11,266 per year
  - The median household income is $99,985

- **Quality**
  - Met 7/10 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 Vermont**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td>$13,915 per year</td>
<td>$9,428 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>$9,428 per year</td>
<td>$6,320 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.

- **Child Care Workers Hourly Rate**
  - $13.72

- **Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary**
  - $28,540

- **Federal Minimum Wage**
  - $15,080

- **Poverty Line**
  - Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations

**The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding**

In Vermont, 5,492 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.

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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, F, and G, or, 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 Ibid.
6 OCC CARES Act CCDBG Supplemental and Discretionary Funding Allocation Tables for States and Territories.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
10 Ibid.
11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
20 Ibid.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
25 Ibid.
26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
30 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 Ibid.
39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.

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