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Early Childhood Education (ECE) Acronym Cheat Sheet

ACF: Administration for Children and Families

The primary federal agency that oversees programs for young children and their families, ACF is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and contains the Office of Child Care (OCC) and the Office of Head Start (OHS).

ARPA: American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also known as ARPA, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law on March 11, 2021. It provided \$39 billion for child care, including \$24 billion for stabilization grants and \$15 billion for emergency supplemental CCDBG funds. It also expanded the CTC and the CDTC and provided more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program.

BBB: Build Back Better

The Build Back Better Act was passed by the House of Representatives on November 19, 2021, with historic investments in child care and preK. After stalling in the Senate, reconciliation ultimately passed Congress as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), but child care and early learning were dropped from the bill, and no funding was included.

CACFP: Child and Adult Care Food Program

Pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children enrolled at participating child care centers and family child care homes and provides ongoing training, technical assistance and support.

CARES Act: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

The CARES Act, was a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 116th U.S. Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. It included \$3.5 billion for CCDBG and created relief programs like the Paycheck Protection Program to provide relief for small businesses.

CCAMPIS: Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program

Pronounced “see-campus,” this program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services.

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CCDBG: Child Care and Development Block Grant

The name of the law that funds states' child care subsidy programs and enforces regulations for programs receiving those funds. Created in 1990 and last reauthorized in 2014. (May also be referred to as CCDF, or the Child Care and Development Fund).

CDCTC: Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Offsetting a portion of eligible families' child care expenses, it is the only federal tax credit designed specifically to address child care affordability. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a different credit, with different purposes.

CHIP: Children's Health Insurance Program

Federal-state partnership program that provides health coverage options for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford marketplace or other coverage. It was formerly known as S-CHIP (for State) and is sometimes still called by that name.

CRRSA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation

This \$900 billion stimulus and relief package went into effect on December 27, 2020 with an additional \$10 billion for child care as well as substantial funds for elementary and secondary education and higher education.

CTE: Career and Technical Education

CTE programs are career preparation programs, and may operate for students who are high-school and college age. The main federal funding source is the Perkins Act, and may include opportunities for ECE.

EIDL: Economic Injury Disaster Loan

The EIDL program was designed to provide economic relief to businesses experiencing a temporary loss of revenue due to coronavirus (COVID-19). The EIDL was a low-interest loan directly administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for up to \$2 million per business that can be extended for up to 30 years.

ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act

Newest version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 (previously known as NCLB, or No Child Left Behind). It is the main federal law governing the nation's elementary and secondary schools.

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HEA: Higher Education Act

Governs higher education programs and student loan programs, guiding states and institutions of higher education (IHEs) in the implementation of the law. Created in 1965; last reauthorized in 2008.

HELP: Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

The name of the Senate committee that has jurisdiction over health care, education, employment and retirement policies.

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Makes available a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to eligible children with disabilities for children beginning at age 3 (Part B); and provides grants to states for Early Intervention (EI) services for infants and toddlers (Part C).

NDD: Non-defense discretionary spending

Refers to the domestic and international programs outside of national defense that Congress funds on an annual basis. These programs are called “discretionary” because Congress must set funding levels for them each year through the appropriations process.

OMB: Office of Management and Budget

Creates the President’s budget and reviews all regulations.

PDG: Preschool Development Grant

Created as part of ESSA in 2015, these are grants to states that are designed to help states improve early childhood systems serving children from birth to five.

P-EBT: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) was part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through P-EBT, eligible school children received temporary emergency nutrition benefits loaded on EBT cards that are used to purchase food.

PPP: Paycheck Protection Program

Offered by the Small Business Administration (SBA), this program was specifically designed to help small businesses maintain payroll and benefits for employees and cover overhead costs like rent, utilities, and mortgage interest for a short-term (8–24 week) period. The program offered low interest loans that are eligible to be completely forgiven. Some child care programs were able to take advantage of PPP grants during the pandemic, but there was not equitable access.

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SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Also known as “food stamps,” SNAP is a federal program that provides nutrition benefits to low-income individuals and families.

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Often known as “welfare,” TANF replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in 1996 and provides cash assistance, job training, and other services, including child care, to low-income families via grants to states.

T.E.A.C.H. vs. TEACH

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood is a comprehensive scholarship program and national strategy helping address the need for a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce, operating in more than 20 states. Though they share the same name—and NAEYC cares about both—T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood is different from the federal TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) grants, which provide up to \$4,000 a year to eligible students preparing to be teachers (who have to take certain kinds of classes in order to get the grant, and then do a certain kind of job to keep the grant from turning into a loan).