

Child Care and Development Block Grant: From Funding to Families

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program funding goes to lead agencies in all 50 states, territories, and tribes to help low-income parents access child care while they work or attend school. Here's how it works.



Every year, Congress appropriates funding to the CCDBG program.



The Department of Health and Human Services distributes the funding as grant awards to states, territories, and tribal entities. These grants come with parameters, but each state has flexibility in how CCDBG funding is used to help low-income working families.



The majority of funds are used to subsidize the cost of child care for families, and at least 12% of funds are used to elevate quality.



Eligible families can apply to the state for a child care subsidy and either:







Send their child to a participating provider who is reimbursed by the state.



Receive a voucher to use with a local participating child care provider.

And when funding was temporarily increased in the past few years, states used it to do such things as raise payment rates for providers, improve health and safety standards, meet the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours, reduce or eliminate co-pays for some families, and reduce waitlists. That additional funding runs out soon.



The Challenge:

Even with combined state and federal funding, CCDBG only reaches **14%** of eligible families.¹



The Path Forward:

If Congress increases CCDBG funding, more child care slots will become available, allowing more parents to go to work or school.