# Child Care and Early Education in Nevada



In Nevada, federal and state early learning opportunities serve more than 18,560 children and families,<sup>1</sup> or 8% 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.

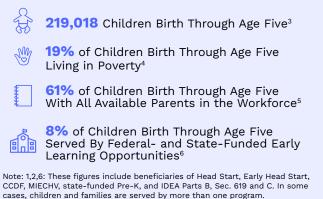
### **The Economic Impact**

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.<sup>7</sup> In Nevada: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: \$1B.<sup>8</sup>

#### Families Lack Access to High-Quality ECE Options in Nevada

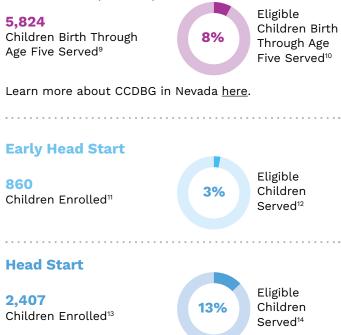
The high cost and limited supply of quality ECE have created serious challenges for many families.

### **Unmet Need**



There are several early learning programs that provide working families with access to high-quality, affordable ECE opportunities, but currently <u>the demand for care far outweighs the supply</u>, <u>and funding constraints leave</u> <u>many eligible children unserved</u>. 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)



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

I	<b>390</b> Families Served¹⁵	Learn more about MIECHV in Nevada <u>here</u> .
0	State-Funded Pre-K 2,385 Children Enrolled <sup>16</sup>	3% of three- and four-year- old children attend public ECE <sup>17</sup>
	IDEA Part C	IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
•	<b>3,181</b> Children Served <sup>18</sup>	<b>3,513</b> Children Served <sup>19</sup>
	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 <u>here</u> .	

# Early Care and Education (ECE) in Nevada Snapshot



### Accessibility

Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- 72% of Nevada residents live in a "child care desert."20
- Rural families and families with low incomes are disproportionately represented among those who live in a "child care desert."<sup>21</sup>
- **3%** of children under age 3 receive early intervention services.<sup>22</sup>

### \$ Affordability

The cost of ECE is too expensive for many families.

- The annual price of center-based infant care is **\$13,383**, and home-based infant care is **\$10,362**.<sup>23</sup>
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between \$127 and \$2,024 per month for one child in care.<sup>24</sup>
- A two-parent household spends **12%** of their income on child care, while HHS defines spending over 7% to be a burden.<sup>25</sup>

### ECE Workforce

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

• **\$28,830** child care worker annual salary (\$13.86 per hour).<sup>27</sup>



#### **Program Quality**

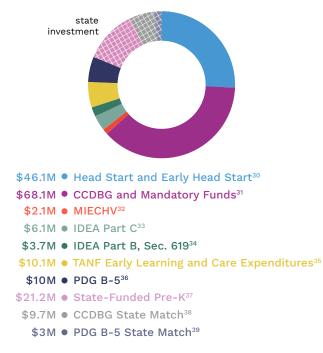
### Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

- Met 7/10 of NIEER's Quality Standards Benchmarks for state-funded pre-K programs. Only 5 states met all 10 benchmarks in 2022.<sup>28</sup>
- 27% of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.<sup>29</sup>

For full sourcing information, visit here.

### Federal and State ECE Funding in Nevada

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.



Nevada received an additional \$487M through COVID-19 relief.  $^{\rm 40}$ 

### Spotlight: ECE Successes in Nevada

#### **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, **685** child care programs in Nevada received support, impacting up to **36,600** children.<sup>41</sup>
- These funds also allowed states to demonstrate what would be possible when equipped with additional resources. Funds have been used to expand child care capacity and add 2,440 new child care seats by 2027 through the Capital Expansion Grants. They have also been used to support the workforce through wage bonuses. The Child Care Staff Stipends Incentive Program provides financial incentives to providers who are active members of The Nevada Registry working in qualified programs.<sup>\*</sup>

### 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 renewal grant application, among other uses, Nevada noted that they would use funding to:

- **Expand access to preschool,** targeting vulnerable populations and providing additional infant/toddler seats for children experiencing homelessness.
- Support Nevada's Quality Improvement grants, which will focus on furnishing materials grants to programs creating or expanding state-funded seats, allowing them to purchase necessary materials.\*\*

\*Nevada Department of Health and Human Services | \*\*BUILD