

DOUBLING CCDBG INVESTMENTS IN FY27 WOULD EXPAND CARE TO MORE THAN 870,000 ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

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As Congress negotiates the fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations package, CLASP is calling for **double the discretionary funding** for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which provides child care assistance for families with low incomes and increases the quality of child care for all families. **Only 15 percent** of eligible children had access to child care assistance through CCDBG and other federal sources in 2021, the most recent year with available data. Increasing the total discretionary funding to **\$17.66 billion** would expand subsidy access to more than 870,000 additional children, based on CLASP analysis. This added funding would be crucial to better reach and support families with low incomes, who have never been able to fully utilize the program as the result of decades of insufficient funding.

In addition to limiting access for eligible families not yet accessing the program, years of **inadequate** and **stagnant funding** for CCDBG mean that children *currently* accessing the program are at risk of losing assistance due to increasing costs. **Recent actions** by the administration to freeze or delay funding for child care, paired with limited increases in funding and the expiration of child care COVID relief resources, have only undermined the child care and early education sector further. These actions include:

- The most recent **\$85 million increase** for CCDBG in FY26 **did not keep pace with inflation**, falling over \$160 million short of what's necessary to ensure there are enough resources to serve all children currently accessing care through CCDBG.
- The July 2025 reconciliation package made dramatic cuts to public benefits programs, putting further **financial strain on states** who were already **struggling to meet the demand** for eligible families in their states.
- The **expiration of COVID relief funds** left many states **without the funding necessary to continue serving** the number of children and child care providers they were able to support during the pandemic.
- The Trump Administration has **attempted to freeze** states' child

care funding, spread **misinformation about fraud** in the child care sector, and **proposed regulations** that would **weaken provider compensation** and **reduce families' affordability** protections.

As Congress engages in the FY27 appropriations process, it is essential that they protect programs families rely on and fight for investments that align with need, like urgent investments in child care. Concerns about economic stability, rising inflation, and attacks from the Trump administration make sustained increases in annual discretionary funding a necessary support. The table below estimates the total per-state allocation from doubling current CCDBG funding and how many more children would be able to access care with the increased funds.

State	Estimated Distribution of FY27 Discretionary Funds ¹	Increase from FY26 ²	Estimated Number of Additional Children Served ³
Alabama	\$345,755,460	\$172,877,730	30,119
Alaska	\$31,007,054	\$15,503,527	783
Arizona	\$362,411,194	\$181,205,597	15,632
Arkansas	\$204,344,309	\$102,172,155	18,503
California	\$1,489,353,960	\$744,676,980	98,364
Colorado	\$185,114,861	\$92,557,430	7,025
Connecticut	\$128,091,605	\$64,045,803	5,393
Delaware	\$47,644,877	\$23,822,438	2,810
District of Columbia	\$27,078,236	\$13,539,118	380
Florida	\$1,075,605,689	\$537,802,845	57,091
Georgia	\$674,352,288	\$337,176,144	43,298
Hawaii	\$58,209,921	\$29,104,960	2,395
Idaho	\$90,614,071	\$45,307,035	4,801
Illinois	\$540,930,451	\$270,465,225	30,763
Indiana	\$400,620,552	\$200,310,276	15,646
Iowa	\$170,771,836	\$85,385,918	8,785
Kansas	\$157,872,320	\$78,936,160	10,356
Kentucky	\$347,840,377	\$173,920,188	19,644
Louisiana	\$336,421,311	\$168,210,656	20,063
Maine	\$47,325,277	\$23,662,638	2,607
Maryland	\$246,018,514	\$123,009,257	7,251
Massachusetts	\$236,125,748	\$118,062,874	7,262
Michigan	\$515,047,681	\$257,523,841	20,668
Minnesota	\$240,965,053	\$120,482,527	14,231

State	Estimated Distribution of FY27 Discretionary Funds ¹	Increase from FY26 ²	Estimated Number of Additional Children Served ³
Mississippi	\$219,723,634	\$109,861,817	20,397
Missouri	\$307,654,705	\$153,827,353	22,174
Montana	\$44,763,145	\$22,381,572	1,334
Nebraska	\$108,255,348	\$54,127,674	4,773
Nevada	\$150,008,726	\$75,004,363	8,245
New Hampshire	\$32,622,195	\$16,311,097	1,153
New Jersey	\$325,906,436	\$162,953,218	10,738
New Mexico	\$130,454,570	\$65,227,285	5,107
New York	\$818,472,897	\$409,236,449	26,283
North Carolina	\$563,002,645	\$281,501,322	22,639
North Dakota	\$32,433,000	\$16,216,500	1,601
Ohio	\$566,420,167	\$283,210,084	29,689
Oklahoma	\$247,895,404	\$123,947,702	14,732
Oregon	\$157,701,655	\$78,850,827	7,836
Pennsylvania	\$548,535,469	\$274,267,735	39,180
Rhode Island	\$39,819,727	\$19,909,864	1,842
South Carolina	\$320,099,237	\$160,049,619	15,318
South Dakota	\$40,374,495	\$20,187,247	2,302
Tennessee	\$385,846,394	\$192,923,197	11,391
Texas	\$1,991,851,022	\$995,925,511	122,733
Utah	\$169,204,127	\$84,602,064	7,044
Vermont	\$20,425,832	\$10,212,916	539
Virginia	\$379,369,792	\$189,684,896	22,378
Washington	\$268,080,745	\$134,040,373	6,746
West Virginia	\$113,577,418	\$56,788,709	11,571
Wisconsin	\$254,536,103	\$127,268,052	7,791
Wyoming	\$19,247,898	\$9,623,949	1,066
Total	\$17,662,774,000⁴	\$8,831,387,000⁵	870,473⁶

Endnotes

¹ CLASP calculation based on enacted FY26 appropriations, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr7148/BILLS-119hr7148pcs.pdf> and “GY25 CCDF Allocations (Based on Appropriations),” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, current as of September 22, 2025, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/gy-2025-ccdf-allocations-based-appropriations>. Actual amounts may differ due to the Health & Human Services Secretary’s authority and discretion in set-aside funding and re-allocation of previous year’s resources.

² Ibid.

³ This number *only* includes the children who would gain access to child care with additional funds. It does not include the children who are currently served. The estimated increase in children served is derived from CLASP calculations of per-child cost, utilizing the most recent publicly available data for spending and participation, which are adjusted for inflation to reflect cost in FY27. CLASP utilizes a combination of Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-u) and the Employment Cost Index (ECI) to conduct our inflation estimates. These rates can be found in “Table 2-1: CBO’s Economic Projections for Calendar Years 2026 to 2036,” Congressional Budget Office, February 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2026-02/61882-Outlook-2026.pdf>.

⁴ This total includes funding for tribes and territories, as well as research, technical assistance, administration, hotline, and website in addition to the state funding outlined in the table. As a result, this total exceeds the sum of the state distribution.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ This total is the sum of additional children served in each state. It does not include additional children who would likely be served in territories and tribes. As a result, the total number of additional children who would be reached is likely higher than this total.