FIRST FIVE YEARS FUND

Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships

Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) is a competitive federal grant program that allows Early Head Start grantees to partner with local child care providers, both in-home and center-based, to improve the quality of care and expand the capacity and benefits of Early Head Start. Through these partnerships, the best of Early Head Start programs are reaching more children in a variety of settings while maximizing federal dollars.

Since 2013, the partnership grants have offered an innovative and efficient model that maximizes funding by joining together the strengths of child care and Early Head Start to increase access to high-quality learning, while also expanding access to essential services such as health and developmental screenings, for our youngest children facing barriers.

● Maximizing Program Strengths

The partnerships' ability to bring together the strengths of Early Head Start and child care are especially beneficial.

Child care centers and family child care providers:

- ● Often offer more flexible and convenient full-day, full-year services for working families.

- ● Have experience providing care that is responsive to the cultural, linguistic, and social needs of families and their local communities.

At a Glance

■ Created:
2013

▌ Who this Program Serves:
- • Supports children from low-income families by partnering Early Head Start grantees with child care providers in a variety of child care settings, including center-based and home-based child care.
- • Serves children from birth to age three from low-income families.

◆ Number of Children Served in 2021[1]:
32,000

● Delivery Method:
The Department of Health and Human Services awards grants to Early Head Start programs who partner with child care providers.

◣ FY 2023 Federal Funding:
$1.005 billion
This includes EHS expansion and partnerships.

1 2021, BPC

With 490 grants to date, EHS-CCP has a proven record of providing quality instruction and comprehensive services to children and families. The partnerships provide:

● Resources for the Early Head Start grantees to help their child care partners meet Head Start Performance Standards and improve the quality of child care.

● Comprehensive wrap-around services, such as developmental screenings related to children's health, nutrition, and other needs.

🐚 Increasing Access to Quality

Currently, Early Head Start reaches only 11% of eligible children from birth through age three. EHS-CCPs allow more children to access Early Head Start-quality care through program coordination that maximizes the reach of public funds.

The partnerships improve the overall quality of care at participating child care centers and family child care homes by:

🐚 Reducing ratios of children to adults, so all children in a partnership classroom benefit from more personalized attention;

🐚 Improving professional development for teachers;

🐚 Adopting a high-quality curriculum;

🐚 Leveraging funds to provide vision, hearing, dental, speech, developmental, and nutritional screenings for all children

EHS-CCP improves the quality of care across communities, benefitting all children in the care of participating providers, not just those receiving subsidies.

In exchange for agreeing to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), child care providers receive access to critical resources including coaching, professional development, materials and curricula, equipment, facilities, and in many cases, higher pay. The median grant amount provided to child care partners was $7,875 per partnership slot. Federal funds also support technical assistance to help Early Head Start grantees implement the partnerships successfully.

■ Continued Need

FFYF supports increasing federal funding to help address the needs of young children from low-income families, and is committed to identifying opportunities that will result in more children accessing high-quality learning opportunities. FFYF supports building upon the investment in Head Start and the expansion of the EHS-CCP initiative.