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 Illinois.

More state data, including funding levels and demographic information, can be found at https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/national-child-care/.
Flow of Federal Early Childhood Funds: Illinois

KEY:
- Funding mandated for State Departments of Education
- Funding provided directly to local organizations
- Partnership with funding provided by state department or agency

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
- Office of Postsecondary Education - CCAMPIS

Office of the Governor
- Illinois Early Learning Council - SAC

Office of the Governor - Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
- Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
  - Illinois QRIS, ExceleRate has five levels with higher levels indicating higher levels of quality. The QRIS is statewide and participation is voluntary.

Office of the Governor - Division of Early Childhood - Child Care Licensing
- CCDF

Office of the Governor - Division of Family and Community Services
- TANF

Office of the Governor - Division of Nutrition and Wellness - CACFP

Office of the Governor - Division of Early Childhood
- Part B, Section 619
- Part C

Office of the Governor - Office of Postsecondary Education
- CCAMPIS

Office of the Governor - State Board of Education
- Division of Nutrition and Wellness - CACFP
- Division of Early Childhood - Part B, Section 619 - State Pre-K

State Advisory Council (SAC)
The Early Learning Council (ELC) is a public-private partnership which strengthens, coordinates, and expands programs and services for children birth to five throughout Illinois. Members include senior state officials and non-government stakeholders appointed by the governor. The ELC builds on current programs to ensure a comprehensive, statewide early learning system (preschool, child care, Head Start, health care and support programs for parents) to improve the lives of children and families.

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

To Institutions of Higher Education in the State
- Local Head Start Programs

Early Childhood: 50 State Report
ECE Funding in Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding from Nine GAO-Identified Programs</th>
<th>FY 2019 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2020 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2021 Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCDF Expenditure</td>
<td>$491,908,700</td>
<td>$431,240,293.45</td>
<td>$1,952,289,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from TANF</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$379,385,919</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part C, Allocation (infant/toddler)</td>
<td>$17,327,861</td>
<td>$17,337,869</td>
<td>$24,801,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Section 619 Allocation (3-5 years)</td>
<td>$18,074,298</td>
<td>$18,199,069</td>
<td>$27,322,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCAMPIS Grants</td>
<td>$1,072,924</td>
<td>$1,122,506</td>
<td>$1,237,599</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional ECE Funding Streams</th>
<th>FY 2019 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2020 Funding</th>
<th>FY 2021 Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANF Child Care Expenditure (Direct)</td>
<td>$495,255,920</td>
<td>$560,157,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANF Pre-K / Head Start Expenditure</td>
<td>$108,714,531</td>
<td>$104,551,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>CACFP Allocation</td>
<td>$139,268,858</td>
<td>$102,582,797</td>
<td>$126,504,531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BPC Reviewed

BPC reviewed the following federally-funded programs to assess the efficiency and integration of Illinois’ 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

- UNDER 3: 407,552
- 3-4 YEARS OLD: 295,958
- 5 YEARS OLD: 152,096

Percentage of Children in Poverty 16.0%