

KENTUCKY EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2024 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE CONFERENCE REPORT RELEASED MARCH 27, 2024, AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM • GENERAL FUND • IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES CABINET

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 House Bill 6 Conference	FY 2026 House Bill 6 Conference	2024 to 2025 Change	Additional 2025 to 2026 Change
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	\$10.6	\$56.4	\$69.1	\$45.8	\$12.8
Employee Child-Care Assistance Partnership	\$15.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	-\$13.0	\$0.0
Child Care Total	\$25.6	\$58.4	\$71.1	\$32.8	\$12.8

Child Care Assistance Program Note

In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee calls for increasing Kentucky’s general fund investment in child care by \$251 million per year by 2026, moving to an annual General Fund investment of \$277.6 million, designed to allow raising eligibility to 200% of poverty and increasing rates to support higher quality services.

The Conference version of HB 6 provides increases, but increases much lower than the Big Bold Ask recommendation.

That Conference CCAP total appears in the Conference report as four line items. For FY 2025, the Conference version provides \$10.6 million for children below 160% of poverty, \$12.0 million for a \$2 per day rate increase, \$21.0 million to hold rates at the 80th percentile of market rates, and \$12.8 million for CCAP initiatives, adding up to the \$45.8 million general fund total. For FY 2026, the matching figures are \$10.6 million, \$12.0, \$28.0 million, and \$18.5 million, adding up to the \$57.1 million total.

It is difficult to see how the Conference plan can provide continuing support for more than 37,000 children currently served by CCAP and for continuing workforce participation for the adult members of their families.

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAM • GENERAL FUND • IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 House Bill 6 Conference	FY 2026 House Bill 6 Conference	2024 to 2025 Change	Additional 2025 to 2026 Change
Preschool Program	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$0.0	\$0.0

Preschool Note

The Conference version of HB 6 provides no increase in funding for state preschool. In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee calls for increasing Kentucky’s investment in preschool by \$80 million per year by 2026, to a total of \$164 million. The Conference version offers no progress toward that 2026 goal.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT • GENERAL FUND (TOBACCO)
MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS**

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 House Bill 6 Conference	FY 2026 House Bill 6 Conference	2024 to 2025 Change	Additional 2025 to 2026 Change
Early Childhood Advisory Council	\$1,400,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	-\$200,000	\$0
Early Childhood Development	\$9,900,000	\$9,800,000	\$9,500,000	-\$100,000	-\$300,000
Early Childhood Adoption and Foster Care Supports	\$2,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-\$500,000	\$0
Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS)	\$7,000,000	\$5,634,000	\$5,980,000	-\$1,366,000	\$346,000
Healthy Start initiatives	\$900,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	-\$200,000	\$0
Early Childhood Mental Health	\$900,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	-\$200,000	\$0
Early Childhood Oral Health	\$900,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	-\$200,000	\$0
Lung Cancer Screening	\$500,000	500,000	500,000	\$0	\$0
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (Pregnant Women)	\$1,400,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	-\$100,000	\$0
Early Childhood Development (Tobacco) Total	\$25,400,000	\$22,534,000	\$22,580,000	-\$2,866,000	\$46,000