The Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that allows states to provide child care assistance to low-income working families with children under age 13. The majority of these funds serve children 6 years or younger, with the remainder supporting care for older children during out-of-school time.

Subsidies help remove barriers to affordable, high-quality child care, whether in center- or home-based settings. They give working parents the ability to access quality care and choose the type of care that works best for them. The majority of funds go directly to providing early learning experiences, but states can also use the funding to:

- Recruit and retain a well-qualified, fairly compensated, and effective workforce
- Support continuous quality improvement
- Meet the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours

### CCDBG by the Numbers in Maine

- **77,391** Children Under 6
- **67%** Population Under 6 with All Parents in the Workforce
- **3,312** Children Ages 0-6 Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- **1,226** Providers Accepting CCDBG Subsidies
- **69%** Children Currently Served by CCDBG Who Are Under the Age of 6
- **$25,669,566** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- **$2,370,466** CCDBG State Match
- **$160,296,307** CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)
- **$15,572,618** TANF Transferred to CCDBG

### Income Eligibility

Given CCDBG is a federal block grant, state Lead Agencies have the flexibility to design their own subsidy programs in compliance with established eligibility and quality requirements and may choose to set their own additional requirements.

The Lead Agency in Maine is the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

Families that meet income eligibility and work/job training/education requirements can apply to the Lead Agency for a subsidy. Many families are required to pay a copay, but states may waive those requirements. Families who receive a subsidy may choose any participating child care provider, including center-based care (including faith-based programs), home-based care, and in-home care.
Receiving subsidies results in much lower out-of-pocket costs for families.

In Maine, a family receiving a CCDBG subsidy pays between

- $4 out-of-pocket per month
- $471 out-of-pocket per month

Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $748 in Franklin County per month
- $1,351 in Cumberland County per month

Find more information on child care prices by age and care setting in your state or county here.

Provider Reimbursements

ACF recommends that Lead Agencies set provider reimbursement rates at the 75th percentile of the market rate. This is the price the lowest 75% of child care programs included in the market rate survey reported charging.

However, market rates often do not reflect the actual costs of providing high-quality care as programs must charge what families can afford in order to fill slots. Therefore, there is a significant gap between how much providers are reimbursed and how much it costs to provide care. Find answers to the most frequently asked questions about provider reimbursement rates here.

Provider Reimbursement Rates in Maine

In percentiles of market rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>50th Percentile</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maine reimburses at the federally recommended reimbursement rate. Higher payment rates are critical in supporting providers so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services dedicated funds to the early childhood workforce to ensure safe environments for children and staff.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

CCDBG in COVID-19 Relief

Throughout the pandemic, there was strong bipartisan support for federal relief funding to keep the child care sector afloat. CCDBG was the primary mechanism for providing this relief to child care providers and ensuring access to child care for thousands of working families through CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA. As of December 31, 2022:

- 1,530 child care programs in Maine received American Rescue Plan Stabilization support, impacting up to 47,200 children.

Providers in 100% of Maine counties have received funds, including:

- 805 child care centers
- 730 family child care homes

Most common use of funds:
- Personal protective equipment to ensure safe environments for children and staff.
- Goods and services necessary to operate the program.

American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services dedicated funds to the early childhood workforce to ensure safe environments for children and staff.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

CCDBG in COVID-19 Relief

Throughout the pandemic, there was strong bipartisan support for federal relief funding to keep the child care sector afloat. CCDBG was the primary mechanism for providing this relief to child care providers and ensuring access to child care for thousands of working families through CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA. As of December 31, 2022:

- 1,530 child care programs in Maine received American Rescue Plan Stabilization support, impacting up to 47,200 children.

Providers in 100% of Maine counties have received funds, including:

- 805 child care centers
- 730 family child care homes

Most common use of funds:
- Personal protective equipment to ensure safe environments for children and staff.
- Goods and services necessary to operate the program.

American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services dedicated funds to the early childhood workforce to ensure safe environments for children and staff.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.