THE HISTORY OF CCDBG

Established in 1991, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that provides child care assistance for families in need. CCDBG is administered to states in block grants. States use the program to subsidize child care for working families with low incomes. Most of this assistance is administered through vouchers or certificates, which can be used by parents to select the high-quality provider or program that works best for their family.

Congress reauthorized CCDBG in 2014 with overwhelming bipartisan support. The CCDBG Act of 2014 improved child care health and safety standards, and provided funding to help make quality child care available to more families with low incomes. The 2014 law also mandated that states meet new requirements on comprehensive criminal background checks and disaster preparedness/response planning, among other critical improvements.

A JOB NOT FINISHED

Despite the reauthorization, Congress failed to provide sufficient funding to help states make quality child care available to millions of families that need it. Today, states use resources from other federal funding streams, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), to ensure families don’t lose critical access to child care.

The lack of adequate funding has hampered states’ ability to provide quality child care to working families. Currently, only 1 in 6 families who qualify for child care assistance receive it.

States continue to request and receive waivers from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to delay implementation of the new requirements, particularly background checks. Additionally, FY2016 saw the lowest number of children served by the grant in nearly 20 years.

![Graph showing average monthly number of children served in CCDBG in the United States (in millions)](image-url)
WHY CCDBG MATTERS IN NEW MEXICO

Earlier this year, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed SB 22, which will bring all early childhood programs under its own agency, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. This means strong coordination with clear and focused leadership between all programs that govern services for children ages 0-5.

While this new agency will be imperative in coordinating services, New Mexico also needs to focus on utilizing the federal resources through the Preschool Development Grant to conduct a comprehensive needs analysis. There is also a need for data-driven strategies through public access to an early childhood integrated data system (ECIDS). Increased CCDBG funding could help New Mexico conduct this needs analysis in order to better understand that state’s child care landscape.

Finally, New Mexico continues to struggle in recruiting and retaining quality providers. The number of registered family child care homes drastically reduces from 9,000 to less than 4,000, and many New Mexico children are registered in informal, unregulated child care programs. As a result, New Mexico can't begin to even consider expanding its services unless a concerted effort is placed on prioritizing talent development strategies to strengthen the early education workforce. This may include funding to triple the number of new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients over the next five years and creating solutions to increase wage supplements tied to higher education achievement.

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP IN 2019

CCDBG remains underfunded, despite the funding increase in FY 2019 of $2.4 billion. While this funding allowed states to begin the intense work of revising their child care systems to help thousands of children and families gain access to high-quality care, it did not fully meet the critical need for high-quality child care.

In fact, even with CCDBG’s historic increase, federal funding for child care is still $1 billion less than FY2001 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

Given the population growth since 2001, it is clear that states still do not have enough funding to meet the needs of families.

For this reason, we ask that Congress increase CCDBG funding by an additional $5 billion in FY2020. This will help states meet the 2014 requirements and increase the number of children served.