

Families across the country need affordable child care options that support children's healthy development and allow parents to work. Child care is essential, but it can be difficult for families to find and afford, particularly at a time when the cost of raising a child is estimated at more than \$300,000 over 18 years. The **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** is an important part of the solution. CCDBG helps more than a million lower-income families afford the child care they need.

Federally funded and administered by the states, this program puts parents in the driver's seat, allowing them to choose quality child care that best fits the needs of their family, including child care centers, home-based care, or faith-based programs. And it also gives states flexibility, so they can shape child care assistance based on local needs and priorities. First Five Years Fund has released the CCDBG state-specific fact sheets which highlight how each state implements CCDBG to support families and strengthen child care systems, offering lawmakers, advocates, and researchers a clear snapshot of current policies.


Each fact sheet highlights:


- What it means for a family's bottom line
- Who benefits from the program
- The number of families and providers participating in the program
- How many more families we could be supporting
- How the federal program fosters state flexibility

Most importantly, the fact sheets showcase that across all states, CCDBG has a long history of bipartisan support and a proven track record in strengthening families, fostering child development, and fueling the economy.

Key National Takeaways *Based on national averages

 More than **1 million children ages 5 and under** are served by CCDBG.


 On average, families with a CCDBG subsidy **save \$1,013 a month** on their child care bills. That's **\$12,156 a year** — meaningful relief for working families.

 Only **17% of eligible children** receive CCDBG assistance under current funding levels.


 **238,564** — Number of child care providers in the US who accept CCDBG subsidies.


 **82% of CCDBG is federally funded**; 18% of the program is state funded.


Key State Takeaways — Variation Across States


 In **22 states**, families can save more than **\$1,000/month** (on average) using CCDBG subsidies.

 In **12 states**, a family's maximum CCDBG co-pay for child care is **less than \$100 a month**.

 Due to limited federal funding, **39 states** are serving less than **20%** of the children who qualify for CCDBG subsidies.

 **19 states** meet the federal recommendation of 85% of State Median Income (SMI) for CCDBG eligibility, while **31 states** adopt more restrictive thresholds by setting eligibility below that benchmark.

 **8 states plus Washington D.C.** use a "cost estimation model" for provider payment rates, which can better reflect the actual cost of care.

 **Find Your State**
CCDBG state-specific fact sheets available at ffyf.org

THE PATH FORWARD

FY27 Appropriations. Each year, Congress determines funding levels for federal programs that support the care and education of young children. In a Washington that feels more polarized than ever, these numbers show that child care is a rare issue that unites lawmakers across the aisle — and that support for these programs is growing stronger and broader than ever before. These investments are essential for working families, early educators, and the healthy development of children ages five and under. For FY2027, Congress should protect, prioritize, and expand these investments in programs including the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Legislation. The bipartisan Child Care Modernization Act would enable states to better meet the growing child care needs of working families, providers, and employers. The bill strengthens child care by working with states to design a more accurate way of determining provider reimbursement rates. It also provides additional technical assistance to in-home and rural child care providers. And it would continue to ensure parents can choose the type of child care setting that works best for them, including licensed child care centers, home-based providers, and faith-based programs.

STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT: CAPITOL HILL

Backed by a long history of bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, the program reflects a straightforward idea: parents, especially those with lower incomes, should be able to work or pursue education knowing their children are in a safe, nurturing environment that sets them up for success.

For FY27, CCDBG saw the highest level of backing ever from both Democrats and Republicans:

Republican CCDBG letter Led by Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT): Had the highest number of signatories calling for robust funding ever (40).

Democratic CCDBG letter Led by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): Had 156 signers — the highest level of Democratic support ever.

LEARN MORE

- Funding CCDBG for Fiscal Year 2027: [Funding proposals](#) (Child Care Community, White House, Appropriators)
- On The Hill: [Dear Colleague letters](#)
- Modernizing CCDBG — [The First Five Things to Know](#): Child Care Modernization Act
- [Cost Estimation Models](#) Increasing Stability
- [Enrollment & Attendance](#) Payment Models

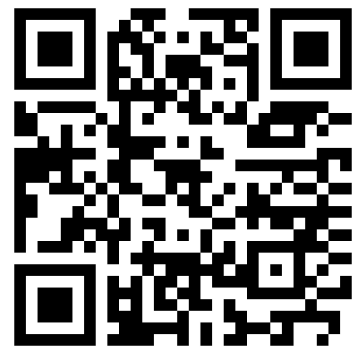
STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT: VOTERS

CCDBG also has strong bipartisan support with the public. In a 2026 nationwide poll, voters across the political spectrum strongly support federal funding for child care and early learning. Nearly three out of four voters (74%) say federal funding for child care and early learning is a good use of tax dollars, including:

53% of Republicans

77% of Independents

93% of Democrats



Find Your State — CCDBG State Fact Sheets

ffyf.org/ccdbg-state-fact-sheets

About First Five Years Fund

The first five years last forever. At [First Five Years Fund](#), we work to protect, prioritize, and build bipartisan support for quality child care and early learning programs at the federal level. Reliable, affordable, and high-quality early learning and child care can be transformative, not only enhancing a child's prospects for a brighter future but also bolstering working parents and fostering economic stability nationwide. Join us at www.ffyf.org