

MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM ASSET MAP



PROGRAM PROFILES

Adopted by the Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council on September 29, 2022





TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM MAP	4
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM MAP	5
FUNDING OVERVIEW	6
PROGRAM PROFILES	7
• Child Care Payment Program	8
• Head Start	10
• Title I Preschool	12
• Early Learning Collaboratives	14
• Healthy Families Mississippi	16
• Early Intervention	18
• Early Childhood Special Education	20
• Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)	22
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	24
• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	26
• Medicaid & Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	28
• Department of Mental Health	30
• Child Protection Services	32
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	36
ENDNOTES	37

Introduction



Mississippi (MS) is home to 331,312 children from birth to age eight.¹ For children, families, and communities across MS these early years hold tremendous potential and opportunity for the future. Early life experiences are critical in fostering a child's early brain development and laying the foundation for lifelong success. Families of all kinds need extra support when raising young children. To ensure that all parents and children in MS are prepared to thrive, and that the long-term economic future of the state is bright, early childhood programs and systems must be high-quality, accessible, and affordable.

Recognizing the great importance of early childhood education and development programs and services, the state of Mississippi (MS) established the [MS State Early Childhood Advisory Council \(SECAC\)](#) to serve the children and families of Mississippi. SECAC exists to support a coordinated system of quality care and education with comprehensive supports to enable school success and lifelong learning. A core responsibility of this group of leaders is to conduct periodic statewide needs assessments on the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs from birth to school entry. Another core responsibility is to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination across early childhood education programs and services. In support of these efforts, SECAC partnered with [Start Early](#) to develop the Mississippi Early Childhood System Asset Map.

The MS Early Childhood System Asset Map has two parts:

- 1) Programs Profiles - included in this document, see below
- 2) Strengths & Opportunities Report - accessible at mssecac.org

“Having a heart for children helps you to do your job and thrive because, you know, we have the capacity to do something positive or something negative, so it's important that we make smart choices that we can help our children.”

- EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

The asset map will inform the creation of a strategic vision, which will articulate a path for improvement towards a comprehensive, aligned, high-quality system of early childhood development and care. SECAC will release this strategic vision in January 2023.



Methodology

This asset map was produced in partnership between the Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council and Start Early. Start Early collaborated with MS SECAC leaders to outline the content of the asset map, and MS SECAC members provided guidance, review, and feedback throughout the process. Start Early gathered policy information and data from a range of sources, including public state and federal websites and reports, interviews with state agency leaders, and data requests to relevant state agencies. Critically as part of the process, MS families and early childhood professionals shared their experiences, insights and ideas through surveys, focus groups and interviews, and they will continue to be engaged to create the strategic vision.



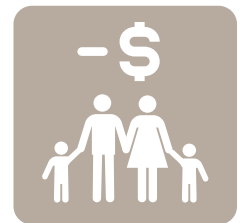
More than **1 Million Neural Connections** formed every second in the first years of lifeⁱⁱ



13% Return on Investment for every dollar spent on high-quality early learningⁱⁱⁱ



\$673 million estimate of the impact on the MS economy annually due to gaps in childcare^{iv}

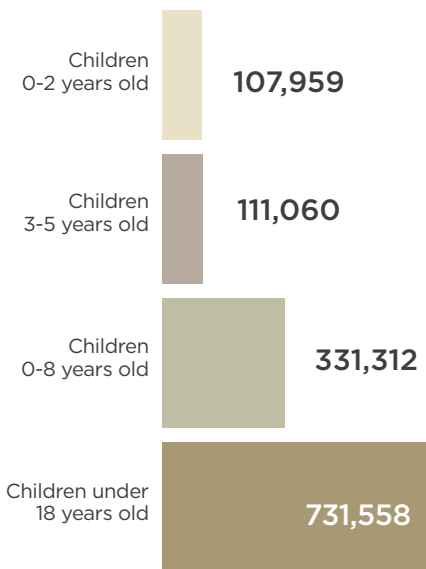


The state of MS invests **6 times less** than the federal government on programs for young children and families in this report.*

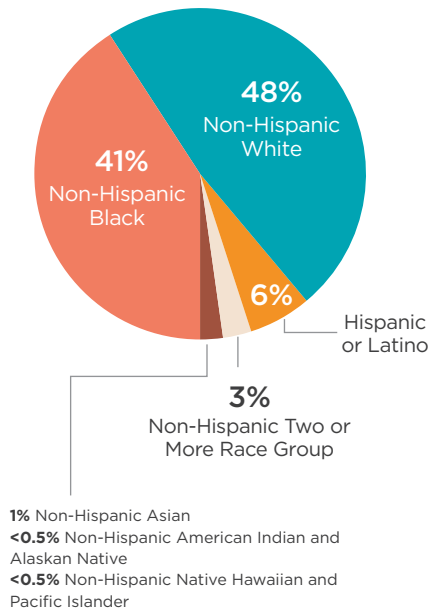
* This figure is calculated based on the totals represented on page 6 and in the program profiles.



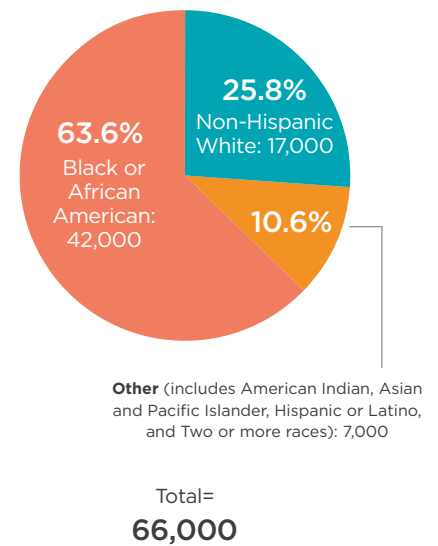
Total population of children 2020^v



Children 0-4 years old by race/ethnicity 2020^{vi}



Children 0-5 years old in poverty by race and ethnicity 2019^{vii}



Overview of the Program Profiles

The purpose of this first part of the asset map is to provide a landscape of the early childhood programs serving children from birth to eight and their families in Mississippi. It begins with a breakout of total public state and federal funding that resources the Mississippi early childhood system annually. This is followed by a visual map of how this funding flows from its source to administering agencies, through regional and/or local entities, and to program providers and families.

The final section includes profiles of thirteen of the major publicly funded programs available to children from birth to age eight and their families in Mississippi. While this is not all inclusive, these profiles represent the major federal and state programs operating in Mississippi.

Each profile answers four key questions:

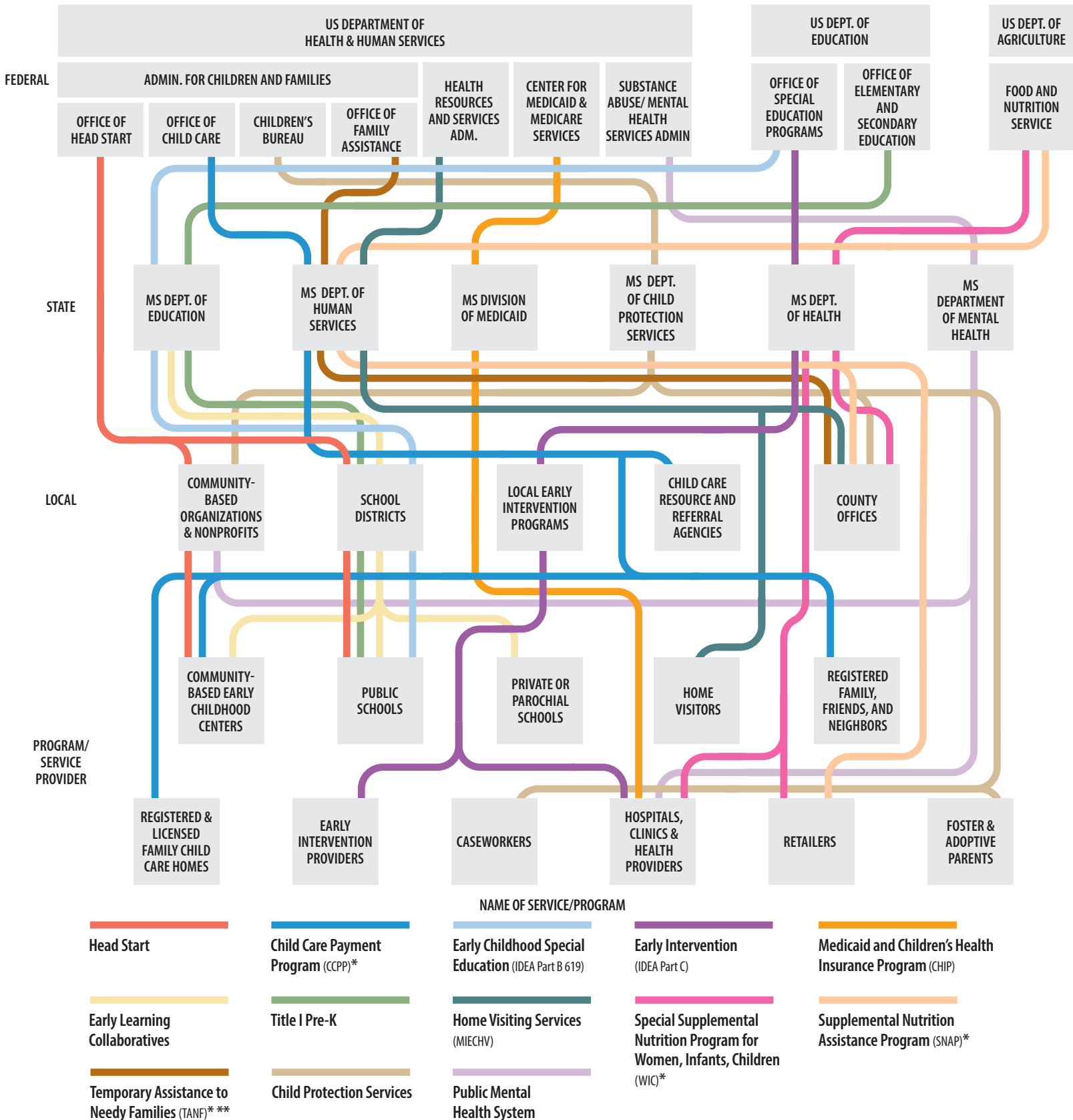
- What is the program?
- Who benefits?
- How much funding is there?
- Who are the providers?

“The toddler years are so challenging, but they’re so much fun because they learn so many things and they are like little sponges.”

- MOTHER OF A THREE-YEAR-OLD IN JACKSON

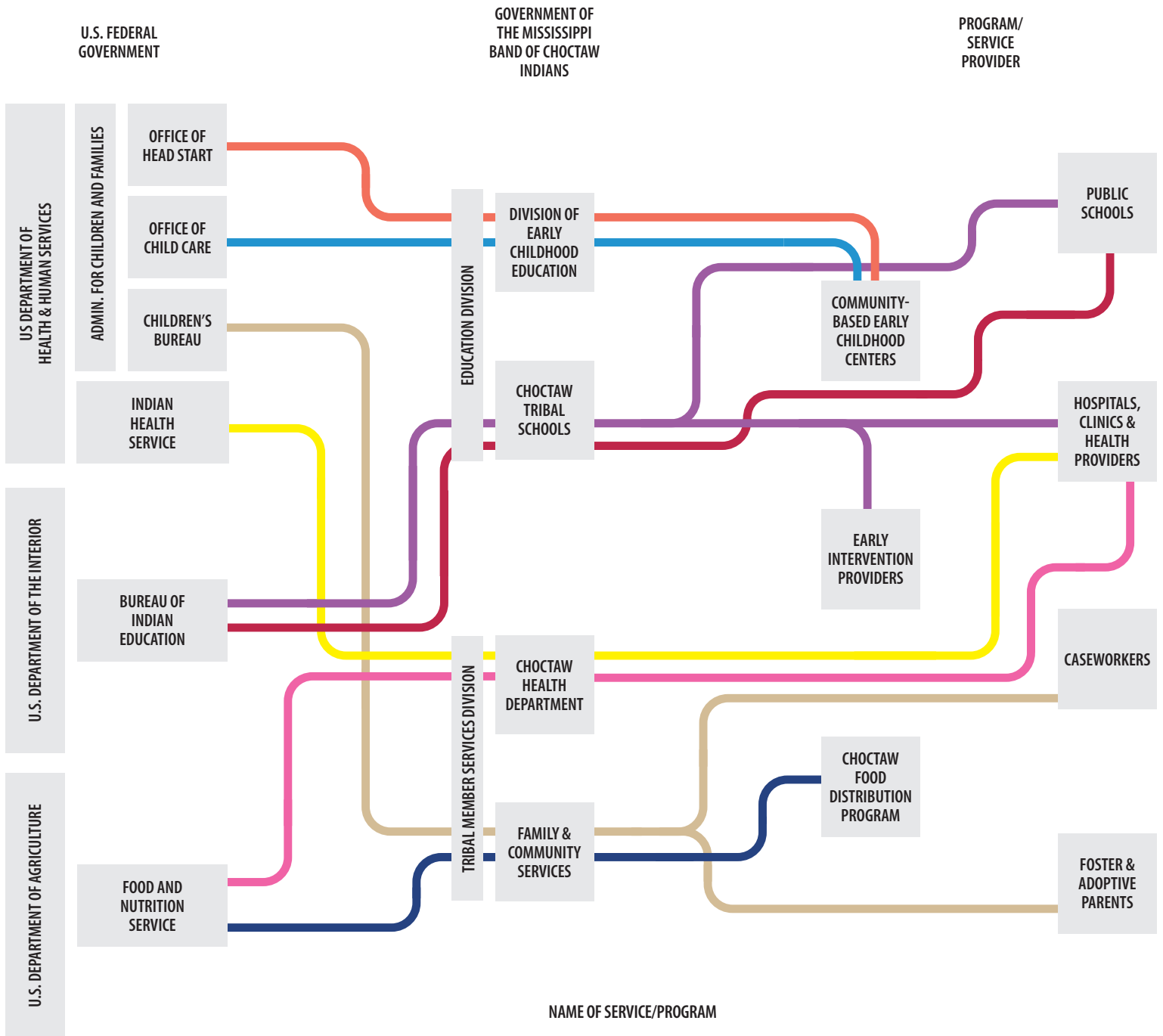
These profiles help provide clear information and insights about each program, who is served and who could be served, which will help inform the SECAC’s strategic vision for a strong early childhood system moving forward.

MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM MAP



*Please note this map both approximates the flow of early childhood funding and the system infrastructure. For these program/services, funding flows through families in the form of vouchers or electronic benefit cards to local providers or retailers. Local intermediaries provide administrative support, eligibility determinations, and other services.

**Expenditures for TANF include basic cash assistance, work activities, work supports, child care, administration & systems, child welfare and other services. TANF can also be used for tax credits and Pre-K/Head Start, but Mississippi currently does not use TANF for these purposes.



Head Start

Child Care and Development Fund

Early Education Intervention Program

Preschool

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC)*

Indian Health Service (The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives)

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

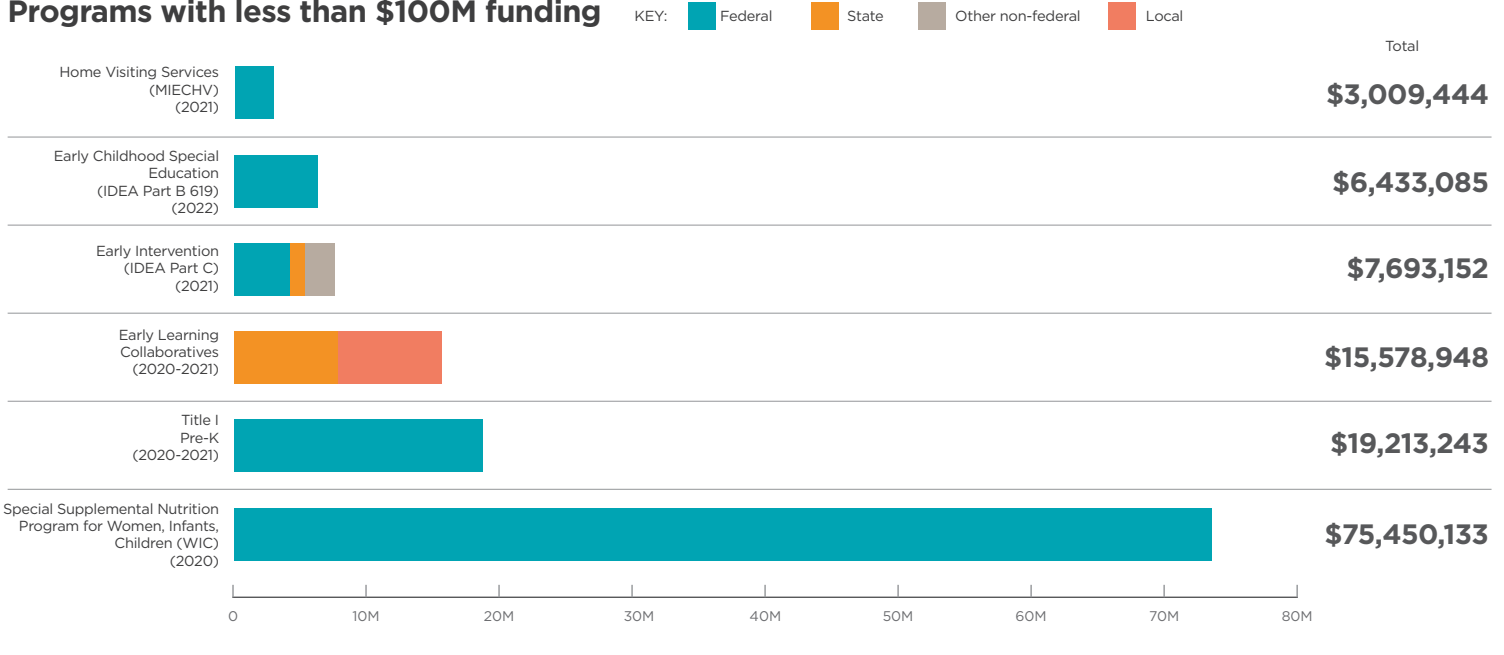
Children & Family Services Program (Child welfare)



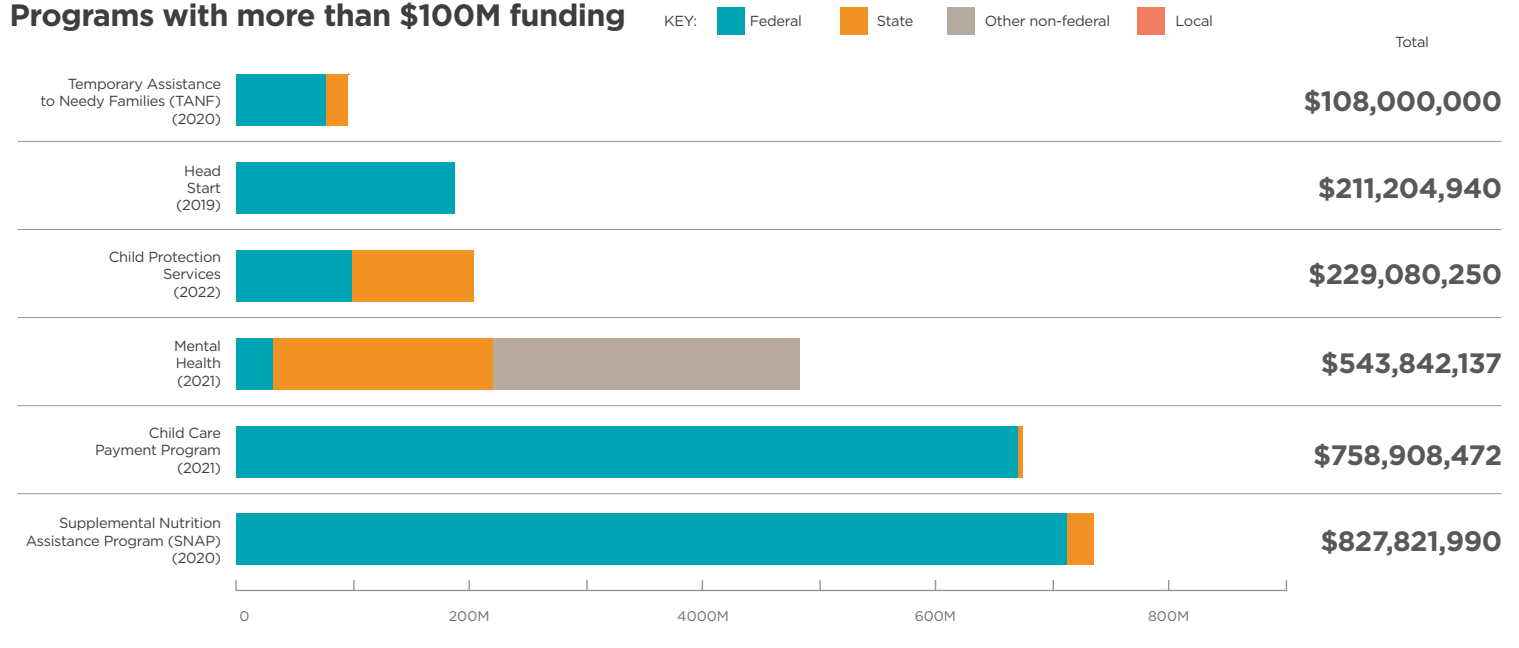
FUNDING

Early Childhood Public Funding in Mississippi

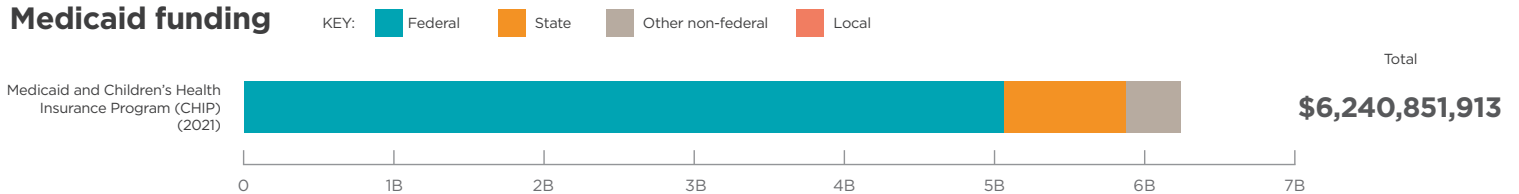
Programs with less than \$100M funding



Programs with more than \$100M funding



Medicaid funding



This chart represents the total funding for these programs, not just funding for parents and children. Please see the program profiles for more details.



PROGRAM PROFILES





Child Care Payment Program

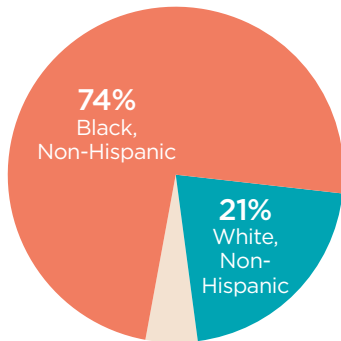
CHILDREN SERVED 2021

35,101

TOTAL FUNDING 2021

\$758,908,472

Children Served by
RACE & ETHNICITY
2021^{xi}



3% Other/Biracial
1% Hispanic/Latino, any race
1% Unreported
0.12% American Indian or Alaskan
0.1% Asian
0.04% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood Care & Development website.](#)

What is the program?

The **Child Care Payment Program (CCPP)** is funded through the federal **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)** federal block grant. CCPP is administered by the Division for Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD) at the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). CCPP provides assistance in the form of vouchers for eligible families to help cover the cost of child care. MDHS has a sliding fee scale based on family size and income that determines the voucher amount a parent can use at a participating child care provider of their choice. Parents pay the remaining amount of tuition directly to the provider if the rate of assistance does not meet the full cost of care.

Who benefits?

Children Served: In FY2021, CCPP served a total of 35,101 children.ⁱ Of the children served, 8% were under age 1, 24% were 1-3 years old, 25% were 3-5 years old, 33% were 6-13 years old, and 10% were above the age of 13.ⁱⁱ

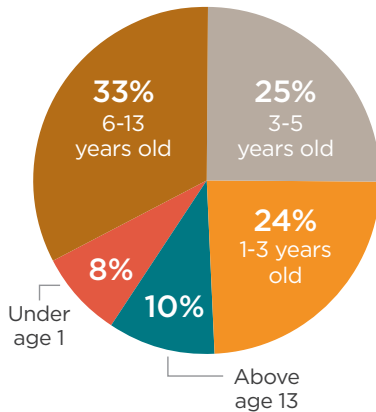
Eligibility Criteria: Child care assistance is available to families with a child under age 13 (or under age 19 with special needs or under court supervision). Federal rules require that parents or guardians must be working or attending an education or training program. Income is capped at 85% of State Median Income (SMI).ⁱⁱⁱ The child must be a U.S. citizen or qualified legal alien, even if the parents are not. Much of the program design and other eligibility rules are left to the discretion of state lead agencies. Currently in Mississippi, parent(s) must be in cooperation with child support, if applicable.

Federal rules also require lead agencies to prioritize children with special needs, families with very low incomes, and families experiencing homelessness. The Mississippi CCPP Program additionally prioritizes recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), recipients of Transitional Child Care (TCC), children meeting the definition of Protective Service, children served by Healthy Families Mississippi home visiting program, and teen parents who meet work and/or educational requirements.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: In 2018, CCPP served a total of 24,304 children,^{iv} approximately 20.23% of the potentially eligible children whose family income was less than 85% of the state median income.^v While there is still much work to be done, Mississippi served greater than the national average of 15% of potentially eligible children through CCPP in 2018.



CCPP recipients by age:



Child Care Payment Program (continued)

How much funding is there?^{vi}

Total funding in in 2021 is **\$758,908,472**.

- Federal: **\$754,186,738** including:
 - **\$96,897,978** from CCDF block grant
 - **\$657,288,760** in American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act funding
- State: **\$4,721,734**

Funding covers child care assistance and administrative costs of the program. States must meet a 9% quality spending requirement and a 3% infant and toddler quality spending requirement, which includes support for professional development and technical assistance and funding for a statewide child care resource and referral system.^{vii} DECCD also utilized supplemental federal relief dollars to pay a 25% enhanced subsidy rate to child care providers and to cover the cost of parent co-payments.^{viii}

Who are the providers?

Provider Type(s): The following types of providers accept CCPP:

- licensed center-based child care providers
- license-exempt center-based child care providers (including accredited public, private, and parochial schools)
- licensed family child care providers (6-12 children in care)
- registered, unlicensed family child care providers (5 or fewer children in care)
- In-home child care providers (for children with special needs).^{ix}

Number of Providers: There are currently **1,559** licensed or registered child care providers in Mississippi, and **967** providers (**62%**) accept CCPP.^x



Head Start

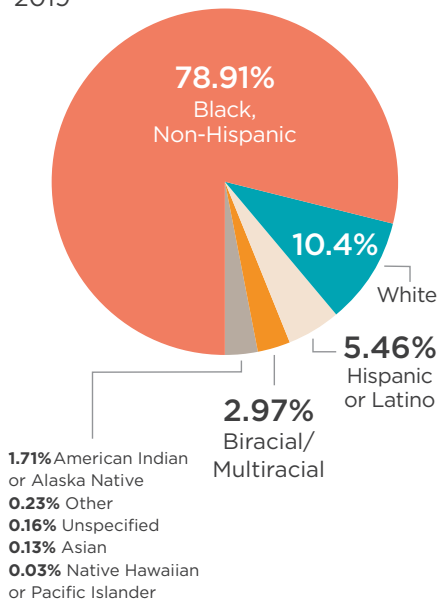
CHILDREN SERVED 2021

15,691

TOTAL FUNDING 2021

\$211,204,940

Children Served by
RACE & ETHNICITY
2019*



Learn more at the [Mississippi Head Start Association website](#).

What is the program?

Head Start and **Early Head Start** are administered by the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Mississippi Head Start Association’s (MHSA) mission is to provide children ages birth to 5 and their families with a range of individualized services including education, early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition and parent engagement. Early Head Start and Head Start services include center-based and home-based options for families. The Mississippi Head Start State Collaboration Office (MSHSSCO), located in the Office of the Governor, facilitates communication and coordination of services, alignment of planning, enrollment, administration, and reporting systems among state and local leadership across funding streams and disciplines.

Who benefits?

Children Served: In 2021, the funded enrollment for Head Start and Early Head Start in Mississippi totaled 21,024 slots, and 268 slots for MS American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) programs.ⁱ The cumulative enrollment for Head Start and Early Head Start was 15,691 children and for AIAN programs was 290 children. 18.71% of children served in Head Start were ages 0-2 and 81.29% were ages 3-5.ⁱⁱ Head Start programs are required to maintain a consistent enrollment number equal to 85% of their funded slots. While some programs served more children than their funded enrollment in 2021, many grantees fell significantly short of this requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria: Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers under the age of 3 as well as pregnant women and Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5. Head Start and Early Head Start services are available to families with incomes below the federal poverty guidelines. Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children from families receiving public assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible, regardless of income. Families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are also eligible for Head Start.ⁱⁱⁱ



Primary Type of Eligibility:^{iv}

Income at or below 100% of federal poverty level:

84.01%

Public assistance such as TANF and SSI:

4.46%

Foster care:

0.64%

Homeless:

0.64%

Eligibility based on other type of need:

6.70%

Income between between 100% and 130% of federal poverty line:

3.55%

Head Start (continued)

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: In 2019, Head Start and Early Head Start had a funded enrollment of 23,781^v and there were 66,000 children under age 5 statewide who met the income eligibility requirements for the program,^{vi} reaching approximately of 36% eligible children.

How much funding is there?^{vii}

Total funding in 2019 was **\$211,204,940**.^{vii}

- Federal: **\$211,204,940**
 - For Head Start and Early Head Start: **\$208,907,300**
 - For AIAN Head Start and Early Head Start: **\$2,297,640**

In 2021, Mississippi received an additional \$15 million through the American Rescue Plan. Head Start funds are awarded directly to eligible program operators at the local level. Program operators can use funds for a wide range of program expenses including operations, professional development, quality improvement, and investments in technology. Up to 5 percent of program budgets go to staff education and training.

Who are the providers?

Provider Type(s): Head Start and Early Head Start providers include the following agencies:

- Community Action Agencies (CAAs)
- Private/Public Non-Profits (non-CAAs such as churches or non-profit hospitals)
- School Systems
- Government Agencies (non-CAAs)
- Tribal Governments or Consortiums (American Indian/Alaska Native)

Number of Providers: All **82** counties in Mississippi are served by Head Start programs, which are administered by different grantees. There are a total of **16** Head Start grantees administering **47** programs across **290** sites^{viii} There are **81** sites that provide both Head Start and Early Head Start services, **41** sites that provide Early Head Start and **168** sites that provide Head Start services.^{ix}



Title I Preschool

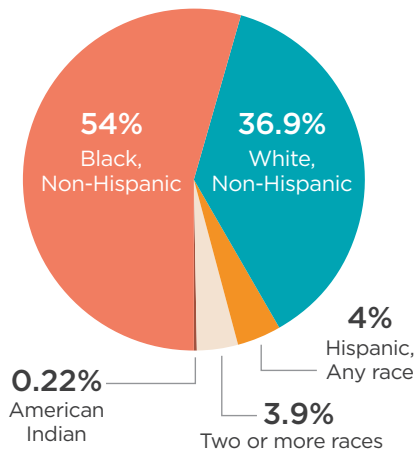
CHILDREN SERVED 2020-2021

4,796

TOTAL FUNDING 2020-2021

\$19,213,243

Children Served by
RACE & ETHNICITY
2020-2021



Too low to be reported: Asian, Pacific Islander

Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Education's website](#).

What is the program?

Title I, Part A is a federal funding stream under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) intended to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I funds may be used for a variety of services, including to establish or enhance preschool programs for eligible children. Programs are to comply with the Head Start Performance Standards for educational services. They may provide comprehensive services for children enrolled such as health, nutrition, hearing and vision screening, mental health, and family support services. Title I programs must coordinate with other local early childhood education programs and support transitions to elementary school.

Who benefits?

Children Served:ⁱⁱ 4,796 students were enrolled in 2020-2021, including 70 3-year-olds and 4,726 4-year-olds. 5,676 students were served in 2019-2020. Enrollment declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends.

Eligibility Criteria:ⁱⁱⁱ Title I preschool may serve children from birth to the age at which the school district provides free elementary education. In MS, Title I preschool usually serves 4-year-olds until they are eligible for kindergarten.

Title I funds are distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) and schools with high percentages of children from low-income families. Eligibility is partly based on whether a program is a schoolwide, districtwide, or a targeted assistance program. If at least 40% of the families in the area are low-income (or the school receives a waiver), a schoolwide Title I program may be implemented to serve all students within the attendance area. If a Title I school or district cannot serve all students or if it is a targeted assistance program, it must establish multiple, educationally related, objective criteria, to identify the children who are most at risk of failing to meet academic standards, such as:

- Developmentally appropriate measures of child development,
- English language learners,
- Children receiving special education services.



Approximately, 66,000 children in poverty under the age of 6 in MS could benefit from a Title I preschool program.

Title I Preschool (continued)

Family income can be considered, though children should not be identified as eligible solely based on this. Some children are automatically eligible, including children who:

- Participated in a Head Start or a Title I preschool program during the prior two years,
- Are experiencing homelessness,
- Received services under Title I, Part C (migrant education) in the prior 2 years, and
- Are in a local institution or attending a community day program for neglected or delinquent children.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: Approximately 12.7% of all 37,159 4-year-olds in MS are served in Title I preschool programs.^{iv} Approximately, 66,000 children in poverty under the age of 6 in MS could benefit from a Title I preschool program.^v

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020-2021^{vi} was **\$19,213,243**.

- Federal: **\$19,213,243**
- State: Not applicable

Title I funding is flexible and may be used for a wide range of program expenses including operations, family engagement, professional development, and investments in technology. Funds may also be used to expand or enhance existing early learning programs such as Head Start or childcare programs.

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: LEAs or public school districts receive and control how Title I funds are used. A Title I preschool program may be provided in a school building or other privately-owned setting. In MS, all Title I preschool classrooms are in schools.

Number of Providers: 174 schools in 72 school districts.^{vii}



Early Learning Collaboratives

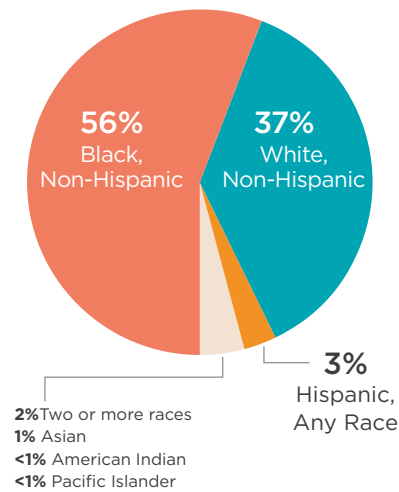
CHILDREN SERVED 2021-2022

2,801

TOTAL FUNDING 2020-2021

\$15,578,948

Children Served by
RACE & ETHNICITY
2020-2021



Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Education's website.](#)

What is the program?

Early Learning Collaboratives (ELC) provide voluntary half or full day preschool programming, with curriculum and assessment aligned to comprehensive early learning standards. ELCs also provide family engagement opportunities, screenings and/or referrals for vision, hearing and other health issues. As a partnership of multiple preschool providers, they support the local coordination of preschool programming. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) awards funds based on a community's commitment, capacity, and need. To determine need, MDE shall consider low academic achievement within the school district and the number and percentage of students without quality pre-k options.ⁱ

Who benefits?

Children Served:ⁱⁱ 2,801 children were enrolled in 3,220 funded slots in the school year 2021-2022 with a state appropriation of \$16,000,000. 3,090 were enrolled in school year 2019-2020. Enrollment declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends.

An additional 2,890 slots were funded to be served in the 2022-2023 school year, which will bring the total to 6,110.ⁱⁱⁱ During the 2022 legislative session, an appropriation was made to ELCs at a rate of \$24,000,000, which will serve over 9,000 children.^{iv}

Eligibility Criteria: ELCs serve children who are not yet in kindergarten but are four years of age on or before September 1 of a school year. There are no eligibility requirements for students or families set by the state for the ELCs. Programs that are part of the ELC follow the eligibility and selection criteria that are applicable to their program type, i.e., Head Start, public preschool, and Child Care Payment Program/child care licensure.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: Approximately 16% of all four-year-olds can be served in ELCs in 2022-2023.

Early Learning Collaborative Funding, Children and Programs^v

	First ELC School Year 2014-2015	ELC Current School Year 2021-22	Cumulative Total Since ELC Program Launched
Funding	\$3M	\$16M	\$51M
Children	1,698	6,080	21,439
Programs	11	30	30



Characteristics of Children and Families Served



3%

of children served speak a language other than English as their home language

8%

of children served have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special needs

Early Learning Collaboratives (continued)

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020-2021 was **\$15,578,948**.

- State: **\$7,789,474**
- Local: **\$7,789,474**

A 1:1 local match is required. The match may include local tax dollars, federal dollars as allowed (e.g. Head Start, Title I), parent tuition, philanthropic contributions, or in-kind donations of facilities, equipment and services required as part of the program such as food service or health screenings. Funds may be used for staffing, educational materials and equipment, child assessment, professional development, administering, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the programs.

Who are the providers?

Provider Type(s): ELCs are partnerships comprised of:

- a public school district
- a local Head Start affiliate, if in existence
- private or parochial schools
- licensed childcare centers.

ELCs may include organizations that work with young children and their families to provide resources and coordination, even if they are not prekindergarten providers. Each ELC has a lead partner, which is the public school district or other nonprofit with the expertise and capacity to manage the program.

Number of Providers: 18 ELCs provide preschool services at **98** sites.^{iv}



Healthy Families Mississippi

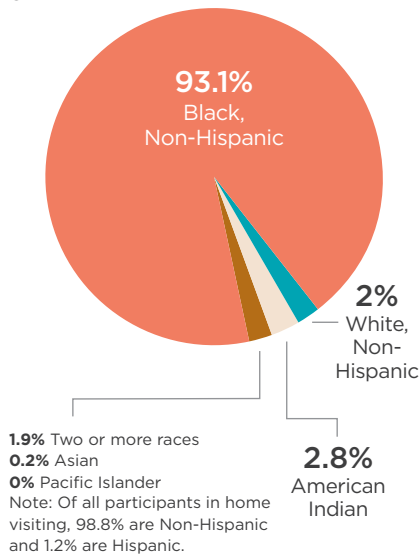
FAMILIES SERVED 2021

656

TOTAL FUNDING 2021

\$3,009,444

Participants Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2021



Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Human Services Healthy Families website](#).

What is the program?

In MS, voluntary home visiting programs are primarily funded by the **Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV)**, a federal program that supports expecting parents and parents with young children. The MIECHV program aims to improve maternal and child health, promote children’s development and school readiness, prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce domestic violence and crime, connect families to needed community resources and supports, and increase family education levels and earning potential. Home visitors provide vital support - listening to parents, answering questions, assessing family strengths and needs and providing services tailored to their needs. They share information, teach positive parenting skills, help families to set goals for their future, conduct screenings and make referrals. Healthy Families Mississippi is the MIECHV-funded, evidence-based model offered. Early Head Start also offers a home visiting program. See the Head Start Program Profile for more information.

Who benefits?

Children Served: 656 families/households were served in FY21 in 750 funded slots, including 1303 total participants (adults and children).¹

Eligibility Criteria: MIECHV is intended to serve families who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive maternal and child health outcomes. Families must live in one of the 16 counties served. Healthy Families Mississippi serves pregnant women, mothers, fathers, and guardians with children from birth to age three. Families must enroll during pregnancy or before the child is three months of age. MIECHV funding could be used to serve children up to the age of kindergarten entry. Programs must give priority to eligible families who meet one of the following criteria:

- Low income
- Expecting parents/parents under the age of 21
- Have a history of child abuse or neglect or have had interactions with child welfare services



PROGRAM PROFILES

Characteristics of Children and Families Served

90.7%

of households were low income

4.7%

of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21

1.1 %

of children had an Individualized Family Support Plan or Individualized Education Program for special needs

100%

of families speak English as their home language

Healthy Families Mississippi (continued)

- Have a history of substance abuse or need substance abuse treatment
- Have users of tobacco in the home
- Have children with developmental delays or disabilities
- Have served or are serving in the Armed Forces.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: In MS, there are an estimated 167,000 families with pregnant mothers and/or children under 6 who could benefit from home visiting, including approximately 56% (93,520) who meet one or more priority criteria and 27% (45,090) who meet two or more priority criteria.ⁱⁱ MS currently has the capacity to serve 1.67% of this high priority population in home visiting.

How much funding is there?

Total funding in FY21 was **\$3,009,444**.ⁱⁱⁱ

- Federal funding: **\$3,009,444**
- State: **\$0**

MIECHV funding may be used for administrative costs and a wide range of program expenses including operations, professional development, quality improvement, and investments in technology.

Who are the providers?

Provider Type(s): County Offices

Number of Providers: Home visiting is provided in 16 counties, including: Claiborne, Jefferson, Coahoma, Copiah, Desoto, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Neshoba, Sharkey, Issaquena, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington, Wilkinson.

There are **38** Family Support Specialists, **10** Site Supervisors and **2** Regional Supervisors.



Early Intervention (IDEA Part C)

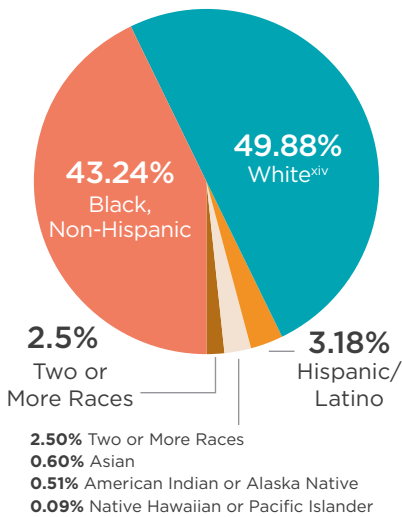
CHILDREN SERVED 2020

3,360

TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$7,693,152

Children Served by
RACE & ETHNICITY
2020^{xiii}



Learn more at the [Mississippi State Department of Health's Early Intervention website](#).

What is the program?

Mississippi First Steps, administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), is the state's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C early intervention program. The Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program provides supports and services to children with special needs under three years of age and their families. These family-centered services are meant to enhance children's development through early learning opportunities embedded in their daily routines and activities.ⁱ An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is created for each child eligible for early intervention that outlines services tailored to their needs. Early intervention services can include signed and cued language services, assistive technology, evaluation, special instruction, service coordination, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, audiology, and psychometric services, among others.ⁱⁱ

Who benefits?

Children Served: Cumulatively, First Steps served 3,360 infants and toddlers throughout the course of 2020.ⁱⁱⁱ Enrollment in First Steps declined after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, consistent with national trends.^{iv}

Eligibility Criteria: The Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program is available to infants and toddlers from birth to three years old who qualify under three main eligibility categories:

- **Developmental Delay**, meaning the child has demonstrated through an assessment that they have a 33% delay in one area of development or a 25% delay in two or more areas: cognitive, physical (gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing), communication, social-emotional, and adaptive development.
- **Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition**, including but not limited to chromosomal abnormalities, genetic or congenital disorders, sensory impairments, inborn errors of metabolism, disorders reflecting disturbance of the development of the nervous system, congenital infection, severe attachment disorders, and disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances, including fetal alcohol syndrome.
- **Informed Clinical Opinion**, which may be used by qualified professionals to establish a child's eligibility for First Steps if their evaluation and assessment results do not meet the developmental delay criteria or the child does not have a diagnosis.^v



Settings in which Children Received their Early Intervention Services

Fall 2020^{xiv}

72%

or **1,160** children, receive their services in the home.

8%

or **129** children, receive their services in a community-based setting

20%

or **332** children, receive their services in another setting that is not community-based or in the home

Early Intervention (IDEA Part C) (continued)

IDEA Part C federal law allows states to set their own definition of developmental delay. Federal law also allows states to serve children who are at risk for developmental delay; Mississippi does not include “at risk” children in its Part C eligibility criteria.

To estimate how many children may be eligible but are not served in early intervention, it is helpful to consider the 2020 national average of 3.2% of children birth through two served by Part C early intervention programs. As of fall 2020, Mississippi served 1.50% of its birth through two population in early intervention. If 3.2% of infants and toddlers were served in early intervention, approximately 3,458 children would receive services. According to this estimate, approximately 47% of potentially eligible children in Mississippi were receiving early intervention services as of fall 2020.^{vi}

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2022 was **\$7,693,152**.

- Federal: **\$4,285,168**
- State: **\$1,090,000**
- Other: **\$2,317,984**^{vii}

Mississippi received \$2,082,894 in one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding for early intervention directly from the federal government as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.^{viii} The sources of Mississippi’s state funding include approximately \$390,000 from state general funds and \$700,000 in special education dollars transferred to MSDH from the Mississippi Department of Education. The legislature previously earmarked \$188,660 of the Healthcare Expendable Fund to early intervention, but this ended in 2022.^{ix} In addition to this state funding, First Steps bills the state Medicaid program for targeted case management.^x

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: First Steps Early Intervention Program is divided into nine Local Early Intervention Programs. Service coordinators employed by MSDH process referrals to First Steps and coordinate with the Local Early Intervention Programs to provide the evaluations and services needed for each child. These services are delivered by Early Intervention providers from various disciplines (e.g., family therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, etc.) who contract with MSDH and are reimbursed for their services.^{xi}

Number of Providers: **52** service coordinators were employed by MSDH as of April 2022. There are over **300** providers who provide direct services to Part C-eligible children and families.^{xii}



Early Childhood Special Education (IDEA Part B 619)

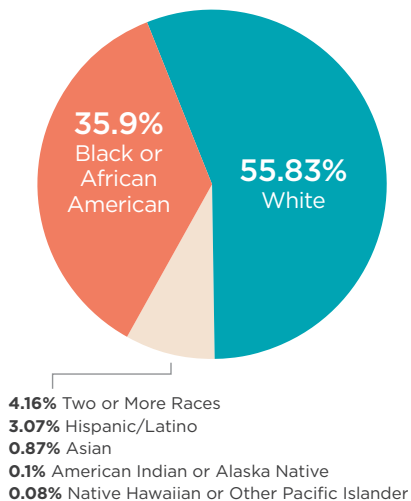
CHILDREN SERVED 2020

3,914

TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$6,433,085

Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2020^{ix}



Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Education's website](https://www.msde.edu/).

What is the program?

Children with disabilities ages three through five are afforded the right to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment through IDEA Part B Section 619. This program includes an affirmative duty to locate all children who may be eligible for services, conducting initial evaluations to determine their eligibility for services, creation of an individualized education program (IEP) defining the supports and services that are tailored to each child's strengths and needs, and ultimately service delivery.ⁱ The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) administers Part B 619 services.

Who benefits?

Children Served: A total of 3,914 children ages 3-5 were served in Early Childhood Special Education in Mississippi as of fall 2020.ⁱⁱ Enrollment in ECSE declined after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends, from 8,391 children in fall 2019 to 3,914 children.ⁱⁱⁱ

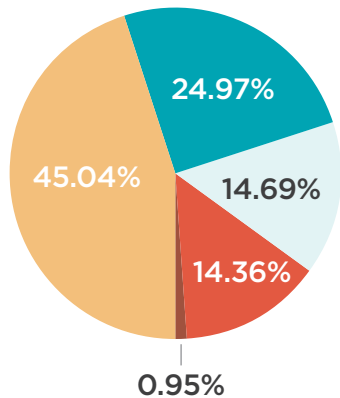
Eligibility Criteria: ECSE services are for children ages three through five with disabilities or developmental delays. To receive services, the school district Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team must determine that the child meets the criteria for one of 13 eligibility categories: autism, deaf-blind, emotional disability, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, language/speech impairment, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, orthopedic impairment, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury, visually impaired, or developmental delay. A developmental delay is defined as 1.5 standard deviations below the mean of an assessment based on standard scores or a developmental age 25% below the child's chronological age on an assessment based on age equivalents.^{iv}

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: To estimate how many children may be eligible but are not served in ECSE, it is helpful to consider the 2020 national average of 4.19% of children ages three-five served in Part B 619 programs. As of fall 2020, Mississippi served 3.52% of the three-five-year-old population. If 4.19% of Mississippi's three-to-five-year-olds were served in ECSE, approximately 4,659 children would receive services.^v According to this estimate, approximately 84% of potentially eligible children were served as of fall 2020. Prior to the pandemic in fall 2019, Mississippi served 7.48% of the state's three-five-year-old population, greater than the national average of 5.94%.^{xiii}



PROGRAM PROFILES

Educational Environments in which Children Received their Early Childhood Special Education Services Fall 2020^x



- 45.04%**
(1,763) attend a regular early childhood program with typically developing peers and receive the majority of services in that location
- 24.97%**
(977) separate class, separate school, or residential facility
- 14.69%**
(575) service provider location
- 14.36%**
(562) attend a regular early childhood program with typically developing peers and receive the majority of services in some other location
- 0.95%**
(37) home

Early Childhood Special Education (IDEA Part B 619) (continued)

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2022 was **\$6,433,085**.

- Federal: **\$6,433,085**
- State: **\$0^{vi}**

In fiscal year 2022, Mississippi received both federal IDEA Part B 619 and American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B 619 funding. Local funds may be used for Early Childhood Special Education, but the amount is not available.

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: Part B 619 services are provided through local school districts – known as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

Number of Providers: In fiscal year 2022, **141** school districts in Mississippi received IDEA Part B 619 and American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B 619 funding.^{vii} As of fall 2019, there were a total of **152** teachers employed to work with children ages 3 through 5 who are receiving special education under IDEA, Part B.^{viii}

MDE Grants for Inclusive Blended Pre-K Classrooms

In 2018, MDE’s Offices of Special Education and Early Childhood started a competitive grant for school districts to create blended prekindergarten classrooms with children with disabilities learning in an inclusive environment alongside their non-disabled peers.^{xi} Three cohorts of school districts received grant funding to invest in curriculum, professional development, classroom materials and other “start-up” costs for creating blended preschool classrooms with less than 40% children with disabilities. Participating classrooms were required to have a fully certified general education preschool teacher and special education teacher or a dually certified special education/preschool teacher. Grant funds did not pay for teacher salaries so that school districts would plan to sustainably support staffing beyond the grant. This initiative resulted in 17 blended classrooms in 11 districts where children with disabilities now have access to high-quality, inclusive preschool services.^{xii} It is uncertain if IDEA funding will continue to be set aside for these blended preschool grants beyond FY2023.



Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

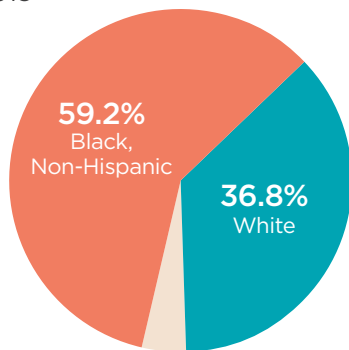
CHILDREN SERVED 2020

59,831

TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$75,450,133

Women & Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2018^v



6.4% Hispanic
1.9% Two or more races
0.7% Asian
0.7% American Indian
0.4% Pacific Islander
0.4% Not reported

Note: 95.5% MS Band of Choctaw Indians-American Indian

Learn more at the [Mississippi State Department of Health WIC website](#) and the [MS Band of Choctaw Indians WIC](#).

What is the program?

WIC is the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children. The program provides the benefits of nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and health screenings and referrals. Participants purchase healthy foods at WIC eligible grocery stores and pharmacies statewide using an electronic WIC card.

Who benefits?

Children Served: **77,546** women, infants, and children were served in FY20,ⁱ **76,866** by the MS State Department of Health, including **17,568** women (22.85%), **22,394** infants (29.13%) and **36,904** children (48.03%) and **679** by the MS Band of Choctaw Indians, including **147** women (21.64%), **193** infants (28.42%) and **340** children (50.07%).

Eligibility Criteria:ⁱⁱ Women who are pregnant, postpartum (up to 6 months after pregnancy), or breastfeeding (up to the infant's first birthday), infants (up to the infant's first birthday), and children (up to the child's fifth birthday). Individuals must meet the following criteria to be eligible for WIC:

- **Residency:** Eligible participants must live in Mississippi
- **Income:** Eligible participants must meet federal income guidelines described [here](#), equivalent to income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or individuals receiving SNAP, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are adjunctively eligible
- **Nutrition Risk:** Determined to have a medical-based condition (e.g., anemia, underweight or overweight, or history of poor pregnancy outcome) or a dietary-based conditions (e.g., poor diet).

Percentage of Eligible Children Served:ⁱⁱⁱ **61.6%** is the overall estimated coverage rate for 2018. Coverage rates were highest for infants (nearly **100%**) and postpartum women (**92.8%**) and lowest for pregnant women (**55.4%**), two (**48.9%**), three (**44.4%**) and four-year-old children (**27.9%**). The coverage rates by race included: **58.5%** for White, Non-Hispanic women and children, **61%** for Black, Non-Hispanic women and children and **96.9%** for Hispanic women and children. Coverage rate estimate is not available for American Indians.



Coverage rates were highest for infants (nearly

100%

Postpartum women

92.8%

and lowest for pregnant women

55.4%

two-year-old children

48.9%

three-year-old children

44.4%

and four-year-old children

27.9%

Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program

(WIC) (continued)

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020 was **\$75,450,133**.^{iv}

- Federal- **\$75,450,133**
 - To the State Department of Health: **\$74,846,865**
 - To the MS Band of Choctaw Indians: **\$603,248**
- State: Not applicable

WIC funding covers food costs, nutrition services and administration.

Who are the providers?

WIC services are provided at **95** County Health Departments and **22** non-profit/independent clinics throughout the state.

WIC services are also provided at the Choctaw Health Center, clinics, or WIC Office.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

CHILDREN SERVED 2021

65,690

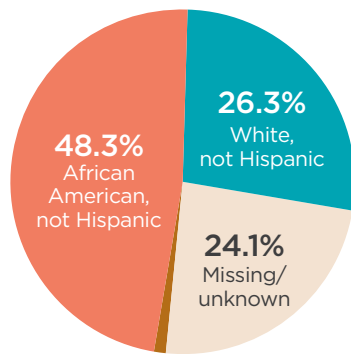
TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$827,821,990

People Served by

RACE & ETHNICITY

2018 (head of household)^{xi}



0.4% Hispanic, Any Race
0.9% Other, not Hispanic

Learn more at the [MDHS SNAP website](#)

What is the program?

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) is an anti-hunger program helping low income individuals and families afford a basic diet. SNAP benefits include an electronic benefits card that may be used to purchase food. The amount of the monthly benefit depends on income and the number of people in the household.

Who benefits?

Children Served: 418,451 was the total participation of adults and children in FY2021.ⁱ 505,308 was the average number of people (adults and children) participating in SNAP per month in FY18,ⁱⁱ including 245,579 children (48.6%), 65,690 (13%) birth to age 5 and 179,890 (35.6%) school age.ⁱⁱⁱ

Eligibility Criteria: Individuals or households must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

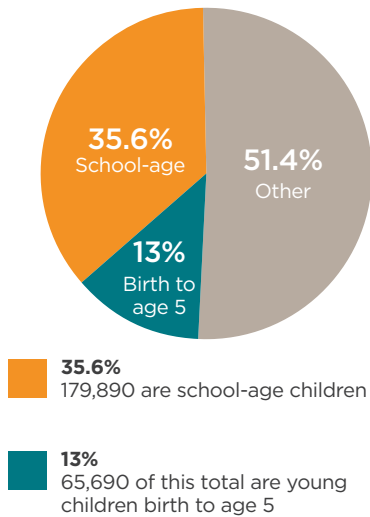
- Gross monthly income generally must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line. Households with an elderly or disabled member need not meet this limit,
- Net monthly income, or income after deductions are applied for items such as high housing costs and child care, must be less than or equal to the poverty line,
- Assets must fall below certain limits: in fiscal year 2019 the limits are \$2,250 for households without an elderly or disabled member and \$3,500 for those with an elderly or disabled member.^{iv}
- Work requirements - not applicable to households with children under 18.
- Additionally in MS, parents and guardians must cooperate with Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Enforcement to establish paternity and obtain support for the child(ren).^v

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: 71% of all eligible people participated in MS in FY2018.^{vi}



PROGRAM PROFILES

Age breakdown of SNAP participants



505,308

average number of people participating in SNAP per month in 2018

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (continued)

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020 was **\$827,821,990**^{vii}

- Federal: **\$774,433,886** in total issuances (regular SNAP and emergency allotments) and **\$26,772,286** for the federal share of administrative costs^{viii}
- State: **\$26,615,818** for the state share of administrative costs^{ix}

The federal government fully funds SNAP benefits for all eligible participants, but the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and state agencies share administrative expenses, with each paying about 50 percent.

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: County Department of Human Services Economic Assistance Eligibility Offices facilitate the application process. SNAP benefits may be used at participating retailers including superstores, grocery stores, convenience stores and farmers' markets.

Number of Providers: There are **80** County Department of Human Services Economic Assistance Eligibility Offices. SNAP benefits may be used at about **3,061** participating retailers.^x

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

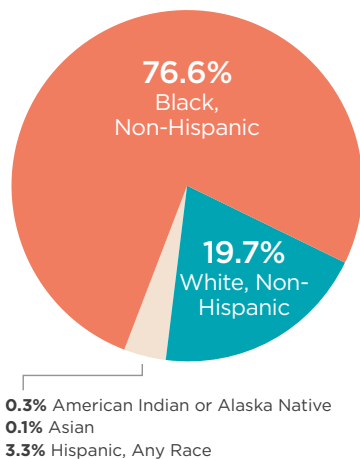
CHILDREN SERVED 2020

2,888

TOTAL FUNDING 2020

\$108,000,000

Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2019^{viii}



Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Human Services TANF website](#).

What is the program?

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), commonly known as welfare, is a monthly case assistance program for up to 60 months for low-income families with children under age 18. TANF provides temporary financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, childcare and other non-medical expenses and also provides adults with job readiness training, job skills training, vocational training, other educational training programs to help them prepare for employment. TANF is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families and is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS).

Who benefits?

Children Served: A total of 3,158 Mississippians received TANF in 2020. 2,888 or 91% of TANF recipients were children.ⁱ

Eligibility Criteria: States have broad discretion to determine eligibility for their TANF cash assistance programs. Federal law generally requires that TANF cash assistance is provided to “needy” families with parents/guardians who are unemployed or underemployed and have at least one child under age 18.ⁱⁱ Federal law allows states to extend eligibility to pregnant persons with no other children, which Mississippi does. Mississippi set the income eligibility threshold at \$680/month for a family of three. States also have the flexibility to set their own benefit levels. Mississippi recently increased TANF grants from \$170/month for a family of three (9% of the federal poverty level) to \$260/month (14% of the federal poverty level).

Federal law also requires states to meet “work participation rate” targets. Mississippi requires parents/guardians to participate in the TANF Work Program and to register with Mississippi Works. Federal law also requires recipients to cooperate with child support enforcement. Mississippi additionally requires recipients to complete a Substance Abuse Screening Inventory.

TANF Families by Public Assistance Program (FY2019):ⁱⁱⁱ

- Medical Assistance: **100%**
- Subsidized Housing: **3.4%**
- Subsidized Child Care: **15.3%**
- SNAP: **86.5%**

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: In 2020, TANF served approximately 5% of families with children living in poverty statewide.^{iv}



States can carry over unspent funds to future years. Mississippi spent \$77,000,000 in federal and state funds in 2020 and has accumulated \$47,000,000 in unspent TANF block grant funds.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF) (continued)

How much funding is there?^v

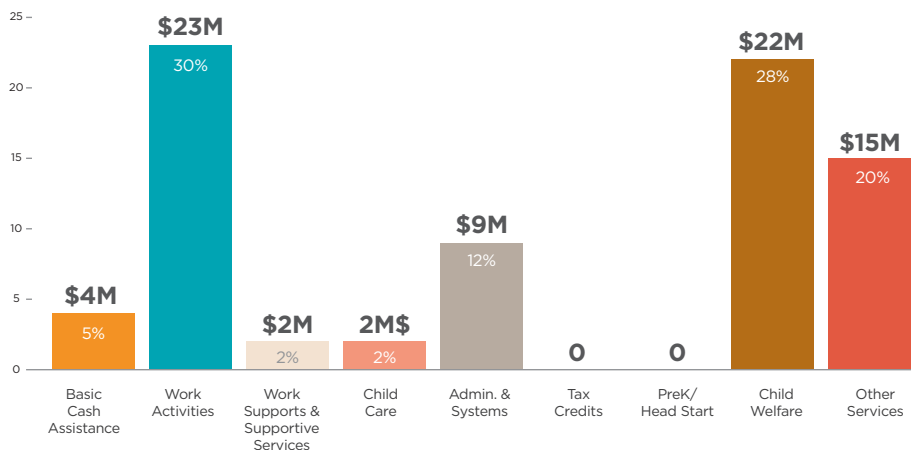
Total funding in 2020 was **\$108,000,000**.

- Federal: **\$86,000,000**
- State: **\$22,000,000**

States can carry over unspent funds to future years. Mississippi spent **\$77,000,000** in federal and state funds in 2020 and has accumulated **\$47,000,000** in unspent TANF block grant funds.^{vi}

How is the funding spent?^{vii}

Year 2020; In Millions



Who are the providers?

TANF is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) offices in each of the **82** counties.



Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

CHILDREN SERVED 2022

424,503

enrolled in Medicaid

41,657

enrolled in CHIP

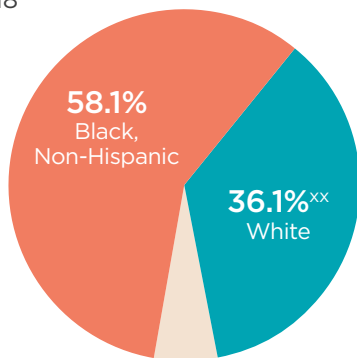
TOTAL FUNDING 2021

\$6,240,851,913

Children Under 18 Covered by Medicaid

BY RACE & ETHNICITY

2018^{xx}



4.7% Other or Multi-Race
0.7% American Indian or Alaska Native
Not Available Asian, Hawaiian Native, or Other Pacific Islander

Learn more at the [Mississippi Division of Medicaid's website.](#)

What is the program?

Medicaid is a state and federal program, overseen by the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM), that provides health coverage for eligible, low-income people. Mississippi also has a Medicaid managed care program called the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN) that aims to increase beneficiaries' access to medical services, improve the quality of their care, and maintain predictability of costs.ⁱ

The DOM also manages programs that support young children and their mothers:

- **CHIP** provides health coverage for children under age 19 who are low-income but are not eligible for Medicaid and are uninsured.ⁱⁱ
- **The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment** program provides Medicaid eligible children up to age 21 with preventive care such as free check-ups and medical services needed to correct or ameliorate physical or mental illnesses and conditions, without regard to service limitations and with prior authorization.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **DOM works with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)** to provide Targeted Case Management for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays or disabilities in the Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program.^{iv}
- **DOM works with MSDH to provide the Perinatal High Risk Management/Infant Services System** (also known as Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies under MSDH), which is a multidisciplinary case management program established to help improve access to health care and to provide enhanced services to Medicaid-eligible pregnant/postpartum women with risk factors and infants. The goal of the PHRM/ISS Program is to reduce the infant mortality rate and low-birth weight.^v

Who benefits?

Children Served: As of May 2022, **426,027**, or **53%** of all Medicaid beneficiaries, are children.^{vi} In 2019, an estimated **121,477** children under age 6 were covered by Medicaid.^{vii} As of May 2022, **41,547** Mississippi children were enrolled with CHIP. Over **39,000** pregnant or postpartum individuals are covered by Medicaid.^{viii}

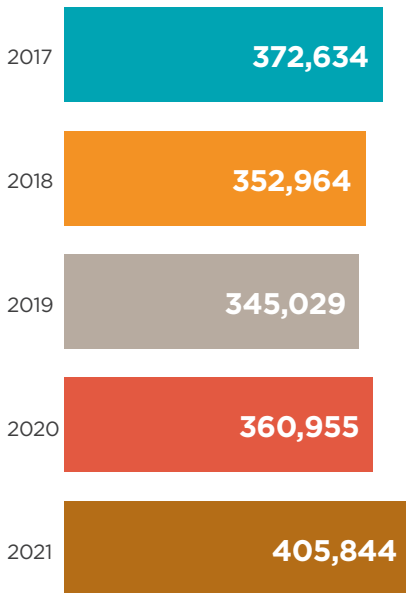
Eligibility Criteria: In Mississippi, children qualify for Medicaid based on the following guidelines:

- Birth to age 1 - **194%** Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Age 1 up to 6 - **143%** FPL
- Age 6 up to 19 - **133%** FPL^{ix}



Medicaid: Annual Average of Children Served

By Fiscal Year^{xxi}



Medicaid & Children’s Health Insurance Program

(CHIP) (continued)

Children are eligible for CHIP if they are not enrolled in Medicaid or other private health insurance and have a household income of up to **209% FPL**.^x Pregnant women are eligible for Medicaid if their household income is up to **194% FPL**. A child born to a Medicaid-eligible mother is automatically eligible until the age of one.^{xi} Parents or caretakers who are unemployed or have very low income (<\$382 per month for a two-person household) and who have minor children living in their home are Medicaid-eligible. These adults must cooperate with child support enforcement requirements.^{xii}

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: Due to the complexity of Medicaid eligibility criteria, an estimate of the percentage of eligible children served is not available. However, based on the Census Bureau’s 2019 estimates from the American Community Survey, **10,175** children under age 6 did not have any health insurance coverage, and **35,426** children between ages 6-18 were uninsured.^{xiii} Mississippi’s Risk and Reach Report estimates from 2014-2018 that **3.8%** of children under age 6 were uninsured, with counties identified as “high risk” ranging from **6.6%** to **14.6%** uninsured.^{xiv}

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2021 is **\$6,240,851,913**.

- Federal: **\$5,060,091,511**
- State: **\$814,125,206**
- Other (non-federal): **\$366,635,196**

Of the total budget, **97%** is used to reimburse medical providers for services and about **3%** is used for program administration. **\$160,356,889** is used for CHIP.^{xv} In 2019, approximately 24.2% of the spending was for children ages 0-18, 9% for adults (ages 19-64), 42.9% for individuals with disabilities, and 23.9% for seniors ages 65 and older.^{xvi}

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: Health services are provided to children through private physicians, **82** Mississippi County Health department clinics operating at **87** sites, **21** federally qualified health centers (FQHC), school health nurses, Indian Health Service clinics, and Community Mental Health clinics.^{xvii}

Number of Providers: The Division of Medicaid employs **885** people with approximately **600** staff in **30** Regional Medicaid Offices and **300** in the central office. DOM was funded for **1,011** total positions.^{xviii} As of April 30, 2022, DOM had **1,636** providers enrolled as EPSDT providers.^{xix} Information about the number of providers who accept Medicaid is not readily available.



Mental Health

PEOPLE SERVED 2021

73,491

total clients served

13,266

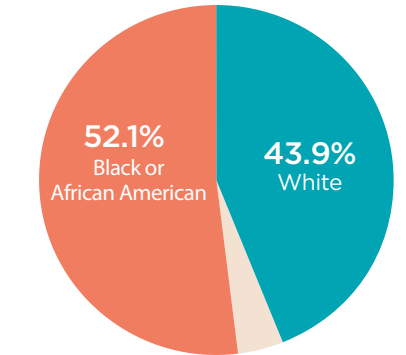
children ages 0 to 12 served^{xi}

TOTAL FUNDING 2021*

\$543,842,137^{xii}

People Served By

BY RACE & ETHNICITY 2021^{xiii}



0.2% American Indian or Alaska Native

0.2% Asian

0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

1% More Than One Race

2.6% Not Available

Note: Of all people served by DMH, 2.1% are Hispanic/Latino, 93.5% are Hispanic/Latino, and 4.4% are unknown.

Learn more at the

[Mississippi Department of Mental Health's website.](#)

*Note: This funding is for mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

What is the program?

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) was created in 1974 to provide a public system of mental health, alcohol/drug abuse, and intellectual/developmental disabilities services. Mississippi's public mental health system has three key components: DMH-operated programs that offer inpatient services; Regional Community Mental Health Centers operated by regional commissions but certified and monitored by DMH that are the primary providers of outpatient, community-based services; and nonprofit service agencies and organizations that are certified by DMH and may receive multiple sources of funding.ⁱ

Through these channels, DMH supports the provision of a wide variety of services that benefit young children and the adults who care for them:

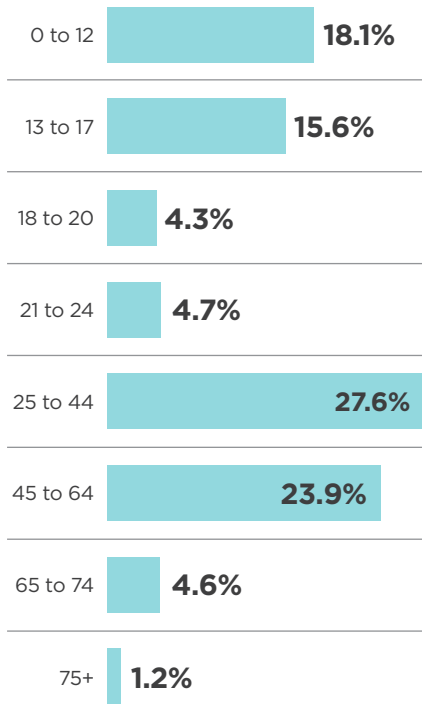
- **DMH Helpline:** Helps people get information, referrals and express concerns.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Can be reached nationally at 988.
- **Intensive community services:** Available in every Mississippi county to keep individuals needing behavioral health services in their communities rather than inpatient programs.
- **Mobile Crisis Response Teams and Crisis Stabilization Units:** Provide behavioral health assessments, monitoring and time-limited residential treatment if needed in the location where an individual is experiencing a crisis, rather than through inpatient care.
- **Certified Peer Support Specialists:** Individuals who have received mental health services or are a parent/caregiver with experience raising a child with an emotional, mental, or behavioral disorder and can provide support to others.
- **NAVIGATE:** Assists individuals ages 15-30 years who have experienced their first episode of psychosis with case management, therapy, supported education/employment services, family education/support, medication management, and peer support.
- **Making a Plan (MAP) Teams:** Made up of individuals from local community agencies that review cases concerning children/youth who have serious emotional/behavioral disorders or mental illness and who are at risk for an inappropriate placement.
- **Wraparound Facilitation:** Family and youth informed planning process to develop a care plan to address the complex mental and behavioral health needs of the family and youth and allow them to remain in their homes and community.
- **Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC):** Mental health services provided in the home or community to children/youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). The goal is to stabilize the living



PROGRAM PROFILES

Age of Clients Served by DMH

FY2021^{xiv}



Mental Health (continued)

arrangement, promote reunification, and prevent the over-utilization of out-of-home therapeutic resources.

- **Alcohol/drug addiction services:** Prioritizes serving parenting and pregnant women.ⁱⁱ
- **Child Access to Mental Health and Psychiatry (CHAMP):** Consultation and educational service in partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center for pediatric primary care providers that answers questions about mental health care.ⁱⁱⁱ

Who benefits?

Children Served: In FY2021, the Community Mental Health Centers served a total of **73,491** people. Of this total, **18.1%**, or **13,266** clients, were children under the age of 12.^{iv} A total of 114 children and adolescents were served at Oak Circle Center at Mississippi State Hospital and 86 adolescents at the Specialized Treatment Facility.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: In FY2020, the penetration rate of DMH’s services, or the amount of people who were provided service by a DMH-certified or -run facility, for the entire population was 33.9 per 1,000 people, which is higher than Southern and U.S. rates. For children from ages 0-12, the penetration rate was 35.8 per 1,000 children, which is also higher than Southern and U.S. rates.^v

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2021 was **\$543,842,137** (includes IDD, Substance Use, Adults and Children).

- Federal: **\$35,662,859**
- State General Funds: **\$211,527,444**
- Other:
 - Other Special Funds: **\$276,300,323**
 - Healthcare Trust Funds: **\$18,951,511**
 - Budget Contingency Fund: **\$1,400,000^{vi}**

Due to COVID-19, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded two rounds of one-time funding to MS for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (\$20.5 million and \$24 million).^{vii}

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: See “What is the program?”

Number of Providers: Public mental health services are provided by 4 state hospitals, 5 programs providing residential services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities,^{viii} 13 regional Community Mental Health Centers,^{ix} and 140 DMH certified providers, 50 of which are designated as providing Children and Youth Mental Health Services.^x



Child Protection Services

CHILDREN SERVED 2020

8,136

child abuse victims

14,069

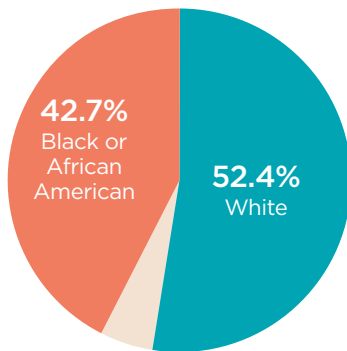
children received child abuse prevention services

TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$229,080,250

Child Abuse & Neglect Victims
Under Age 8 by

RACE & ETHNICITY 2020^{ix}



4.2% Unable to determine
0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native
0.3% Asian
0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:
Hispanic: not reported
Note: Counts were greater than total victims due to counting individual races and some children having multiple races documented.

Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services website](#)

What is the program?

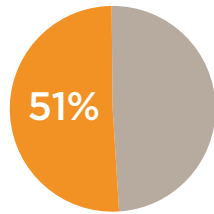
The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) in cooperation with the Youth Court is responsible for protecting children (ages 0-18) from abuse or neglect. MDCPS runs a 24-hour hotline to receive tips or referrals of potential abuse or neglect. The agency screens referrals to determine the necessary course of action, which may include an immediate investigation of the child’s physical and emotional condition and environment, referral to law enforcement, interviews with adults associated with the child, forensic interview of the child, services to help stabilize the family, and referrals to other service providers. Safety of the child is the most important factor in determining which action should be taken, however, MDCPS also strives to minimize further trauma to the child in evaluating options.

The Youth Court has sole authority to remove a child from their parent’s custody, and only does so when the evidence gathered by MDCPS indicates that reasonable efforts have been made to keep the child safely in their own family and or that circumstances are so urgent that it is in the child’s best interest to remove the child from their home and parental custody. Removal of a child from a parent is a traumatic event for a child and therefore is an action taken only when absolutely necessary.

If the Youth Court removes a child from parental custody to ensure the child’s safety, the court may place the child in the custody of a relative or someone known to the child with supervision from MDCPS or may place the child in the custody of the State of Mississippi (MDCPS) until a permanent family setting can be safely identified either through reunification with the biological family or adoption. This custodial arrangement is commonly referred to as Foster Care, and a child may stay in Foster Care until the age of 21 in certain circumstances.

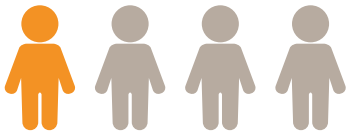
The Agency and the Court work to keep children in State custody only if necessary to ensure the child’s safety. While children are in the custody of the State, the State through MDCPS and in cooperation with other State agencies is responsible for providing for the child’s well-being. MDCPS partners with many other state and federal programs to meet the needs of children in Mississippi custody including:

- The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) provides subsidized child care to foster children if needed; Maternal Home Visiting Services through Healthy Families MS for ages 0-3;



51%

of child abuse victims in Mississippi are under age 8.^x



Approximately

1 in 4

child abuse victims under age 8 are infants in the first year of life.^{xi}

Child Protection Services (continued)

- The MS Department of Education (MDE) provides educational services and Individualized Education Program (IEP) Services for Special Education Needs;
- The MS Department of Medicaid (Medicaid) serves as the designated payer for all health and medical services for foster children;
- The MS Department of Mental Health (MDH) is responsible for meeting the mental health and substance abuse needs of all children and adults in Mississippi and provides inpatient and community-based intervention when needed for foster children, and their parents if needed. DMH prioritizes alcohol and drug addiction services for parenting and pregnant women.

Additionally, MDCPS provides services and public education intended to prevent child abuse from happening, to help prevent removal of children when services would help alleviate a safety situation, such as providing car seats or cribs when parents cannot afford them. The agency also provides some intensive in-home services to support families and prevent removal of children or support reunification of families. The agency plans to expand those services as funding becomes available.ⁱ

Who benefits?

Children Served: In 2020, 40,918 children received an investigation or alternative response to potential child abuse or neglect. 8,136 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect. Of these 8,136 child victims, 4,132 (50.7%) were under the age of 8 years old.ⁱⁱ In 2020, an estimated 14,069 children received child abuse prevention services. This includes 2,581 children and 6,427 families served by Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants as well as prevention services under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program and other funding.ⁱⁱⁱ

Eligibility Criteria: The programs and services offered by MDCPS are intended for children experiencing abuse and neglect or for children at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect and their families. MDCPS provides services to children from birth to age 21.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year.^{iv} In Mississippi in 2020, approximately 1 in 85 children were identified as child abuse or neglect victims.^v



Child Protection Services (continued)

How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2022 was **\$229,080,250**.

- Federal: **\$111,499,443**
- State: **\$117,580,807^{vi}**

Federal funding for child welfare activities includes:

- **Title IV-B of the Social Security Act**, including Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program.
- **Title IV-E of the Social Security Act**, including Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, Kinship Guardianship Assistance, and more.
- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**, including state grants and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** \$30,000,000 is designated for child welfare work to stabilize and support families.
- **Social Security Block Grant (SSBG)** \$14,000,000 and \$8,600,000 available as a transfer from TANF. These funds were used to support Child Welfare work in MS prior to 2018.^{vii}

Who are the providers?

Provider Types: MDCPS services are largely provided by State Employees, most are social workers or hold a degree in a related helping profession, and serve in many roles: intake staff, investigation caseworkers, care management caseworkers, prevention services, permanency services and legal representation. Additionally, the agency contracts with community-based programs to provide medical and mental healthcare, therapeutic placement, and in-home and community family support services.

Number of Providers: MDCPS has approximately **1500** employees with **85** county offices, and a State Office in Jackson, MS. Additionally, the agency maintains relationships with numerous contractors and subgrantees to provide for the needs of Mississippi Children.^{viii}



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