Creating a Coordinated, Integrated Early Care and Education System:
State Early Childhood Administration

In 2018, the Bipartisan Policy Center examined how states oversee federal and state funding dedicated to early childhood education, or ECE, programs. Now in 2021, we revisit each state system to understand enacted improvements and emerging challenges in state governance.

As the country adjusts to a new reality of work and home life amid the pandemic, American families are faced with the challenge of finding and affording quality child care, now more than ever. Early learning operates within a fragile business model, in which services cost more than most families can afford to pay. For this reason, states must administer funding with efficiency and effectiveness to ensure families are able to access programs and to maximize the reach of federal and state investments.

States are now responsible to distributing recent COVID-19 relief funding for child care—allocated through three successive relief packages by Congress in 2020—in addition to established funding streams that support multiple early childhood programs. The relief packages are intended to stabilize the fragile system that challenged access to affordable, reliable care. State governments are tasked with coordinating and combining the many different ECE funding streams allocated to them.

For all but one federal program, governors have wide discretion with regard to the administration and coordination of early childhood funding. The Bipartisan Policy Center set out to re-examine the issues of state governance, coordination, and integration by reviewing how states are meeting requirements set by federal statutes and agencies, as well as how states are capitalizing on the opportunity to create efficiency through their governance structures.

With this in mind, BPC is making recommendations at the federal and state level with an eye towards further reducing duplication and improving results for families. These recommendations are summarized in the full report. The following summarizes the findings for Florida.

More state data, including funding levels and demographic information, can be found at [https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/national-child-care/](https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/national-child-care/).
Early Childhood: 50 State Report

Flow of Federal Early Childhood Funds: Florida

Florida Office of the Governor

Department of Health and Human Services
- Office of Head Start
- Office of Child Care
  - CCDF
- Office of Family Assistance
  - TANF

Department of Agriculture
- Food & Nutrition Service
  - CACFP

Department of Education
- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
  - Part B, Section 619
  - Part C
- Office of Postsecondary Education
  - CCAMPIS

Division of Early Learning - Child Care Subsidy and Quality Improvement
- CCDF
- Head Start Collaboration Office
- SAC

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
The QRIS operates through state-wide mandatory implementation for those receiving subsidies, but voluntary for all else. This includes program standards, supports to improve quality, tiered reimbursement, quality assurance and monitoring, and outreach and consumer education.

Sub-grant awards to local early learning coalitions for contracting with early learning programs

Early Childhood-Child Care Partnership
- Grants to local organizations

To Institutions of Higher Education in the State

Local Institutions

Office of Child Care Regulations - Child Care Licensing
- CCDF
Temporary Cash Assistance
- TANF

State Advisory Council (SAC)
The Florida State Advisory Council serves as an advisory body to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, leading the development of early childhood education, ensuring statewide coordination and collaboration amongst early childhood education programs, and services in the state.

Office of Family Assistance - TANF

Local Head Start Programs

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership
- Grants to local organizations

Office of Children and Families
- Office of Child Care Regulation - Child Care Licensing
- CCDF
- Temporary Cash Assistance - TANF
BPC Reviewed

BPC reviewed the following federally-funded programs to assess the efficiency and integration of Florida’s early care and education system.

- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Head Start
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
- Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (IDEA Part C)
- Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)
- Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (IDEA Part B, Section 619)
- Promise Neighborhoods
- Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP)
- Race to the Top, Early Learning Challenge

### Number of Children Under Age 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>FY 2019 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2020 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2021 Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 3</td>
<td>633,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4 YEARS OLD</td>
<td>458,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 YEARS OLD</td>
<td>227,563</td>
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### Percentage of Children in Poverty

17.8%