

One of the core elements of Trying Together’s policy agenda is advocacy for adequate investments.

In Pennsylvania, funding for the early care and learning programs are spread across several departments, including the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Department of Health (DOH).

The following charts highlight budget growth that Trying Together has advocated for in three program areas:

Child Care

The Child Care Services line item provides subsidized child care for low income working families. A portion of the funds are set aside to support Keystone STARS quality improvements for child care programs.

The Child Care Assistance line item provides child care to families receiving TANF.

Our Role: Trying Together began convening an ELPA child care workgroup in the summer of 2015. Start Strong PA launched in the fall of 2018.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Child Care Services	\$171.7M	\$154.3M	\$141.4M	\$155.7M	\$155.7M	\$155.7M	\$135.7M	\$155.7M	\$162.5M
Child Care Assistance	\$197.1M	\$164.4M	\$156.7M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$139.9M

Home Visiting

Evidence-based home visiting in Pennsylvania is funded across two line items. While Nurse Family Partnership funds go exclusively to that model, approximately \$9.5 million became available in the Community Based Family Centers line in 2017 for all evidence-based models to apply for in order to expand home visiting services.

Our Role: Trying Together joined the ELPA home visiting workgroup in the summer of 2016, following enactment of the ‘16-’17 budget. The workgroup launched the Childhood Begins At Home campaign in 2018.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Community-Based Family Centers	\$3.6M	\$3.3M	\$3.3M	\$8.0M	\$13.6M
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$13.2M

Pre-Kindergarten

Pennsylvania's state pre-k program Pre-K Counts is for families earning under 300% of FPL. School districts, STAR 3 and 4 child care programs, Head Start programs, and private academic nursery schools can offer Pre-K Counts programs.

Head Start Supplemental is additional state funding that federal Head Start grantees may apply for in order to serve more children and/or increase the length of their program's day.

Our Role: Trying Together is a founding member of the Pre-K for PA campaign which launched in 2014.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Pre-k Counts	\$85.2M	\$82.8M	\$82.8M	\$87.3M	\$97.3M	\$122.3M	\$147.3M	\$172.3M	\$192.3M
Head Start Supplemental	\$38.4M	\$37.3M	\$37.2M	\$39.2M	\$39.2M	\$44.2M	\$49.2M	\$54.2M	\$59.2M

