

# KENTUCKY EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE HB 500 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE APPROVED MARCH 18 AND AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV  
SHOWING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

## HANDS (HEALTH ACCESS NURTURING DEVELOPMENT SERVICES) LINE ITEM

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT APPROPRIATION	\$6.0	\$5.3	\$4.9	-\$0.7	-\$0.4

## CHILD CARE LINE ITEMS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
CCAP: Families At Or Below 160% Of Poverty	\$10.6	\$10.2	\$9.9	-\$0.4	-\$0.3
CCAP: Reimburse Providers At 80th Percentile	\$28.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	-\$28.0	\$0.0
CCAP: Cover Child Care Workers	\$15.0	\$18.2	\$17.7	\$3.2	-\$0.6
CCAP: Transition For Families No Longer Eligible	\$1.5	\$1.4	\$1.4	-\$0.1	\$0.0
CCAP: Innovations Grants	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	-\$2.0	\$0.0
Employee Child-Care Assistance Partnership	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	-\$2.0	\$0.0
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	\$59.1	\$29.9	\$28.9	-\$29.2	-\$0.9

## PRESCHOOL LINE ITEM

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$0.0	\$0.0

### HANDS Note

The Prichard Committee has called for increased HANDS investment, adding \$12 million from the General Fund for that successful voluntary home visitation program. The Senate Committee Substitute does not include that investment.

### **Child Care Assistance Note**

CCAP (the Child Care Assistance Program) covers child care fees for some of Kentucky's children, mainly those with low family incomes. The federal government provides most of the funding. Kentucky has long invested \$10.6 million per year in CCAP from the General Fund. For FY 2026, the state added an additional \$46.5 million in support. The Senate Committee reduces some of those line items and eliminates two others, but increases the funding available to provide child care assistance to child care workers. The Prichard Committee remains concerned by the set of proposed reductions. High quality, affordable early care settings are essential for children's development and for family participation in the workforce.

### **Child Care Quality And Access Note**

The Foundation for Action recommendations of the Kentucky Collaborative for Child Care (under the leadership of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce) include new investments in child care quality and access. The Prichard Committee actively supports those recommendations.

### **Early Literacy And Numeracy Note**

The Prichard Committee has called for \$51 million in new annual investment in professional learning for early educators in child care and preschool settings, designed to extend Kentucky's Read to Succeed and Numeracy Counts initiatives into early learning. The Senate Committee Substitute does not include that investment.