

The first five years of a child's life lays the groundwork for their lifelong learning, behavior, and overall health and well-being. Despite this, disparities persist across California with many children facing significant gaps in income, access, and opportunity. There is an urgent and persistent need for investment in young children and their families, and for more equitable systems that help children thrive.

For more than 40 years, California has built a robust child care infrastructure. Connecting California Families was formed in 2019 to unite over 65 child care agencies statewide. The mission of Connecting California Families is to deliver coordinated, comprehensive services to children, families, and providers because when parents have access to quality child care, early childhood education, and other essential resources, children and entire communities prosper. The data presented here, reflecting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, comes from one of the 11 lead regional agencies for Connecting California Families.

Child Care Business Support



\$619,977,400

Invested in **20,673** child care businesses



14,088

Licensed Child Care Provider businesses available for referral



18,057

Families still waiting on Subsidized Child Care



Learn more about the programs and how they help our families and children

Child and Family Support



67,168 children from **38,964** families received child care financial assistance and related services¹



1,161 foster children from **816** families received child care financial assistance and related services²



6,604 children from **5,607** families were enrolled in Head Start and affiliated programs³



3,210 families had **3,410** children enrolled in state funded programs to support kindergarten preparation⁴



418 children from **363** families received home visiting services⁵



58 families received housing services⁶



3,129 children from **740** families received developmental screening services⁷



41 children and **71** adults received mental health services⁸



279 children and **244** families enrolled in a high-quality home-based early experience program⁹



1,727 children aged 0-3 from **1,393** families were enrolled in state funded child care programs¹⁰

¹Subsidized Child Care – CalWORKs Stage 1, 2, 3, Alternative Payment, Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)

²Emergency Child Care Bridge (Bridge)

³Head Start / Early Head Start

⁴California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

⁵Home Visiting Services

⁶Housing Services

⁷Developmental Screening Services

⁸Mental Health Services

⁹Child Care Partnership (CCP)

¹⁰General Child Care and Development (CCTR)