State and federal funding enables more than 33,559 children and families in West Virginia to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in West Virginia

- **$72.4M** Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$54.4M** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$1.9M** CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$350.5M** CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- **$109.0M** State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$5.9M** MIECHV⁹
- **$3.6M** IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$5.4M** IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$21.1M** TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³

West Virginia Quick Facts

- **5,757** Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁴
- **29.06%** Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁵
- **1,496** Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹⁶
- **7.81%** Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹⁷
- **6,014** Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁸
- **19.0%** Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds¹⁹

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 West Virginia

8.1% 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 62.0% in 2019 to 64.5% 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.
West 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 West Virginia

Center-Based ______________ $8,320 per year

Married Parents 10.2%

Single Parent 40.8%

Home-Based ______________ $7,540 per year

Married Parents 9.3%

Single Parent 36.9%

Low Compensation for Early Educators

Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.38

$9.95 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$20,690 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In West Virginia, 15,251 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.39

Of providers who received stabilization grants:40

92% said funding helped them stay open.

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 (MIYCHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, Sec. 308 and 619, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.