



# Child Care and Development Block Grant Participation in 2010

April 2012

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Each year, the Office of Child Care releases federal administrative data for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).<sup>1</sup> Based on preliminary data, this fact sheet provides a snapshot of CCDBG program participation in 2010, noting the great variability in child care assistance programs among states. Participation is one of several significant variations among state child care programs. Policymakers and advocates are encouraged to obtain the most recent information about their state—including data on participation, expenditures, income eligibility criteria, and provider reimbursement rates—to evaluate the full range of child care assistance policies.

State-by-state profiles of CCDBG participation are available at [www.clasp.org/in\\_the\\_states/](http://www.clasp.org/in_the_states/). In addition, custom tables including state and national CCDBG participation data can be created and downloaded using CLASP's custom DataFinder tool at [www.clasp.org/data/](http://www.clasp.org/data/).

In FY 2009, states received an additional \$2 billion in CCDBG funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The majority of these funds were spent during FY 2010. This analysis accounts for children served through the annual CCDBG allocation and CCDBG ARRA funds.

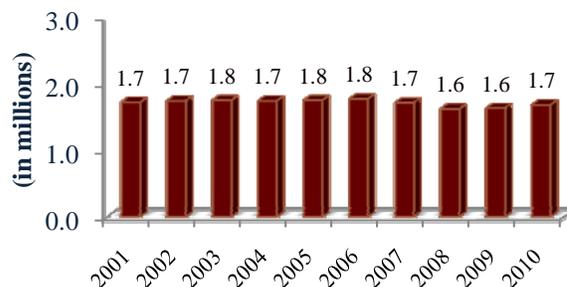
## A snapshot of CCDBG participation in 2010:

**The number of children receiving CCDBG assistance increased in 2010.** CCDBG served a monthly average of 1.7 million children in 2010, an increase of 51,900 children from 2009.<sup>2</sup> While this was an increase from the previous year, the number of children receiving assistance has stayed relatively flat this decade (see Figure 1). State data on children served vary. Twenty-seven states served more children in 2010 than in 2009, while 22 states served fewer children.

Several states reported large decreases in numbers of children served in 2010:

- Wisconsin served 11,200 fewer children, a 36 percent decrease.

**Figure 1. CCDBG Average Monthly Number of Children Served, 2001-2010**

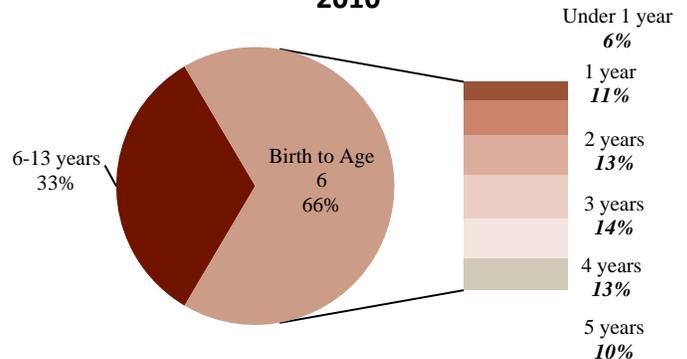


Note: The data in this fact sheet are based on children who received CCDBG-funded child care assistance in 2010. Participation data on children who received assistance through other sources of funding, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, are not available.

- New Hampshire served 2,400 fewer children, a 32 percent decrease.
- Michigan served 19,200 fewer children, a 27 percent decrease.
- Ohio served 7,600 fewer children, a 15 percent decrease

All families that qualify for child care assistance cannot access subsidies. According to research from the National Women’s Law Center, as of early 2011, 22 states had waiting lists or had frozen intake for child care assistance. Waiting lists were as high as 187,516 children in California and 67,988 children in Florida.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 2. Ages of Children Served in CCDBG, 2010**

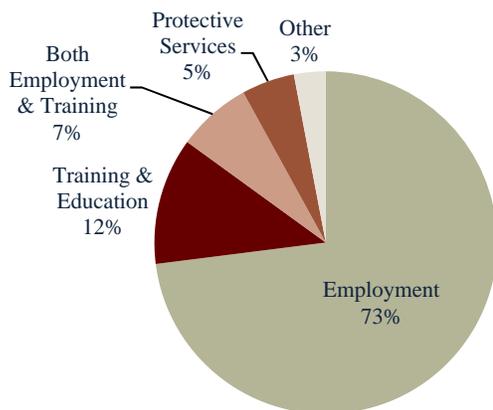


**CCDBG serves children from birth to age 13.** Less than a third of children served in 2010 were under age 3, while the 3 to 5 and 6 to 13 age groups each comprised one-third or more of all children served (see Figure 2). This national breakdown has been fairly consistent over time. Infants and toddlers under age 3 comprised a large portion of children served in the District of Columbia (48 percent), Arkansas (44 percent), and Louisiana (44 percent). Preschool aged children, ages 3 to 5, comprised a large portion of children served in California (47 percent), New Hampshire (46 percent), Maine (45 percent), and Florida (42 percent). School aged children, ages 6 to 13, comprised a large portion of children served in Michigan (42 percent), Illinois (40 percent), and California (40 percent).

**CCDBG serves children from diverse backgrounds.** African American children comprised 44 percent and white children comprised 43 percent of children served in CCDBG in 2010. Native American or Alaskan Native, and Asian each comprised 1 percent of children served. Native Hawaiian or Pacific children comprised 2 percent of children served. Three percent of children served were multi-racial; a race was not reported for 7 percent of children. Twenty percent of children served were Latino (regardless of race). Information on the languages spoken or country of origin of children or families served in CCDBG is not available.<sup>4</sup>

**Over three-quarters of children are in licensed settings, and more than half are in center-based care.** CCDBG allows families to select the child care provider of their choice. In 2010, 66 percent of children were cared for in center-based settings, 24 percent in family child care homes, 5 percent in their own homes, and 5 percent in group homes. Eighty percent of children were cared for in licensed or regulated settings, 10 percent were in license-exempt care with a relative, and 10 percent were in license-exempt care with a non-relative. Nearly all children served in Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Texas are in licensed care, while more than half of children served in Hawaii, Michigan, and Oregon are in license-exempt care.

**Figure 3. Percentages of Families by Reason for Receiving CCDBG Assistance 2010**



vast majority of families receive CCDBG assistance because they are working; 93 percent are working and/or in education or training programs (see Figure 3).

Though most families work, they are very low-income. In 2007, the latest year income data are available, the median monthly income of families receiving CCDBG-funded assistance was \$1,390, or \$16,680 when annualized; just 19 percent of families had incomes greater than \$2,000 a month. Nearly half (49 percent) of families had incomes below the federal poverty level and an additional 29 percent of families had incomes between 100-150 percent of poverty. Most (86 percent) of these families were single parent households.<sup>6</sup>

In 2010, 17 percent of CCDBG families received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance. Sixty-one percent of CCDBG families paid co-payments for child care, with the mean co-payment amount 6 percent of family income.

**Vouchers are the most common type of payment for care.** In 2010, 89 percent of children received CCDBG assistance through vouchers or certificates. Nine percent of children were served through grants or contracts, and 2 percent were served through cash payments. The share of children served with contracts has declined in recent years. Contracts, which are formal agreements between a state and a provider to serve a set number of children, can be a way to guarantee that families successfully find the care they need—particularly in communities without an adequate supply of child care.<sup>5</sup> While most states do not use contracts, California, Hawaii, Maine, and Massachusetts serve a third or more of children through contracts.

**Most families receiving CCDBG are working, low-income, and contributing to child care costs.** The

<sup>1</sup> Information in this fact sheet is based on Office of Child Care, *FFY 2010 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates)*, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> HHS estimates that in 2010, 2.6 million children received child care assistance through all sources, including CCDBG, TANF, and SSBG.

<sup>3</sup> Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2011: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times*, National Women’s Law Center, 2011, [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/state\\_child\\_care\\_assistance\\_policies\\_report2011\\_final.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/state_child_care_assistance_policies_report2011_final.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that 13 states collect some language data from parents whose children receive subsidies, but language information is not available nationally. GAO, *Report to Congressional Requestors, Child Care and Early Childhood Education: More Information Sharing and Program Review by HHS Could Enhance Access for Families with Limited English Proficiency*, 2006, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06807.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Hannah Matthews and Rachel Schumacher, *Ensuring Quality Care for Low-Income Babies: Contracting Directly with Providers to Expand and Improve Infant and Toddler Care*, CLASP, 2008, <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0422.pdf>.

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<sup>6</sup> Office of Child Care, *Child Care and Development Fund Report to Congress for FY 2006 and 2007, 2010*, [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf/rtc/rtc2006/rtc\\_2006\\_2007.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf/rtc/rtc2006/rtc_2006_2007.pdf). Income data for 2010 are not available.