

State of Play



Protect. Grow. Position.

Protect

Protect federal programs *and* support for early care and education programs, including tax credits, to drive quality improvements and eliminate barriers to access across the birth-through-five continuum.

Grow

Grow the number of decision makers and diversify the audience of committed partners who champion federal support for birth-five programs and who seize opportunities to support children and families.

Position

Position child care broadly as a political priority. Enable early care and education to stay resilient among political chaos, remaining strong and relevant for future progress.



Priority Programs

Child Care and Development Block Grant

The largest source of federal funding for child care, this program assists low-income working families in finding and affording quality care for young children.

Early Head Start and Head Start

This program delivers comprehensive early learning, health, nutrition, and family support services for children families living below the federal poverty line.

Preschool Development Grants B-5

These grants help states strengthen, align, and expand their early learning systems, improving quality and helping programs run more efficiently and effectively.

Fraud and Accountability

Happening Now

- “Defend the spend” rules
- Fraud Commission led by Vice President Vance

Increased Attention

- Since the beginning of 2026, the House and Senate have held **11 hearings and markups** related to fraud in federal funding for child care programs

Legislation

- House Education and Workforce – Passed a **fraud package**
- Senate bill – **two bills to keep an eye on**

Oversight Messages

Oversight and accountability are necessary.

Fraud is unacceptable, especially as it can deprive eligible families from accessing the care their children need.

Child care is essential.

Ensuring working families with young children can find and afford child care strengthens families, supports labor force participation, and fuels our economy.

Responses should be swift and proportional.

Oversight and accountability are necessary. Any responses must ensure that eligible families, children, and providers continue to receive the support they need.

Fraud: Bad

**Child Care:
Good**

FY27 Appropriations

	FY26 Funding	FY27 WH Proposal	Child Care Community Ask	House Bill (June '26 markup)	Senate Bill (Time TBD)
CCDBG	\$8.83 billion <i>(+\$85 million)</i>	\$8.83 billion <i>(level)</i>	\$12.4 billion <i>(+\$3.65 billion)</i>	8.83 Billion (+10 Million)	
Head Start	\$12.36 billion <i>(+\$85 million)</i>	\$12.36 billion <i>(level)</i>	\$14.27 billion <i>(+\$1.91 billion)</i>	12.36 Billion (+10 Million)	
PDG B-5	\$315 million	\$0	\$315 million <i>(level)</i>	\$0	
IDEA Part C Early Intervention	\$540 million	\$590 million <i>(+\$50 million)</i>	\$932 million <i>(+\$392 million)</i>	\$540 million	
IDEA Part B Sec. 619 Preschool Spec. Ed.	\$420 million	\$0	\$503 million <i>(+\$83 million)</i>	\$420 Million	
CCAMPIS	\$75 million	\$0	\$75 million <i>(level)</i>	\$75 Million	

FY27 Appropriations

MEMBER SUPPORT – Dear Colleague Letters

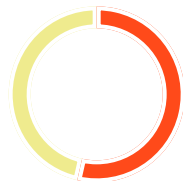
- CCDBG = **Highest level of backing** ever from both Dems and GOPs
- Head Start = **Highest-ever** from Dems, and **highest** from GOPs in 5 years

VOTER SUPPORT – January Poll

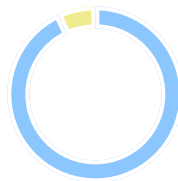
Federal funding for child care/early learning is **a good use of tax dollars**.



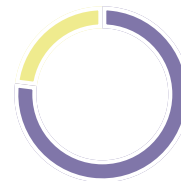
74%
All Voters



53%
GOP



93%
DEM



77%
IND

Key Dates

June 5
Potential markup
from House
Appropriators

TBD
Markup from
Senate
Appropriators

September 30
End of the Fiscal
Year

Administration: Rules and Regulations

FINAL RULE

Child Care and Development Fund Mandates

Makes Biden-Era Requirements Optional for States, Including:

- Capping CCDBG copays
- Paying providers prospectively
- Paying providers based on enrollment rather than attendance
- Providing some direct services through grants or contracts

NPRM

Head Start Wage and Benefit Requirements

Rolls Back Biden-Era Requirements, Including:

- Paying Head Start staff wages comparable to preschool teachers
- Providing salaries sufficient to cover basic living costs
- Providing health insurance and paid leave benefits

Other Announcements

More NPRMs to Come

Legislative Momentum

Child Care Modernization Act

- **Bipartisan**; reaffirms strong bipartisan support for CCDBG
- Contains **policies that support providers**, including supply grants, shift to cost estimation models, rural support

Multiple Bipartisan Bills Introduced

- **206 bills** in this Congress related to child care + early learning. **75 of these** are bipartisan

Passed in the House

- **SEED Act**: Allows **pre-K and early childhood educators** to take the same tax deduction for out-of-pocket supplies as K-12 educators
- **Expanding Child Care in Rural America Act**: Improves the availability and quality of child care in agricultural and rural communities.

Questions and Thoughts

