



2023 Child Care and Early Education in Florida



In Florida, federal and state early learning opportunities serve more than 317,213 children and families,¹ or 24% of children birth through age 5.²

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.⁷ In Florida: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: \$6.6B.⁸


Families Lack Access to High-Quality ECE Options in Florida


The high cost and limited supply of quality ECE have created serious challenges for many families.

Unmet Need

 **1,340,556** Children Birth Through Age Five³

 **19%** of Children Birth Through Age Five Living in Poverty⁴

 **65%** of Children Birth Through Age Five With All Available Parents in the Workforce⁵

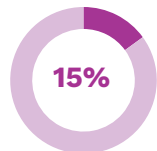
 **24%** of Children Birth Through Age Five Served By Federal- and State-Funded Early Learning Opportunities⁶

Note: 1,2,6: These figures include beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, CCDF, MIECHV, state-funded Pre-K, and IDEA Parts B, Sec. 619 and C. In some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.

There are several early learning programs that provide working families with access to high-quality, affordable ECE opportunities, but currently the demand for care far outweighs the supply, and funding constraints leave many eligible children unserved. Each of these programs has its own eligibility requirements, purpose, and service delivery model. Together they form a mixed-delivery system that supports parental choice and aims to meet children's individual needs.

Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

78,552 Children Birth Through Age Five Served⁹



Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five Served¹⁰

Learn more about CCDBG in Florida [here](#).

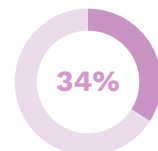
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

2,624 Families Served¹⁵

Learn more about MIECHV in Florida [here](#).

State-Funded Pre-K

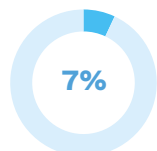
157,451 Children Enrolled¹⁶



of three- and four-year-old children attend public ECE¹⁷

Early Head Start

12,127 Children Enrolled¹¹



Eligible Children Served¹²

IDEA Part C

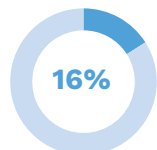
15,732 Children Served¹⁸

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

21,367 Children Served¹⁹

Head Start

29,360 Children Enrolled¹³



Eligible Children Served¹⁴

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](#).

Early Care and Education (ECE) in Florida Snapshot



Accessibility

Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- **38%** of Florida residents live in a “child care desert.”²⁰
- **Hispanics/Latinos and rural families** are disproportionately represented among those who live in a “child care desert.”²¹
- **2%** of children under age 3 receive early intervention services.²²



Affordability

The cost of ECE is too expensive for many families.

- The annual price of center-based infant care is **\$11,440**, and home-based infant care is **\$9,360**.²³
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between **\$104** and **\$243** per month for one child in care.²⁴
- A two-parent household spends **10%** of their income on child care, while HHS defines spending over 7% to be a burden.²⁵



ECE Workforce

Early childhood educators have some of the lowest paying jobs in the United States, earning poverty-level wages.²⁶

- **\$28,480** child care worker annual salary (\$13.69 per hour).²⁷



Program Quality

Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

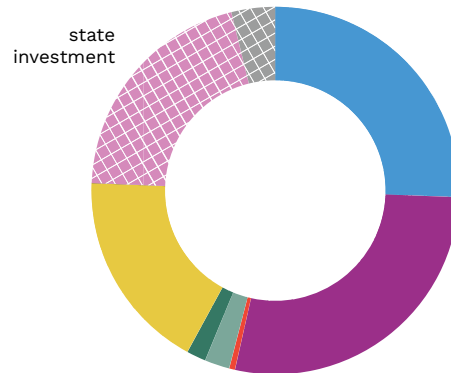
- **Met 2/10** of NIEER’s Quality Standards Benchmarks for state-funded pre-K programs. Only 5 states met all 10 benchmarks in 2022.²⁸
- **24%** of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.²⁹

For full sourcing information, visit [here](#).

*Florida Office of Early Learning | **Florida PDG B-5 Renewal Application

Federal and State ECE Funding in Florida

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.



\$442.5M • Head Start and Early Head Start³⁰

\$484.1M • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³¹

\$8.8M • MIECHV³²

\$38.1M • IDEA Part C³³

\$29.4M • IDEA Part B, Sec. 619³⁴

\$306.4M • TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures³⁵

\$354.9M • State-Funded Pre-K³⁷

\$66.5M • CCDBG State Match³⁸

Florida received an additional \$3.3B through COVID-19 relief.⁴⁰

Spotlight: ECE Successes in Florida

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, **8,610** child care programs in Florida received support, impacting up to **834,200** children.⁴¹
- These funds also allowed states to demonstrate what would be possible when equipped with additional resources. Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce. Providers could opt into the Workforce Initiative to receive a 10% supplemental bonus calculated on the base subgrant amount. By electing this, providers agreed to spend at least 25% of the total subgrant amount on employees above and beyond regular payroll and benefits at the time of application.*

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 2019 renewal grant application, among other uses, Florida noted that they would use funding to:

- **Provide families with information on how to support their children’s development and how to recognize quality in ECE**, including by creating up to 30 engaging PSA/video clips for parents about health, safety, and quality in ECE environments.
- **Enhance the functionality of the data collection process and usability of the longitudinal system to integrate B-5 data.****