

KENTUCKY EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE HB 500 FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED APRIL 1 AND AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

CHILD CARE LINE ITEMS | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
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	\$17.2	\$16.	\$2.2	-\$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	\$1.0	\$1.0	-\$1.0	\$0.0
TOTAL	\$59.1	\$29.9	\$28.	-\$29.2	-\$0.9

PRESCHOOL LINE ITEM | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
Preschool	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$84.5	\$0.0	\$0.0

*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 Free Conference Committee Report 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 Free Conference Committee Report does not include that investment.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LINE ITEMS | TOBACCO MASTER SETTLEMENT DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
Certified Child Care Services Report	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	-\$500,000
Early Childhood Advisory Council	\$1,200,000	\$1,063,800	\$983,200	-\$136,200	-\$80,600
Early Childhood Development Program	\$9,500,000	\$8,422,100	\$7,783,300	-\$1,077,900	-\$638,800
Early Childhood Adoption and Foster Care	\$2,000,000	\$1,773,100	\$1,638,600	-\$226,900	-\$134,500
HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services)*	\$5,980,000	\$5,301,500	\$4,899,400	-\$678,500	-\$402,100
Healthy Start initiatives	\$700,000	\$620,600	\$573,500	-\$79,400	-\$47,100
Early Childhood Mental Health	\$700,000	\$620,600	\$573,500	-\$79,400	-\$47,100
Early Childhood Oral Health	\$700,000	\$620,600	\$0	-\$79,400	-\$620,600
Lung Cancer Screening.	\$500,000	\$443,300	\$983,100	-\$56,700	\$539,800
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment	\$1,300,000	\$1,152,500	\$1,065,100	-\$147,500	-\$87,400
Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child-Care Incentive Pilot Program*	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	22,580,000	21,018,100	19,999,700	-\$1,561,900	-\$1,018,400

*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 Free Conference Committee Report does not include that investment.

*Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child-Care Incentive Pilot Program Note

The Kindergarten readiness funding shown above provides resources to the University of Kentucky to implement the incentive pilot program created by House Bill 6.