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 Pennsylvania.

More state data, including funding levels and demographic information, can be found at https://bipartisancolorado.org/report/national-child-care/.

### Strengths of Pennsylvania’s Early Care and Education System

- In Pennsylvania, all programs serving children—Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); Head Start Collaboration Office; state Pre-K; Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); IDEA Part C; IDEA Part B, Section 619—are co-led by two agencies, which improves efficiency and allows for better alignment of eligibility and monitoring requirements and quality improvement activities.

- IDEA Part C (infants/toddlers) and Part B, Section 619 (3-5 year olds) are administered within the same agency, which can support a smooth transition for parents.

- Pennsylvania was awarded an Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership grant, which integrates Early Head Start services and resources into child care settings, aligns child care standards with Early Head Start Performance Standards, and creates opportunities for improving outcomes for children and families.

### Recommendations for Pennsylvania’s Early Care and Education System

- Ensure the State Advisory Council 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.
Pennsylvania Office of the Governor

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

Department of Agriculture
- Food & Nutrition Service

Department of Education
- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Office of Postsecondary Education

Early Learning Council
- SAC

Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, Division of Food and Nutrition
- CACFP

Bureau of Operations and Monitoring - Child Care Subsidy
- CCDF

Bureau of Policy and Professional Development - Child Care Quality, Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots
- ECE Professional Development Orgs.
- CCDF grants to IHE Pre-K Counts and Head Start State Supplemental Assistance Programs

Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Support Services
- Part B, Section 619
- Part C
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting
- State Funded HV
- CBCAP
- Children’s Trust Fund

Office of Income Maintenance
- TANF

Office of Child Development and Early Learning
- CCDF
- TANF

Bureau of Certification - Child Care Licensing
- CCDF

Office of Head Start - Collaboration Office

State Advisory Council (SAC)
The Early Learning Council (ELC), appointed by the governor, works to expand effective early learning and development services for children and their families and guide implementation. The ELC coordinates the delivery of federal and state programs designed to serve young children from birth to school entry and to ensure a smooth transition for those children into K-12 education and other programs.

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
Keystone STARS has four levels with higher levels indicating higher levels of quality. The QRIS is statewide and participation is required for all licensed child care programs.

Local Institutions

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

#### Funding from Nine GAO-Identified Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</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>$496,704,680</td>
<td>$393,584,712.01</td>
<td>$455,710,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from TANF</td>
<td>$184,077,013</td>
<td>$194,150,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Allocation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$333,717,500</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>$15,695,103</td>
<td>$15,931,573</td>
<td>$23,249,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA Part B, Section 619 Allocation (3–5 years)</td>
<td>$14,289,103</td>
<td>$14,387,744</td>
<td>$21,600,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCAMPIS Grants</td>
<td>$1,473,157</td>
<td>$1,473,157</td>
<td>$1,417,633</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Additional ECE Funding Streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</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>$322,763,645</td>
<td>$298,377,417</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF Pre-K / Head Start Expenditure</td>
<td>$235,878,755</td>
<td>$219,345,107</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACFP Allocation</td>
<td>$120,872,394</td>
<td>$83,662,440</td>
<td>$80,388,289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Number of Children Under Age 6

- **UNDER 3**: 396,865
- **3–4 YEARS OLD**: 280,144
- **5 YEARS OLD**: 138,419

#### Percentage of Children in Poverty

- **16.9%**

---

**BPC Reviewed**

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