

# CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING HELP OUR STATE THRIVE



## CALIFORNIA

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

California Association for the Education of Young Children and Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children

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



**2,541,590**

Number of children birth through 5 <sup>(1)</sup>



**68%**

Percentage of children with all available parents in the workforce <sup>(2)</sup>



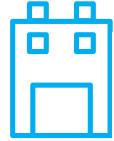
**15%**

Average percentage of family income spent on child care <sup>(3)</sup>



**56%**

Percentage of child care programs reporting staffing shortages that limit the number of slots available for families <sup>(4)</sup>



**39%**

Percentage of child care programs reporting they had to increase tuition to keep their doors open <sup>(5)</sup>



**60%**

Percentage of people living in a child care desert <sup>(6)</sup>

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

**976,924**

Licensed capacity in centers and family child care homes <sup>(1)</sup>

**204,733**

Number of children in state funded PreK programs\* <sup>(2)</sup>

**36%**

Percentage of children receiving child care assistance who are served in child care centers <sup>(3)</sup>

**75,458**

Number of children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs <sup>(4)</sup>

**43,345**

Number of children served in NAEYC accredited early learning programs <sup>(5)</sup>

**62%**

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

**436**

Number of NAEYC accredited early learning programs <sup>(7)</sup>

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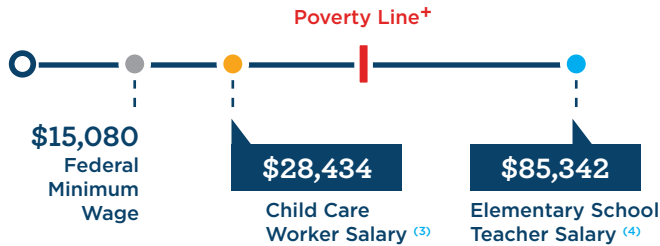


## Our State's Early Childhood Educators Need Support and Compensation

**205,500** Number of educators working with children birth through 5 <sup>(1)</sup>

**\$28,434**  
Est. Annual Salary

**\$13.67**  
Child Care Workers  
Hourly Rate



**34%**  
PERCENTAGE OF EDUCATORS  
THAT RELY ON PUBLIC BENEFITS  
TO MAKE ENDS MEET <sup>(2)</sup>

**41%**

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



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



Initiatives to increase educators wages  
and benefits <sup>(7)</sup>

“Everyone is expected to do more work  
with less leading to teacher burnout  
and resignations.”

- 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

**151,900**

Number of children receiving  
child care assistance per month,  
on average <sup>(1)</sup>

**12%**

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

**672,436**

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

**102,747**

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



Currently receiving a Preschool Development  
Grant to improve our ECE system <sup>(6)</sup>

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](#)



Scan QR code  
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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