

CLASP

Policy solutions that work for low-income people

Opportunities in CCDBG to Support Infants and Toddlers

September 2019



Overview

- This moment in state and federal child care policy – federal context
- The current state of access and equity
- Opportunities in CCDBG to support infants and toddlers
- First steps and next steps

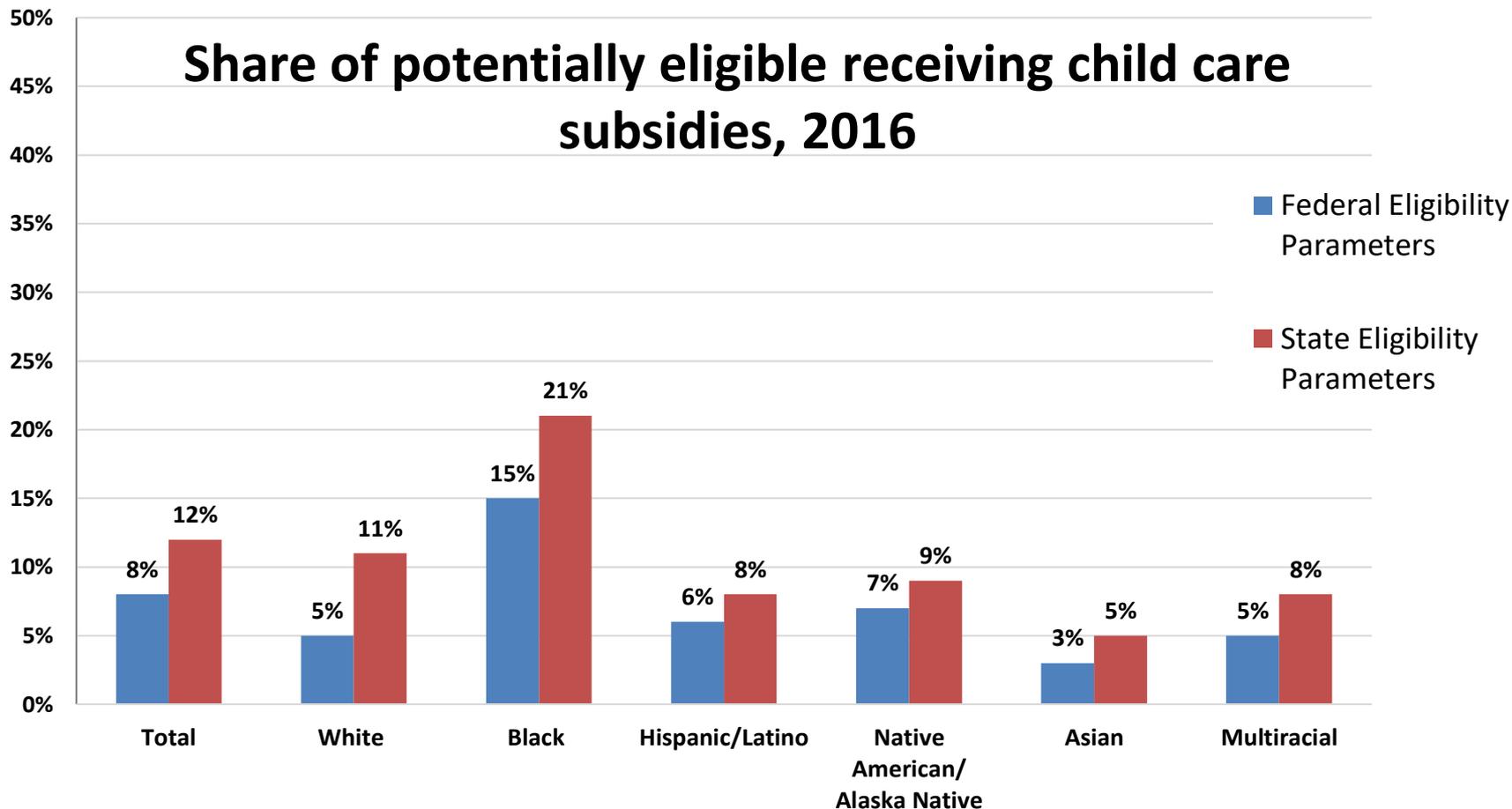


The Context

- Decades of underfunding.
- Changes in federal policy in 2014 reauthorization.
- Increases in federal funding.
- Racial inequities in access.

Access to CCDBG is low across the board, varies by race and ethnicity

Share of potentially eligible receiving child care subsidies, 2016



Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014

- Reauthorized (renewed and updated) CCDBG
- Approved with broad bipartisan support
- Established important goals:
 - **Protect the health and safety of children in care** through more consistent standards and monitoring of those standards.
 - **Allow families to more easily access child care assistance** that supports stable and continuous child care.
 - **Improve the quality of care**, including through increased quality set-asides, support for child care providers, and targeted initiatives for priority populations.
- *But...* the law was not initially accompanied by new funds to cover its additional costs.

CCDBG Funding Increase

- \$2.37 billion funding increase approved in March 2018
- Largest CCDBG funding increase in history
- Brought total CCDBG funding to \$8.143 billion in FY 2018
- States have until September 30, 2019 to obligate their FY 2018 funds, and until September 30, 2020 to spend the funds
- Funding increase maintained & slightly expanded in FY 2019
- New funding did not require a state match

Opportunities for Infants and Toddlers

- Infant Toddler Set-Aside
- Quality Set-Aside
- Increases in eligibility levels
- Increases in payment rates—targeted for infant and toddler care
- Understanding and supporting the whole range of child care used by families with infants and toddlers

Home Based Child Care

- **29.5 percent** of infants and toddlers attend home-based child care as their primary arrangement. (About half of that is paid.)
- **22.5 percent** of infants and toddlers use either unpaid or paid family, friend, and neighbor care.

(source: ChildTrends 2019 analysis of 2012 SIP data)



Policies that Can Improve Equitable Access

- Increases in investment
- Simplified and accessible subsidy eligibility and access policies
- Targeted outreach to underserved communities, designed with strong community input and leadership
- Quality interventions tied to subsidy, including:
 - Consultation and Coaching
 - Stronger suspension and expulsion prevention policies
 - Policies that support cultural and linguistic competency
 - Embedded anti-bias and racial equity training throughout the system

Strategies for Targeting Infant Toddler Set Aside Dollars

- Programs at state level
- Grants
- Contracted Support Services
- Contracted Direct Services (Enhanced)
- Differential Payment Rates



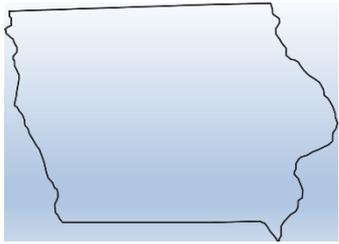
States can use grants and contracts to

- Address lack of access for a target population or in a geographic area
- Increase quality of care
- Increase the dosage of quality programs
- Build comprehensive services into subsidized care
- Increase access to care for populations that have traditionally struggled to find appropriate child care (homeless, teen parents, special needs, migrant, etc.)
- Build supply of care for non-traditional hours

State Example: Georgia



- Grants directly to programs rated by the state's quality initiative
- Grants are specifically to increase access to high quality programs for infants and toddlers
- Eligibility determined at the program level.
- Must be serving at least 10 infants and/or toddlers eligible for the state subsidy program.



State Example:

Oregon Baby Promise

- Creating contracts to build sustainable, quality infant and toddler slots over time, and address the need to reimburse providers for the true cost of quality infant and toddler care.
- Targeting communities with an extreme shortage of child care and access for priority populations
- Creating a system of Infant-Toddler Specialists to provide supports and professional development for networks of participating providers
- Will build in salary guidelines and standards associated with infant and toddler care best practices
- Pilot program includes three communities.

Getting ready for next steps...

- Understand your needs and gaps—
 - Existing data, disaggregated
 - Authentic conversations with parents and providers, particularly in underserved communities
- Understand who is caring for infants and toddlers and how to build the capacity families need
- Understand your state's policy goals and motivations- e.g. CAPs, political context
- Learn from other states – peer to peer learning and technical assistance

Make your move!

Time to take advantage of this opportunity for babies and their families!



Resources

- [Inequitable Access to Child Care Subsidies](#)
- [CCDBG: Helping Working Families Afford Child Care](#)
- [Child Care and Early Education Equity: A State Action Agenda](#)
- [\\$5 Billion Child Care Increase Would Help Hundreds of Thousands](#)
- [From Opportunity to Change: State Experiences Implementing CCDBG](#)
- [Nexus Community Engagement Assessment Tool](#)