Early Childhood Education in Virginia

State and federal funding enables more than 63,852 children and families in Virginia to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Virginia

- **$141.7M** Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$178.1M** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$32.9M** CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$1.1B** CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRSSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- **$89.0M** State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$7.7M** MIECHV⁹
- **$16.9M** IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$14.4M** IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$45.2M** TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- **$14.5M** Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

Virginia Quick Facts

- **8,723** Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁵
- **15.65%** Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁶
- **3,134** Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁷
- **5.08%** Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁸
- **12,222** Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁹
- **5.7%** Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁰
- **18,056** Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²¹
- **1,333** Families Served by MIECHV²²
- **9,800** Children Served by IDEA Part C²³
- **10,584** Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁴
- **25,124** 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.¹⁵

In Virginia

7.3% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁶

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 67.8% in 2019 to 66.5% in 2021.¹⁷

Nationwide²⁶

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.
Virginia Early Learning and Care Snapshot

High Price of Care
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in Virginia

Center-Based $13,709 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Median Income</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home-Based $10,597 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Median Income</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>32.2%</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.

$10.96 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$22,800 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

15,080 Federal Minimum Wage

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In Virginia, 117,580 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
- 75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

---

References:
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. 900 and C. 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) CARES Act CCDBG Supplemental Funding Allocations for States and Territories
4. Ibid
5. Ibid
6. Ibid
7. Ibid
9. Health Resources and Services Administration
10. U.S. Department of Education
11. Ibid
12. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
13. Office of Family Assistance - TANF Federal Match
14. OCC includes non-federal match amount
15. Council for a Strong America
16. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health 2019
17. Committee for Economic Development
18. Rapid-EC Survey, March 2022
20. PIR and U.S. Census Bureau (Census)
21. PIR
22. PIR and Census
23. OCC FY2020 CCDF Preliminary Data Tables
24. Center for American Progress - Early Learning in the U.S.: 2021
25. NIEER
26. HRSA
27. ED
28. ED
29. NIEER (includes preschool, Head Start, and Special Education)
30. Census
31. Census
32. Census
33. CAP defines “child care desert” as any census tract with more than fifty children under age five that contains either no child care providers or more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots.
34. Ibid
35. The Century Foundation
36. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)