



Bipartisan Policy Center

TANF and Child Care in 2017

District of Columbia

Child care and welfare reform have long been linked by legislation. The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) that exists today evolved from the welfare system that existed prior to 1996 and consists of both funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).ⁱ As part of the CCDF, states also receive:

- **Guaranteed mandatory funds** – This portion of mandatory funds are given to a state based on the child care funding received prior to 1996. It is a set amount and does not increase with inflation.
- **Federal matching funds** – These are the remaining mandatory funds, distributed based on the state’s share of children under age 13. To qualify for federal matching funds, the states must spend at least the amount equal to their state funds spent prior to 1996. This is called a maintenance of effort (MOE). To access all federal matching funds, states must also match the federal share at a rate set by HHS.

Congress gave the states two other options for using TANF funds for child care. They can transfer up to 30 percent of their TANF funds to CCDF and/or provide child care support directly from state programs managing TANF cash assistance funds.

The chart below shows federal and state funds spent by the District of Columbia between 10/1/16 and 9/30/17.

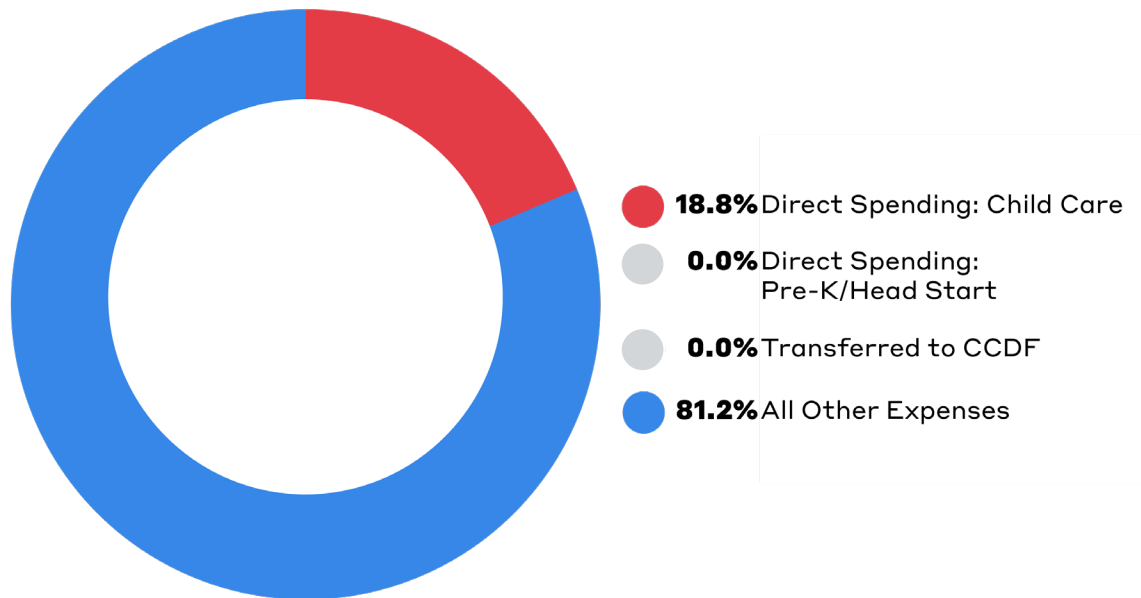
Summary of Federal and State Child Care Funds, FY2017

| Category | Federal Expenditures | State Expenditures | Total by Category |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CCDF Funding Streamsⁱⁱ | | | |
| CCDF Mandatory | \$4,566,974 | N/A | \$4,566,974 |
| CCDF Matching | \$2,965,824 | \$1,271,067 | \$4,236,891 |
| CCDBG Discretionary | \$1,537,506 | N/A | \$1,537,506 |
| State MOE | N/A | \$4,566,974 | \$4,566,974 |
| Total, CCDF Funds | \$9,070,304 | \$5,838,041 | \$14,908,345 |
| TANF Fundsⁱⁱⁱ | | | |
| TANF Transferred to CCDF | \$0 | N/A | \$0 |
| TANF Spent Directly on Child Care | \$36,947,695 | \$22,584,565 | \$59,532,260 |
| TANF Spent Directly on Pre-K/Head Start | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total, TANF Funds | \$36,947,695 | \$22,584,565 | \$59,532,260 |

Note: Discretionary total was calculated by subtracting CCDF transfer from total discretionary. State expenditures within TANF come from state MOE funds.

In FY17, the District of Columbia spent 19 percent of its combined state and federal TANF funds on child care activities. All of that amount was spent directly on child care. The District of Columbia did not directly spend any TANF funds on Pre-K and Head Start or transfer any TANF funds to CCDF.

Distribution of TANF Funding by Category in FY17, DC^{iv}



This report uses the TANF definitions of early care and education which are as follows:

- Child Care (Assistance and Non-Assistance): child care expenditures for families that need child care to work, participate in work activities (such as job search, community service, education, or training), or for respite purposes. Includes child care provided to families who receive child care during a temporary period of unemployment. Does not include funds transferred to the CCDF or the SSBG programs.
- Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start: pre-kindergarten or kindergarten education programs (allowable if they do not meet the definition of a “general state expense”), expansion of Head Start programs, or other school readiness programs.

Endnotes

i The term “Child Care and Development Fund” is not established by statute, rather the term was coined in regulation by HHS. Funds that are added to discretionary CCDBG funds include state “maintenance of effort” and matching funds, and mandatory funds authorized under Section 418 of the Social Security Act.

ii Office of Child Care. “CCDF Expenditures Overview for FY2017 as of 9/30/2017” May 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/ccdf-expenditures-for-fy-2017-as-of-9-30-2017>

iii Office of Family Assistance. “TANF Financial Data – FY 2017” September 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2017>

iv Ibid

