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 New Hampshire: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: $500M.

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)

3,192
Children Birth Through Age Five Served

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

380
Families Served

Learn more about CCDBG in New Hampshire here.

Learn more about MIECHV in New Hampshire here.

Early Head Start

415
Children Enrolled

IDEA Part C

1,927
Children Served

Head Start

951
Children Enrolled

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

1,936
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.
Early Care and Education (ECE) in New Hampshire Snapshot

Federal and State ECE Funding in New Hampshire

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE. New Hampshire received an additional $104M through COVID-19 relief.

Spotlight: ECE Successes in New Hampshire

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, 590 child care programs in New Hampshire received support, impacting up to 43,100 children.
- 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 through increases in compensation for any staff working in center-based or home-based programs; health, dental, and vision insurance; scholarships; paid sick or family leave; and retirement contributions.*

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, New Hampshire noted that they would use funding to:

- Coordinate professional development across programs serving children from birth through 8 years, promoting continuity across the workforce and improving program quality.
- Support expanded eligibility and funding for tuition assistance for early educators pursuing higher education, funding a minimum of 510 courses at full tuition.**

For full sourcing information, visit here.

*New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services | **BUILD

Accessibility
Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- **46%** of New Hampshire 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."21
- **5%** 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 **$15,340**, and home-based infant care is **$10,140**.23
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between **$0** and **$636** per month for one child in care.24
- A two-parent household spends **9%** 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

- **$27,130** child care worker annual salary ($13.04 per hour).27

Program Quality
Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

- **34%** of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.29