High-quality early care and education (ECE) is proven to dramatically improve a child’s opportunities for a better future while offering parents greater job stability and overall economic security.

The Economic Impact
Access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. However, widespread problems finding and paying for child care adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses $122 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue. In Colorado: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: $2.3B.

Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
11,286 Children Birth Through Age Five
9% Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five
Learn more about CCDBG in Colorado here.

Early Head Start
3,298 Children Enrolled
10% Eligible Children Served

Head Start
7,515 Children Enrolled
21% Eligible Children Served

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
1,714 Families Served
Learn more about MIECHV in Colorado here.

State-Funded Pre-K
20,467 Children Enrolled
16% of three- and four-year-old children attend public ECE

IDEA Part C
6,961 Children Served

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
8,263 Children Served

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)
Through the tax code, the CDCTC helps parents with the cost of work-related child care expenses. Learn more about CDCTC here.
Federal and State ECE Funding in Colorado

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.

- $120M • Head Start and Early Head Start
- $94.5M • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
- $7.7M • MIECHV
- $11.1M • IDEA Part C
- $7.9M • IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
- $99.9M • TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures
- $3.9M • PDG B-5
- $69.4M • State-Funded Pre-K
- $29.2M • CCDBG State Match
- $1.2M • PDG B-5 State Match

Colorado received an additional $626M through COVID-19 relief.

Spotlight: ECE Successes in Colorado

COVID-19 Relief:

Throughout the pandemic, there was strong bipartisan support for federal relief funding to keep the child care sector afloat.

- As a result, 3,475 child care programs in Colorado received support, impacting up to 265,700 children.
- These funds also allowed states to demonstrate what would be possible when equipped with additional resources.

Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5):

PDG B-5 is a competitive federal grant designed to improve states’ early childhood systems. In their 2023 planning grant application, among other uses, Colorado noted that they would use funding to:

- Increase the availability of developmental screenings and referrals in child-serving settings and data integration tasks, as included in the Colorado Shines Brighter B-5 Strategic Plan.
- Design a family child care home compensation pilot, increasing the salaries of family child care providers that have a high percentage of children enrolled receiving a state subsidy.

For full sourcing information, visit here.

*Colorado.gov/governor, Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab | **BUILD