



#19 Delaware

DE Score: 44



Average score: 38.8



DE drew down 100% of federal child care funds

DC	1
MN	2
MD	3
AR	3
MI	5
NM	5
OR	5
GA	8
MA	8
ME	10
WA	10
CT	12
CO	13
NC	13
PA	15
LA	16
VT	17
WI	17
AK	19
DE	19
IN	19
OK	22
UT	23
FL	23
VA	23
NE	23
MT	27
ND	27
KY	29
CA	29
RI	29
SC	29
IL	33
OH	33
IA	35
WV	35
AL	37
NH	37
NY	39
NV	40
MO	41
HI	41
TN	43
AZ	44
ID	44
NJ	44
TX	47
MS	48
KS	49
SD	50
WY	50

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 Delaware.

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

STRENGTHS OF DELAWARE’S EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Delaware administers five 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 B, Section 619—under one agency, which improves efficiency and allows for better alignment of eligibility and monitoring requirements and quality improvement activities.
- Delaware combined the administration of CCDF Licensing and Quality, reducing duplication and increasing monitoring efficiency.
- CACFP is administered through the same agency as state Pre-K and CCDF, which improves efficiency and cost-effectiveness of monitoring and oversight.
- Delaware 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.

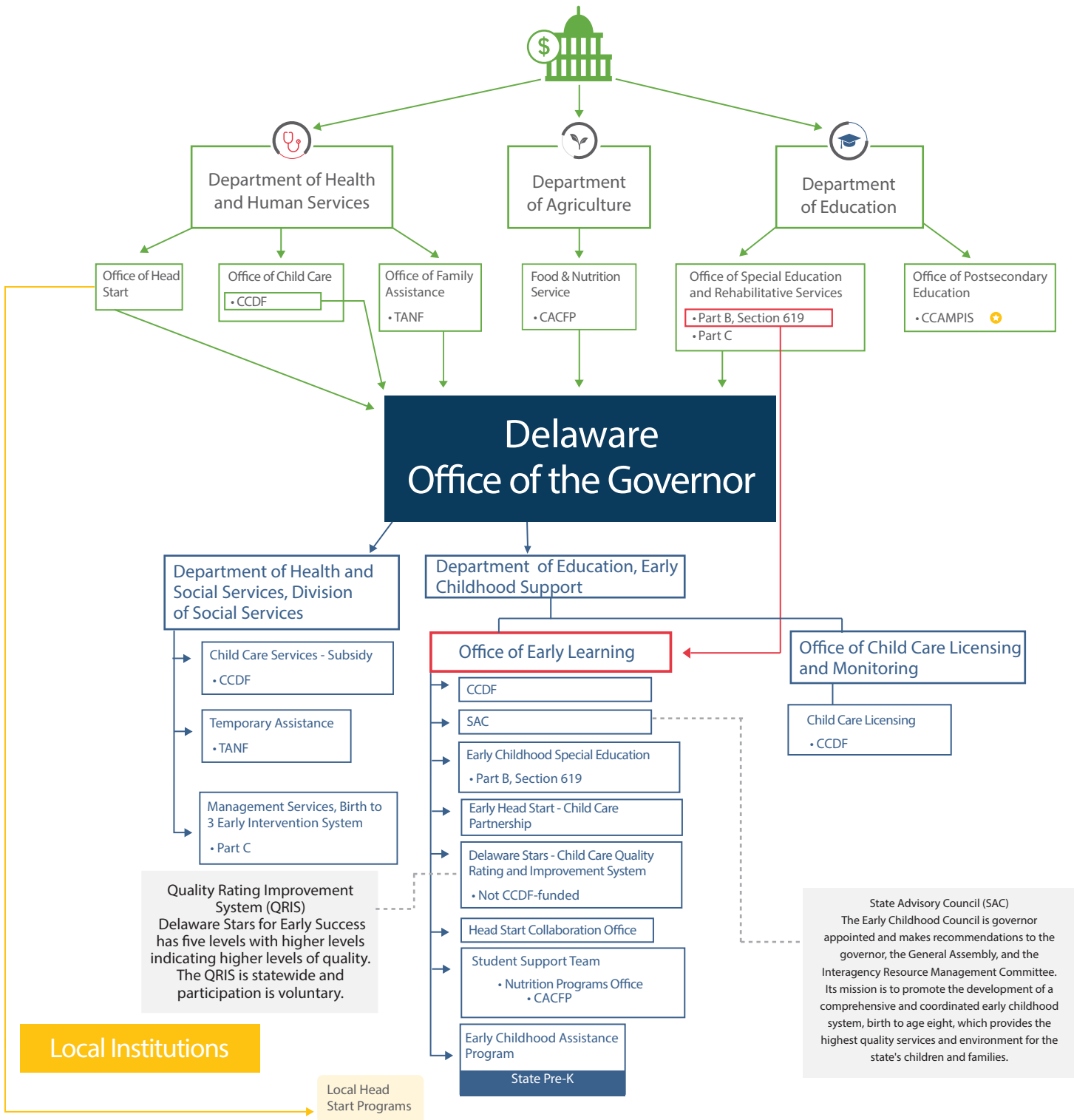
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DELAWARE’S EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

- 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.
- Include licensing as the entry level for state Quality Rating and Improvement System to ensure program quality.



Flow of Federal Early Childhood Funds: Delaware

KEY: → Funding mandated for State Departments of Education → Funding provided directly to local organizations
⊕ State does not receive funding



ECE Funding in Delaware

Funding from Nine GAO-Identified Programs	FY 2019 Funding	FY 2020 Funding	FY 2021 Funding
CCDF Expenditure	\$27,883,628	\$35,323,548.31	\$163,169,409
Transfer from TANF	\$0	\$0	-
Head Start Allocation	\$20,198,087	-	-
Head Start			
Early Head Start			
IDEA Part C, Allocation (infant/toddler)	\$2,301,492	\$2,333,044	\$3,587,364
IDEA Part B, Section 619 Allocation (3–5 years)	\$1,291,639	\$1,301,639	\$1,979,972
CCAMPIS Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additional ECE Funding Streams	FY 2019 Funding	FY 2020 Funding	FY 2021 Funding
TANF Child Care Expenditure (Direct)	\$79,081,463	\$82,878,406	-
TANF Pre-K / Head Start Expenditure	\$0	\$0	-
CACFP Allocation	\$17,911,010	\$13,029,206	\$11,257,817

BPC Reviewed

BPC reviewed the following federally-funded programs to assess the efficiency and integration of Delaware'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
30,810



3-4 YEARS OLD
22,217



5 YEARS OLD
12,898



Percentage of Children in Poverty
16.8%

Understanding and Aligning Eligibility Across Programs

Eligibility Requirements Set by State

Child Care And Development Fund

Age: Children up to age 13 are eligible; children with mental and physical disabilities and those in protective services are eligible through age 18. Parents are required to work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Education (high school, GED classes), job searching, and working are approved activities for eligibility. Training, ESL classes, and postsecondary education are approved if approved through TANF or SNAP. For initial and continuing eligibility a family of two must earn \$2,708 or less per month and a family of four must earn \$4,100 or less per month. In 2018, states will begin to see an increase in CCDF funding due to the \$2.37 billion increase to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) passed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018.

CCDF Allocation	2017	2018
State	9,162,325	8,749,965
Federal	17,566,562	23,309,719

State Pre-K (FY17)

4-year-olds at or below 100 percent of federal poverty level are eligible for Early Childhood Assistance Program, the state's Pre-K program.

Total State Spending on Pre-K: **\$6,149,300**

Local Match: **No**

Total State Head Start Spending: **Not Available**

Total FY 2017 Enrollment: **831**

IDEA Part C (infant/toddler)

Children age birth to 36 months with 25 percent or 1.75 standard deviation developmental delay in at least one of five developmental areas or with a developmental delay condition are eligible.

Eligibility Requirements Set Federally

CACFP

Public or private nonprofit child care institutions which are licensed or approved may participate. For profit centers must receive title XX funds for at least 25 percent of enrolled children or licensed capacity or at least 25 percent of the children in care must be eligible for free and reduced price meals. A family or group day care home must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization to participate and must be licensed or approved.

Head Start

Children birth to age five living in poverty are generally eligible. Children with disabilities, children whose families receive TANF or SSI, children whose families are homeless, or children who are in foster care are categorically eligible.

IDEA Part B, Section 619 (3-5 years)

Children three through five years, who have any of the qualifying IDEA Part B overall conditions (Developmental Delay, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disabilities, Speech or Language Impairment, Visual Impairment, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) are eligible.

Preparing our children for future success should be an American issue, not a partisan issue. BPC is working to bring together voices from both parties to empower and support children and working families.



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