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 Ohio: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: $3.9M.\(^8\)

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five Served(^10)</th>
<th>Eligible Children Served(^2)</th>
<th>Families Served(^15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCDBG</td>
<td>35,406</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIECHV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-funded Pre-K</td>
<td>16,732</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C</td>
<td>11,870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Sec. 619</td>
<td>19,630</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCTC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families Lack Access to High-Quality ECE Options in Ohio

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

Unmet Need

- 824,415 Children Birth Through Age Five\(^3\)
- 21% of Children Birth Through Age Five Living in Poverty\(^4\)
- 66% of Children Birth Through Age Five With All Available Parents in the Workforce\(^6\)
- 14% of Children Birth Through Age Five Served By Federal- and State-Funded Early Learning Opportunities\(^8\)

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.

Learn more about CCDBG in Ohio here.

Learn more about MIECHV in Ohio here.

Learn more about CDCTC here.

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Early Care and Education (ECE) in Ohio Snapshot

Federal and State ECE Funding in Ohio

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE. Ohio received an additional $1.7B through COVID-19 relief.

$383.6M  ●  Head Start and Early Head Start
$342.8M  ●  CCDBG and Mandatory Funds
$7.5M  ●  MIECHV
$23M  ●  IDEA Part C
$19.8M  ●  IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
$420.7M  ●  TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures
$16M  ●  PDG B-5
$66.9M  ●  State-Funded Pre-K
$34.4M  ●  CCDBG State Match
$4.8M  ●  PDG B-5 State Match

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

Accessiblity

Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- **39%** of Ohio residents live in a “child care desert.”
- **Rural families** are disproportionately represented among those who live in a “child care desert.”
- **3%** of children under age 3 receive early intervention services.

Affordability

The cost of ECE is too expensive for many families.

- The annual price of center-based infant care is **$11,438**, and home-based infant care is **$8,919**.
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between **$126** and **$1,392 per month** for one child in care.
- A two-parent household spends **9%** of their income on child care, while HHS defines spending over 7% to be a burden.

ECE Workforce

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

- **$28,180** child care worker annual salary ($13.55 per hour).

Program Quality

Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

- Met 5/10 of NIEER’s Quality Standards Benchmarks for state-funded pre-K programs. Only 5 states met all 10 benchmarks in 2022.
- **34%** of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.

Financials and Funding

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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, **6,265** child care programs in Ohio received support, impacting up to **399,300** 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 the Hero Pay grant, where eligible child care professionals received up to $1,200 in phase one (October 2020-September 2021) and up to $3,000 in phase two (September 2022-February 2023).

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, Ohio noted that they would use funding to:

- **Increase capacity to serve more than 1,200 children in rural areas**, supporting the creation of 85 new classrooms and 15 family child care programs.
- **Add a new payment incentive to programs with staff who have attained the inclusion credential**, in addition to the existing tiered reimbursement, to support programs in serving more children with special needs.

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

*Groundwork Ohio | **BUILD

**Spotlight: ECE Successes in Ohio**

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