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 Massachusetts.

**STRENGTHS OF MASSACHUSETTS EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Massachusetts administers five programs serving children—Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); Head Start Collaboration Office; Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); IDEA Part B, Section 619; and state Pre-K—under one agency, which improves efficiency and allows for better alignment of eligibility, monitoring requirements, and quality improvement activities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Facilitate cross-agency communication to ensure seamless coordination and transition for IDEA Part C (infants/toddlers) and Part B, Section 619 (3-5 year olds).
- Ensure the State Advisory Council (SAC) for Early Education and Care, mandated by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, is fulfilling its required activities, including conducting a statewide needs assessment on the quality and availability of early care and learning programs.

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/).
Massachusetts Office of the Governor

Executive Office Health and Human Services
- Department of Transitional Assistance
  - TANF

Department of Public Health, Early Intervention Division
- Part C

Executive Office of Education - Secretariat

Department of Public Health, Early Intervention Division
- Part C

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE
- Office of Early Education and Care - Child Care Licensing, Subsidy and Quality Rating Improvement System
  - CCDF
  - Head Start Collaboration Office

Board of Early Education and Care
- SAC

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

Office of Postsecondary Education
- CCAMPIS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION - SECRETARIAT

Office of Family Assistance
- TANF

Office of Food and Nutrition Programs
- CACFP
- School-based preschool
- Board of Education

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Special Education Planning and Policy
  - Part B, Section 619

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
Massachusetts’ Quality Rating and Improvement System (MA QRIS) is currently under revision. All programs are encouraged to develop a continuous Quality Improvement Plan. The statewide QRIS is voluntary, except for programs that accept subsidy who must then have CQI plans on file.

State Advisory Council (SAC)
The Board of Early Education and Care is gubernatorially appointed and responsible for oversight, planning, and regulatory approvals for early education and care programs and services in Commonwealth. The Department of Early Education and Care reports to the Board and the Secretariat.

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

Early Childhood: 50 State Report
## ECE Funding in Massachusetts

<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>$301,952,506</td>
<td>$195,282,030.75</td>
<td>$800,194,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from TANF</td>
<td>$91,560,224</td>
<td>$91,570,224</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Allocation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$150,718,056</td>
<td>-</td>
<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>$8,027,724</td>
<td>$8,228,368</td>
<td>$12,024,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Section 619 Allocation (3–5 years)</td>
<td>$10,142,049</td>
<td>$10,212,062</td>
<td>$15,331,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCAMPIS Grants</td>
<td>$338,128</td>
<td>$418,128</td>
<td>$447,312</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Additional ECE Funding Streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>$243,205,732</td>
<td>$173,850,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANF Pre-K / Head Start Expenditure</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACFP Allocation</td>
<td>$62,131,599</td>
<td>$39,478,777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BPC Reviewed

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

- **UNDER 3**: 206,777
- **3-4 YEARS OLD**: 138,790
- **5 YEARS OLD**: 70,227

### Percentage of Children in Poverty

- **12.6%**