



2023 Child Care and Early Education in Wyoming



In Wyoming, federal and state early learning opportunities serve more than 7,451 children and families,¹ or 18% 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 Wyoming: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: \$232M.⁸

Families Lack Access to High-Quality ECE Options in Wyoming

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

Unmet Need



41,277 Children Birth Through Age Five³



16% of Children Birth Through Age Five Living in Poverty⁴



61% of Children Birth Through Age Five With All Available Parents in the Workforce⁵



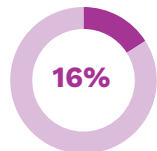
18% of Children Birth Through Age Five Served By Federal- and State-Funded Early Learning Opportunities⁶

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)

1,924 Children Birth Through Age Five Served⁹



Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five Served¹⁰

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

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

243 Families Served¹⁵

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

IDEA Part C

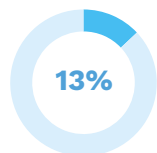
1,152 Children Served¹⁸

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

2,223 Children Served¹⁹

Early Head Start

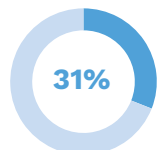
589 Children Enrolled¹¹



Eligible Children Served¹²

Head Start

1,320 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 Wyoming Snapshot



Accessibility

Many families struggle to find the care they need.

- **34%** of Wyoming 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
- **6%** 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 **\$10,637**, and home-based infant care is **\$9,100**.²³
- Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between **\$20** and **\$147** 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

- **\$27,860** child care worker annual salary (\$13.40 per hour).²⁷



Program Quality

Program quality varies substantially across and within states.

- **28%** of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.²⁹

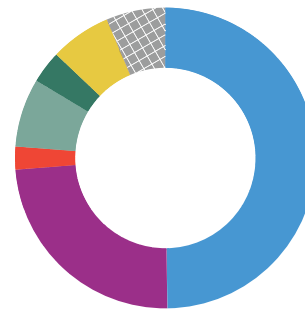
For full sourcing information, visit [here](#).

^{*}Wyoming Department of Family Services | ^{**}BUILD

Federal and State ECE Funding in Wyoming

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.

state investment



\$24.3M • Head Start and Early Head Start³⁰

\$11.7M • CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³¹

\$1.2M • MIECHV³²

\$3.6M • IDEA Part C³³

\$1.7M • IDEA Part B, Sec. 619³⁴

\$3.2M • TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures³⁵

\$3.1M • CCDBG State Match³⁸

Wyoming received an additional \$64M through COVID-19 relief.⁴⁰

Spotlight: ECE Successes in Wyoming

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, **420** child care programs in Wyoming received support, impacting up to **15,100** children.⁴¹
- These funds also allowed states to demonstrate what would be possible when equipped with additional resources. Funds have been used to stabilize and support the workforce, including through staff expansion and retention efforts, such as hiring incentives, bonuses, training and professional development, and benefits packages. A recruitment bonus of \$500 was distributed to new staff and \$750 each quarter for a 6-month grant period (2 payments) for staff working 30+ hours a week.*

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 2020 renewal grant application, among other uses, Wyoming noted that they would use funding to:

- **Improve communication and information sharing with families**, particularly about the importance of early childhood development and availability of early childhood services and resources.
- **Increase the availability of affordable quality ECE**, particularly in rural and frontier areas as well as leveraging and coordinating funding.**