

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING HELP OUR STATE THRIVE



ALASKA

Access to high quality early childhood education (ECE) boosts the well-being of children and helps parents get and keep a job. It's time for policymakers to build the supply and quality of child care and early learning by investing in early childhood education and educators working in centers, schools, and homes.



NAEYC AFFILIATE

Southcentral Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children,
Northern Interior Association for the Education of Young Children,
Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children

Our State's Families Need Quality, Affordable Child Care and Early Learning



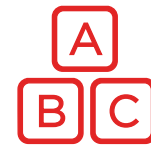
55,260

Number of children
birth through 5 ⁽¹⁾



10%

Average percentage
of family income
spent on child care ⁽³⁾



61%

Percentage of
people living in a
child care desert ⁽⁶⁾

Our State's Children Receive Their Child Care and Early Learning Experiences in Many Places

18,283

Licensed capacity in centers
and family child care homes ⁽¹⁾

1,040

Number of children in state
funded PreK programs* ⁽²⁾

70%

Percentage of children receiving
child care assistance who are
served in child care centers ⁽³⁾

1,297

Number of children in Head Start
and Early Head Start programs ⁽⁴⁾

1,659

Number of children served in NAEYC
accredited early learning programs ⁽⁵⁾

28%

Percentage of children receiving
child care assistance who are
served in family child care homes ⁽⁶⁾

16

Number of NAEYC accredited early
learning programs ⁽⁷⁾

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Our State's Early Childhood Educators Need Support and Compensation

4,800 Number of educators working with children birth through 5 ⁽¹⁾



Scholarships to support early childhood educators in accessing professional development, and earning credentials and degrees ⁽⁶⁾



Initiatives to increase educators wages and benefits ⁽⁷⁾



43%*

PERCENTAGE OF EDUCATORS THAT RELY ON PUBLIC BENEFITS TO MAKE ENDS MEET ⁽²⁾

42%

percentage of educators indicating they are more burned out than they were in previous year ⁽⁵⁾

“We are financially in red every month by thousands of dollars. We have used and exhausted all of our grant money and are now simply hanging on month by month. If changes are not made on a state or federal level, this industry will surely collapse. I have never seen this industry in worse shape than it is right now.”

- Family Child Care Owner/Operator

Federal Investments Support Access to Child Care and Early Learning and Increase the Well-Being of Children, Families, and Educators in Our State

2,500

Number of children receiving child care assistance per month, on average ⁽¹⁾

9%

Percentage of eligible children receiving child care assistance per month, on average ⁽²⁾

6,223

Number of child care programs relying on CACFP to feed children while they attend early learning programs ⁽³⁾

1,980

Number of children accessing special education services through IDEA Preschool Special Education (part B 619) ⁽⁴⁾ and Early Intervention (part C) ⁽⁵⁾



Currently receiving a Preschool Development Grant to improve our ECE system ⁽⁶⁾

Programs including CCDBG, Head Start, IDEA, CCAMPIS, CACFP, CHIP, TANF, SNAP, MIECHV, and Medicaid, as well as tax credits such as the Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, provide critical investments to support the well-being of young children, their families, and the early childhood educators who support them.

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Resources on Policy Solutions to Address the Child Care Crisis and Advance the Early Childhood Education Field

- [NAEYC Federal Policy Agenda](#)
- [Compensation Means More Than Wages: Increasing Early Childhood Educators' Access to Benefits](#)
- [The Costs of Deregulating Child Care: Decreased Supply, Increased Turnover, and Compromised Safety](#)



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for citations.

+2025 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is \$32,150 per year. The poverty guidelines are updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

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