The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) serves as the primary source of federal funding for states to help families with low incomes afford child care and to support broader child care quality. However, limited federal investments, state funding constraints, and restrictive policies mean subsidy access is out of reach for far too many children and families. Finding affordable care can be particularly burdensome for families with low incomes and even more so for those who experience compounding racial inequities such as those faced by Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska Native, and other communities of color.

In 2020, CCDF subsidies only reached 11 percent of all potentially eligible children in Texas based on state income eligibility, or 147,100 children. Overall subsidy receipt in Texas was lower than the national rate based on state income eligibility of 14 percent.

CLASP estimates that 5.3 million children ages 0-13 lived in Texas during 2020, and 25 percent of these children (1.3 million) were potentially eligible to receive a subsidy through CCDF based on state income eligibility limits. Like many other states, Texas sets its initial state income eligibility limit lower than the federal maximum income limit allowed by federal rules. Although the state’s maximum allowable family income (220 percent FPL) is close to the federal limit (258 percent FPL), an increase to the state’s income threshold would mean an estimated 229,670 additional children would have been eligible—a 17 percent increase. Child care access is a critical support for economic stability and growth, especially for families with low incomes. And 25 percent of children in Texas potentially eligible for CCDF, expanding subsidy access is critical to supporting those families as well as broader state economic growth.

In 2020, of the estimated 1.3 million children potentially eligible children in Texas, 11 percent were served through CCDF, for a total of 147,100 children served. This subsidy access rate is lower than the national average rate of 14 percent of children served based on state income limits. Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and white children accounted for a total of 86 percent of children served through CCDF,
and Asian, multiracial, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children accounted for slightly more than 2 percent of children served. Due to data limitations, including sample size limitations in the American Community Survey and/or missing and/or invalid CCDF data from the Administration for Children and Families, we were not able to conduct analyses on potential eligibility and CCDBG access for children by race and ethnicity in Texas.

![Texas Children Served Through CCDF by Race/Ethnicity](chart.png)


**CONNECTING DATA AND POLICY, IMPROVING POLICIES, AND INCREASING INVESTMENTS TO CENTER EQUITY**

These analyses show that overall access to CCDF was low in Texas, despite one in four of all children under age 13 being potentially eligible. Due to data limitations, we could not conduct further analyses by race and ethnicity. However, well-documented broader systemic inequities rooted in racism and compounded by economic inequality have created increased need and additional access barriers for families of color. When coupled with low overall access, this demonstrates a clear and immediate need for significant and sustained increases in federal funding to states, as well as policies that intentionally address compounding racial and economic inequities. Both are essential to addressing the historic underfunding, present inequities, and ongoing recovery from COVID-19 that have created rippling instability and exacerbated need.
ENDNOTES

3 Due to data limitations, including sample size limitations in the American Community Survey and/or missing and/or invalid CCDF data from the Administration for Children and Families, we were unable to conduct analyses on potential eligibility and CCDBG access for all racial and ethnic groups in Texas. Instead, this fact sheet outlines overall potential CCDF subsidy eligibility and receipt for children ages 0-13 in Texas. For more information, please see the data limitations and methodology document https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/inequitable-access-2024/.
6 The number of potentially eligible children is based on CLASP analysis of American Community Survey 5-year (2017-2021), 1-year (2019), and 1-year (2021) data. Estimates are based on children under age 13, whose available parent(s) was working, with household incomes at or below 220 percent FPL.
7 Based on CLASP analysis of the total number of potentially eligible children, according to each state’s income eligibility limit, and the total number of children served through CCDF in 2020.
8 The number of potentially eligible children is based on CLASP analysis of American Community Survey 5-year (2017-2021), 1-year (2019), and 1-year (2021) data. Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.
9 CLASP estimates are based on analysis of American Community Survey 5-year (2017-2021), 1-year (2019), and 1-year (2021) data on children under age 13 and the proportion of those children whose available parent(s) was working, with household incomes at or below 220 percent FPL.
10 CLASP calculations are based on state income limits published in Schulman, “On the precipice: state child care policies 2020,” https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2020.pdf and estimates derived from analysis of American Community Survey 5-year (2017-2021), 1-year (2019), and 1-year (2021) data on children under age 13 and the proportion of children of those children whose available parent(s) was working, with household incomes at or below the state income limit of 220 percent FPL and the federal income limit of 258 percent FPL.
11 For the purposes of this analysis, children whose ethnicity was identified as Hispanic/Latino are analyzed together, regardless of their race (including children whose race was labeled as “some other race”). All non-Hispanic/Latino children are identified by their racial group (Asian, Black/African American, multiracial, Native American/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and white).
12 CLASP estimates of the number of children served by racial/ethnic category are based on “FY 2020 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served” (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2020-preliminary-data-table-1) and “FY 2020 Preliminary Data Table 12a - Average Monthly Percent of Children In Care By Race and Ethnicity” (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2020-preliminary-data-table-12a).