



Build Back Better Act: Universal Pre-K

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Universal Pre-K Program Overview

Eligibility

- All 3- or 4-year-olds based on LEAs kindergarten entry date
- Providers:
 - LEA or consortium of LEAs
 - Head Start agency or delegate agency
 - Licensed center-based child care provider, licensed family child care provider, or community- or neighborhood-based network of licensed family child care providers
 - A consortium of the above

Funding

- Bill authorizes 6 years of funding for UPK program
- FY22-24: Transition Years
 - Block grant formula based on:
 - State's relative share of children aged 6 or below at or under 200% FPL
 - Existing funding for Head Start in state
- FY25-26: Full Implementation
 - Universal Entitlement

Universal Pre-K Appropriations

Table I. UPK Appropriations

In billions

	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
States (including DC)	4.000	6.000	8.000	such sums	such sums	such sums
Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations	2.500 ^a	—	—	—	—	—
Territories ^b	1.000 ^a	—	—	—	—	—
Migrant and Seasonal Programs	0.300 ^a	—	—	—	—	—
Federal Administration	0.165	0.200	0.200	0.208	0.212	0.216
Head Start Compensation	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
Localities	—	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900
Head Start Expansion	—	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900
Total	10.465	12.500	14.500	—	—	—

Funding for Preschool Services

Funding and State Match

- FY22-24: Transition years
 - Federal formula funds
 - No state match
- FY25-27: Full implementation
 - FY25: Fed share = 95.440%
 - FY26: Fed share = 79.534%
 - FY27: Fed share = 63.627%

Use of Funds

- State funds local programs for:
 - Personnel costs
 - Implementing preschool standards and curriculum
 - PD and training
 - Implementing health and safety standards
 - Materials, equipment, and supplies
 - Rent or mortgage, facility costs

Considerations

- Payments to providers must reflect variation in costs
- Expansion prioritized in high-need communities
- Contracts for at least 3 years
- May offer enhanced payments for comprehensive services

Funding for State Administrative Costs

Funding and State Match

- Fed share = 53.022% in FY25-27
- Total payment cannot exceed 10% of state preschool service expenditures

Use of Funds

- State administration of UPK
- Supporting a continuous quality improvement system
- Outreach and enrollment support
- Supporting data systems building

Use of Funds

- Supporting staff in pursuing credentials and degrees
- Ensuring inclusive preschool programs
- Conducting needs assessment of access to high-quality preschool services

State Plan Requirements

States submit 3-year transition plan and/or 3-year full implementation plan

State Planning Requirements

- State has evidence-based preschool standards
 - includes program standards for class sizes and ratios
 - coordinated with other states
- Explain how existing programs will meet federal requirements
- Describe how state will achieve mixed-delivery system for new slots with equitable distribution

Local Requirements

- Programming duration of at least 1020 annual hours
- Conduct outreach to vulnerable populations
- Provide commensurate salaries
- Provide living wage for all staff
- Lead teachers have at least B.A. in ECE within six year
 - Unless taught 3 of 5 years prior to UPK

State Assurances

- Preschool is universally available
- Is high-quality, free, and inclusive
- Adheres to state standards
- State will not reduce total preschool slots in state-funded preschool program
- State will use funds to provide access to inclusive preschool programs consistent with IDEA

State Matching

- Cash or in kind, including facilities or property, equipment, or services
- Any increase in state spending to expand half-day kindergarten into full-day kindergarten program
- Cannot include funds used as match for another federal award
- Include contributions from state or local sources and philanthropies and private organizations
- Shall not count more than 100 percent of state current preschool spending (calculated as average amount from FY19-21)

Maintenance of Effort

- **If** state reduces combined fiscal effort per child on:
 - Federal UPK or state funded program; or
 - State supplemental assistance funds for Head Start; or
 - Any state spending on preschool services during transition years
- **Then** federal support will be reduced by same amount of state reduction
- States can apply for waiver due to economic hardships or natural disasters

Funding for Non-Participating States

Funding for Localities

- FY22-27: \$2 billion annually
- Localities submit application to HHS
- Eligible locality:
 - City, county, or other unit of general local government
 - Local education agency
 - Head Start agency
- Formula and requirements to be consistent with state requirements

Head Start Expansion

- FY22-27: \$2 billion annually
- HHS Secretary prioritizes:
 - places that are not served by an eligible locality
 - entities serving high populations of low-income students



Questions?