



## PREKINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE COORDINATION INITIATIVES

High-quality prekindergarten programs serve as building blocks for children's education and help prepare young children for school. In some States, these programs have eligibility restrictions (such as income requirements or at-risk factors) to serve the populations most vulnerable and in need. Other States have used legislation to create a prekindergarten program for all children, regardless of income or other requirements, which is known as a universal Pre-K program.

According to *The State of Preschool 2013* from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), 41 States have prekindergarten programs, 28 percent of 4-year-olds and 4 percent of 3-year-olds were served in Pre-K programs (including special education services), and States spent a total of \$5.4 billion on prekindergarten services in school year 2012 – 2013.

To support prekindergarten services in the midst of budget cuts, States are coordinating services, funds, and efforts with other programs, such as child care, to support working families by offering comprehensive care for their children that is also high quality and supports children's development. The following tables provide examples of prekindergarten and child care coordination initiatives, and highlight the income eligibility requirements, funding streams, and requirements for eligible providers for both programs. The first table provides examples of coordination initiatives in States where the Lead Agency is also responsible for implementing the state-funded prekindergarten program. The second table provides examples of coordination initiatives in States where separate entities are responsible for implementing the state-funded prekindergarten program and the child care program.

Information for this document was gathered from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plans for FY 2014 – 2015, State Web sites, the aforementioned NIEER publication available at <http://nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/yearbook2013.pdf>, and the Education Justice Web site at <http://www.educationjustice.org/index.html>.

## A. Lead Agency is Also Responsible for Implementing the State-Funded Pre-Kindergarten Program

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arkansas</b></p>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 3- or 4-years-old and have a family income not exceeding 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG).</p> <p>Child care: Families with incomes at or below 60 percent of the State Median Income (SMI).</p>	<p>Pre-K: State general revenue, some federal funding, and local match (at least 40 percent of overall funding must consist of local contributions); however, match requirements may be waived if program is in a district experiencing "academic distress."</p> <p>Child care: State Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) and Matching funds (including State general revenue and Pre-K funds to meet match) and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency (the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education) administers the Pre-K program in collaboration with the Department of Education. The Pre-K program, Arkansas Better Chance For School Success (ABCSS), is mandated to provide services 178 days per year and 7.5 hours per day. The Lead Agency encourages coordination between Pre-K and child care programs to provide before- and after-school care, wraparound care, and holiday and summer care for children. Many of the providers participating in ABCSS also participate in the child care assistance program, increasing access to extended care since children may receive care in the same setting or may be transported (by the program) to another care setting.</p>	<p>Early childhood programs accredited by the Department of Health and Human Services, quality approved by the Department of Education, and that comply with the ABCSS standards may apply for funding.</p>

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<b>Georgia</b>	<p>Pre-K: Because Georgia has a universal Pre-K program, children must be 4-years-old to be eligible to attend the voluntary program in the State.</p> <p>Child care: parents applying or enrolled in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, Georgia's subsidized child care program, must be at or below 160 percent of the 2008 FPIG.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Pre-K funding proceeds are received front the state lottery program and based on specifics such as class size, geographic location, teacher credentials, and the number of children participating in a federal assistance program.</p> <p>Child care: Subsidized child care is primarily funded through CCDF funds provided by the Federal Government. State matching funds for the program are allocated from the State General Fund.</p>	<p>The CAPS program is designed to help low-income families afford safe, quality child care. The CAPS program is administered in all 159 Georgia counties by the local county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).</p> <p>In Georgia, the Lead Agency administers Georgia's Pre-K Program, which is offered in public schools, private child care learning centers, Head Start centers, military child care centers, and technical laboratory centers, with goals of offering wraparound services to children served by eligible CCDF providers.</p> <p>The state Department of Early Care and Early Learning leads the Bright from the Start program that allows child care centers to administer Pre-K to eligible 4-year-olds.</p>	<p>Families that qualify for the CAPS program can choose their own child care provider. The Child Care Services division of Bright from the Start monitors and licenses these child care programs.</p>

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<b>Maryland</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old and come from an economically disadvantaged family (income qualifies for free or reduced lunch) or a family that is homeless. If space and funding permit, 4-year-olds in special education or who are English language learners and exhibit a lack of school readiness may be admitted.</p> <p>Child care: Families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Programs are funded through grants from the Department of Education that are allocated to county boards of education, which then distribute them to local school systems.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general revenue and Pre-K funds to meet match), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) transfer and direct spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Development, administers the child care and Pre-K programs in the State. The Pre-K program typically operates half day within the academic school year. Local school system superintendents may choose to establish all-day prekindergarten programs in their jurisdictions. Many elementary schools coordinate with qualified vendors to provide onsite before or after-school care (or both) to families requiring care when school is not in session and during the summer. To further support coordination efforts, policies are in place to allow transportation of children between child care settings and school programs.</p> <p>The Early Childhood Advisory Council and the Judith P. Hoyer-Head Start State Advisory Council also facilitate coordination efforts between Pre-K and child care services.</p>	<p>School boards may contract services to qualified vendors, such as Head Start programs, State or nationally accredited child care centers, or nonpublic schools approved by the Department of Education. Qualified vendors must meet the same quality standards as Pre-K programs in public schools.</p>

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<b>Michigan</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old and, depending on income, experience at least one risk factor (such as English as a second language, low birth weight, low family income, incarcerated parent). At least 50 percent of children enrolled must come from families with incomes below 300 percent of the FPIG. Children from families considered over income may be eligible if they have at least two risk factors.</p> <p>Child care: Income eligibility requirements vary by family size, a family of 3 must be at or below 37 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding is available to school districts via a formula (number of eligible children in district). A competitive grant is also available to fund services in public and private child care centers and agencies.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general revenue and Pre-K funds to meet match), direct TANF spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Great Start oversees the child care and Pre-K programs. MDE requires that each applicant for funding conduct a needs assessment to ensure that the Pre-K program aligns with the child care options in the local area. Applicants who propose wraparound child care either within the program or by coordinating with local child care providers are given funding priority.</p> <p>The State's Pre-K program, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), provides services a minimum of 3 hours per day, 4 days per week. Many Pre-K programs offer wraparound child care, funded by tuition and child care subsidy funds. Programs may also refer and transport children to other child care providers to meet family preferences. All public school programs provide referrals or transportation for wraparound care (if not onsite care), and many competitive GSRP agencies offer wraparound care onsite.</p>	<p>Services are available in school districts or subcontracted public and private child care facilities, and Head Start programs.</p>

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<b>North Carolina</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old and considered “at risk.” Children whose parents are active duty military personnel are automatically eligible for services.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Child care: Families with incomes at or below 75 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding is through general state funds and revenue from the state lottery. Smart Start funds can also be used for Pre-K services. Families may be charged for wraparound services, meals, or both.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general revenue and Pre-K funds to meet match), TANF transfer and direct spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), within the Department of Health and Human Services, administers the Pre-K and child care programs. DCDEE will coordinate and streamline Pre-K and child care to ensure blended funding and integrated services are available through Pre-K, subsidized child care, and Smart Start.</p> <p>The North Carolina Prekindergarten Program (NCPK) is available 6.5 hours per day. Subsidy funds are available for wraparound care to accommodate parents needing full-day child care services. DCDEE licensing consultants also monitor NCPK programs.</p>	<p>Eligible programs include Head Start, licensed child care centers, and public schools. Nonpublic settings have to meet high quality ratings under the licensing system to be eligible for funding. Both public and nonpublic settings have to meet the same standards set by the Board of Education.</p>

<sup>1</sup> At risk includes families with incomes at or below 75 percent of the SMI; children with developmental delays, chronic health conditions, or disabilities; or children with limited English proficiency. Priority is given to children who have not previously participated in an early care and education program and are eligible to enter kindergarten the following school year.

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<b>Washington</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old and have a family income at or below 110 percent of the FPIG. Children who qualify for special education are eligible regardless of family income.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Child care: Income eligibility requirements vary by family size, a family of 3 must be at or below 50 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding is through discretionary appropriations from the legislature. The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is also encouraged to locate private and federal funding sources. Families are not charged for services.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general revenue and Pre-K funds to meet match), TANF transfer and direct spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>(DEL oversees the Pre-K program, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), and the subsidy and licensing programs in the State. ECEAP sites may also be licensed child care facilities, which makes extended care available at the same location. ECEAP staff work closely with families to address child care needs and assist them in accessing child care assistance through the Working Connections Child Care program. Some ECEAP programs may also provide transportation to and from child care facilities.</p> <p>DEL managers work to integrate child care and Pre-K regulations where possible and share monitoring data. They respond to requests for clarification from child care providers who also provide Pre-K services. DEL staff provide training and technical assistance to support quality of care and include child care and ECEAP staff in some training events.</p> <p>DEL also works with Thrive by Five Washington and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to coordinate programs to improve school readiness.</p>	<p>ECEAP services are offered in a variety of settings, including public school districts, nonprofit and nonsectarian organizations, local governments, and community and technical colleges.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Ten percent of slots can be used to serve children from families who are over income but present environmental and developmental risk factors. Some 3-year-olds who present risk factors may be eligible.

## B. Separate Entities are Responsible for Implementing the State-Funded Prekindergarten Program and the Child Care Program

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
Alabama	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old. There are no other requirements.</p> <p>Child care: Income eligibility requirements vary by family size, a family of 3 must be at or below 47 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding grants range from \$45,000 to \$90,000 per year. Grantees must provide a local match based on award grant, which varies by location. Grantees may charge parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including county and local public funds and Pre-K funds to meet match), TANF transfer, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Pre-K program, within the Department of Children's Affairs, Office of School Readiness, has expanded to operate 212 sites within the State. The Department of Children's Affairs and the Lead Agency, within the Department of Human Resources, coordinate wraparound services so part-day care is available during the school year and full-day care is available during school breaks and holidays for children in sites that do not offer full-day, full-year services.</p> <p>The Lead Agency also makes professional development training initiatives, including scholarships, available to Pre-K staff.</p>	<p>A competitive grant process determines sites and can include public schools, child care centers, faith-based centers, Head Start programs, colleges and universities, community organizations, and military agencies.</p>

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
<b>Colorado</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must 4-years-old. Select 3-year-olds must experience three of the following risk factors (eligibility for free or reduced meals, history of abuse or neglect, homelessness, parental substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and other locally determined factors).<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Child care: Families with incomes at or below 85 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding (combination of State, local specific ownership, and local property taxes) is calculated using the Colorado school finance formula and distributed to school districts offering Pre-K services. Pre-K children receive half the amount full-time equivalent students receive.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general and county public funds, private donated funds, and Pre-K funds to meet match), TANF transfer and direct spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), within the Department of Education, is authorized to fund 20,160 half-day slots (2.5 hours per day, 4 days per week) and 5 percent of these slots can serve children full-day (two slots). Collaboration with community partners is encouraged to use resources within a district effectively. Coordination between Pre-K and child care varies by school districts. CPP collaborates with child care programs within its district to offer wraparound services and extend quality care (from half-day to full-day).</p>	<p>School districts wanting to provide Pre-K services must establish a district advisory council that ensures that decisions are locally driven and key stakeholders are involved.</p> <p>School districts may subcontract part, or all, of its Pre-K program to Head Start, child care centers, or public and community-based agencies. These programs must meet the same quality standards as a district-run program. All Pre-K classrooms must be licensed through the licensing agency (Lead Agency).</p>

<sup>3</sup> Children 3-years-old must have at least three family risk factors to be eligible, while children 4-years-old must have one risk factor. Children who are 5-years-old may be eligible for CPP if they are age 5 by October 1 and are eligible for kindergarten the next year (only participate in CPP one year).

<sup>4</sup> Additional information about how funding is calculated is available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/coordresources.htm>.

State	Income Eligibility	Funding Streams	Coordination/Collaboration	Eligible Providers
Louisiana <sup>5</sup>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old and qualify for free or reduced price lunch.</p> <p>Child care: Families with incomes at or below 65 percent of the SMI.</p>	<p>Pre-K: The LA 4 program is funded by state appropriations, fees from families that do not meet the income guidelines for the federal lunch program, and other state resources (tobacco settlement proceeds and the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund).</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general funds and Pre-K funds to meet match), TANF transfer and direct spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Department of Education administers the LA 4 Prekindergarten Program and the Department of Children and Family Services administers the child care program, which will be administered by the Department of Education beginning in July 2015. The Lead Agency contracts with Board of Elementary and Secondary Education regulated public schools and approved nonpublic schools to provide before- and after-school care and summer programs. These settings allow parents to have their prekindergarten aged children cared for at one location throughout the after-school day and the school year.</p> <p>The LA 4 program services can be offered in Class A licensed centers that have a four star rating in the State's quality rating and improvement system. These centers will continue to provide full-day, full-year child care services for working families. Before- and after-school day services will be provided using CCDF funds where appropriate.</p>	<p>School districts, charter schools, Head Start programs, and licensed Class A child care centers.</p>

<sup>5</sup> In addition to the LA 4 Pre- K Program, the State also has the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program and the Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) preschool initiatives.

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<b>Oregon</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 3- or 4-years-old, have a family income that meets the income eligibility requirements of the Head Start program, and not currently receive services. Twenty percent of the slots can be used for children from families who are over income.</p> <p>Child care: Income eligibility requirements vary by family size, but typically a family whose income is at or below 185 percent of the FPIG may be eligible.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding is through legislative appropriations made to the Prekindergarten Program Trust Fund.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general funds, private donated funds, and Pre-K funds to meet match) and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The Department of Education administers the Pre-K funds and distributes grants to local programs such as Head Start; school districts; and private, nonsectarian providers through a competitive grant process. The State Board of Education gives funding priority to counties or regions that identified unmet needs in their early childhood system plan.</p> <p>The Child Care Division, within the Oregon Department of Employment; the Pre-K program, within the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Department of Human Services collaborate through interagency agreements and service contracts to provide full-day, full-year child care services for children of low-income working families.</p>	<p>Pre-K services are available through Head Start programs, public schools, and private nonsectarian child care programs (such as private agencies, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and colleges or universities). All programs must follow the Head Start Performance Standards.</p>

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<b>West Virginia</b>	<p>Pre-K: To be eligible for the program, a child must be 4-years-old.</p> <p>Children who are 3-years-old are eligible for services if they have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). There are no other requirements.</p> <p>Child care: Families enter the program with income at or below 150 percent of the FPIG and remain eligible upon reassessment until their income exceeds 185 percent of the FPIG.</p>	<p>Pre-K: Funding is primarily through the State School Aid Funding Formula. Depending on the hours of instruction, Pre-K children receive between half and the total amount that full-time equivalent students receive. School districts with high percentages of at-risk children may use funding for remedial or preventive programs to support Pre-K services.</p> <p>Child care: State MOE and Matching funds (including state general funds), direct TANF spending on child care, and parental fees according to a sliding scale.</p>	<p>The West Virginia Universal Pre-K System, within the Department of Education, is a voluntary universal program that emphasizes collaboration between child care providers, Head Start, and county school boards.</p> <p>Each county also has a collaborative early childhood team that is comprised of local boards of education, Head Start, and child care agencies. The teams' purpose is to ensure that joint decisions are made about Pre-K classroom locations, share classroom resources, ensure a countywide application and enrollment process, ensure that services for special needs children are provided in the least restrictive environments according to the child's IEP, and that all programs have representation in the collaborative early childhood team.</p>	<p>Public schools may subcontract with child care centers, Head Start programs, and private prekindergarten programs to provide services.</p>

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