

# Child Care and Early Education in Oregon



In Oregon, federal and state early learning opportunities serve more than 41,296 children and families,¹ or 15% 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. In Oregon: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: \$1.4B.8

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

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

#### **Unmet Need**



269,534 Children Birth Through Age Five<sup>3</sup>



**15%** of Children Birth Through Age Five Living in Poverty<sup>4</sup>



**62%** of Children Birth Through Age Five With All Available Parents in the Workforce<sup>5</sup>



15% of Children Birth Through Age Five Served By Federal- and State-Funded Early Learning Opportunities<sup>6</sup>

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)

#### 7.750

Children Birth Through Age Five Served<sup>9</sup>



Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five Served<sup>10</sup>

Learn more about CCDBG in Oregon here.

#### **Early Head Start**

#### 3,325

Children Enrolled<sup>11</sup>



Eligible Children Served<sup>12</sup>

## **Head Start**

## **8,570** Children Enrolled<sup>13</sup>



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

#### 1.079

Families Served<sup>15</sup>

Learn more about MIECHV in Oregon <u>here</u>.

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

#### **State-Funded Pre-K**

#### 10,009

Children Enrolled<sup>16</sup>



of three- and four-yearold children attend public ECE<sup>17</sup>

#### **IDEA Part C**

3,718 6,845

Children Served<sup>18</sup> 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 here.

# Early Care and Education (ECE) in Oregon Snapshot



## **Accessibility**

Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- 60% of Oregon 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."<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 \$15,786, and home-based infant care is \$9,600.<sup>23</sup>
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between \$27 and \$784 per month for one child in care.<sup>24</sup>
- A two-parent household spends 10% 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>

• \$34,610 child care worker annual salary (\$16.64 per hour).<sup>27</sup>



#### **Program Quality**

Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

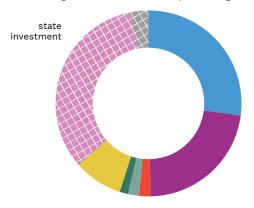
- Met 6.9/10 of NIEER's Quality Standards Benchmarks for state-funded pre-K programs. Only 5 states met all 10 benchmarks in 2022.<sup>28</sup>
- 54% of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.<sup>29</sup>

For full sourcing information, visit here.

\*CSCCE | \*\*ACF | \*\*\*OR PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Application

#### Federal and State ECE Funding in Oregon

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.



\$110.1M • Head Start and Early Head Start<sup>30</sup>

\$91.8M • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds<sup>31</sup>

\$8.2M ● MIECHV32

\$7.5M • IDEA Part C33

\$6.2M ● IDEA Part B, Sec. 619<sup>34</sup>

\$34.6M ● TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures<sup>35</sup>

\$135M • State-Funded Pre-K<sup>37</sup>

\$13.1M ● CCDBG State Match<sup>38</sup>

Oregon received an additional \$547M through COVID-19 relief. $^{40}$ 

## **Spotlight: ECE Successes in Oregon**

#### **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, 3,235 child care programs in Oregon received support, impacting up to 82,400 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 support and stabilize the workforce through increasing staff compensation.
  20% of stabilization grants are required to be used for compensation. Grants range from \$6,800 \$233,680 and additional bonuses are allocated to programs that serve infants/toddlers, families receiving subsidies, offer nontraditional hours, and provide culturally responsive care.\*

## 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, Oregon noted that they would use funding to:

- Expand Baby Promise, which is a key part of Oregon's approach to improving quality in infant-toddler ECE, with a focus on rural, frontier, and tribal areas.\*\*
- Improve the quality of Oregon's early childhood professionals, including fulfilling the requirement of the state's Student Success Act to create "portable and stackable" credentials — leveraging newly-aligned competencies.\*\*\*\*