



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

FINAL FEDERAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 MAKES HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

The omnibus spending legislation for FY 2018, passed by Congress and signed by the president, includes the largest increase in funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant in history as well as increases for other important child care and education programs. These increases totaled over \$3 billion in new funding to expand families' access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education.

- **The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**, which provides states with funding to help low-income families afford child care and to improve the quality of child care, received an additional \$2.37 billion in discretionary funding, bringing total discretionary funding to \$5.226 billion. Together with \$2.917 billion in mandatory funding, overall federal CCDBG funding is now \$8.143 billion.

The omnibus legislation and report language for the legislation provide guidance to states on how new and existing funds are—and are not—to be used.

- States are expected to use the additional funds to help implement the CCDBG reauthorization law enacted in 2014, including provisions aimed at improving the quality and safety of child care programs, increasing provider payment rates, and ensuring child care providers meet health and safety standards.
 - States are reminded that CCDBG funds can be used for minor improvements to facilities to bring them into compliance with health and safety requirements and for professional development for child care workers.
 - States are instructed to ensure they are meeting the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours (evenings, nights, weekends, or irregular hours).
 - States are expected to use the additional funds to help more low-income, working families access affordable, high-quality child care.
 - CCDBG funds are prohibited from going to providers where a serious injury or death occurred due to a substantiated health or safety violation, under a new provision in the spending agreement.
 - The additional federal funding must be used to supplement, not supplant, state general funds for child care assistance for low-income families.
- **Head Start and Early Head Start**—which support comprehensive early care and education services for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families—received \$610 million in additional funding, bringing total funding to \$9.863 billion. The increase includes:
 - \$260 million for Head Start grantees to increase their program hours, in alignment with a requirement in the Head Start Program Performance Standards;



- \$216 million for a cost-of-living adjustment for Head Start grantees;
 - \$100 million to expand the Early Head Start program and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants; and
 - \$15 million for a cost-of living adjustment for existing Early Head Start grantees.
- **Child Care Access Means Parents in School**, a program that supports campus-based child care services for low-income parents in postsecondary education, received a \$35 million increase, to \$50 million.
 - **21st Century Community Learning Centers**, a program that supports enrichment activities for school-age children, including before- and after-school programs, received an additional \$20 million, bringing total funding to \$1.212 billion.
 - **Grants for Infants and Families** (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), a program that provides funding to states to support early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, received an increase of \$11.4 million, to a total of \$470 million.
 - **Preschool Grants** (Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), a program that provides funding to states to support special education and related services to children ages three through five, received an increase of \$12.9 million, to a total of \$381 million.
 - **Preschool Development Grants**—grants to states to help establish or expand high-quality preschool programs—were flat funded at \$250 million.

