

Quick Facts on CCDF Subsidies: Preliminary FY 2021

CCDF child care subsidies help families with low incomes pay for child care for children under age 13 so that parents can work or participate in training or education activities. Families typically receive subsidies in the form of vouchers that they can use with a provider of their choice – such as a family child care program, a center-based program, an after-school program, or a relative or neighbor. FY21 preliminary data find:

- **Number Served.** Approximately 1.31 million children and 797,200 families per month received child care assistance in FY 2021.
- **Income Level.** Of the families served in FY 2021, 39 percent were below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), or \$21,960 for a family of three; 25 percent had incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the FPL; and 21 percent had incomes above 150 percent of the FPL. The remaining families had invalid or unreported data (6 percent) or a child as the only recipient (9 percent).
- **Ages.** For children receiving CCDF subsidies in FY 2021:
 - 26 percent were infants and toddlers (younger than 3 years old)
 - 27 percent were preschoolers (3 & 4 years old)
 - 11 percent were kindergarten-aged (age 5 years)
 - 36 percent were school-aged (6 years & older)
- **Type of Care.** CCDF allows children to be cared for in a wide variety of care settings. Nationally, in FY 2021:
 - 73 percent of children receiving subsidies were cared for in a child care center
 - 21 percent were cared for in family child care homes
 - 1 percent were cared for in the child's own home
 - 4 percent had invalid or missing data
- **Regulated versus Non-Regulated Care.** CCDF allows children to be cared for in non-regulated settings as long as they meet CCDF health and safety standards and comprehensive background check requirements, except specific relatives who may be exempt. Nationally, in FY 2021:
 - 87 percent of children receiving subsidies were cared for in regulated settings
 - 8 percent of children were served in settings legally operating without regulation. Of those:
 - 51 percent were served by relatives in the child's own home or in family child care homes
 - 17 percent were served by non-relatives in the child's own home or in family child care homes
 - 32 percent were served in centers
- **Family Copayments.** 34 percent of families were assessed no copayment (excluding families with no income and children in protective services). For families that were

assessed a copayment, the average copayment was 6 percent of family income. The highest copayment that states charged families was 19 percent.

- **Reasons for Care.** In FY 2021, 87 percent of families cited either employment or education and training as the reason for needing child care. Protective services accounted for 10% of reasons for care.
- **Providers Receiving CCDF Funds.** Nationally, in FY 2021, 214,861 child care providers served children receiving CCDF subsidies:
 - 35 percent (75,514) were child care centers
 - 58 percent (123,762) were family child care home providers
 - 7 percent (15,593) were providers caring for children in the child's home