Investing in high-quality early childhood education and educators produces positive outcomes for our children, families, and the economic future of our country.

**GOAL: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING**

- Number of children birth through age 8: 346,271
- Percentage of children 0–5 who live in families with income below the federal poverty line: 24%
- Percentage of children with all available parents in the workforce: 64%

**HOW MUCH ARE PARENTS PAYING ANNUALLY FOR CHILD CARE?**

- INFANT: $5,995
- 4 YEAR OLD: $4,995

**WHERE ARE CHILDREN RECEIVING THEIR EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES?**

- # of children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs: 13,922
- # of children in state funded PreK programs: 20,285
- # of NAEYC accredited early learning programs: 15
- # of children receiving child care assistance per month, on average: 6,500
- % of eligible children receiving child care assistance per month, on average: 5.6%
- # of children served in NAEYC accredited early learning programs: 1,019

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GOAL: ADVANCING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSION

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE PROVIDED FOR THE ECE WORKFORCE?

31
# of institutions of higher education with ECE programs (1)

6
# of IHEs with NAEYC accredited and/or recognized programs (2)

2,220
# of licensed early childhood education settings (3)

DOES THE STATE PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN EARNING CREDENTIALS AND HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES?

HOW MUCH ARE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS COMPENSATED?

$9.32/HR (4)
Child Care Workers

$27.29/HR (5)
Elementary School Teachers

Federal minimum wage $7.25/HR (6)

53%
OF THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE RECEIVES PUBLIC BENEFITS (7)

WHAT KIND OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT SUPPORTS ACCESS TO CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING?

HEAD START (8)
$90.1M

CCDBG (9)
$81.1M

Preschool Development Grants (11)
$3.5M

Programs including IDEA, CACFP, CHIP, SNAP, and Medicaid, as well as tax credits such as the Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, also provide critical investments to support the well-being of young children and their families.

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