



EARLY LEARNING FUNDING FOR KEY PROGRAMS – LABOR, HHS, & EDUCATION

FY 2026

Last Updated: July 31, 2025

PROGRAM		CHANGE IN FUNDING		BUDGET REQUESTS			
		FY25 FUNDING LEVELS	FY26 FUNDING LEVELS	FY26 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	FY26 ECE COMMUNITY ASK	FY26 HOUSE LABOR - HHS - EDUCATION BILL	FY26 SENATE LABOR - HHS - EDUCATION BILL
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$8.746 BILLION	—	\$8.746 BILLION	\$12.4 BILLION	—	\$8.831 BILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	+\$0	+\$3.65 BILLION	—	+\$85 MILLION
HEAD START (HS)/EARLY HEAD START (EHS)/EARLY HEAD START-CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS (EHS-CCP)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$12.272 BILLION	—	\$12.272 BILLION	\$14.91 BILLION	—	\$12.357 BILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	+\$0	+\$2.64 BILLION	—	+\$85 MILLION
	TOTAL EHS- CCP AND EXPANSION	NOT SPECIFIED	—	NOT SPECIFIED	NOT SPECIFIED	—	NOT SPECIFIED
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	—	—	—	—	—	—
PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$315 MILLION	—	\$0 (PROGRAM ELIMINATED)	ROBUST FUNDING	—	\$315 MILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	-\$315 MILLION	—	—	+\$0

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		FY25 FUNDING LEVELS	FY26 FUNDING LEVELS	FY26 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	FY26 ECE COMMUNITY ASK	FY26 HOUSE LABOR - HHS - EDUCATION BILL	FY26 SENATE LABOR - HHS - EDUCATION BILL
IDEA GRANTS TO STATES	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$14.214 BILLION	—	\$14.89 BILLION	NOT SPECIFIED	—	\$14.264 BILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	+\$670 MILLION	—	—	+\$50 MILLION
IDEA PRESCHOOL GRANTS (PART B, 619)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$420 MILLION	—	\$0 (PROGRAM ELIMINATED)	\$683.5 MILLION	—	\$420 MILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	-\$420 MILLION	+\$263.5 MILLION	—	+\$0
IDEA GRANTS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (PART C)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$540 MILLION	—	\$540 MILLION	\$974.8 MILLION	—	\$540 MILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	+\$0	+\$434.8 MILLION	—	+\$0
CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL (CCAMPS)	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$75 MILLION	—	\$0 (PROGRAM ELIMINATED)	ROBUST FUNDING	—	\$75 MILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	-\$75 MILLION	—	—	+\$0
NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS INITIATIVE	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$98.89 MILLION	—	\$98.89 MILLION	NOT SPECIFIED	—	\$98.89 MILLION
	FUNDING INCREASE/ DECREASE	CR through 9/30/25	—	+\$0	—	—	+\$0

APPROPRIATIONS BILL REPORT LANGUAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDBG)

- The Committee provides \$8,831,387,000 for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), a formula grant to states that provides financial assistance to families to help pay for child care, and otherwise improve the quality of child care programs.
- Data Reporting.—The committee notes that the fiscal year 2026 CJ included fiscal year 2022 data regarding the number of children and families served by CCDBG. The Committee is concerned by the lag in this data reporting and requests a briefing, no later than 180 days after enactment, on the challenges relative to collecting this data and recommendations for improving its timeliness.
- Native Hawaiian Child Care Programs.—The Committee requests a report within 90 days of enactment of this act providing the rationale of the funding allocation for past three grant cycles of the Native Hawaiian Non-profit Organization Child Care Grant, and a plan to align funding with the Native hHawaiian service population in subsequent awards.

Head Start

- The Committee provides \$12,356,820,000 for Head Start. HeadStart provides grants directly to local organizations to provide comprehensive early childhood education services to children and their families, from before birth to age 5.
- Designation Renewal System [DRS].—The Committee continues to encourage HHS to consider the unique challenges faced by Head Start grantees in remote and frontier areas when reviewing such grantees' compliance with health and dental screening requirements as part of the DRS.
- Facility Improvement Funding and Report.—The Committee continues to strongly encourage ACF to ensure that all Head Start grantees are aware of any funding opportunities, or funding otherwise available, for making capital improvements to their facilities. Further, the Committee continues to encourage ACF to standardize this process so all grantees have equal opportunity to apply and are aware of priorities and eligible uses of such funds. Additionally, the Committee directs the Office of Head Start to issue a report, no later than 180 days of enactment of this act on the state of Head Start facilities including any repair, renovation, rebuilding, and replacement of Head Start facilities that is necessary to provide a safer and welcoming environment for children and staff.
- Freely Associated States.—The Committee includes bill language to establish Head Start programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 (Public Law 118–42)
- Native Hawaiian Programs.—The Committee encourages ACF to collaborate with Native Hawaiian leaders in family-based early childhood learning by sharing targeted information to Native Hawaiian communities, holding a public meeting, and directing them to resources on ACF's website on how to become a Head Start recipient when there are funding opportunities available in Hawaii, and to provide technical assistance to support providers within Native Hawaiian Head Start agencies. ACF is directed to brief the Committee on these efforts no later than 180 days after such a funding opportunity is made public.
- Regional Office Closures.—The Committee is aware of the closure of five Head Start regional offices across the country, which could impact Head Start centers previously served by those offices. The Committee requests a report within 60 days of enactment detailing the justification for the closures, the process for reassigning grantees to new regional offices and the notice provided to grantees, and an analysis of the impact of the closures on agency operations.

- **Timely Notice of Awards.**—The Committee recognizes the importance of the timely release of funding award notices for Head Start grantees. The Committee includes new bill language directing the Office of Head Start [OHS] to award funding for continuation awards and new award cycles that continue previous activities under existing awards no later than the day following the expiration of the period of performance. For grants in the Designated Renewal System, OHS may extend the current award in lieu of providing a new award for the purposes of finalizing negotiations with the grantee.
- **Tribal Colleges and Universities-Head Start Partnership Program.**—The Committee includes \$8,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities-Head Start Partnership Program.

Preschool Development Grants

- The Committee provides \$315,000,000 for Preschool Development Grants. This program, as authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95), provides competitive grants to States to improve the coordination, collaboration, and quality of existing early childhood programs; improve the transition from early childhood programs to kindergarten; implement evidence-based practices; improve professional development for early childhood providers; and generally improve educational opportunities for children. The Committee encourages ACF to continue to support States that choose to use a portion of their renewal grant funding to award sub-grants to programs in a mixed delivery system across the State, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged children prior to entering kindergarten, or to improve the quality of local programs through the enhancement of early childhood systems.
- The Committee requests a report, no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, on the efforts undertaken by grant recipients in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to strengthen early care and education systems in their respective States. The report should also include a table, detailing the number of planning and renewal grants by State for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. For renewal grants, the table should include which year each grantee falls within the 3-year cycle.
- **Dual Language Learners [DLL].**—The Committee encourages ACF to support States that choose to develop high-quality and culturally competent dual immersion preschool programs through Preschool Development Grants. The Committee encourages a focus on training, professional development, and postsecondary education for all caregivers, teachers, and directors to meet the needs of DLLs through dual language acquisition, engaging culturally and linguistically diverse families, home language support, and culturally and linguistically appropriate assessment.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS)

- The Committee provides \$75,000,000 for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program. This program provides competitive grants to institutions of higher education to establish or support campus-based child care programs, to help support needs and participation of low-income parents in post-secondary education.
- The Committee directs the Department to prioritize grants to eligible entities serving a significant percentage of Pell-eligible or other low-income students. The Committee urges the Department to prioritize grants to eligible entities that propose flexible child care arrangements (such as evening, weekend, and drop-in child care) in any future competition. The Committee further urges the Department to prioritize grantees who will conduct direct outreach to parenting students regarding State and Federal public benefits, the Child Tax Credit, and education tax benefits for which the student parent may be eligible. The Committee also urges the Department to require new grantees to collect data on the total number of parenting students enrolled at the institution and the number of parenting students served by CCAMPIS grant funds. Additionally, the Committee strongly encourages the Department to assist grantees in leveraging other funding opportunities to help parenting students afford child care, by providing technical assistance and other support to grantees.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Grants to States

- The Committee provides \$14,263,704,000 for IDEA part B Grants to States. This program provides formula grants to assist States, outlying areas, and other entities in meeting the costs of providing special education and related services for children with disabilities. States pass along most of these funds to LEAs, but may reserve some for program monitoring, enforcement, technical assistance, and other activities. The appropriation for this program primarily supports activities associated with the 2026–2027 academic year. Of the funds available for this program, \$4,980,321,000 will become available on July 1, 2026, and \$9,283,383,000 will become available in October 1, 2026. These funds will remain available for obligation through September 30, 2027.

Preschool Grants

- The Committee provides \$420,000,000 for Preschool Grants. This program provides formula grants to States to assist them in making available special education and related services for children with disabilities aged 3 through 5. States distribute the bulk of the funds to LEAs. States must serve all eligible children with disabilities aged 3 through 5 and have an approved application under the IDEA.

Grants for Infants and Families

- The Committee provides \$540,000,000 for the Grants for Infants and Families program under part C of the IDEA. Part C of IDEA authorizes formula grants to States, outlying areas, and other entities to implement State-wide systems for providing early intervention services to all children with disabilities, ages 2 and younger, and their families. IDEA also gives States the option of extending eligibility for part C services to children 3 and older if they were previously served under part C and will continue to be served until entrance to kindergarten.