



Budget Information

An overview of Pennsylvania's investments in early learning

One of the core elements of Trying Together's policy agenda is advocacy for significant investments to increase access and quality.

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 state budget growth in four program areas. As a principal partner in the Early Learning PA (ELPA) coalition, Trying Together advocates for increased state investments in child care, home visiting, pre-k, and early intervention.

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: Launched in 2019, Trying Together is a founding member and principal partner of the Start Strong PA campaign.

Fiscal Year	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Governor	Gov. Rendell	Gov. Rendell	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf
House	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Child Care Services	\$171.7M	\$154.3M	\$141.4M	\$155.7M	\$155.7M	\$155.7M	\$135.7M	\$155.7M	\$162.5M	\$156.5M
Child Care Assistance	\$197.1M	\$164.4M	\$156.7M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$152.6M	\$139.9M	\$139.9M	\$109.9M

Fiscal Year	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Governor	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Shapiro	Gov. Shapiro
House	R	R	R	D	D
Senate	R	R	R	R	R
Child Care Services	\$156.5M	\$156.5M	\$181.5M*	\$271.9M**	\$298.1M***
Child Care Assistance	\$109.9M	\$109.9M	\$109.9M	\$123.3M**	\$123.3M

* \$25M specifically to serve families currently enrolled in Child Care Works up to 300% of poverty or the state median income (whichever is lower).

The General Assembly allocated \$90 million in federal funding to provide one-time child care staff recruitment and retention bonuses in FY 22–23.

** While child care received an increase of nearly \$104 million, this state funding was used to maintain the Child Care Works subsidy base rate as one-time federal funding lapses and in order to keep up with inflation.

*** Additional federal funds allocated to increase Child Care Works Subsidy rate to federally recommended reimbursement, which is not reflected in this line item.

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: Launched in 2018, Trying Together is a founding member and principal partner in the Childhood Begins At Home campaign.

Fiscal Year	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Governor	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Shapiro
House	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D
Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Community-Based Family Centers	\$3.6M	\$3.3M	\$3.3M	\$8.0M	\$13.6M	\$18.3M	\$19.5M	\$19.5M	\$34.5M	\$34.5M
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$12.0M	\$13.2M	\$13.2M	\$13.0M	\$13.1M	\$14.1M	\$14.1M*
Fiscal Year	2024–25									
Governor	Gov. Shapiro									
House	D									
Senate	R									
Community-Based Family Centers	\$34.5M									
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$14.0M									

* Slight increase of \$25,000

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: Launched in 2014, Trying Together is a founding member and principal partner of the Pre-K for PA campaign.

Fiscal Year	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Governor	Gov. Rendell	Gov. Rendell	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Corbett	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf
House	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Pre-K Counts	\$85.2M	\$82.8M	\$82.8M	\$87.3M	\$97.3M	\$122.3M	\$147.3M	\$172.3M	\$192.3M	\$217.3M
Head Start Supplemental	\$38.4M	\$37.3M	\$37.2M	\$39.2M	\$39.2M	\$44.2M	\$49.2M	\$54.2M	\$59.2M	\$64.2M

Fiscal Year	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Governor	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Shapiro	Gov. Shapiro
House	R	R	R	D	D
Senate	R	R	R	R	R
Pre-K Counts	\$217.3M	\$242.3M	\$302.3M	\$302.3M	\$317.3M
Head Start Supplemental	\$64.2M	\$69.2M	\$88.2M	\$88.2M	\$90.9M

Early Intervention

Early intervention (EI) provides services to children from birth to five years who have developmental delays or a high probability of having a developmental delay. EI, Part C serves children from birth through age two and is funded through the Department of Human Services. EI, Part B serves children from three through age five and is funded through the Department of Education.

Our role: Launched in 2022 through the Thriving PA, Trying Together is a principal partner in the Early Intervention, Part C advocacy campaign.

Fiscal Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Governor	Gov. Wolf	Gov. Shapiro	Gov. Shapiro
House	R	D	D
Senate	R	R	R
Early Intervention, Part C	\$170.1M	\$185.5M	\$194.6M
Early Intervention, Part B	\$346.5M	\$356.9M	\$389.8M