

Number and Share of Children in California Eligible for Subsidized Child Care and Development Programs, 2017

Age	Number of Children Enrolled in a State Program*	Number of Children Eligible at Initial Certification Levels (Income at 70% of State Median Income)	Share of Children Eligible at Initial Certification Levels Who Are Enrolled in a State Program	Number of Children Eligible at Recertification Levels (Income at 85% of State Median Income)	Share of Children Eligible at Recertification Levels Who Are Enrolled in a State Program
Less Than 1	7,400	127,200	5.8%	147,900	5.0%
1	17,300	151,900	11.4%	168,800	10.2%
2	25,800	158,000	16.3%	180,000	14.3%
3	38,900	149,200	26.1%	173,400	22.4%
4	43,600	161,300	27.1%	182,800	23.9%
5	19,500	150,500	13.0%	171,200	11.4%
6	15,500	150,800	10.3%	173,500	8.9%
7	13,800	167,200	8.3%	188,500	7.3%
8	13,000	163,300	8.0%	185,100	7.0%
9	11,500	167,400	6.8%	190,200	6.0%
10	9,800	173,900	5.6%	198,600	4.9%
11	7,100	153,100	4.6%	181,300	3.9%
12	4,900	158,200	3.1%	184,200	2.7%
Total	228,100	2,031,900	11.2%	2,325,400	9.8%

*Figures reflect children enrolled in the full-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP) or in one of the following subsidized child care programs: Alternative Payment Program; CalWORKs Stages 1, 2, or 3; Family Child Care Home Network; General Child Care; and the Migrant Child Care and Development Program. Enrollment is for children from birth through age 12 in October 2017, except for California Community College (CCC) CalWORKs Stage 2 and CalWORKs Stage 1. CCC Stage 2 figures reflect a Department of Finance estimate for the 2017-18 fiscal year. CalWORKs Stage 1 figures by age are estimates based on California Department of Education (CDE) CalWORKs Stage 2 figures. This analysis also includes the full-day CSPP, which consists of part-day preschool and “wraparound” child care, because it accommodates many – although not all – families’ work schedules throughout the year, and thus approximates the experience that a child would have in a subsidized child care program. In contrast, this analysis excludes roughly 97,000 children who were enrolled in the part-day CSPP, without access to wraparound child care, in October 2017. This is because most families with low and moderate incomes likely need wraparound care in order to supplement the CSPP’s part-day, part-year schedule. This analysis reports enrollment data for a single month – as opposed to a monthly average for 2017 – because the CDE does not typically separate part-day and full-day CSPP enrollment when reporting monthly averages for a single fiscal year. The CDE also states, “Caution should be used when interpreting monthly averages as some programs do not operate at full capacity throughout the entire year (e.g., State Preschool) while other programs have seasonal fluctuations in enrollment (e.g., Migrant Child Care).” Finally, the data are for October 2017 because the CDE’s point-in-time reports are only available for the month of October. See Kristin Schumacher, *Millions of Children Are Eligible for Subsidized Child Care, but Only a Fraction Received Services in 2017* (California Budget & Policy Center: January 2019).

Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Families are eligible for subsidized child care if the child who would receive care is under the age of 13; the family establishes an appropriate eligibility status, such as by having an income below the limit set by the state; and the family demonstrates a need for care, such as parental employment. Families generally must meet the same income guidelines applicable to child care to qualify for the CSPP, which is funded solely with state dollars. State law, however, allows up to 10% of families in the state preschool program to have incomes up to 15 percent above the income eligibility limit, but only after all other eligible children have been enrolled. The CSPP is a part-day program offered for roughly nine months of the year. Some children receive “wraparound” services that provide subsidized child care for remainder of the day and throughout the entire year. To be eligible for the full-day CSPP, families generally must meet the same guidelines regarding eligibility status that are applicable to subsidized child care.

Source: Budget Center analysis of California Department of Education, Department of Finance, Department of Social Services, and US Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey data