



AFSCME Facts

New Federal Early Childhood Education Funding January 13, 2021

The lame duck legislative deal passed by Congress, known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2021, includes new funding for early childhood education. This fact sheet provides an overview of this funding.

How much will the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program receive?

CCDBG, the main federal program funding early childhood education, will receive \$10 billion in supplemental funding, after receiving \$3.5 billion in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Note that this is in addition to annual funding, which increased by \$85 million in fiscal year 2021.

How can the supplemental CCDBG funding be used?

As with the CCDBG funding provided in the CARES Act, the new money can be used to provide child care assistance to families and to help child care providers cover their increased operating costs during the pandemic. Providers have flexibility in how they use these funds, including for personnel costs; sanitization and cleaning; personal protective equipment, fixed costs, rent, utilities, and other child care related services.

States are encouraged to use the funding to pay costs usually borne by family copayments and to continue to pay providers who experience enrollment declines or are forced to close.

Are private pay providers eligible for this funding?

Yes, providers do not have to have received CCDBG funds in the past to be eligible for this new funding.

How much CCDBG funding did each state receive in the CARES Act and how much can each expect to receive in the CAA?

This [table](#) shows the funding from the CARES Act. Because the same formula will be used for CCDBG funding in the CAA, you can multiply a state's CARES Act funding by 2.86 to determine new supplemental funding for each state.

How have states used CCDBG funding provided in the CARES Act?

This [piece](#) details how states used this funding through September 2020.

How much is provided for Head Start providers and how can it be used?

Head Start providers received \$250 million in supplemental funding. Note this is in addition to annual funding, which increased by \$135 million for fiscal year 2021. This funding is intended for expenditures to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus. Based on statements of members of Congress who advocated for this funding, this could include additional cleaning services, PPE and hiring additional staff. Based on the experience with the CARES Act (which included \$750 million for Head Start), there is a good deal of flexibility in how these funds can be spent.

How will supplemental Head Start funding be distributed?

Supplemental Head Start funding in the CARES Act was distributed based on enrollment, after the Trump administration initially proposed that Head Start providers apply for the money. How the new funding will be distributed has not yet been announced.