



Image provided by The 50 State Afterschool Network

This is School-Age Child Care

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The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies for low-income working parents of children up to age 13. CCDBG also funds efforts to ensure high-quality programs are available to eligible families. CCDBG is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and funds are passed through to state agencies that provide oversight.

- More than 4 in 10 children (44%) served under CCDBG are school-age children, ages 5-12. That's over 700,000 kids. Of those, 73% are served in centers.¹
- Current discretionary funding is \$8.83 billion. Only 15% (1.8 million) of federally eligible children (11.5 million) are supported by CCDBG funds.²
- CCDBG funds include a 9% state set-aside for quality improvement. Those funds can be used by state agencies to support the adoption of quality school-age standards and efforts to ensure a high-quality workforce, including professional development opportunities, career pathways, and credentials for program staff. Those quality investments help ensure that families can choose high-quality programs for their school-age children.

Barriers Keep Families from Participating, Despite High Demand for School-Age Care

- More than half of elementary school students (58%) who are not in an afterschool program would be enrolled by their parents if a program were available, up from 41% in 2009 and 47% in 2014.³
- Cost, accessibility, and program availability are top barriers to afterschool program enrollment, especially for low- and middle-income families.⁴
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, part-day school-age care for one child comprises 8.1% to 9.4% of median family income.⁵

Communities have many reasons to invest in school-age care.

- In one rural community, school-age care wasn't a high priority until a 5-year-old being watched by her 7-year-old sister was found wandering near the highway.⁶
- In another, working parents used a late lunch break to pick their children up from school, and the children sat in their parents' workplace for the last 3 hours of their workday due to a lack of child care.⁷
- Children in quality school-age child care settings receive more than safety and supervision; they also benefit from social and educational developmental opportunities that help them develop the skills they need to succeed in school and life.

School-Age Kids (ages 5-12) Benefiting from CCDBG by State⁸

State	Percent School-Age	School-Age Kids Served	State	Percent School-Age	School-Age Kids Served
Alabama	37%	15,207	Montana	41%	1,312
Alaska	42%	924	Nebraska	47%	4,136
Arizona	42%	11,676	Nevada	44%	2,992
Arkansas	33%	5,478	New Hampshire	37%	999
California	53%	123,225	New Jersey	41%	15,211
Colorado	44%	7,392	New Mexico	46%	7,130
Connecticut	32%	6,112	New York	45%	40,860
Delaware	45%	3,060	North Carolina	38%	14,972
District of Columbia	22%	242	North Dakota	39%	1,716
Florida	39%	44,031	Ohio	46%	23,230
Georgia	45%	33,030	Oklahoma	39%	11,349
Hawaii	29%	1,015	Oregon	48%	7,920
Idaho	44%	2,816	Pennsylvania	47%	40,279
Illinois	48%	28,416	Rhode Island	51%	2,754
Indiana	42%	18,480	South Carolina	32%	7,168
Iowa	54%	6,156	South Dakota	47%	1,410
Kansas	42%	5,208	Tennessee	18%	3,978
Kentucky	39%	9,399	Texas	43%	68,241
Louisiana	27%	4,941	Utah	50%	7,350
Maine	43%	2,021	Vermont	42%	924
Maryland	46%	11,868	Virginia	39%	13,065
Massachusetts	44%	9,108	Washington	47%	11,515
Michigan	43%	16,254	West Virginia	49%	5,341
Minnesota	47%	9,682	Wisconsin	44%	12,232
Mississippi	47%	12,173	Wyoming	38%	950
Missouri	36%	8,172	National	44%	714,120

Sources

- <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/new-occ/school-age-basic-page/files/ncase-national-saccdatabprofile-2024.pdf>
- <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/a91fd97aa80b53fa52a52d38cd323509/cy2021-child-care-subsidy-eligibility.pdf>
- <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/landing/>
- ibid
- <https://blog.dol.gov/2024/11/19/new-data-childcare-costs-remain-an-almost-prohibitive-expense>
- South Dakota school-age child care interview anecdote shared with Afterschool Alliance staff November 2025
- Oklahoma school-age child care interview anecdote shared with Afterschool Alliance staff November 2025
- <https://acf.gov/occ/data/fy-2023-ccdf-data-tables-preliminary>