

EARLY HEAD START- CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS (EHS- CCP)

Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) is a competitive federal grant program that allows Early Head Start grantees to partner with local child care providers, both home-based and center-based, to improve the quality of care and expand the capacity and benefits of Early Head Start. Through these partnerships, the best of Early Head Start programs are reaching more children in a variety of settings while maximizing federal dollars.

Since 2013, the partnership grants have offered an innovative and efficient model that maximizes funding by joining together the strengths of child care and Early Head Start to increase access to high-quality early learning, while also expanding access to essential services such as health and developmental screenings, for our youngest children facing barriers.

MAXIMIZING PROGRAM STRENGTHS

The partnerships' ability to bring together the strengths of Early Head Start and child care are especially beneficial. Child care centers and family child care providers:

- Often offer more flexible and convenient full-day, full-year services for working families.
- Have experience providing care that is responsive to the cultural, linguistic, and social needs of families and their local communities.

AT A GLANCE

CREATED:

2013

WHO THIS PROGRAM SERVES:

- Supports children from low-income families by partnering Early Head Start grantees with child care providers who participate in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) in a variety of child care settings, including center-based and home-based child care.
- Serves children from birth to age three from low-income families.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN 2021¹:

32,905

DELIVERY METHOD:

The Department of Health and Human Services awards grants to Early Head Start programs that partner with child care providers who participate in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

FY2024 FEDERAL FUNDING:

Not specified. EHS-CCP falls under Head Start and Early Head Start, which are funded at \$12.27 billion (one appropriation for both programs) for FY2024. This is an increase of \$275 million over FY2023.

EHS-CCP GRANT TIMELINE

2015 | Round 1 Grants

- Congress allocated \$500 million for the first round of grants
- 275 grants to support high-quality EHS services to approximately 32,000 infants and toddlers

2017 | Round 2 Grants

- Congress allocated an additional \$135 million for new grants
- 75 grants, adding approximately 7,000 slots for infants and toddlers

2019 | Round 3 Grants

- Congress allocated a combined \$165 million for new grants
- 78 grants, adding approximately 8,000 slots for infants and toddlers

2021 | Round 4 Grants

- Congress allocated a combined \$165 million for new grants
- 62 grants, adding approximately 5,100 slots for infants and toddlers

With 490 grants to date, EHS-CCP has a proven record of providing quality instruction and comprehensive services to children and families.² The partnerships provide:

- Resources for the Early Head Start grantees to help their child care partners meet Head Start Program Performance Standards and improve the quality of child care.
- Comprehensive wraparound services, such as developmental screenings related to children's health, nutrition, and other needs.

EHS-CCP improves the quality of care across communities, benefitting all children in the care of participating providers, not just those receiving subsidies.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY

Currently, Early Head Start reaches only 11% of eligible children from birth through age three. EHS-CCPs allow more children to access Early Head Start-quality care through program coordination that maximizes the reach of public funds. The partnerships improve the overall quality of care at participating child care centers and family child care homes by:

- Reducing ratios of children to adults, so all children in a partnership classroom benefit from more personalized attention;
- Improving professional development for teachers;
- Adopting a high-quality curriculum;
- Leveraging funds to provide vision, hearing, dental, speech, developmental, and nutritional services for all children.

In exchange for agreeing to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), child care providers receive access to critical resources including coaching, professional development, materials and curricula, equipment, facilities, and in many cases, higher pay. The median grant amount provided to child care partners was \$7,875 per partnership slot.³ Federal funds also support technical assistance to help Early Head Start grantees implement the partnerships successfully.

CONTINUED NEED

FFYF supports increasing federal funding to help address the needs of young children from low-income families, and is committed to identifying opportunities that will result in more children accessing high-quality learning opportunities. FFYF supports building upon the investment in Head Start and the expansion of the EHS-CCP initiative.

References:

1,2,3. Bipartisan Policy Center, "[Policy Recommendations to Grow EHS-CCP in States](#)"

