



Early Childhood Education (ECE) Acronym Cheat Sheet

ACF: Administration for Children and Families

The primary federal agency that oversees programs for young children and their families, ACF is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and contains the Office of Child Care (OCC) and the Office of Head Start (OHS).

ARPA: American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also known as ARPA, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress in March 2020. It provided \$39 billion for child care, including \$24 billion for stabilization grants and \$15 billion for emergency supplemental CCDBG funds. It also expanded the CTC and the CDTC and provided more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program. All ARPA child care funding has expired; states were required to spend the child care stabilization grant funding by September 2023 and the supplemental CCDBG funding by September 2024.

CACFP: Child and Adult Care Food Program

CACFP pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children enrolled at participating child care centers and family child care homes and provides ongoing training, technical assistance and support.

CARES Act: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

The CARES Act was a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 116th U.S. Congress in March 2020. It included \$3.5 billion for CCDBG and created relief programs like the Paycheck Protection Program to provide relief for small businesses. CARES relief funding has now expired.

CCAMPIS: Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program

Pronounced “see-campus,” this program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services.

CCDBG: Child Care and Development Block Grant

The name of the law that provides the primary federal funding for states’ child care subsidy programs and enforces regulations for programs receiving those funds. CCDBG was created in 1990 and last reauthorized in 2014.

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CCES: Child Care Entitlement to States

The Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) appropriates mandatory child care funding for states, territories, and tribes. The law calls for states to integrate CCES funds with discretionary allotments from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and generally requires CCES funds to be spent under CCDBG Act rules. In combination, the CCES and CCDBG are commonly called the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

CDCTC: Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Offsetting a portion of eligible families' child care expenses by reducing their taxable income, the CDCTC is the only federal tax credit designed specifically to address child care affordability. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a different credit, with different purposes (see below for definition). As parents struggle with the rising cost of basic goods and services including child care, both credits are essential.

CHIP or S-CHIP: Children's Health Insurance Program

Federal-state partnership program that provides health coverage options for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford marketplace or other coverage. It was formerly known as S-CHIP (for State) and is sometimes still called by that name.

CRRSA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation

This \$900 billion stimulus and relief package went into effect on December 27, 2020 with an additional \$10 billion for child care as well as substantial funds for elementary and secondary education and higher education. CRRSA relief funding has now expired.

CTC: Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit is a partially refundable tax credit that can be used by families to offset any costs associated with raising a child, like food, rent, clothes, medicine, diapers, etc. During the pandemic, it was expanded and fully refundable, and it played an essential role in helping to lift families out of poverty. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) is a different credit, with different purposes (see above for definition). As parents struggle with the rising cost of basic goods and services including child care, both credits are essential.

CTE: Career and Technical Education

CTE programs are career preparation programs, and may operate for students who are high-school and college age. The main federal funding source is the Perkins Act, and may include opportunities for ECE.

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ED: Department of Education

The US Department of Education (ED) is the primary federal agency that oversees education funding and programs to states and school districts to ensure equal access to education for all, birth through higher education. ED has many offices, including the Office of Innovation and Early Learning Programs (IELP) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) that serve children in the early childhood system, as well as the Office of Civil Rights that ensures all children receive the education they deserve. Student loans are also administered out of ED.

EO: Executive Order

An executive order is a written directive signed by the president ordering the government to take specific actions to execute a law or implement policy priorities. EOs cannot violate or override federal laws and statute.

ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act

Newest version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 (previously known as NCLB, or No Child Left Behind). It is the main federal law governing the nation's elementary and secondary schools. ESSA Title I provides funding to public school districts and schools serving high percentages of children from low-income families; states and school districts receiving Title I funds must coordinate with local early childhood programs and can use Title I funds directly to provide early childhood services.

HEA: Higher Education Act

Governs higher education programs and student loan programs, guiding states and institutions of higher education (IHEs) in the implementation of the law. Created in 1965; last reauthorized in 2008.

HELP: Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

The name of the Senate committee that has jurisdiction over health care, education, employment and retirement policies.

HHS: Department of Health and Human Services

HHS oversees all federal agencies, programs, and funding related to health and social services. Key agencies include the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – which houses child care and Head Start, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Makes available a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to eligible children with disabilities for children beginning at age 3 (Part B); and provides grants to states for Early Intervention (EI) services for infants and toddlers (Part C).

NDD: Non-defense discretionary spending

Refers to the domestic and international programs outside of national defense that Congress funds on an annual basis. These programs are called “discretionary” because Congress must set funding levels for them each year through the appropriations process. Discretionary funding includes a portion of CCDBG, Head Start, IDEA, ESSA, CCAMPIS, PDG, and other supports for families.

OMB: Office of Management and Budget

Creates the President’s budget and reviews all regulations.

PDG B-5: Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

Created as part of ESSA in 2015, these are grants to states that are designed to help states improve early childhood systems serving children from birth to five.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Also known as “food stamps,” SNAP is a federal program that provides nutrition benefits to low-income individuals and families.

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Often known as “welfare,” TANF replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in 1996 and provides cash assistance, job training, and other services, including child care, to low-income families via grants to states.

T.E.A.C.H. vs. TEACH

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood is a comprehensive scholarship program and national strategy helping address the need for a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce, operating in more than 20 states. Though they share the same name—and NAEYC cares about both—T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood is different from the federal TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) grants, which provide up to \$4,000 a year to eligible students preparing to be teachers (who have to take certain kinds of classes in order to get the grant, and then do a certain kind of job to keep the grant from turning into a loan).