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The Center for Law and Social Policy



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Child Care and Early Learning Proposal Could Serve 8.27 Million More Young Children – an 11-fold Increase

Comprehensive child care and early learning policy is a “win for all” policy: a pathway to progress on gender, racial, and income equality; healthy child development and family well-being; improved educational outcomes; and economic growth and prosperity. The President’s Build Back Better plan, reflected in the Congressional budget, is essential to building a strong child care and early learning system that can achieve these goals.

The pandemic laid bare and exacerbated the deep inequities of a child care system that relies on families paying unaffordable sums, early educators being paid poverty-level wages, and too many communities across the country lacking sufficient workforce or facilities to meet child care demands. It is time to put a stake in the ground and build a comprehensive child care and early education system that works for our nation’s children, families, educators, and economy.

All in all, a 10-year federal investment of \$450 billion would serve 8.27 million young children a year across the United States (when fully implemented) through both child care assistance and preschool. That’s 11 times more than those served without expansion. The table below includes one-year, point-in-time estimates for how many infants, toddlers, and preschoolers would be served by the combination of child care assistance and preschool programs when fully implemented in each state, with the total number compared to the number of children who would receive child care assistance through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) without this expansion.

Estimated Number of Young Children Served by a Proposed Federal Investment of \$450B in High-Quality Child Care and Preschool by State, Full Implementation

State	Additional Young Children Served with Full Implementation of New Investment	Ratio of Newly Served Young Children to Young Children Projected to be Served by CCDBG without New Policy
Alabama	112,797	6.2
Alaska	24,635	13.2
Arizona	196,145	12.9
Arkansas	90,365	15.3
California	995,177	17.6
Colorado	145,620	15.5
Connecticut	70,098	7.4
Delaware	17,575	5.6
District of Columbia	13,003	12.3
Florida	403,176	7.0
Georgia	278,573	18.1
Hawaii	29,238	16.6
Idaho	60,928	16.4
Illinois	311,381	11.8
Indiana	186,176	14.2
Iowa	85,886	9.3
Kansas	88,693	16.1
Kentucky	126,954	11.1
Louisiana	116,485	10.5
Maine	29,351	11.2
Maryland	158,576	16.3
Massachusetts	144,637	9.4
Michigan	248,553	12.1
Minnesota	169,270	16.8
Mississippi	73,604	7.2
Missouri	162,578	8.7
Montana	26,665	12.1
Nebraska	61,839	13.3
Nevada	83,149	16.7
New Hampshire	26,972	9.5
New Jersey	200,437	8.3

State	Additional Young Children Served with Full Implementation of New Investment	Ratio of Newly Served Young Children to Young Children Projected to be Served by CCDBG without New Policy
New Mexico	42,903	4.1
New York	456,282	9.9
North Carolina	247,422	9.2
North Dakota	27,213	15.8
Ohio	324,377	13.1
Oklahoma	113,161	6.8
Oregon	96,501	14.6
Pennsylvania	293,994	6.3
Rhode Island	19,825	10.4
South Carolina	134,335	18.6
South Dakota	29,207	14.6
Tennessee	174,376	10.4
Texas	830,158	10.4
Utah	124,786	20.8
Vermont	12,170	8.6
Virginia	205,320	21.3
Washington	206,855	11.9
West Virginia	36,498	7.4
Wisconsin	148,750	15.1
Wyoming	15,992	9.2
United States	8,278,659	11.2

** The model includes 0-4 year olds and one third of 5-year-olds who are also likely eligible for universal pre-K. The number of children served is subject to change based on policy decisions

Notes: The estimated number of children served presented in this table are one-year estimates for the number of children served at the end of the 10-year period, in 2030, following a gradual phase-in over that time. These estimates assume a 70% take-up rate at the end of the 10-year period. The estimates of children served only include children newly served by the proposed investment; the estimates do not include children already served by CCDBG, Early Head Start, Head Start, and/or State Pre-K. Finally, the estimates presented in this table represent the total number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers that would be impacted by the proposed investment, regardless of the share of a full-time slot that their families would need. It also assumes a state match of 90:10 for infants and toddlers and 83:17 for preschoolers.

1 The cost of quality is based on the model developed by the Center for American Progress and assumes all quality enhancements are made. This includes fewer children per teacher, increasing resources for professional development and classroom materials, and other child development supports. For more information, see: Workman, Simon and MK Falgout. 2021. "Methodology for 'The True Cost of High-Quality Child Care Across the United States'" Center for American Progress.