



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

How Mississippi Supports Young Children

2ND EDITION • SUMMER 2025



W.K.
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FOUNDATION®





FROM THE DESK OF TODD KLUNK, W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION PROGRAM OFFICER

Dear Early Childhood Community,

Welcome to the second edition of “Investing in Our Future,” an overview of Mississippi’s investments in young children. This report primarily focuses on state agency-administered programs that serve families with young children from birth to age five and builds upon our initial efforts to provide a comprehensive overview of how our state allocates resources to support the youngest members of our community.

Our first year was a soft launch, as this new initiative required significant time and coordination across multiple agencies. We appreciate the patience and support of all stakeholders as we worked to establish this important reporting process.

In this edition, we made some improvements and added a few new sections that we encourage you to review. One such addition is the introduction, which includes framing about Mississippi’s early childhood system, as this broader approach better reflects the kind of developmental and educational support that is crucial for the state’s children and families to thrive.

We believe that providing clear, accessible information is crucial for informed decision-making and public engagement. However, we also maintain



an equally strong stance on the proper use of these data. Our goal is to foster constructive dialogue and improvement, not to weaponize information against any particular group or initiative.

As you review this report, we encourage you to consider the data in context and use it as a tool for positive change. Together, we can work towards ensuring that Mississippi’s children receive the support and resources they need to thrive.

Again, thank you for your dedication to our children.

Todd Klunk

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INTRODUCTION



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS PUBLICATION?

This data book is a follow-up to our **Spring 2024 Investing in Our Future publication**, which provided fiscal data for state agency programs serving young children (birth to age five) and/or their families. This initiative was launched with the intent of providing an initial five-year snapshot of data trends (fiscal years 2019-2023), to be followed by annual updates. However, the current report contains data for two years (2023 and 2024), as much of the 2023 data was not available at the time of publication of the first document. Going forward, we expect to resume our plan for annual updates.

This book builds on the work in the Mississippi Early Childhood System Asset Map Program Profiles that were prepared for the Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council in 2022. Sources of program information and data include personal communications with state agency personnel, public information available online, and public information requests submitted to agencies. Lack of data, for whatever reason, is noted for each program.

Each section begins with a general overview of the program and/or agency and a description of the program for which data are presented. The metrics selected for publication are those that are typically documented by each agency. Information is reported based on each agency's fiscal year (FY).

The data in this book were collected by staff at the Systems Change Lab at Mississippi State University's (MSU) Social Science Research Center (SSRC), and Mississippi First. Funding was provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). WKKF, the Systems Change Lab, and Mississippi First do not make any representation or warranty regarding the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of any information received from third-party sources.

WHY IS DATA SO IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

A central tenet of data-driven decision-making is that improvement is always possible; there is no such thing as a perfect organization or process. Continuous efforts to learn and improve are the keys to strong performance and healthy growth. Consistently collected, high-quality data (data that is accurate, complete, reliable, and relevant) is essential to data-driven decision-making and can be used in multiple ways. High-quality data collection and analysis can help determine if an agency is reaching its goals and fulfilling its mission, help distinguish gaps in service or service populations, identify opportunities for collaboration with similarly focused organizations, and point to potential areas of improvement.

In an ideal world, programmatic information for children and families would exist in an integrated system that allows the linkage of individual-level data across multiple state agencies. Such a structure would provide a comprehensive view of the usage of services and allocation of resources. In turn, agencies could access multiple pieces of information (instead of singular agency data) to utilize in their decision-making. That collection and cataloging process currently does not exist in our state. However, this data book presents a convenient, easily accessible compilation of key metrics from various

programs that can be used to inform decision-making as it impacts outcomes in programming and apportionment of capital and resources as organizations search for ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

As of 2023, there were 209,906 young children (birth to age five) in Mississippi.* Almost all of these children, either directly or indirectly, have been or potentially will be impacted by policy and funding decisions made by state leadership and more often than not, implemented through state-level organizations.

Data, such as those presented here, can provide objective information to help inform policy considerations and be used to increase early childhood stakeholders' understanding and application of data in our current early childhood system. To that point, here are some examples of how data has been used to support policy decisions affecting early childhood system developments from fiscal years 2023 and 2024:

- A Mississippi IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Part C Early Intervention Task Force, commissioned by the Mississippi Senate in 2023, was reconstituted in 2024 by Section 2 of Senate Bill 2727. After an extensive review of the Mississippi Part C program, in 2023, the Task Force issued a report outlining areas for improvement. Concerns for the Part C program, First Steps, housed at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), centered around enrollment numbers; program-level policies and processes; reimbursement procedures; stakeholder engagement; program communication and coordination; and compliance with federal requirements. The work of the Task Force in 2024 led to a second report containing recommendations for program improvement.** These recommendations included a new program implementation model, overseen by MSDH, that subcontracts service coordination and provision in some areas of the state to early intervention collectives, alleviating the

* Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/100-child-population-by-single-age?loc=26&loc=2#detailed/2/26/false/2545/42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,8366/418>

** See more in the Early Intervention Task Force Report 2024 at <https://msdh.ms.gov/page/29,29453,209.html>



burden on First Steps. Additionally, the report outlines strategies to improve reimbursement for services and recommends changes to the general operations and management of First Steps. Prior to the release of the 2024 report, MSDH had already begun implementing reforms to the program.

- Given increased statewide attention to Mississippi’s low labor force participation rate, which many attribute to parents’ difficulty in finding and affording early childhood care and education opportunities, early childhood educators were surveyed regarding their working conditions and pay. The survey, conducted by the Systems Change Lab at Mississippi State University’s Social Science Research Center, found that early childhood educators work long hours, have full classrooms, often work with children with disabilities or delays while not necessarily having adequate training to do so, are often trying to meet the demands of the job with limited training, and are underpaid. The average hourly wage reported was

\$10.93, which is below “survival wages,” as indicated by the 2021 Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) report.*** Retail jobs in Mississippi pay considerably more and require less training than working in early education, so child care staffing shortages are not surprising. As staffing is a problem among child care programs nationwide, a brief of state-level strategies nationwide was compiled. This work lays the foundation for policy discussions around child care staffing shortages and the low labor force participation rate in Mississippi.

- During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Mississippi Legislature changed the way public school districts are funded by replacing the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) with the Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF). Under the previous funding formula, the MAEP, which had been in effect since 1997, was inequitable, as there was no correlation between student need and the allocation of state funds to districts. The new funding formula, the MSFF,

*** Source: *Exploring a Market Rate Failure: The 2023 Mississippi Child Care Teacher Wages Survey from the Systems Change Lab at Mississippi State University’s Social Science Research Center* scl.ssrc.msstate.edu/mississippi-child-care-teachers-wages-survey/

includes weights that direct additional funding to school districts based on the needs of their student populations. The formula includes weights for low-income students, English language learners, special education students, gifted students, students enrolled in career and technical education, students in districts with concentrated poverty, and students in sparsely-populated districts. As a result of the structure of the new formula, schools with student populations of greater need will consistently receive more state per-pupil funding than districts with lower need.

- As a follow-up to Lieutenant Governor Hosemann's Study Group on Women, Children, and Families in the fall of 2022, five sessions were held in the fall of 2024, which highlighted policy wins, systems transformation, and continued areas of improvement. There was a particular focus on youth courts, mental health, child protective services, foster care and adoption, child care, workforce development, early intervention, women's health, tax credits, domestic violence, and sexual assault. The study group focused on many recommendations, including ways to decrease the number of children in protective custody, increase the uniformity of the youth court system, increase funding for the Child Care & Development Block Grant, increase the labor participation rate, and encourage survivors to report sexual abuse.

Here are some of the state's key wins since the first sessions held in 2022:

- Extended postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months
- Created the Mississippi Access to Maternal Assistance website
- Updated Safe Haven Laws to extend drop-off periods to 45 days and installed two "baby boxes," safe incubators with alarm systems that alert 911 once the baby is placed inside
- Created Adoption and Foster Care System Taskforce to examine ways to speed the path to permanent placements

- Created Early Intervention Task Force to increase the number of children served by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Part C (birth to age three) program
- Revised and increased child care employer tax credit
- Created the automatic suspension of child support upon incarceration
- Increased tax credits for adoption
- Created the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
- Finalized the separation of the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
- Created or expanded low-income crisis pregnancy center tax credits, transitional housing tax credits, and low-income health care tax credits
- Created the K-12 Postsecondary Mental Health Task Force
- Created presumptive eligibility for Medicaid for pregnant women

For Mississippi to reach its potential, our children must reach theirs. The earliest stages of life play a crucial role in one's future ability to thrive. When our children get off to a strong start, the stage is set for Mississippi to reach new possibilities. Today's children are tomorrow's neighbors, leaders, and workforce members.

Recognizing the inherent dignity of all children and families in Mississippi is vital for everyone to reach their potential. One way to honor this dignity is by prioritizing the health and well-being of every community. Access to essential resources, including mental, emotional, and physical health services, is crucial for families. By supporting the health of each community, we show that we value them all.

We extend gratitude to every agency staff member who contributed to the content of this publication. We know your time is limited and valuable, and we appreciate you providing the data, budget, and program information that highlights your work in the early childhood system. It is our belief that access to this information can serve as a valuable tool in informed decision-making processes to support the well-being of Mississippi's young children and families.

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HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START



Head Start and Early Head Start are administered by the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Head Start directly funds local Head Start grantees. The Mississippi Head Start Association and the Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office both work to coordinate Head Start grantees and their efforts among each other and with other early childhood partners. Mississippi currently has 16 grantees.

Head Start and Early Head Start child care programs include both center-based and home based-options. The Mississippi Head Start Association's mission is to provide young children, ages birth to five, and their families with a range of individualized services such as education; early

childhood development supports; family engagement; and health supports (medical, dental, and mental health and nutrition). Families are eligible to receive Early Head Start and Head Start services based on their income according to the poverty guidelines published by the federal government. More information about these guidelines can be found here: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/ersea/articulo/poverty-guidelines-determining-eligibility-participation-head-start-programs>.

The Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office, located in the Office of the Governor, carries out activities designed to benefit young children and their families with low incomes from birth to the time they begin kindergarten and builds partnerships with state

agencies and local entities to formulate, implement, and improve state and local policies and practices. These partnerships are designed to:

- assist in building early childhood systems by collaborating with entities involved in State and local planning processes to better meet the needs of low-income children from birth to school entry and their families;
- provide access to comprehensive services and supports for all children living in families with low incomes;
- encourage widespread collaboration among Head Start programs and other relevant programs, services, and initiatives;
- promote better linkages between Head Start agencies and other child and family agencies that provide health, mental health, family services, or other child or family supportive services;
- augment Head Start programs' capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and their families;
- and facilitate the involvement of Head Start in state policies, plans, processes, and decisions affecting families with low incomes.



Priorities of the Head Start Collaboration Office, established by the Office of Head Start include:

- supporting ongoing collaboration efforts between systems and agencies that provide services and supports to children and families while continuously working to develop new relationships with entities at the state level to develop a more comprehensive system at the state and local levels;
- engaging with statewide efforts to share data as well as participating in statewide data-driven conversations and decisions to improve outcomes for children, families, providers, and all entities providing services;
- increasing the number of well-trained staff across all sectors of the early childhood system as a professional continuum approach to building a supported and sustainable workforce; and
- fostering existing relationships and building new relationships to support the seamless transition of services between programs that serve young children (birth to age five) and those that serve school-age children (kindergarten-3rd grade).

In 2024, Head Start significantly increased compensation for many staff, more broadly integrated mental health services into programming, and enhanced services to more effectively meet the evolving needs of the communities they serve.

More information can be found at <https://msheadstart.org/>.

Early Head Start

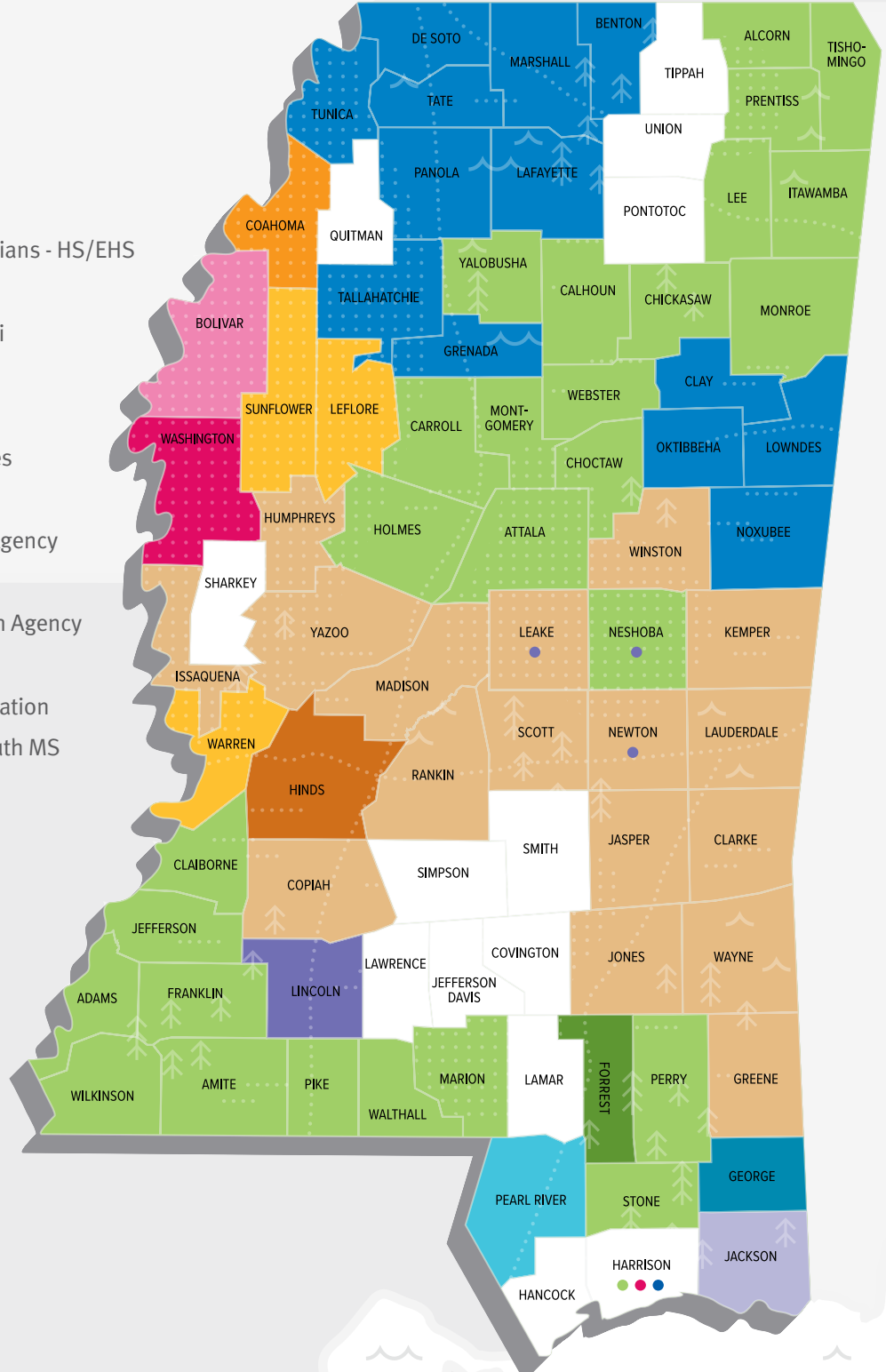
Early Head Start programs promote the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving. Many services can start from the time of pregnancy, and child care can start when infants are six weeks old. Early Head Start provides services up until children are three years of age.

On the next page is a map of Early Head Start locations across the state.

Mississippi Early Head Start Grant Recipients - November 2024

KEY

- MSU - Extension - HS/EHS
- Moore Community House - EHS
- Mississippi Action for Progress
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians - HS/EHS
- Institute of Community Services
- Friends of Children of Mississippi
- Five County Child Development
- Delta Health Alliance
- Washington County Opportunities
- Picayune School District
- Hinds County Human Resource Agency
- Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.
- Bolivar County Community Action Agency
- Pearl River Valley Opportunity
- Singing River Educational Association
- Community Action Agency of South MS



Since some Early Head Start information was not available for FY 2022 at the time of our inaugural publication in Spring 2024, it is included here.

Budget*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$64,432,942	\$69,773,816	Data not available
Federal Tribal Funds**	\$734,095	\$808,355	Data not available
Total Funds	\$65,167,037	\$70,582,171	Data not available

*Data obtained through personal communications with Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office staff

**American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) funds)

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Early Head Start Program Metric*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	3,536	3,423	4,039
Number of Funded Seats**	3,886	3,846	Data not available
Number of American Indian and Alaska Native Funded Seats***	60	76	76
Number of Counties or Areas Served	70	70	70
Number of Classroom Staff	719	733	748
Number of Children Who Turned 36 Months Old and Transitioned to Head Start	48	14	212
Number of Children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs)****	149	195	238

*All data obtained through personal communications with Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office staff, except those noted below

**These data are from the Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center Database.

***These data obtained through personal communications with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians staff.

****All children enrolled in First Steps (Mississippi's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C early intervention program) receive an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) that outlines the specific services their family will receive, based on their needs.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Head Start

Head Start offers educational services for children three to five years of age and their families.

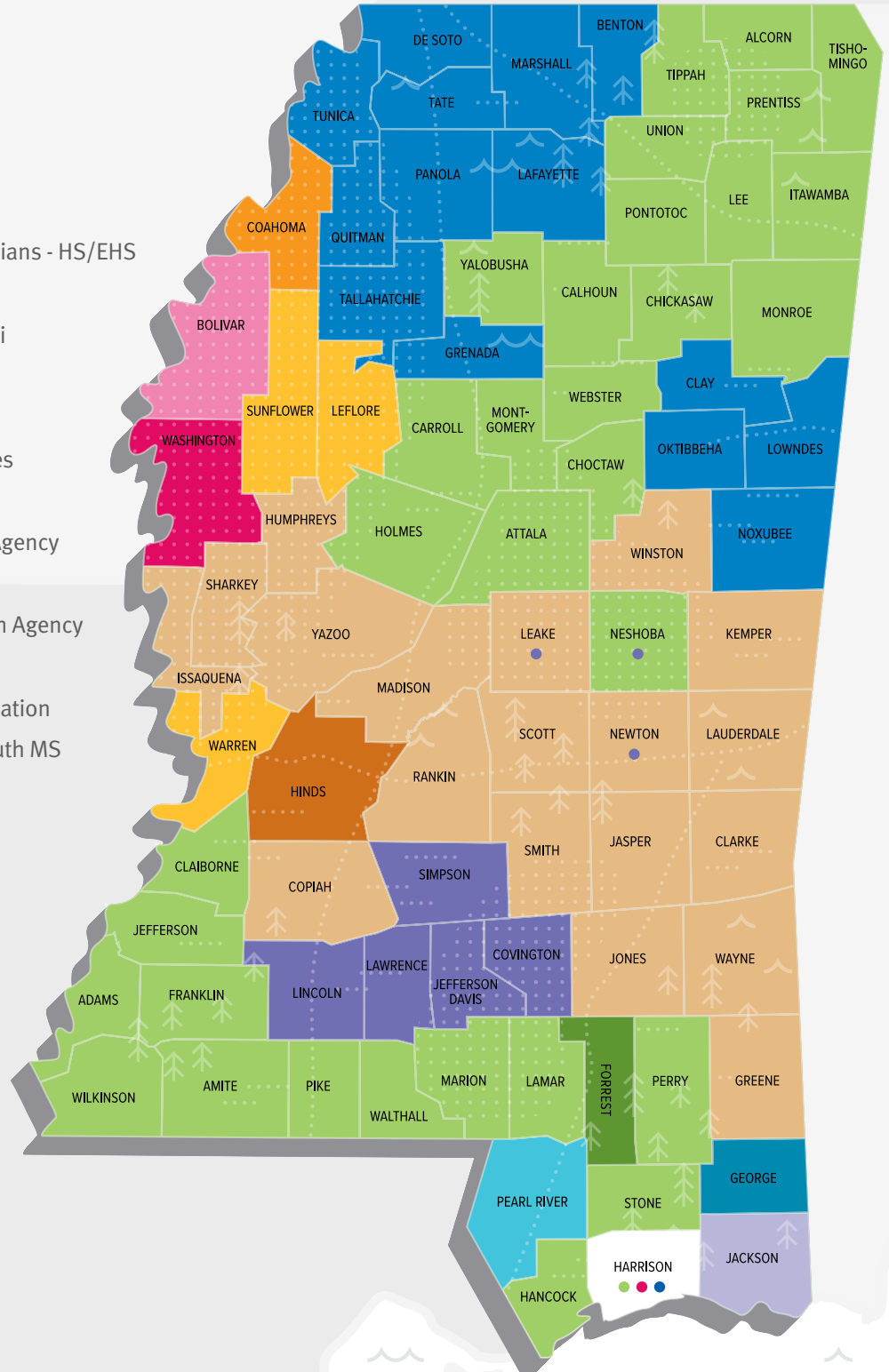
On the next page is a map of Head Start locations across the state.



Mississippi Head Start Grant Recipients - November 2024

KEY

- MSU - Extension - HS/EHS
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- Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.
- Bolivar County Community Action Agency
- Pearl River Valley Opportunity
- Singing River Educational Association
- Community Action Agency of South MS



Since some Head Start information was not available for FY 2022 at the time of our inaugural publication in Spring 2024, it is included here.

Budget*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$167,100,653	\$181,453,404	Data not available
Federal Tribal Funds**	\$1,791,160	\$1,947,883	Data not available
Total Funds	\$168,891,813	\$183,401,287	Data not available

**Data from personal communications with Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office staff

**American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) funds)

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Head Start Program Metric*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	13,833	13,731	14,421
Number of Counties or Areas Served	82	82	82
Number of Funded Seats**	17,827	16,361	Data not available
Number of American Indian and Alaska Native Funded Seats***	208	192	192
Number of Classroom Staff	2,175	2,030	1,987
Number of NIEER Benchmarks Met****	8	8	8
Number of Children with Individualized Education Programs*****	1,008	1,422	1,534

*All data obtained through personal communication with Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office staff, except those noted below

**These data are from the Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center Database.

***These data from personal communications with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians staff

****The National Institute for Early Education Research's Benchmarks For High-Quality Pre-K tool is an instrument that identifies ten minimum policy benchmarks needed for highly effective preschool programs. You can find them at <https://nieer.org/research-library/download-nieers-benchmarks-high-quality-pre-k>.

*****When a child is eligible for program services, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B staff oversee the creation and delivery of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that defines the supports and services the child will receive, which are tailored to the child's specific strengths and needs.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

The following table includes metrics that are totals for both the Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Since last year's publication did not include FY 2022 data in the metric chart for these programs, it is included here.

Early Head Start and Head Start Program Metric*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Families Served	15,922	16,071	17,199
Number of Families that Received at Least One Program Service to Promote Family Outcomes**	11,532	12,576	13,113
Number of Children Referred by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services	44	64	486

**Data obtained through communication with Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office staff*

***Families work with family service workers to “establish and implement a family partnership agreement process that is jointly developed and shared with parents in which staff and families review individual progress, revise goals, evaluate and track whether identified needs and goals are met, and adjust strategies on an ongoing basis, as necessary.” This is the number of families that enrolled in programs related to their goals to improve their family outcomes.*

(<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-52-family-partnership-services>)

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES (MDCPS)



The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) works jointly with Mississippi Youth Courts to protect children (from birth to age 18) from abuse or neglect by their parents or custodians.

The agency operates a 24/7 hotline to which suspected abuse or neglect may be reported. MDCPS screens referrals to determine the necessary course of action, which may include an immediate investigation of the child's physical and emotional condition and environment, referral to law enforcement, interviews with adults in the child's life, a forensic interview with

the child, services to support family stabilization, and referrals to other service providers. The Youth Court has sole authority to remove a child from a parent or guardian's custody and makes that determination only when evidence gathered by MDCPS indicates that doing so would be in the child's best interest (when the risk to the child's safety outweighs the inevitable trauma caused by removal).

MDCPS serves children statewide.

More information can be found at <https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/>.

ADOPTION

The Mississippi Adoption Program provides permanent homes for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, neglect, or other unsafe conditions in cases where reunification is not possible. The primary goal is to bring potential adoptive children to families seeking adoption. Adoptive parents in Mississippi receive support through monthly maintenance payments and services.

The agency utilizes various programs to provide children with adoptive families. This includes the MS Heart Gallery, which lists all children who are ready for adoption. AdoptUSKids provides information for families on recruitment, engagement, and support. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's Wendy's Wonderful Kids program helps match prospective families with potential adoptive children, supporting adoption recruiters in implementing an intensive, child-focused model that allows for thorough case reviews, face-to-face relationship building, and collaboration with internal and external services.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$30,413,864	\$32,539,102
State General Funds	\$18,412,192	\$21,862,530
Other Funds (Specify if possible: i.e., lottery funds, donations)	\$643,275	\$450,000
Total Funds	\$49,469,331	\$54,851,632

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff. The amount of federal and state matching funds that MDCPS receives each quarter varies depending on the eligibility statuses of children in state custody.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	19,031	20,012
Number of Finalized Adoptions	636	560

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

The Mississippi Child Abuse and Neglect program strives to ensure that vulnerable children receive the care and protection they need. The program offers interventions such as investigations, case management, and referrals to support services.

Any child who is at risk of or has experienced abuse or neglect is eligible for the program’s services. Reports can be made by any concerned individual, but teachers, medical personnel, and law enforcement officials are required to report suspected cases.

There have been a few recent changes to the program. In 2023, Mississippi introduced House Bill 1149, which focuses on providing permanency for children in the custody of the state. It mandates that children alleged to be abused or neglected must be represented by legal counsel in court, ensuring their rights are protected.

Mississippi’s child protection program also expanded its services in 2023, reaching more children and providing

advanced training for professionals. Notably, the Children’s Advocacy Centers have been instrumental in offering specialized support to child abuse victims.

In 2024, House Bill 1376 was passed, which enables MDCPS to utilize Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) to provide an opportunity for a child or youth in MDCPS custody to be in a placement where his or her psychological or behavioral needs can be stabilized. A QRTP-placement is “time-limited, trauma-informed, judicially reviewed, and focused on engaging the child’s family during and after treatment, with the goal to prepare the child for a swift return to family and community life.”

In 2024, as part of Senate Bill 2792, the definition of “neglected child” was amended to exclude the failure to provide food, clothing, or shelter caused primarily by financial inability unless relief services have been offered and refused and the child is at imminent risk of harm. This bill also requires youth court intake officers to complete annual training.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$8,061,876	\$8,474,876
State General Funds**	\$1,362,864	\$2,722,864
State Special Funds***	\$2,027,994	\$6,903,878
Total Funds	\$11,452,734	\$18,101,618

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

***General funds are a combination of required state matches for expenses associated with the federal grants.*

****State Special Funds are one-time funds provided to the agency through the American Rescue Plan Act.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	17,200	21,500
Number of Families or Households Served**	796	1,124
Number of Children Removed from Household***	4,000	4,100
Number of Children Reunified with their Families	443	331

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

***In some cases, services are provided to individual children, while, in other cases, services are provided to family units.*

****Children come into custody, are reunified with families, and leave custody on an ongoing basis.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



FOSTER CARE

The Mississippi Foster Care Program provides temporary homes for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, neglect, or other unsafe conditions. The primary goal is to reunite children with their birth families once it's safe. If reunification isn't possible, foster parents may have the opportunity to adopt the child. Foster parents in Mississippi receive support such as medical and dental coverage for the children and training to handle different situations, including children who have experienced trauma.

Children in foster care are in state custody, meaning MDCPS has physical and legal custody of the children. MDCPS relies on other state agencies, service providers, and foster families to provide for these children's needs.

Prospective foster parents must be at least 21 years old, financially self-supporting, legal residents of

Mississippi, and pass a criminal background check. They can be single or married, and households are limited to four children.

In 2023, House Bill 510 introduced a Foster Parents' Bill of Rights, which strengthens communication between foster parents and professionals involved with the child, such as teachers and caseworkers. It also guarantees foster parents' involvement in critical decisions, like educational planning meetings and youth court hearings. The bill also established a Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption to review the foster care system and suggest improvements.

In 2024, Senate Bill 2244 was passed, providing benefits to both foster children and foster parents. First, it requires public universities and community colleges to provide free transcripts to former foster children. Second, it establishes that foster parents shall be allowed free admission to any state park or museum.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$22,916,816	\$27,543,285
State General Funds	\$23,756,729	\$29,200,585
Total Funds	\$46,673,545	\$56,743,870

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff. The amount of federal and state matching funds that MDCPS receives each quarter varies depending on the eligibility statuses of children in state custody.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



Previous Foster Care Program Metrics *(from the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024)*

Program Metric*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Number of Children Served	7,039	5,884	5,570	6,053
Number of Children in Care**	4,161	3,594	3,540	3,781
Number of Children Adopted	719	597	566	619

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

***This data was collected on September 30 of each FFYs 2019-2022.*

Updated Foster Care Program Metrics

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	14,979	15,873
Number of Children in Temporary Placement**	250	260
Number of Children in Permanent Placement	636	560

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

***This is the number of children placed in facilities such as group homes, emergency shelters, and therapeutic group homes.*

NOTE: The chart with 2019-2022 program metrics includes data from the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. As our work on this publication continues, we are streamlining the information we collect. Thus, program indicators for 2023 and 2024 are slightly different than for 2019-2022.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) provides resources and technical support to Mississippi's public school system. MDE also allocates federal funding to school districts and functions as a resource for federal education requirements.

More information can be found at <https://www.mdek12.org/>.

CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating Head Start programs, child care programs, and adult day care

centers. The program funds up to three meal types each day (of which one must be a snack): breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snack. Children residing in emergency shelters are also eligible for these meals, as well as adults who are over the age of 60 or living with a disability and are enrolled in adult day care facilities.

CACFP contributes significantly to reducing food insecurity and ensuring that children and adults in care receive nutritious meals. In 2024, the program introduced updates on meal pattern guidelines to better align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

This program is available statewide.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$47,763,160.63	\$46,242,730.20
Federal Tribal Funds**	\$469,864.52	\$434,751.65
Total Funds	\$48,233,025.15	\$46,677,481.85

*All data obtained from public records request, except those noted below

**These data obtained through personal communications with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians staff

NOTE: Child & Adult Care Food Program information was not included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024**
Number of Children Served	279,668	257,369
Number of Meals Served	21,894,635	19,151,617
Number of Child Care Programs Served	773	747
Number of Applications Received	34	30
Number of Counties Served	81	81
Average Daily Attendance	28,329	26,115

*Data obtained from public records request

**FY 2024 data is not complete. This number includes the count of meals through August 31, 2024.

NOTE: Child & Adult Care Food Program data was not include in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (PART B, SECTION 619)

Children from ages three to five with disabilities or developmental delays are afforded the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Section 619. This program has a duty to locate all children in the state who might be eligible for special education services and to conduct evaluations that determine their eligibility for these services. Eligibility is determined by a school district Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team, who look for criteria in the following categories:

- autism
- deafness/blindness
- hearing impairment
- visual impairment
- emotional disability
- intellectual disability
- language/speech impairment
- orthopedic impairment
- traumatic brain injury
- specific learning disability
- developmental delay*
- other health impairment
- multiple disabilities



When a child is eligible for program services, Part B, Section 619 staff oversee the creation and delivery of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that defines the supports and services the child will receive, which are tailored to the child's specific strengths and needs. The services are provided through local school districts, known as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). Services can include speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and special education support and are often integrated within preschool settings.

The Mississippi Department of Education is focusing on improving program standards and professional development for Part B, Section 619 providers to enhance the quality of services.

**The program defines a developmental delay as 1.5 standard deviations below the standard mean of an assessment or a developmental age that is 25% below the child's chronological age on an assessment based on age equivalents in two or more areas.*

Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$4,348,127	\$4,398,557	\$4,282,435	\$4,544,778	\$4,649,156	\$4,649,156

**Data obtained from public records request.*

NOTE: Years 2019-2022 were also included in the inaugural version of this publication.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	7,211	Data not available
Number of Referrals Received	9,833	Data not available
Number of School Districts Served	149	148

*Data obtained from public records request

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) are voluntary, state-funded pre-K programs serving four-year-olds in half- or full-day programs in 40 communities across the state. ELCs are composed of two or more partners, including at least one school district and at least one Head Start. ELCs can also include private childcare centers and private or parochial schools.

ELCs are awarded funds by MDE if there are available funds and based on area needs, capacity, and level of commitment. Communities with low academic achievement within the school district and without quality pre-K options are prioritized for ELC funding. MDE provides half of the per-pupil rate, at least \$2,500 for full-day programs and at least \$1,250 for half-day programs.

ELCs' curriculum and assessments are aligned with Mississippi's comprehensive early learning standards. ELCs also provide family engagement opportunities

and screenings and/or referrals for vision, hearing, and other areas. Mississippi is one of five states in the country with state-funded pre-K that meets all ten of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) high-quality standards.

In order to meet the NIEER quality standards, MDE provides coaching to ELC educational staff. In fiscal year 2023, eight coaches provided support in 256 classrooms in 30 counties. In fiscal year 2024, 11 coaches provided support in 310 classrooms in 33 counties.

Individuals and businesses can support ELCs by taking advantage of a unique 1:1 tax credit. For every dollar donated, one dollar is removed from their tax liability. Individuals and businesses can donate up to \$1 million each year. The tax credits cannot exceed the appropriation to the ELCs for the year. In tax year 2023, \$3,999,937.00 was donated to the ELCs. To learn more about the ELC tax credits, visit <https://www.mississippifirst.org/we-support/early-education/pre-k-tax-credit/>.



State Funded Pre-K Programs

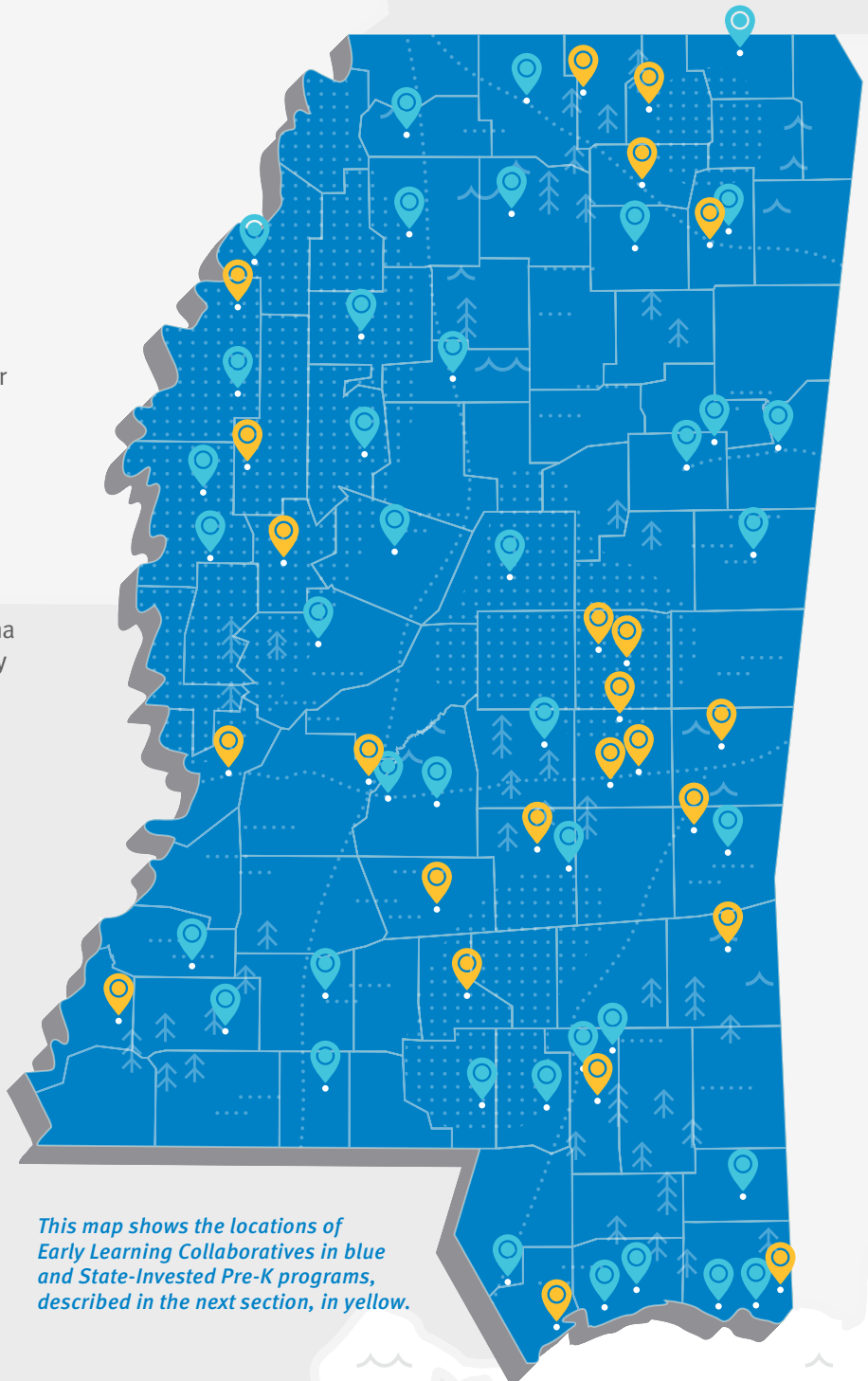
NOTE: This map contains more recent data than the charts in these program sections.

40 Early Learning Collaboratives

Biloxi	Long Beach
Brookhaven	Lowndes County
Clarke County	Marion County
Cleveland	McComb
Coahoma County	Monroe
Corinth-Alcorn-Prentiss	Noxubee County
George County	Pass Christian
Greenwood Leflore	Pascagoula-Gautier
Grenada	Petal
Hattiesburg	Picayune
Hollandale	Pontotoc
Holly Springs	Rankin County
Holmes County	Scott County
Jackson-Hinds	Senatobia
Jefferson County	South Panola
Kosciusko	Starkville Oktibbeha
Lamar County	Tallahatchie County
Lee County	West Jasper
Lafayette-Oxford	West Point
Leland	Yazoo City

24 State Invested Pre-K Programs (SIP)

Bay St. Louis-Waveland	Newton County
Benton County	Newton Municipal
Enterprise	North Bolivar
Forest County	Philadelphia
Humphreys County	Simpson County
Jefferson Davies County	Smith County
Lauderdale County	South Tippah
Midtown Public Charter School (Jackson)	Sunflower County
Moss Point	Tupelo
Natchez-Adams	Union City
Neshoba County	Union County
	Vicksburg-Warren
	Wayne County





Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
State General Funds	\$4,000,000	\$6,669,517	\$7,789,474	\$7,789,474	\$7,789,474	\$7,789,474
Other Funds (lottery funds, from the Education Enhancement Fund)	\$2,529,634	\$0	\$0	\$8,210,526	\$16,210,526	\$16,210,526
Total Program Funds	\$6,529,634	\$6,669,517	\$7,789,474	\$16,000,000	\$24,000,000	\$24,000,000

*Data obtained from the education appropriations bill.

NOTE: Years 2019-2023 were also included in the inaugural version of this publication. Budget information in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024 was reported slightly differently due to a difference in reporting periods (fiscal years vs. the year in which it was appropriated).

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	5,119	6,193
Number of ELCs**	35	37
Number of Counties Served**	30	33
Number of Funded Seats	9,120	9,120
Number of Staff	28	39
Number of NIEER Benchmarks Met***	10	10
Percent of Children Meeting K Readiness Assessment Target Scores****	64.76%	67.16%
Average Program Scale Score****	551	558
Average Program Scale Score Growth****	137	143

*All data obtained from public records request, except those noted below

**Data obtained from Mississippi First

***The National Institute for Early Education Research's Benchmarks For High-Quality Pre-K tool is an instrument that identifies ten minimum policy benchmarks needed for highly effective preschool programs. You can find more information at <https://nieer.org/research-library/download-nieers-benchmarks-high-quality-pre-k>.

****The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment provides parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering school. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is also used to measure how well pre-K programs prepare four-year-old children to be ready for kindergarten based upon the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children. Scale scores are generated to provide stakeholders with a measurement for understanding student achievement. The minimum baseline scale score for kindergarten readiness at the end of pre-K is 498. Any scale scores at or above 498 suggest that children are on track for Kindergarten. About six in ten Mississippi pre-K students who attend programs that administer the test meet the benchmark of 498. More information is available at https://www.mdek12.org/OSA/K_Readiness.

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The number of students/children served was reported slightly differently in the inaugural version of this publication due to a difference in reporting methods (funded enrollment vs. ELC students participating in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment). The number of ELCs was reported slightly differently in the inaugural version of this publication due to a difference in reporting methods (planning vs. operational).



STATE-INVESTED PRE-K

Mississippi’s State-Invested Pre-K (SIP) program was created in 2022, via a \$20 million line item in the Mississippi Department of Education’s budget. SIP funds are granted to traditional public-school districts in three-year grants. Districts may partner with local Head Start grantees.

SIP programs provide voluntary half- or full-day preschool programming with curriculum and assessments aligned with comprehensive early learning standards. While SIP programs are not statutorily mandated to meet any specific quality standards, they are currently meeting all ten of the National Institute for Early Education Research’s (NIEER’s) ten quality standards.

The program is available to four-year-old children in 24 school districts.

In order to meet the ten NIEER high-quality standards, MDE provides coaching to SIP educational staff. In fiscal year 2024, three coaches provided support in 69 classrooms in 20 school districts.

In 2023, the Mississippi Legislature allocated additional funds to expand the SIP program, increasing the number of participating school districts and classrooms. In 2024, the SIP allocation was reduced.

Mississippi’s SIP program locations are noted in yellow on the map in the previous section, along with the Early Learning Collaboratives.

Budget*	FY 2019**	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
State Special Funds (lottery funds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000

*Data obtained from the education appropriations bill (Session 2022 bill: <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/HB/1600-1699/HB1600SG.pdf> and Session 2023 bill: <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2023/pdf/HB/1600-1699/HB1613SG.pdf>)

**Funding for this program began in 2022.

NOTE: Years 2019-2023 were also included in the inaugural version of this publication.

Program Metric*	FY 2023**	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	N/A (planning year)	891
Number of School Districts Served	Program not active until FY 2024	20
Number of Funded Seats	1,000	1,380
Number of Staff (Contract Workers)	Program not active until FY 2024	11
Number of NIEER*** Benchmarks Met	Program not active until FY 2024	10
Percent of Children Meeting K Readiness Assessment**** Target Scores	Program not active until FY 2024	64.20%
Average Program Scale Score	Program not active until FY 2024	548
Average Program Scale Score Growth	Program not active until FY 2024	140

*Data obtained through personal communications with Mississippi Department of Education staff

**Due to the creation of the SIP program in 2022, FY 2023 was a planning year to launch the program and begin granting funds to school districts. As a result, information is limited.

***The National Institute for Early Education Research's Benchmarks For High-Quality Pre-K tool is an instrument that identifies ten minimum policy benchmarks needed for highly effective preschool programs. You can find more information at <https://nieer.org/research-library/download-nieers-benchmarks-high-quality-pre-k>.

****The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment provides parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering school. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is also used to measure how well pre-K programs prepare four-year-old children to be ready for kindergarten based upon the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children. Scale scores are generated to provide stakeholders with a measurement for understanding student achievement. The minimum baseline scale score for kindergarten readiness at the end of pre-K is 498. Any scale scores at or above 498 suggest that children are on track for Kindergarten. About six in ten Mississippi pre-K students who attend programs that administer the test meet the benchmark of 498. More information is available at https://www.mdek12.org/OSA/K_Readiness.

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. Data for the number of school districts served was reported slightly differently in the inaugural version of this publication due to a difference in reporting methods (funded vs. operational).



TITLE I PRE-K

Title I, Part A is a federal funding stream of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I funds are intended to help local education agencies (LEAs) ensure that children in families with low incomes have opportunities to receive equitable, high-quality education and to meet academic standards. LEAs may choose to operate district-wide, school-wide, or targeted assistance Title I Pre-K programs that focus on students most at risk of not meeting state academic students.

Title I funds may be used for a variety of services, including to establish or enhance preschool programs. These preschool programs must comply with the Head Start Program Performance Standards for education services and may include comprehensive services for enrolled children

such as physical and mental health, nutrition, and family support services, including hearing and vision screenings. Title I preschool programs must coordinate with other local early childhood education programs and support students' transitions to kindergarten. While Title I funds can be used to serve children starting from birth, Mississippi's Title I preschools typically serve four-year-olds, providing early learning experiences that focus on literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

Mississippi's Title I Pre-K programs serve children across the state.

Many programs blend and braid Title I funding with funding from the state, federal, and local level to support Pre-K programs. As a result, school districts using Title I funds are not necessarily separate programs from other types of Pre-K programs included in this publication.

Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds**	\$16,988,826.88	\$19,499,284.09	\$18,830,049.69	\$20,911,556.89	\$22,644,155.53	\$22,494,500.06

**Data obtained from public records request. Years 2019-2023 were also included in the inaugural version of this publication.*

***Title I funds are allocated to school districts based on the percentage of students in families with low incomes in the district. These funds do not have to be used to provide Pre-K services. Title I funds may also be used in conjunction with state and local funds to provide Pre-K services. As a result, many programs that are listed in Title I may also be using state or local funds to help support their programs, which means some programs may be double-counted in the ELC and SIP programs listed above.*

NOTE: Budget information for 2019-2023 was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. FY 2023 Budget information was reported slightly differently in the inaugural version of this publication, due to shifting figures during the fiscal year closeout process. Local Education Agencies have the discretion to revise their budgets and reallocate funds as needed.

Program Metric	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	7,259	8,553
Number of MDE Staff	17	17
Number of NIEER Benchmarks Met**	8	8

**Data obtained from public records request*

***The National Institute for Early Education Research's Benchmarks For High-Quality Pre-K tool is an instrument that identifies ten minimum policy benchmarks needed for highly effective preschool programs. You can find more information at <https://nieer.org/research-library/download-nieers-benchmarks-high-quality-pre-k>.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) strives to provide support that helps Mississippians to live better lives.

More information can be found at <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/>.

DIVISION OF EARLY CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT

The Mississippi Department of Human Services' (MDHS) Division of Early Childhood Care &

Development (DECCD) oversees programs benefiting young children and their families. The DECCD oversees services that support child care programs and enrolled families, such as the Quality Support System, Child Care Resource & Referral Centers, and child care subsidies that offset the cost of care for families.

These services are primarily funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which is a federal and state partnership that provides child care assistance for families with low incomes, with the purpose of increasing the number of caregivers able to work or attend school. CCDF dollars are regulated federally, allowing no more than 5% to be used for administrative costs. States must use 12% of the funds to invest in child care quality (including support for professional development and technical assistance and the statewide child care resource and referral system), with 3% of these quality dollars spent specifically on infant/toddler child care quality improvement. States also use CCDF dollars to fund child care subsidies and child care licensing.

The DECCD initiated several programs using American Rescue Plan funds over the past year. These included stipends that were offered to supplement teacher salary and support costs associated with earning higher education credits as well as the Room Refresh Program, which was designed to aid Child Care Payment Program (CCPP)-participating providers in Mississippi in upgrading their teaching environments. Another initiative was the school-age reimbursement program, which offered financial support to CCPP-participating child care providers who extended their services to provide full-time care to school-age children during pandemic-related school closures. Providers who previously only received payment for part-time care were eligible for reimbursement, helping to offset the costs incurred due to COVID-19. In the spring of 2024, a Start-Up Cost Reimbursement Program was available to aid the support of CCPP-participating providers in Mississippi who have partnered with Wonderschool Academy, which offers business coaching for child care programs.

In addition to the programs described in this section, other ongoing aspects of the DECCD's quality efforts include a family navigator program that provides resource linkage, care coordination, and peer support for families of children with disabilities or significant health challenges and the quality support system that provides professional development and other supports for early educators to improve the quality of their programs. Part of the quality support system initiative will be funded through the Preschool Development Grant.

More information is available at <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/eccd/>.

Information about child care licensing is included in the Mississippi State Department of Health's Child Care Licensure Bureau section of this publication.

CHILD CARE PAYMENT PROGRAM (CCPP)

The goal of the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) is to provide eligible parents and guardians with child care tuition assistance. Families are eligible to participate in CCPP if they meet work requirements as well as income requirements that are based on family size. The program uses a sliding fee scale based on family size and income that determines the subsidized amount that a parent or caregiver can pay toward tuition at participating child care programs of their choice. Families may choose any type of child care while participating in the program, including participating home-based child care programs and child care centers.

In 2023, the child support cooperation requirement was removed from the eligibility guidelines for families to participate in the CCPP. This policy change was implemented to help more families access child care, with the goals of assisting parents in entering the workforce and strengthening children's readiness for kindergarten.

This program is available statewide; it is optional for child care programs to participate in the CCPP.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$120,764,822	\$129,177,358
Federal Tribal Funds**	\$1,120,964.38	\$1,396,345
State General Funds	\$5,748,680	\$7,418,386
Total Funds	\$127,634,466.38	\$137,992,089

**All data obtained from personal communications with agency staff, except those noted below*

***These data obtained from personal communications with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	40,890	47,524
Number of Participating Programs	1,169	1,194
Number of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	28,703	33,910
Number of Families or Households Served	22,931	26,710
Number of Applications Received**	20,946	21,046

**Data obtained from personal communications with agency staff*

***Applications are submitted per family rather than per child.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

MISSISSIPPI LEARNING INVESTMENT FOR TOMORROW CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTERS

Mississippi Learning Investment For Tomorrow (LIFT) is part of the Mississippi Department of Human Services' Division of Early Childhood Care & Development's (DECCD) child care quality support efforts that were launched in fall 2024. DECCD has contracted with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Delta Health Alliance, and the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center to administer Child Care Resource & Referral (CC R&R) centers across the state. CC R&R centers are also administered by the Graduate Center for the School of Early Learning at the University of Mississippi, the North Mississippi Education Consortium, and the City of Durant.

CC R&R centers assist families with finding child care, learning about the Child Care Payment Program (which subsidizes child care costs), and more. CC R&R centers

support child care providers with resources regarding child care program start-up and improvement processes, low-cost business development training and other types of professional development, classroom materials, and more. CC R&R centers also provide information to both families and child care providers about child care licensing requirements, community resources, and specialized services for families of children with developmental delays and/or special needs. Any families and any child care providers in the state are eligible to utilize CC R&R services.

CC R&R centers have been focusing on expanding access to technical assistance for early educators and other educational resources for both families and child care providers. This includes onsite coaching and professional development opportunities for child care providers and care coordination for families.

This program is available statewide. A list of CC R&R center locations is available at <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/eccd/rcenters/>, and more information about LIFT is available at www.mslift.org.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$15,181,620	\$16,391,489

**Data obtained from personal communications with agency staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Parents or Caregivers Served	4,795**	11,852
Number of Early Educators Served	6,164	10,993
Number of Visitors	15,683***	34,990

**All data from personal communications with agency staff, except those noted below*

***These data from MDHS Annual Report*

****In addition to parents or caregivers and early educators, 4,724 community members visited CC R&Rs in FY 2023.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

The Division of Economic Assistance Eligibility administers programs that help Mississippians with the necessities to improve their lives, such as food and financial assistance.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), funded through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, provides monthly cash assistance for up to a period of 60 months for families with low incomes who have children younger than age 18. This temporary financial assistance can help pay for food, clothing, housing, and child care. Additionally, TANF provides supportive services like transportation assistance and counseling.

The program also provides adults with job readiness training, vocational training, and other educational training programs. To receive TANF funding, federal

law mandates states to meet work participation rate targets, provide a state dollar match, and require TANF participants to cooperate with child support enforcement as needed. Mississippi requires parents and caregivers participating in TANF to complete a work training program, register with Mississippi Works (an online job-seeking registry), and complete a Substance Abuse Screening Inventory.

Mississippi’s TANF participants must be residents of Mississippi and U.S. citizens or legal immigrants. Eligibility for the TANF program is generally based on income requirements, with families needing to have income below a certain threshold based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which varies depending on family size. Applicants must be residents of Mississippi and U.S. citizens or legal immigrants. Adult recipients are typically required to participate in work or training activities to receive benefits.

Notable accomplishments of the program include improved employment outcomes due to better job training and placement services and increased access to child care.

Mississippi’s TANF program is available statewide.

FY 2022 budget information was not available at the time of the Spring 2024 publication, so it is included here.

Budget*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$86,481,245	\$86,481,245	\$86,295,031
Federal Tribal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$186,214
Total Funds**	\$86,481,245	\$86,481,245	\$86,481,245

**Data obtained from public records request*

***MDHS is appropriated State General Funds in a lump sum, of which part is allocated to each of the divisions within the agency according to their needs. The Division of Economic Assistance Eligibility did not provide the amount of State General Funds they were allocated.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected in the same way for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. For example, while an amount for state funds was provided for FY 2019-2021 in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024, an amount for state funds was not provided for FY 2022-2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Individuals Served	7,211	5,349	3,076	3,038	2,902	2,782
Number of Families or Households Served	3,731	2,867	1,827	1,800	1,656	1,538
\$ per Person (Monthly Average)	\$69.67	\$72.22	\$87.67	\$110.60	\$129.55	\$121.75
\$ per Family or Household (Monthly Average)	\$134.64	\$134.75	\$147.60	\$186.66	\$227.02	\$220.23

**Data obtained from MDHS Annual Reports*

NOTE: 2019-2022 data was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID



Mississippi's Division of Medicaid provides health coverage for eligible people with low incomes and is both a state and federal program. Mississippi's Medicaid managed care program is called the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN) and aims to increase beneficiaries' access to medical services, improve the quality of beneficiaries' health care, and maintain the predictability of beneficiaries' health care costs.

The Division of Medicaid also collaborates with the Mississippi State Department of Health on two statewide initiatives. Together they provide targeted case management for very young children from birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities

who are enrolled in the Part C early intervention program, First Steps. The second effort supports the Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies program, which works to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight. These programs are discussed in the Mississippi State Department of Health section of this publication.

Additionally, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid provides preventive health services to children through the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, & Treatment program.

More information can be found at <https://medicaid.ms.gov/>.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

Mississippi's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides health coverage for children up to age 18 whose families have low incomes (below specific thresholds, which are periodically updated), who are ineligible for Medicaid, and who are otherwise uninsured. Children whose mothers are eligible for Medicaid are automatically eligible for CHIP until age one.

CHIP offers comprehensive benefits including doctor visits, prescription medications, dental and vision care, and mental health services. CHIP has recently increased its income eligibility thresholds to cover a larger number of families, has included more comprehensive health services, and has streamlined its application and enrollment processes, aiming to provide more coverage and easier access for eligible families.

CHIP is accepted at all Mississippi State Department of Health clinics and is available statewide.

Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$167,038,799	\$157,683,319.62	\$134,936,983.44	\$114,320,845.55	\$108,646,251	\$113,792,627
State General Funds	\$0	\$7,620,506.38	\$24,884,150.56	\$20,459,684.45	\$19,929,194	\$20,365,151
Total Funds	\$167,038,799	\$165,303,826	\$159,821,134	\$134,780,530	\$128,575,445	\$134,157,778

*Data from <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/reports-evaluations/index.html>

NOTE: Budget information for 2019-2023 was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. FY 2023 budget information was listed differently when accessed for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. Figures can shift due to fiscal year closeout processes.

Program Metric*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	46,032	46,473	48,117	42,986	41,813	Data not available

*Data from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid Annual Report

NOTE: 2019-2023 data was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

EARLY & PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, & TREATMENT

Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, & Treatment (EPSDT) provides preventive care to Medicaid-eligible children up to age 21. While there are no costs to the patients, EPSDT services require prior authorization.

The program's target population is children from families living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level or those with limited access to health care.

Services include a wide range of medical screenings and treatments such as physical exams and other types of preventive health care; adolescent counseling; vision

and hearing assessments and services; developmental and behavioral screenings; immunizations; lead, anemia, and tuberculosis screenings; autism and depression evaluations; dental assessments and counseling; newborn screenings; nutritional assessments; and health education.

EPSDT-participating providers are located throughout the state at physician offices and clinics, public schools certified by the Mississippi Department of Education, and offices of the Mississippi State Department of Health.

No budget information was provided for EPSDT.

Since last year's publication did not include FY 2022 information for this program, it is included here. FY 2023 and 2024 information was not provided, so FY 2020 and 2021 are provided here to include data from multiple years.

Program Metric*	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Number of Screenings Administered to Children**	287,607	315,480	333,459
Number of Screenings Administered to Young Children (birth to age five)	214,419	231,006	234,175
Number of Screenings Administered to Children Younger than Age One	86,465	84,231	83,756
Number of Screenings Administered to One- and Two-Year-Olds	90,172	101,228	101,433
Number of Screenings Administered to Three-Five-Year-Olds	37,782	45,547	48,986

*Data obtained from Forms CMS-416: Annual EPSDT Participation Reports

**Some children may have received more than one screening.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH



The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH) makes available a comprehensive system of services to increase the likelihood that all Mississippians have access to the least restrictive and most appropriate level of support for optimal mental health. The Department's system is person-centered and is built on the strengths of individuals and families, based on their specific needs.

The Department offers inpatient services; monitors Regional Community Mental Health Centers, which provide outpatient, community-based services; and certifies nonprofit service agencies and organizations that offer public mental health services.

More information can be found at <https://www.dmh.ms.gov/>.

ALCOHOL & DRUG ADDICTION SERVICES

MDMH administers the public system of substance use assessment, referral, prevention, treatment, and recovery

support services in Mississippi. Service providers include state-operated programs, regional Community Mental Health Centers, and other non-profit community-based programs. The overall goal of the state's substance use disorder service system is to provide quality care within a continuum of accessible, community-based services, including prevention, outpatient, withdrawal management, intensive outpatient, high-intensity and low-intensity residential treatment, opioid treatment services, and recovery support.

MDMH offers specialized treatment for restricted populations. Pregnant and Parenting Women (PPW) is a residential program that is certified to provide alcohol and drug addiction services for pregnant women and parents with dependent children under age five. The program is designed for participants to remain in care for six months to one year.

Currently, there are three PPW service providers: Catholic Charities: Born Free/New Beginnings, Region 6 Community Mental Health Center (Fairland Center), and the Mississippi Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, shown on the map to the right.

A&D Treatment Services for Pregnant & Parenting Women

Pregnant and Parenting Women providers admit pregnant women and parenting mothers or fathers with dependent children under age five.

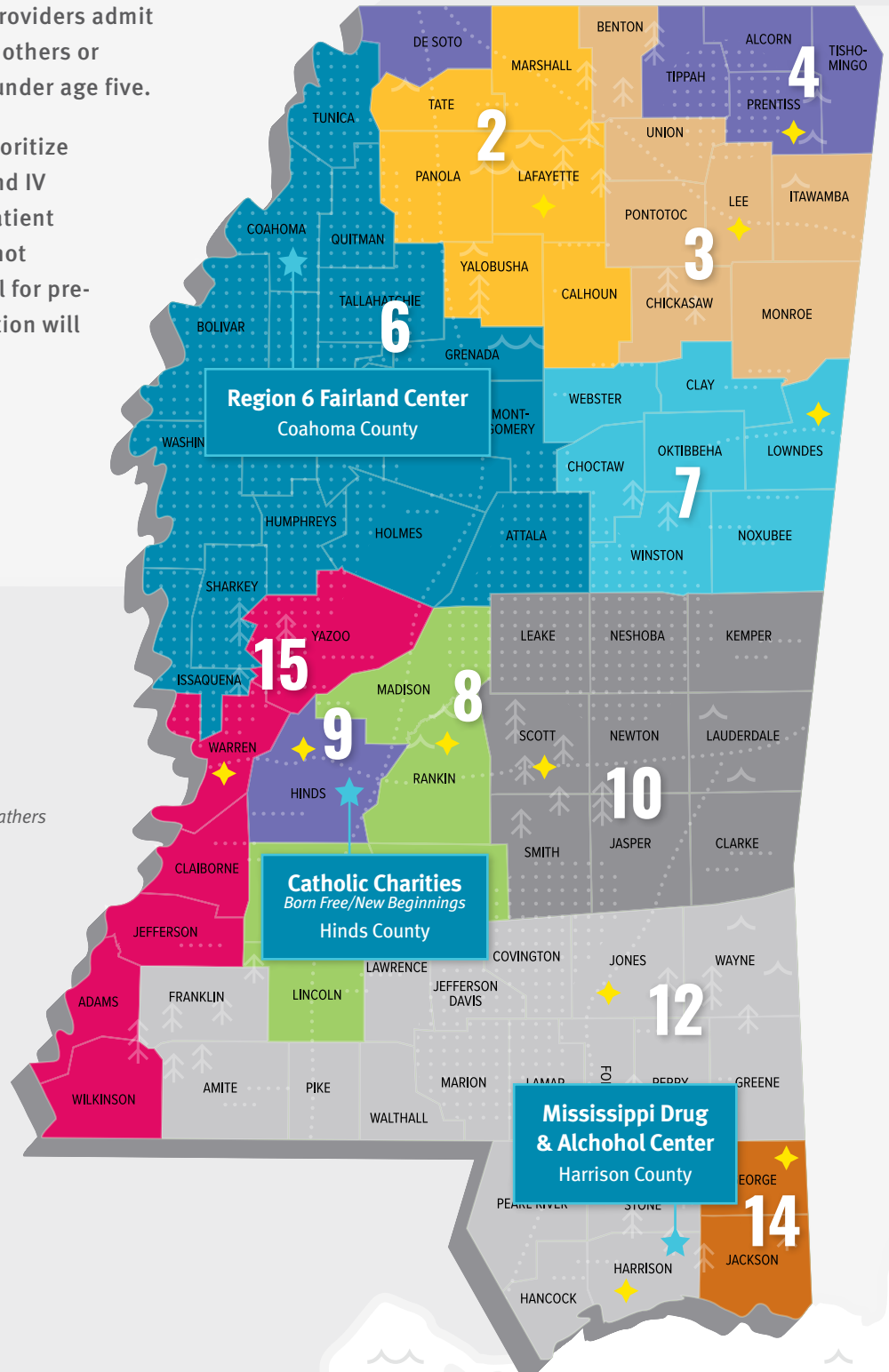
Other DMH Certified Providers prioritize admission for pregnant women and IV drug users. If admission for outpatient treatment or a residential bed is not available within 48 hours, referral for pre-natal care, counseling and education will be provided.

KEY

Region VI (Fairland Center) ★
Admits both parenting mothers and fathers
RGN 06 | 662-453-6211
Region6-LifeHelp.org

Catholic Charities ★
Born Free/New Beginnings
RGN 09 | 601-922-0022
CCJackson.org

MS Drug & Alcohol ★
Treatment Center
RGN 12 | 855-334-6120
MississippiDATC.com





Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
State Special Funds (3% wine & liquor tax)**	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total Funds	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**Substance use block grant funds and 3% of wine and liquor state tax funds are awarded to a number of certified providers.

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Pregnant Women and Parents with Young Children (birth to age five)** Served	194	383
Percent of Pregnant Women and Parents Participating for At Least Six Months	Data not available	75%

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**All parents participating in the program have children in this age range.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

CERTIFIED PARENT/CAREGIVER PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

The certified parent/caregiver support peer specialist program is administered by Families as Allies, with some administration from the Department of Mental Health. Once trained and designated, parents and other caregivers can provide support to others based on their experiences. Support can occur either one-on-one or in a group setting.

The goal of the program is to support parents/caregivers in identifying and achieving their goals. This support may include helping professional providers listen to families and understand things from their perspective. Parent peer support taps into the strength that families show in negotiating many challenges and then uses those strengths to help them achieve what they want for their child(ren). It often focuses on dealing with systems, particularly school issues.

The Department of Mental Health certifies parent peer supporters in the mental health system. The training is virtual and is conducted by Families as Allies.

This program is available statewide. The number of counties served at one time can vary based on workforce availability.

Program metric data for the certified parent/caregiver support peer specialist program were not available.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
State General Funds**	\$42,000	\$42,000

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

***These are funds designated for training of certified parent/caregiver support specialists.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



CHILD ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHIATRY (CHAMP)

The Child Access to Mental Health & Psychiatry (CHAMP) program is administered by the University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) Center for the Advancement of Youth (CAY) and the Division of Child Psychiatry. CHAMP is a peer-to-peer consultation and educational service through which child psychiatrists and psychologists support primary care providers (doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) concerning mental health care (such as diagnostic clarification, medication adjustment, or treatment planning).

Any pediatrician, family medicine doctor, or nurse practitioner in Mississippi who sees children ages birth to 21 can call the CHAMP line and get an immediate, free phone consultation with a child psychiatrist, child psychologist, counselor, social worker, perinatal peer support specialist, or a referral/resource specialist. Families as Allies partners with CHAMP to provide family support and also to work on system-level approaches to sustain the service.

The program has shown positive financial return on investment for decreasing psychotropic prescription costs among providers using CHAMP.

CHAMP for Schools (C4S) was established in 2022 and supports school personnel by providing vital mental health resources, including a dedicated psychological consultation phone line and an educational component to support training for school-based mental health providers, known as Project ECHO. With a mission to enhance knowledge, build capacity, and promote holistic well-being within school communities, C4S strives to address school-based mental health challenges across Mississippi.

In September 2023, the program expanded its services, launching CHAMP for Moms, to support pediatricians, obstetricians, and gynecologists around parents' perinatal and postnatal mental

health and substance use challenges. The program also supports any maternity-related providers in the community (doulas, community health workers, etc.). Providers can receive peer-to-peer consultation, utilizing telehealth when preferred. Services include assisting providers with mental health screenings, identification, treatment, and referral to other resources as needed.

Both the pediatric and perinatal CHAMP programs are available statewide. Both programs also offer continuing educational programming for distance-based learning collaboratives.



Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$530,192	\$1,708,342**
Other Funds (FY 2023: \$300,000 is funding from a United Health Care grant; the remainder is local-cost share. FY 2024: All funds are local-cost share.)***	\$389,176	\$245,000
Total Funds	\$919,368	\$1,953,342

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**A five-year \$3.75 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and a \$300,000 Empowering Health grant from United Healthcare provides funds for the CHAMP for Moms program. The first of these grant funds were received in FY 2024 and are included in this amount. CHAMP for Schools is funded from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and a HRSA Expansion Grant.

***Local cost-share is a requirement of the federal funder that a proportion of the funds be matched by the grantee.

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

CHAMP Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Providers Served	83	94
Number of Providers of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	40	27
Number of Parents or Caregivers Served	193	222
Number of Parents or Caregivers of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	29	40
Number of Calls	275	297
Number of Counties or Areas Served	9	15
Most Common Types of Providers Served	Nurse practitioners	Nurse practitioners
Most Common Types of Consultations*	Resource & referral access	Resource & referral access

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**Resource & referral access typically refers to when primary care providers request referral options for behavioral health services (assessment and/or therapy) in their communities for their patients. This also reflects when primary care providers request screening or other resources.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

CHAMP for Schools Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of School-Based Mental Health Clinicians Served	41	41
Number of School-Based Mental Health Clinicians Served Who Work with Young Children (birth to age five)	22	22
Number of Consultations	9	13
Number of Counties or Areas Served	16	16
Most Common Types of Consultations	Resource and referral, Disability advocacy	Resource and referral, Disability advocacy
Number of School Districts Served	21	21
Number of Schools Served	102	102

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



GULF COAST CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence is certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to provide 24-hour/7 day per week crisis intervention services, mental health assessments, therapy, and community support services to families and children in the six coastal counties (Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River, George, and Stone) who have been exposed to domestic violence. Residents of the domestic violence shelter can be provided with food, clothing, childcare, transportation, personal hygiene items, legal assistance, and employment

assistance. Crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and case management services are provided for residents of the shelter. The center also operates a therapeutic preschool program for young children.

Since the center opened in 1977, more than 20,500 women, children, and men have received services through shelter and non-residential programs. Approximately 12,000 children, adolescents, and adults attend violence prevention sessions annually. The center’s 24-hour crisis line receives over 15,000 calls per year requesting assistance and information.

All services are free and confidential.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$62,367	\$62,367

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Parents Served	Data not available	140
Number of Parents of Young Children (birth to age five) served	Data not available	11
Number of Children Served	344	310
Number of Young Children (birth to age five) served	Data not available	11
Number of Counties or Areas Served	6 counties: Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River, George, and Stone	
Most Common Types of Services Provided	Preschool classes, Parenting classes, Intake assessments, Outreach activities; Evidence-based Practices (i.e., Incredible Years, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trust-based Relational Intervention)	

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The number of children served for FY 2023 was reported differently in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. Department of Mental Health staff were unavailable to clarify the discrepancy.

MAKING A PLAN TEAMS

Making a Plan (MAP) teams are local-level teams made up of individuals from child-serving community agencies from within children's specific communities. The teams review cases concerning children and youth up to age 21 who have serious emotional or behavioral disorder or mental illness diagnoses and who are at risk for inappropriate placements due to the lack of access to or availability of services and supports in the community. Teams meet monthly and identify services and resources that may divert children from inappropriate inpatient care (keeping children in the least restrictive environment).

There are 55 MAP teams across the state. All MAP teams are operated by community mental health centers except for those in Hinds County, which are operated by Families as Allies.

In fiscal year 2024, only 1% of reviewed cases resulted in the child being referred to a higher level of care.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
State General Funds	\$686,649	\$686,649

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	764	1,024
Number of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	Data not available	145
Number of Families or Households Served	764	1,024
Number of Applications or Referrals Received	764	1,024
Percent of Children Able to Remain in Their Home/Community	Data not available	99%
Percent of Children Referred to Higher Level of Care	Data not available	1%

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

MISSISSIPPI YOUTH PROGRAMS AROUND THE CLOCK

Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC) provides wraparound facilitation and other services (such as therapeutic interventions, 24/7 crisis intervention, case management, family and peer support, and respite care) for children and youth from ages three to 21 who are diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance and are at risk of out-of-home placement. The goals of MYPAC are to help stabilize youth in their environment, reduce the need for institutionalization within a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and provide families with the necessary tools to support their child.



MYPAC participants must be residents of Mississippi, meet financial criteria to receive Medicaid, and meet criteria for admission to a psychiatric residential treatment facility.

MYPAC providers must be certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The following agencies provide MYPAC services:

- Canopy
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Children and Families
- Choices Coordinated Care Solutions
- Diamond Grove
- Gateway Behavioral Health Services
- Health Connect America
- Marion Counseling
- Methodist Children's Homes
- Region 12 Community Mental Health Center/Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources
- Youth Villages

According to data from Youth Villages, over 90% of children completing its programs continue to live successfully at home two years later.

MYPAC services are available statewide. Services are reimbursed by Medicaid and do not receive other funding.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	2,035	2,422
Number of Children Able to Remain in Their Home/Community	Data not available	1,782
Number of Children Referred to Higher Level of Care	Data not available	640

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff.*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY & CHILD-ADULT RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT

The University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) Center for the Advancement of Youth (CAY) provides Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), an evidence-based behavioral therapy for children with behavioral difficulties, tantrums, emotional dysregulation, and attachment difficulties. PCIT provides weekly behavioral support for parents and caregivers of children from one to seven years old. PCIT at UMMC also specifically aims to provide services for children with clear risk factors for early socio-emotional health issues such as NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) histories, prematurity/low birth weight, in-utero exposure to substances, or other major environmental risk factors. Children who struggle with attention, have temper issues, maltreatment histories, or engage in frequent fighting or destructive behaviors are typical candidates for PCIT. The program works to improve the parent-child relationship, teaching caregivers strategies to manage disruptive behaviors effectively. A key component of PCIT is real-time coaching, where a therapist guides the caregiver during their interaction with the child, either in-person or via telehealth. PCIT can be effective with a number of populations including children with neurodevelopmental disorders (such as autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder), prior experiences of physical maltreatment, developmental delays, and speech-language delays.

Initially started in 2016 through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, Mississippi's PCIT program completed a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to build out infant and early childhood mental health services, including PCIT. Another two-year grant from SAMHSA has allowed the program to continue and has supported training for community mental health agencies. PCIT can be provided in person at UMMC, Hinds Behavioral Health, and Southern Christian Services, and is available via telehealth anywhere in the state through UMMC.

Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) for the classroom is a type of Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT). CARE and TCIT utilize the same principles as PCIT but are geared toward educators' relationships with their students. CARE services are available through CAY and can be provided to early childhood educators, Head Start staff, and elementary through high school teachers, as well as allied health providers (speech, physical and occupational therapists). Mississippi's CARE program can also support Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in schools. Both are primarily geared toward prevention efforts.

CARE training can be provided across the state at the request of child care programs and schools. Trainees can receive real-time coaching. Evaluation data has shown that participating teachers report significantly fewer behavioral difficulties in their classrooms, more instructional goals being met, and better confidence in managing classroom behavior.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$500,000	\$1,399,941
Other Funds (Local cost-share)**	\$54,653	\$0
Total Funds	\$554,653	\$1,399,941

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**Local cost-share is a requirement of the federal funder that a proportion of the funds be matched by the grantee.

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

PCIT Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Parents or Caregivers Served	85	63
Number of Parents of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	69	40
Number of Families or Households Served	68	50
Number of Applications or Referrals Received**	329	278
Number of Counties or Areas Served	26	22
Average Number of Visits Per Family	7	7
Most Common Types of Behaviors Targeted	Noncompliance, Aggression, Stress, Disruption, Temper Tantrums, Hyperactivity, Impulsivity, Emotional Dysregulation	

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

**The number of applications or referrals received is greater than the number of parents served due to waiting lists and/or no-shows.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

CARE Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Teachers Served	48	30
Number of Teachers of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	13	0
Number of Classrooms Served	3	1
Number of Counties or Areas Served	3	1
Most Common Types of Behaviors Targeted	Defiance, Disruption, Whining, Yelling, Destructive behavior, Aggressive behavior	

*Data obtained from personal communications with program staff

NOTE: CARE information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



PRESCHOOL DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

Mississippi's preschool day treatment program services are provided by two community mental health centers that are certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. These programs are for children aged three to five years old with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) who are unable to attend a mainstream child care program due to behavioral and/or emotional challenges.

The preschool day treatment programs use an evidence-based curriculum that includes social skills development, behavior modification, anger management, and creative expression. These services aim to improve emotional regulation, social interaction, and overall functioning in preschool-aged children. Transportation is provided, and services are typically available five days a week.

Day treatment services are reimbursed through Medicaid and do not receive additional funding.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	113	96
Number of Families or Households Served	113	96
Number of Counties or Areas Served	6 counties: Yazoo, Lincoln, Rankin, Madison, Copiah, and Simpson	
Percent of Children Able to Attend Mainstream Kindergarten After Completing Program	100%	100%

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The number of children served for FY 2023 was reported differently in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. Department of Mental Health staff were unavailable to clarify the discrepancy.

VICKSBURG FAMILY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Vicksburg Family Development Services provides parenting and prenatal education classes as well as child screenings, assessments, therapeutic services, and referrals to other services as needed. Classes include information on child health, behavior management, and developmental support.

Vicksburg Family Development Services also offers home visits with a social worker or a registered nurse. The home visit curriculum includes health and nutrition education, physical care, infant stimulation training, the stages of early childhood, behavior management counseling, developmental assessment, safety education, and individual and family counseling.

Services also include child care for children aged two to four years old for three hours per week, with transportation to and from the program provided.

Other supportive services offered are: car seats (after a seat safety class and proper installation demonstration); books and literacy assistance (for both parents, caregivers and children) and access to household essentials for families who attend parenting classes. As the program has grown, some of the parenting classes have been made available online.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$100,000	\$100,000

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Parents Served	144	112
Number of Young Children (birth to age five) Served	Data not available	126
Number of Families or Households Served	144	112
Number of Counties or Areas Served	1 county: Warren	
Most Common Types of Services Provided	Parenting classes, Multi-family group therapy, Mental health assessments and screenings	

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The number of children served for FY 2023 was reported differently in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. Department of Mental Health staff were unavailable to clarify the discrepancy.

WRAPAROUND FACILITATION

Wraparound facilitation is provided by the Mississippi Wraparound Institute at the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work. Wraparound facilitation is an evidence-based care coordination model that supports children and youth up to age 21 who are engaged with multiple systems (such as Child Protective Services and schools), requiring care that exceeds the resources of a single provider. Wraparound facilitation aims to support providers in effectively coordinating families' services.

Providers, in collaboration with the family, develop a single plan of care to address the complex mental and behavioral health needs of the family. The goal is to offer support in the least restrictive environment and avoid unnecessary institutional placements so children may remain with their families.

Wraparound facilitation is available statewide.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
State General Funds	\$382,222	\$382,222

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	1,576	1,427
Number of Families or Households Served	1,576	1,427
Number of Children Able to Remain in Their Home/Community	Data not available	1,347
Number of Children Referred to a Higher Level of Care	Data not available	80

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) focuses on health protection, health promotion, and health planning.

More information can be found at <https://msdh.ms.gov/>.

CHILD CARE LICENSURE BUREAU

The Child Care Licensure Bureau sets standards for the minimum acceptable health, safety, and program operations for child care programs throughout the state. Mississippi's Child Care Licensure Bureau monitors registered, home-based child care programs and inspects all licensed child care programs, including youth camps and after school programs. Child care programs are required to be licensed if the facility cares for six or more children who are younger than 13

years old and are not related to the child care provider. Inspections include reviews of program records, policies, program content, and physical safety.

Program staff provide trainings at no cost to child care providers throughout the state; some of these trainings are mandatory, such as Child Care Regulations and Licensing, Playground Safety, and Directors' Orientation, while others can be elected to complete, such as infant and toddler development, appropriate behavior management, physical activity, handwashing and sanitation, nutrition and menu planning, and child abuse and neglect identification and reporting.

To be eligible to obtain a license, child care programs must have a qualified director who is at least 21 years old; has proof of required immunizations; has passed fingerprint, sex offender, and Child Abuse

Central Registry background checks; has completed the mandatory trainings listed above; and meets education and/or experience requirements.

To be eligible to obtain a license, child care programs must also pass a fire safety inspection, have an adequate and safe playground area, and meet building safety standards. Licensed child care programs must have developed policies around daily activities, arrival and departure, emergencies, and discipline and must agree to follow all licensing regulations. Licensing fees are determined by the number of children the facility will be licensed to provide care for. Child care licenses must be renewed annually.

Employees at licensed child care programs are required to pass criminal records, sex offender, and child abuse registry background checks and comply with the immunization requirements of the Mississippi State Department of Health. Accredited food manager training and Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and First Aid certification are also required.

Information about child care subsidies and quality is included in the Mississippi Department of Human Services’ Division of Early Childhood Care & Development section of this publication.

This program is available statewide.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$4,296,995	\$4,323,150
Other Funds (received from child care licensure fees)	\$658,858.95	\$662,172.82
Total Funds	\$4,955,853.95	\$4,985,322.82

**Data obtained from personal communications with program staff*

NOTE: Child Care Licensure Bureau information was not included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric	FY 2023*	FY 2024**
Number of Licensed Child Care Programs	1,626	1,505
Number of Registered Child Care Programs***	94	119

**Data obtained through personal communications with state Information Technology & Systems staff*

***Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff. Data is a snapshot from December 20, 2024.*

****Registered child care programs are not required to be licensed because they serve five or fewer children. Unlicensed providers are monitored annually.*

NOTE: Child Care Licensure Bureau information was not included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (PART C)

Mississippi's First Steps program, administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), is the state's Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part C early intervention program, which provides evidence-based supports and services to children with special needs who are younger than three, along with their families. The program's family-centered services are designed to enhance children's development through early learning opportunities embedded in their daily routines. All children enrolled in First Steps receive an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) that outlines the specific services their family will receive, based on their needs. The program is designed to assist both the child and family by helping parents and caregivers support children's development at home and in care settings.

While Part C is a federal program, each state sets their own eligibility criteria. First Steps has three eligibility categories:

- developmental delay (a 33% delay in one area of development or a 25% delay in two or more development areas, based on assessment)
 - areas of development: cognitive, physical, communication, and social-emotional and adaptive
- diagnosed physical or mental conditions, such as chromosomal abnormalities, genetic and congenital disorders, congenital infections, sensory impairments, inborn errors of metabolism, disorders reflecting disturbance of the nervous system development, severe attachment disorders, disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances (such as fetal alcohol syndrome)
- informed clinical opinion, which may be used to establish eligibility if evaluation and assessment results do not meet developmental delay criteria or the child does not have a diagnosed condition

While some states include children at risk of developmental delays in their Part C program eligibility criteria, an at-risk designation does not currently qualify children for participation in First Steps.

The First Steps program is divided into three regions across the state. Service coordinators, who are employed by MSDH, process program referrals, and coordinate with local providers to obtain evaluations and services for each child. Early intervention services include special instruction, speech-language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. These services are provided by contractors of MSDH who are reimbursed after service provision and typically take place in families' homes, children's education settings, and other community settings.

First Steps is working to improve outcomes for enrolled children by enhancing service quality and professional development through the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This initiative focuses on using evidence-based practices to better support both families and professionals participating in early intervention services.



Previous Program Budget *(from the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024)*

Source	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Federal Funds	\$4,195,764	\$4,164,982	\$4,226,412	\$6,368,062***
State Funds*	\$1,277,875.06	\$1,277,875.06	\$1,277,875.06	\$1,090,000
Other Funds**	\$1,709,635.68	\$1,078,711.47	\$1,085,907.44	\$2,907,884.49
Total Program Funds	\$7,183,274.74	\$6,521,568.53	\$6,590,194.50	\$10,365,946.49

*The sources of Mississippi's state funding include approximately \$390,000 from state general funds and \$700,000 in special education dollars transferred to MSDH from the Mississippi Department of Education. The legislature previously earmarked \$188,660 of the Healthcare Expendable Fund (HEF) to early intervention, but this ended in 2022. This HEF funding was earmarked for the T.K. Martin Center for Disability and the Regional Rehab Center, Tupelo.

**These funds are called "program earnings" and are obtained through the provision of targeted case management for clients receiving Medicaid per an interagency agreement with the Department of Mental Health. They are primarily federal with a state match.

***Increased federal funding Includes a supplemental \$2M in American Recovery Program (ARP) funds.

Source: Communications with MSDH administration

Current Program Budget

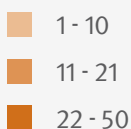
Budget	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$4,739,894	\$4,739,894
State General Funds	\$399,774.99	\$390,001.00
State Special Funds	\$0	\$2,000,000
Other Funds (from the Mississippi Department of Education)	\$700,000	\$700,000
Total Funds	\$5,839,669.99	\$7,829,895

NOTE: Budget information for 2019-2023 was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The FY 2023 budget information reported in the Spring 2024 publication was reported differently due to the inclusion of Mississippi Department of Education funds in the state funds amount as well as the inclusion of targeted case management funds for service coordinators. As our work on this publication continues, we are streamlining the information we collect. Thus, budget information for 2023 and 2024 is reported slightly differently than for 2019-2022.

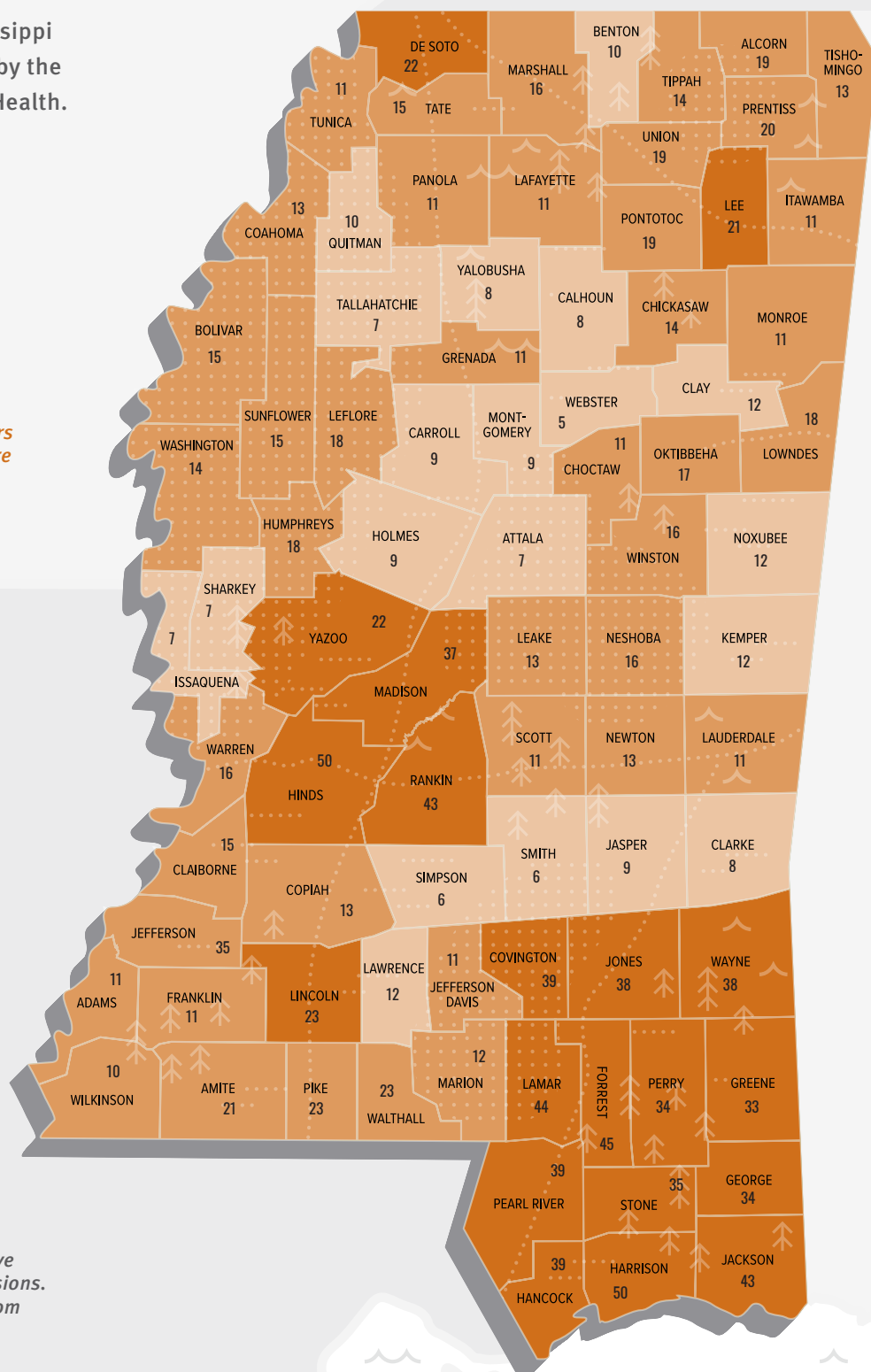
Mississippi State Department of Health Utilized Early Intervention Service Providers County Coverage*, 2023

Compiled by the Center for Mississippi Health Policy from data supplied by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Early Intervention Providers



**Numbers represent 283 service providers who serve multiple counties and therefore are counted in each county they service.*



The Center for Mississippi Health Policy is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization that provides objective information to inform health policy decisions. Also available at www.mshealthpolicy.com

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served (with an IFSP)	4,103	4,279
Number of Applications or Referrals Received	4,367	4,633
Number of Children with a Transition Conference to Part B, Section 619 Special Education Program	978	1,102
Number of Children Meeting Goals and Exiting Part C Program (No Longer Needing Early Intervention or Special Education Services before Age 3)	65	29

*Data received from public records request

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



HEALTHY MOMS/HEALTHY BABIES

Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies (HM/HB) of Mississippi is a maternal and infant health support program serving Medicaid-eligible families to increase safe birthing experiences and healthy infant development across the state. This program was formerly known as PHRM/ISS.

The program provides home visits for families with identified health risks and also provides care coordination services, partnering with medical and community providers. Nursing case managers provide comprehensive assessments to identify parent and infant medical, dietary, and social needs; develop plans of care; and coordinate services to meet specific needs. Program nurses, social workers, and registered dietitians provide health education on topics such as nutrition, hospital preparation, pregnancy and parenting warning signs, depression, anxiety, caring for a new baby, infant safety, and healthy infant development, and support with obtaining medical homes (accessible, team-based, patient-centered health care) and identifying family and community supports. They also provide referrals to other services such as the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP); Women, Infant, and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC); family planning, mental health, transportation, housing, medical care, child care, and employment services; and breastfeeding supports.

To participate in the HM/HB program, individuals must live in Mississippi and must have certain conditions that put their pregnancy or the health of their baby at risk, according to a risk assessment. These conditions include diabetes or hypertension; tobacco, alcohol, or other substance use; living in an unsafe environment (such as inadequate housing or exposure to violence or other types of abuse); being 19 years old or younger; having a baby who is born prior to 37 weeks of gestation; having a baby who weighs less than five pounds, eight ounces at birth; or having a baby with other medical or psychosocial conditions that affect their health and development.

Recent updates to the program include expanded access to telehealth services for both prenatal and postnatal care up to one year after birth.

This program is available statewide.

Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021**	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$81,087.16	\$41,241.15
State Special Funds***	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,926,078.49
Other Funds (third-party earnings from Medicaid reimbursement)	N/A	N/A	\$1,261,197.93	\$2,584,925.93	\$1,830,941.78	\$1,311,084.48
Total Funds	N/A	N/A	\$1,261,197.93	\$2,584,925.93	\$1,912,028.84	\$3,278,404.12

*FY 2019-2022 data obtained from public records request. FY 2023-2024 data obtained through personal communications with agency staff.

**HM/HB was founded in 2021. FY 2021 is from January 1 to June 30.

***These funds are from the Health Care Trust Fund, which receives court-ordered payments due to the State of Mississippi as a result of the lawsuit won against tobacco manufacturers.

NOTE: Budget information for 2019-2023 was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The FY 2023 budget information reported in the Spring 2024 publication was reported differently due to changes related to reporting period methods and closeout processes.



Program Metric*	FY 2023**	FY 2024
Number of Infants Served	533	534
Number of Maternal Participants Served	700	640
Number of Referrals Received***	2,136	2,076

*Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff

**The FFY 2023 budget information reported in the Spring 2024 publication is different from the current report due to changes related to reporting period methods.

***For the majority of referrals received, there is no response when HM/HB staff reach out to begin the enrollment process. Some referred families decline enrollment, and some are no-shows.

NOTE: Data for each of these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The number of infants served was reported differently in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024 due to changes related to reporting methods.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN'S (WIC) NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritious foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and health screenings and referrals for eligible participants. WIC participants can purchase healthy foods at participating grocery stores and pharmacies across the state by using an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Participants eligible for WIC services include Mississippi residents who are identified as at risk for poor nutrition and meet income guidelines; participants in Medicaid, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs) are automatically income-eligible for WIC. Categories for WIC eligibility include: women who are pregnant or postpartum (up to six months after pregnancy), breastfeeding women up to 12 months, and children (younger than five years old).

Effective June 2024, USDA announced updates to the WIC food packages to align with the current

Dietary Guidelines for Americans and reflect recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. These changes not only promote nutrition security and equity and consider program administration, but also provide WIC participants with a wider variety of nutritious foods to support healthy dietary patterns and accommodate special dietary needs and personal and cultural food preferences. The revisions provide foods in amounts that are more consistent with the supplemental nature of the program, encourage fruit and vegetable consumption, and strengthen support for breastfeeding. Mississippi's WIC program also temporarily increased its benefit levels for fruit and vegetable purchases using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

In December 2024, Mississippi's WIC program introduced online services for appointment scheduling and virtual consultations.

WIC provides services at health departments and clinics in each county.

In 2024, WIC celebrated its 50th anniversary as a federal program.

Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$68,862,154	\$74,598,167	\$72,092,092	\$36,701,031	\$56,734,095	\$58,104,319

*FY 2019-2022 budget information from [USASpending.gov](#) and communications with WIC staff. FY 2023-2024 budget information from public records request.

NOTE: Budget information for 2019-2023 was also included in the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024. The FY 2023 budget information reported in the Spring 2024 publication was reported differently due to changes related to reporting period methods and closeout calculations.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Monthly Average of Pregnant Women Enrolled	5,452	5,201
Monthly Average of Pregnant Women Actively Receiving Services	4,786	4,616
Monthly Average of Postpartum Women Enrolled	10,032	9,734
Monthly Average of Postpartum Women Actively Receiving Services	9,121	8,731
Monthly Average of Infants Enrolled**	18,968	19,295
Monthly Average of Infants Actively Receiving Services	17,715	18,234
Monthly Average of Children Enrolled***	37,782	33,294
Monthly Average of Breastfeeding Participants	20,341	20,057
Number of Referrals Made to Other Programs for Participants	2,770	2,502
Number of Active Clinics	130	125
Monthly Average Number of Vendors****	297	297

*Data obtained from public records request

**Infants: younger than one year old

***Children: ages one to five years old

****Vendors are retailers that participate in the WIC program. Families can redeem their WIC benefits there.

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.



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