Child Care & Early Education
RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

An online library with over 40,000 policy-relevant resources for child care and early education professionals!

Discover the resources that Research Connections has to offer, including the following:

ASSESSING RESEARCH QUALITY

As beneficial as research can be to help shape policy and practice decisions, understanding research can feel overwhelming. This resource, written for practitioners and policymakers, can help you think about key questions regarding the relevance, credibility, and rigor of research as you consider decisions about investments in early care and education practice and policy.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Answering Policy Questions with Research Connections explores the resources the library has to offer and explains how you can use them to find answers to your policy questions. The guide also connects you with some topical searches related to key themes of the CCDF Plan requirements.

INTERACTIVE TOOLS

The Research Connections library collects different types of resources, including interactive tools. These resources often involve clickable geographic maps and other data visualization features. Some examples from our collection include 50-state child care cost models, the child care workforce licensing database, and state-level supply and demand for child care.

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⊟ OPRE

2025 State and Territories CCDF Lead Administrator Meeting Resource List

This resource list highlights some of the resources you can find in the Research Connections library. These resources relate to topics on the agenda for the Administration for Children and Families' 2025 State and Territory CCDF Administrators Meeting (STAM). The list is not meant to be exhaustive.

You can find the STAM 2025 agenda here.

The topics highlighted in this resource list are:
- Parental Choice
- Supply building and the workforce
- Fiscal strategies
- Health, safety, and innovations in quality
- Leadership and administration

Resources by State or Territory

Our filter for resources with data from all states and territories can be a great starting point for understanding the national landscape and what other states are doing in a given area. However, if you're looking for research conducted in a particular state or territory, you can use the location filter on the left side of the search page to narrow results to research conducted in the location of your choice.

Use these links to see resources with data from your state or territory:

Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Each title is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource record in the Research Connections library.

Parental Choice

These hyperlinked resources address data and reports on policy strategies to support faith-based child care, family perspectives of child care, guides on improving access to child care subsidies, and data on child care affordability.

Mixed Delivery System

- State preschool in a mixed delivery system: Lessons from five states
- 2019 NSECE Snapshot: The role of faith-based organizations in center-based child care and early education
- Examining the role of faith-based child care

Family Perspectives

- Understanding Minnesota families' access to child care choices that align with their priorities and preferences
- Family perspectives on availability and affordability: Improving access to quality early education
- Going to preschool: Understanding families' decisions about preschool enrollment

Equal Access

- A guide to improving participation in your state's child care subsidy system
- Exploring administrative and financial burdens of participating in the child care subsidy program: Insights from a statewide survey of providers

🔗 **Find more resources in the library.**

Health, Safety, and Innovations in Quality

These hyperlinked resources address child care licensing, child care health and safety rules, and disaster recovery. Other resources address research related to child and teacher outcomes in a variety of settings.

Health and Safety

- Rethinking child care standards and regulations
- The impacts of extreme weather disasters on the implementation of Head Start services
- Promoting healthy eating and physical activity in the early care and education setting as a strategy to improve teacher knowledge and self-efficacy

Innovations in Quality

- Large-scale, well-implemented public pre-kindergarten linked to better academic performance and school health
- How a preschool intervention affected high school outcomes: Longitudinal pathways in a randomized-control trial
- Examining the implementation of the VLS Momentum Project: A hybrid approach to supporting foundational practices in early care and education
- *Little Talks: Building home visiting's capacity to promote communication and language skills for children under three years of age

🔗 **Find more resources in the library.**

* This item is behind a paywall. To learn more, visit Tips for Accessing Research.

Each title is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource record in the Research Connections library.

Supply Building and the Workforce

Employee-Sponsored Care and Partnerships

- Employer-based child care feasibility & assessment guide

  This step-by-step guide, created in partnership with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, helps employers collect information and develop a plan for employer-based care.

- Employer-sponsored child care assistance program: A case study: Retaining employees, supporting work-life balance, and boosting employee morale

  This brief highlights a South Dakota employer-sponsored child care assistance program and satisfaction among employees over 4 years.

- MI Tri-Share pilot evaluation: Final report

  This report shares findings on Michigan's Tri-Share program, which evenly splits the costs of childcare between the employer, the employee, and the state of Michigan.

- Childcare innovation through public-private partnerships

  This brief highlights various public-private partnerships between businesses and child care centers, and shares emerging cost-sharing models among interested parties.

- How to build and strengthen partnerships between CCDF lead agencies and early care and education researchers: Supporting evidence to inform policy

  This brief highlights researcher-agency partnerships with CCDF Lead Agency staff and perspectives on how such partnerships improve their work

Workforce Supports

- Improving workforce stability in early childhood education: Stipends, wage supplements, and professional development

  This fact sheet provides data on various national and state programs related to early care and education workforce retention and stability.

- Pre-K teacher well-being, pay, and intentions to leave in 2024

  This report presents selected findings from the first American Pre-K Teacher Survey and provides new information about the well-being, pay, and working conditions of public school–based pre-K teachers.

- Evaluation of a business management program to promote child care educator outcomes: A randomized controlled trial

  This study evaluated the effectiveness of a business management course for early care and education program leaders serving under-resourced communities.

Find more resources in the library.

Child Care Sponsorship | Employer-Sponsored Child Care | Workforce Support

Each title is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource record in the Research Connections library.

Leadership and Administration

These hyperlinked resources include information on governance structures, reports and tools on building research capacity, and research on how artificial intelligence may be applied to the early care and education field.

- States seek to improve early childhood outcomes through consolidated governance structures
- What predicts legislative success of early care and education policies?: Applications of machine learning and natural language processing in a cross-state early childhood policy analysis
- Innovating responsibly: Ethical considerations for AI in early childhood education
- Building child care research capacity: Capacity building tools
- Early childhood state governance structures

🔗 **Find more resources in the library.**

Fiscal Strategies

These hyperlinked resources include guides for state- and community-specific cost models, reports on various approaches to early care and education cost modeling, and a scan of CCDF narrow cost analyses.

⚙ Cost Modeling

- A review of the CCDF narrow cost analyses
- An analysis of cost models
- Updated estimates of the cost of quality early childhood care and education in Oklahoma

📢 State Insights and Interactive Tools

- Provider Cost of Quality Calculator
- Cost model resources
- New Mexico Child Care Cost Model

🔗 **Find more resources in the library.**

Research Highlights

Research Highlights translate research into short formats. These resources are designed to be accessible and offer ideas for how child care and early education leaders might use the research in their work. Topics include workforce well-being, access to child care, professional development, the importance of high-quality early care and education, and more.

Each title is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource record in the Research Connections library.

You May Also Be Interested in Research on the Following Topics

- Child care payment practices
- Family perspectives on child care
- Mixed delivery systems
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Family child care and family, friend & neighbor provider settings
- Early care and education and artificial intelligence
- Quality initiatives
- Health and safety
- COVID-19 guidance and policy documents

Each title is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource record in the Research Connections library.

Connect with Us

Our librarians are always happy to answer questions, demonstrate how to effectively use the library, and help you find the resources you need. Please contact us with questions at ResearchConnections@icf.com.

You can also connect with us on social media!

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