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Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial Census-derived Statistics

Head Start/Early Head Start

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the Head Start/Early Head Start Program and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objectives: Promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of low-income children through the provision of comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, social and other services; involve parents in their children's learning; and help parents make progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [93.600](#)

Applicant eligibility: Qualified public, nonprofit, and for-profit providers

Type of assistance: Project grants

Beneficiary eligibility: Per [42 USC 9840](#), young children in families with incomes below the poverty line.

Allocation formulas: See [42 USC 9835](#). The base grant is increased each year based on the Consumer Price Index. Head Start and Early Head Start expansion funds are allocated based on a state's number of children under 5 in poor families.

Primary [Census-derived data sources:](#) Poverty Guidelines (HHS) for program eligibility. Consumer Price Index (BLS) for annual inflation adjustment on the base grant. American Community Survey (Census) for the allocation of program expansion funds.

Relation to accuracy of state Decennial Census count: Positive

A state Decennial Census undercount of families with young children in poverty would increase the likelihood of an underestimate of such families in the American Community Survey. Such an underestimate in turn would lead to less funding for Head Start and Early Head Start expansion.

Head Start/Early Head Start Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015

United States	\$8,259,130,975		
Alabama	\$131,948,138	Montana	\$46,472,133
Alaska	\$41,669,250	Nebraska	\$53,894,062
Arizona	\$190,460,250	Nevada	\$23,517,927
Arkansas	\$88,036,120	New Hampshire	\$16,932,512
California	\$1,145,497,041	New Jersey	\$140,118,178
Colorado	\$155,683,621	New Mexico	\$84,381,811
Connecticut	\$77,191,817	New York	\$591,919,016
Delaware	\$10,642,495	North Carolina	\$212,128,753
District of Columbia	\$42,680,009	North Dakota	\$32,221,909
Florida	\$380,669,166	Ohio	\$323,728,675
Georgia	\$226,341,627	Oklahoma	\$137,995,716
Hawaii	\$27,581,041	Oregon	\$127,479,423
Idaho	\$40,649,232	Pennsylvania	\$286,413,049
Illinois	\$351,410,827	Rhode Island	\$28,484,584
Indiana	\$124,283,170	South Carolina	\$114,345,020
Iowa	\$64,163,294	South Dakota	\$42,579,523
Kansas	\$63,446,714	Tennessee	\$154,705,552
Kentucky	\$144,339,984	Texas	\$678,806,882
Louisiana	\$166,312,499	Utah	\$60,013,184
Maine	\$35,562,175	Vermont	\$17,172,180
Maryland	\$96,826,510	Virginia	\$181,298,536
Massachusetts	\$146,861,290	Washington	\$180,224,537
Michigan	\$295,722,728	West Virginia	\$64,297,471
Minnesota	\$112,595,410	Wisconsin	\$125,063,674
Mississippi	\$199,449,831	Wyoming	\$17,919,686
Missouri	\$156,992,743		

Source: USASpending.gov

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