

# KENTUCKY EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATION OF JANUARY 7, 2026, AVAILABLE AT OSBD.KY.GOV  
SHOWING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

## HANDS (HEALTH ACCESS NURTURING DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT APPROPRIATION	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$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 Governor's proposal does not include that investment.

## CHILD CARE

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
CCAP: Families at or below 160% of Poverty	\$11				
CCAP: Reimburse providers at 80th percentile	\$28				
CCAP: Cover child care workers	\$15				
CCAP: Transition for families no longer eligible	\$1.5				
CCAP: Innovations Grants	\$2.0				
Employee Child-Care Assistance Partnership	\$2.0				
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	\$59				
Early Childhood Development	\$9.5	\$9.5	\$9.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT APPROPRIATION	\$9.5	\$9.5	\$9.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
<b>CHILD CARE FUNDING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68.5</b>				

### Child Care Assistance Note

The Governor's budget has been offered in two formats. In the version formatted as legislation, there is no mention of child care or CCAP (the Child Care Assistance Program). In another version, titled "2026-2028 Executive Budget," page 240 shows \$53.4 million for each fiscal year as the recommended general fund regular appropriation, but provides no breakout of what portion of those dollars will be used for each of the child care efforts listed above. Since it is not clear what portion of those dollars will go to child care assistance, the table above only shows the Tobacco Settlement dollars for Early Childhood Development for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

### Child Care Quality And Access Note

The Foundation for Action recommendations developed 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 but cannot yet specify the financial costs of those improvements.

#### PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
SPORTS WAGERING REVENUES FROM PERMANENT PENSION FUND	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$40.5	\$0.0	\$40.5
PRESCHOOL TOTAL	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$125.0	\$0.0	\$40.5

### 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 Governor's proposal does not include that investment.