Federal programs are falling short of many families’ needs

Eligibility requirements are complicated and strict

Parents are typically required to be:
- Working
- Attending job training, or
- Participating in an educational program

Only low-income families qualify for benefits:

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): family earnings < 85% of state median income

> States are allowed to set even stricter requirements, and most do.

Head Start: families with incomes below the federal poverty level ($25,750 for family of 4)

Few eligible low-income families receive assistance

Only about 1 in 6 children eligible for CCDBG benefits receive support

31% of eligible children ages 3-5 served by Head Start

7% of eligible children under 3 served by Early Head Start

States are leading the way by expanding access to preschool programs

Nearly 1 in 3 4-year-olds is enrolled in a state-funded preschool program

Nine states have programs that serve at least half of 4-year-olds:

>70% SERVED

>50% SERVED

State Spotlights

The District of Columbia’s public preschool programs serve a total of 88% of 4-year-olds

Oklahoma’s 4-year-old public preschool program is offered in 99% of school districts across the state