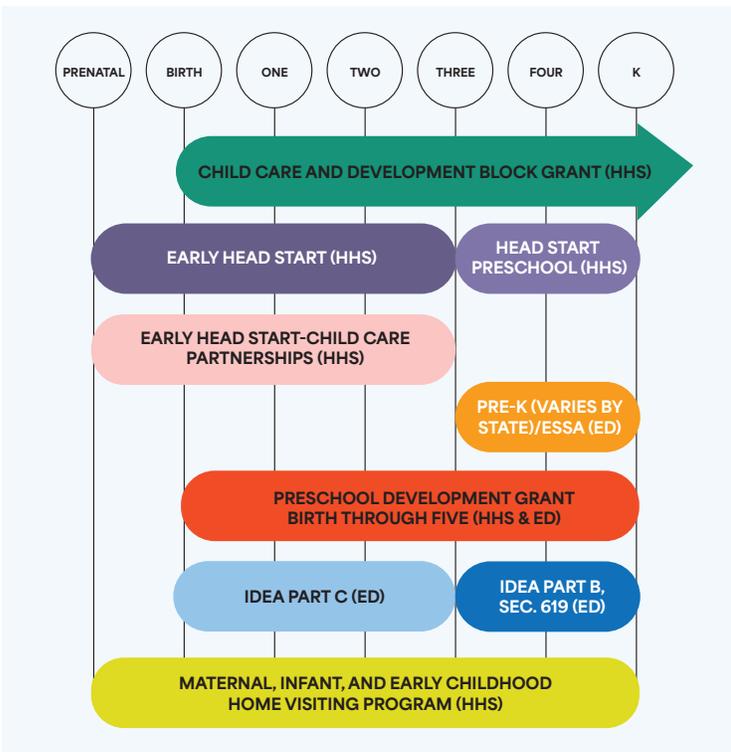


Each year, millions of children from birth through age five benefit from an array of federal early learning and care programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education (ED). While there are different early learning settings and certain programs have distinct requirements, together they form a mixed-delivery system that strives to support the care, education, and healthy development of children, prioritizing children from low-income families, parental choice, and children’s individual needs.

Federal funding accounts for the majority of overall investment in child care and early learning. Each year, approximately \$31.26 billion in federal funds support these programs for children from birth through age five, compared with about \$13.39 billion in state spending on similar programs.¹

FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS BY AGES SERVED



Scan for click for the most up-to-date funding history

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG)

What it Does

CCDBG funds states, territories, and tribal entities to develop and implement a subsidy program for low-income families with children under age 13 (the majority of children served are five and under; subsidies can be used for care of children ages five to 13 while they are not in school) and improve the quality of child care available.

Who It Serves

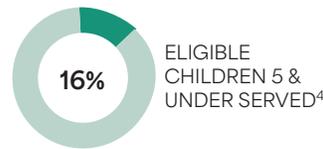
Children from families with income below 85% of the state median income (85% of the U.S. median is \$89,930² for a family of four); additional state limits allowed.

1,049,770

CHILDREN 5 & UNDER SERVED NATIONWIDE³

\$12,381,387,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
\$8,831,387,000 DISCRETIONARY
\$3,550,000,000 MANDATORY
(+\$85 million above FY2025)



HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

What It Does

Public and private organizations and tribal entities receive grants to deliver comprehensive early learning, health, nutrition, and family support services to eligible children birth through age five and pregnant women.

Who It Serves

Children from families with income below federal poverty guidelines (under \$33,000 for a family of four⁵); who are receiving TANF, SNAP, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or who are experiencing homelessness; children in foster care; Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to three, while Head Start serves children ages three through five.

\$12,356,820,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$85 million above FY2025)

HEAD START PRESCHOOL

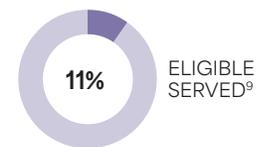
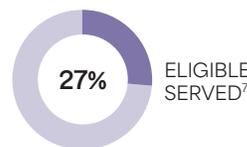
519,110

CHILDREN SERVED NATIONWIDE⁶

EARLY HEAD START

227,607

CHILDREN SERVED NATIONWIDE⁸



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

What It Does

Early Head Start grantees partner with child care providers—both home-and center-based—who serve children receiving child care subsidies to help them meet Head Start standards and provide comprehensive wrap-around services.

231 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024
TO SERVE **26,670** CHILDREN¹⁰

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)

What It Does

PDG B-5 is a competitive grant program to help states strengthen early childhood systems for children from birth through age five. With one-year planning grants, states conduct needs assessments and strategic planning with the goals of: maximizing parental choice, improving transitions within early care and learning programs and with elementary schools, and improving overall quality of programs. Three-year renewal grants then help states implement strategic plans and address priorities identified in their needs assessments. In 2025, ACF announced a new one-year Systems-Building Grant opportunity

Who It Serves

Grants are available to all states, territories, and commonwealths to support early childhood services for children from birth through age five. To date, 49 of the 50 states, Washington, DC, and four territories have participated.

Since 2018, **73 PLANNING GRANTS, 60 RENEWAL GRANTS, and 23 SYSTEMS-BUILDING GRANTS** have been awarded.¹¹

\$315,000,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$0 above FY2025)

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

What It Does

IDEA Part C provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities ages birth to three years; IDEA Part B, Sec. 619 provides special education and related services to children ages three through five.

Who It Serves

Children with a delay or disability.

IDEA PART C

460,321

CHILDREN SERVED NATIONWIDE¹²

\$540,000,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$0 above FY2025)

IDEA PART B, SEC. 619

527,163

CHILDREN SERVED NATIONWIDE¹³

\$420,000,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$0 above FY2025)

MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING (MIECHV)

What It Does

MIECHV funds states, territories, and tribal entities to develop and implement evidence-based, voluntary home visiting services to families considered “at-risk”; home visitors meet with parents one-on-one from pregnancy through their child’s kindergarten entry to help lay the foundation for the health, education, development, and economic self-sufficiency of the entire family.

Who It Serves

Children from families living in “at-risk” communities as identified in a statewide needs assessment.

\$650,000,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$50 million above FY2025)

72,615

CHILDREN SERVED
NATIONWIDE¹⁴

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

What It Does

TANF awards block grants to states to design and operate programs that help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency, including child care, state preschool, and other early education programs.

Who It Serves

Financially needy families with children; exact financial eligibility rules and benefit amounts are determined by states, which have discretion over program requirements.

\$1,578,593,252

FY 2024 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES
FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION¹⁵

\$1,387,090,999

FY 2024 TOTAL TRANSFER
TO CCDBG¹⁵

CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL (CCAMPIS)

What It Does

CCAMPIS provides campus-based child care programs to college students, including before- and after-school services.

Who It Serves

Low-income parents who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

11,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF
PARENTS SERVED¹⁶

\$75,000,000

FY 2026 FUNDING
(+\$0 above FY2025)



Scan or click the QR code for full references and links. For more information contact FFYF at mail@ffyf.org.