

Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap 2024

EARLY HEAD START

What progress have states made in the last year to increase access to Early Head Start?

State	State Context and Policy Progress
Alabama	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Alabama is one of five state-level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees. As a grantee, the state dedicates matching funds and the program is administered by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 7.8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Alabama have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Alaska	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Alaska allocates state funds to support Head Start and EHS programs. For Fiscal Year 2025, the state increased its Head Start and EHS allocation by \$2.6 million, for a total of \$9.4 million.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 20.9% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Alaska have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is almost double the national median of 10.5%, placing Alaska among the top five states for access.</p>
Arizona	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.7% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Arizona have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Arkansas	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Arkansas has a state-specific program known as the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program that serves children from birth to age 5 through home- and center-based services, as well as home visiting. ABC has similar requirements to the Head Start Program Performance Standards and is funded through state general revenue funds. For Fiscal Year 2025, the legislature allocated \$114 million to support the ABC program, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 13.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Arkansas have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5% and does not include the number of children served through the ABC program.</p>

California	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes California is one of five state-level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees. As a grantee, the state dedicates matching funds and the program is administered by the California Department of Social Services.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 14% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in California have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Colorado	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No Colorado allocated \$6,235,277 from the American Rescue Plan discretionary funding to existing Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership sites. However, these funds expired on September 30, 2024.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 10.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Colorado have access to EHS through local grantees, which is equal to the national median.</p>
Connecticut	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Connecticut allocated approximately \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Head Start and EHS services, maintaining the prior year's funding level. Although Connecticut is not a state level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grantee, the state allocated approximately \$1.5 million for FY2025 to support local EHS-CCP grant recipients, the same amount allocated in FY2024.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update In the last year, legislators enacted S.B. 14 which will establish a state-funded grant for Head Start and EHS to help enhance program quality, increase the number of children served, and extend hours of operation to full day and year round, effective July 1, 2025.</p> <p>According to data from 2022, approximately 8.4% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Connecticut have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Delaware	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Delaware is one of five state-level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees. As a grantee, the state dedicates matching funds and the program is administered by the Delaware Department of Education.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 9.6% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Delaware have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls just below the national median of 10.5%.</p>

District of Columbia	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The District of Columbia allocated approximately \$2.3 million for Fiscal Year 2025 for EHS. Additionally, the District of Columbia is one of five state-level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grantees and allocated, on top of EHS funding, approximately \$2.6 million for the EHS-CCP for FY2025. The EHS-CCP is administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 54.7% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in the District of Columbia have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is the highest in the country at more than five times the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Florida	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.6% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Florida have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Georgia	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Georgia is one of five state-level Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees. As a grantee, the state dedicates matching funds and the program is administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 6.8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Georgia have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%, placing Georgia among the bottom five states for access.</p>
Hawaii	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 13.4% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Hawaii have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Idaho	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 7.6% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Idaho have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>

Illinois	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Illinois has a state-specific program known as the Illinois Prevention Initiative that serves children from birth to age 3 through grants for home- and center-based services. The program has similar requirements to the Head Start Program Performance Standards and is funded through a set-aside of the Early Childhood Block Grant and with state general revenue funds. For Fiscal Year 2025, the legislature allocated approximately \$75 million in additional funds to the Early Childhood Block Grant for expansion of Prevention Initiative programs, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion programs.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 16.9% of the 65,614 income-eligible infants and toddlers in Illinois have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%. In addition to the number of children with access to EHS, the state had capacity to serve 15,596 children age 2 and under in 2023 through the Prevention Initiative.</p>
Indiana	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 6.3% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Indiana have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%, placing Indiana among the bottom five states for access.</p>
Iowa	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated approximately \$574,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for the implementation and expansion of EHS pilot projects, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 13% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Iowa have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Kansas	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 11.4% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Kansas have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Kentucky	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 9.3% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Kentucky have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Louisiana	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Louisiana have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>

Maine	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated approximately \$1.2 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund, as well as \$1.4 million from the Fund for a Healthy Maine, to support Head Start and EHS programs. These allocations maintain the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 15% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Maine have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Maryland	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated approximately \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Head Start and EHS programs, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 9.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Maryland have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated approximately \$18.5 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Head Start and EHS programs, a \$1 million increase from the prior year.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 10% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Massachusetts have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is just below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Michigan	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 11.7% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Michigan have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Minnesota allocated approximately \$35.1 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Head Start and EHS programs, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 14.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Minnesota have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Mississippi	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 14.8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Mississippi have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>

Missouri	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated nearly \$6 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Early Head Start programs.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 10.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Missouri have access to EHS through local grantees, which is equal to the national median.</p>
Montana	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 25% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Montana have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is more than double the national median of 10.5%, placing Montana among the top five states for access.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Nebraska has a state-specific program known as the Sixpence Early Learning Fund that serves parents and children from the prenatal period to age 3 through grants for home-based services, center-based services, and school-child care partnerships. The program has similar requirements as the Head Start Program Performance Standards and is funded through an endowment managed by a public-private partnership. For Fiscal Year 2025, the state allocated \$7.5 million for the Sixpence Early Learning Fund, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 21.1% of the 8,890 income-eligible infants and toddlers in Nebraska have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is more than double the national median of 10.5%, placing Nebraska among the top five states for access.</p> <p>In addition to the number of children with access to EHS, the Sixpence Early Learning Fund served 1,132 children and 78 expectant parents in 2021-2022.</p>
Nevada	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 4.7% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Nevada have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is less than half of the national median of 10.5% , making Nevada the state serving the fewest number of eligible children.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 14.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in New Hampshire have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
New Jersey	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 9.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in New Jersey have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>

New Mexico	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 14.8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in New Mexico have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
New York	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 10.1% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in New York have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is just below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
North Carolina	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.1% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in North Carolina have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
North Dakota	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 19.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in North Dakota have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Ohio	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Ohio have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Oklahoma allocated almost \$2 million for Fiscal Year 2025 for Head Start and EHS programs.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 12.8% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Oklahoma have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Oregon	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes For Fiscal Year 2025, Oregon allocated approximately \$39 million to cover 1,454 EHS slots for infants and toddlers. Oregon has a state-specific program known as the Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten program (formerly Oregon Early Head Start) that serves parents and children from the prenatal period to age 5. The program follows the Head Start Program Performance Standards and includes all models of EHS (i.e., center-based, home-based, locally designed options, family child care partnerships).</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 17.3% of the 16,567 income-eligible infants and toddlers in Oregon have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%. In addition to the number of children with access to EHS, the Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten program had 8,745 slots available in 2022 for children from birth to age 5.</p>

Pennsylvania	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 10% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Pennsylvania have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is just below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 20.3% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Rhode Island have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is almost double the national median of 10.5%.</p>
South Carolina	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 7.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in South Carolina have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
South Dakota	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 15.3% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in South Dakota have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Tennessee	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 5.5% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Tennessee have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is approximately half the national median of 10.5%, placing Tennessee among the bottom five states for access.</p>
Texas	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 6.2% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Texas have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%, placing Texas among the bottom five states for access.</p>
Utah	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.6% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Utah have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>

Vermont	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 49.9% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Vermont have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is more than four times the national median of 10.5%, placing Vermont among the top five states for access.</p>
Virginia	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 7.1% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Virginia have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Washington	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes Washington has a state-specific pilot program known as the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (Early ECEAP) that serves children from birth to age 3 in 10 centers across the state. The program has similar requirements to the Head Start Program Performance Standards and is funded through the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five and state-level funding.</p> <p>Although Washington does not provide direct funds for EHS grant recipients, the state allocated \$3.75 million for Fiscal Year 2025 for Tribal Early Learning Grants, which can be used by Tribal Nations for EHS and ECEAP, maintaining the prior year's funding level. Additionally, EHS grant recipients may be eligible for other early childhood funding sources from the state, including the Working Connections Child Care Subsidies program.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 13.4% of the 30,906 income-eligible infants and toddlers in Washington have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%. In addition to the number of children with access to EHS, the Early ECEAP served 178 infants and toddlers in 2023.</p>
West Virginia	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 8.7% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in West Virginia have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure falls below the national median of 10.5%.</p>
Wisconsin	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? Yes The state allocated approximately \$6.3 million for Fiscal Year 2025 from the state general fund for Head Start and EHS programs to support expanded enrollment and quality improvement efforts, maintaining the prior year's funding level.</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 13.1% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Wisconsin have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>

Wyoming	<p>Does the state provide funding for Early Head Start (EHS) programs or models? No</p> <p>State Context and Policy Update According to data from 2022, approximately 16.3% of income-eligible infants and toddlers in Wyoming have access to EHS through local grantees. This figure is above the national median of 10.5%.</p>
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Find additional information on the [methods and sources](#) used throughout the Roadmap and for each state.