

How Do Federal Supports Impact Child Care Providers in Colorado?

Survey Sample

Early Milestones Colorado surveyed licensed child care providers within Colorado (n=297) in February and March 2025 to learn how federal supports impact their child care programs.

How Many Child Care Providers Get Federal Funding?

- 2 in 3 providers get some federal funding
- 1 in 3 providers get federal funding for multiple programs

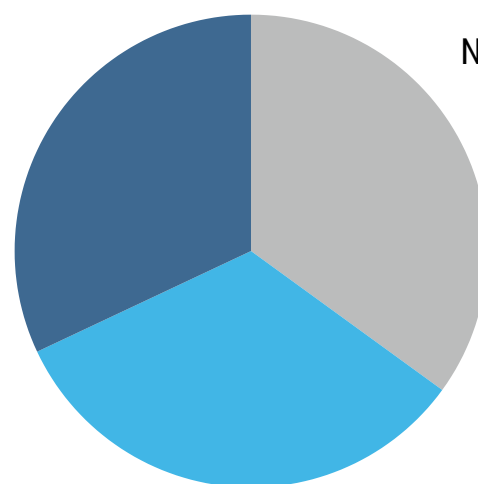
Most providers received funding for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) (53%), followed by the Colorado Food Program (CFP) (29%), Head Start (7%), Early Intervention (6%), or various other federal programs.

Federal Funding for Multiple Programs

32%

No Federal Funding

35%



Federal Funding for 1 Program

33%

How Critical is Federal Support for Child Care?

Without federal funding, 1 in 3 providers said they could operate for 6 months or less.

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Provider Voice

We asked child care providers to tell us how changes to federal programs would affect their child care programs and the families in their communities in Colorado.

Business Sustainability

"We must have this funding to survive. Without it, we would have to close our doors due to the increased overhead and wages, which do not meet the cost of living for our staff."

"I operate on a thin margin between profit and loss. The food program accounts for \$700-800 per month which is equal to the income I receive for caring for two full-time children (or in my case it is about one-fifth of my income.) Without this funding ... I would be operating at a deficit and would not continue my business."

Broad Economic Impacts

"Dedicated teachers and staff could lose their jobs, further destabilizing our economy."

"When you add these losses to the ever-increasing cost of electricity, food, diapers, healthcare, etc. we are facing a widespread economic issue across the state whereby we will see early childcare providers shuttering their doors and leaving the wreckage of a significant shortage in the labor force due to lack of childcare access."

Access and Affordability

"We serve all families and all children equally. Homeless, CCAP, foster, kinship, private pay, sliding scale, EHS, and so much more. Lack of funding from federal programs will force us to cut care to children and only serve private pay families to keep our doors open."

"These supports are essential for our families - and for our programming. The families utilizing these supports are some of the most at-risk in our community, and these supports are vital for them. For us, we have had to make back-up plans if funding is frozen or withheld, and that will have a ripple effect on our staff who rely on their paychecks, our organization's feasibility, and affordable child care in our community. "

Child Development

"We are currently the poorest county in the in Colorado. Our children need a program to attend. The children need stability at a young age, and learning is the beginning foundation of their lives."