

# MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM ASSET MAP



PROGRAM PROFILES





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Note: Not designed yet

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# INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

Note: Hyperlinks not added yet

**Mississippi (MS) is home to 331,312 children from birth to age eight.** For children, families, and communities across MS these early years hold tremendous potential and opportunity for the future. Early life experiences are critical in fostering a child's early brain development and laying the foundation for lifelong success. Families of all kinds need extra support when raising young children. To ensure that all parents and children in MS are prepared to thrive, and that the long-term economic future of the state is bright, early childhood programs and systems must be high-quality, accessible, and affordable.

Recognizing the great importance of early childhood education and development programs and services, the state of Mississippi (MS) established the MS State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) to serve the children and families of Mississippi. SECAC exists to support a coordinated system of quality care and education with comprehensive supports to enable school success and lifelong learning. A core responsibility of this group of leaders is to conduct periodic statewide needs assessments on the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs from birth to school entry. Another core responsibility is to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination across early childhood education programs and services. In support of these efforts, SECAC partnered with Start Early to develop the Mississippi Early Childhood System Asset Map.

**"Having a heart for children helps you to do your job and thrive because, you know, we have the capacity to do something positive or something negative, so it's important that we make smart choices that we can help our children."**

- EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

**The MS Early Childhood System Asset Map has two parts:**

- 1) Programs Profiles – included in this document, see below
- 2) Analysis Report – accessible at [mssecac.org](https://mssecac.org)

The asset map will inform the creation of a strategic vision, which will articulate a path for improvement towards a comprehensive, aligned, high-quality system of early childhood development and care. SECAC will release this strategic vision in January 2023.

## Methodology

This asset map was produced in partnership between the Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council and Start Early. Start Early collaborated with MS SECAC leaders to outline the content of the asset map, and MS SECAC members provided guidance, review, and feedback throughout the process. Start Early gathered policy information and data from a range of sources, including public state and federal websites and reports, interviews with state agency leaders, and data requests to relevant state agencies. Critically as part of the process, MS families and early childhood professionals shared their experiences, insights and ideas through surveys, focus groups and interviews, and they will continue to be engaged to create the strategic vision.

- More than **1 Million Neural Connections** formed every second in the first years of life
- **13% Return on Investment** for every dollar spent on high-quality early learning
- **\$673 million** estimate of the impact on the MS economy annually due to gaps in childcare

#### Total population of children, 2020

- Children 0-2 years old: 107,959
- Children 3-5 years old: 111,060
- Children 0-8 years old: 331, 312
- Children under 18 years old: 731,558

#### Children 0-4 years old by race/ethnicity, 2020

- Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native: <0.5%
- Non-Hispanic Asian: 1%
- Non-Hispanic Black: 41% [These will be infographics](#)
- Hispanic or Latino: 6%
- Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander: <0.5%
- Non-Hispanic White: 48%
- Non-Hispanic Two or More Race Groups: 3%

#### Children 0-5 years old in poverty by race and ethnicity

- Total= 66,000
- Black or African American: 42,000 (63.6%)
- Non-Hispanic White: 17,000 (25.8%)
- Other (includes American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino, and Two or more races): 7,000 (10.6%)

## Overview of the Program Profiles

The purpose of this first part of the asset map is to provide a landscape of the early childhood programs serving children from birth to eight and their families in Mississippi. It begins with a breakout of total public state and federal funding that resources the Mississippi early childhood system annually. This is followed by a visual map of how this funding flows from its source to administering agencies, through regional and/or local entities, and to program providers and families.

The final section includes profiles of twelve of the major publicly funded programs available to children from birth to age eight and their families in Mississippi. Profiles of several privately funded or privately managed early childhood programs are also included.

**“The toddler years are so challenging, but they’re so much fun because they learn so many things and they are like little sponges.”**

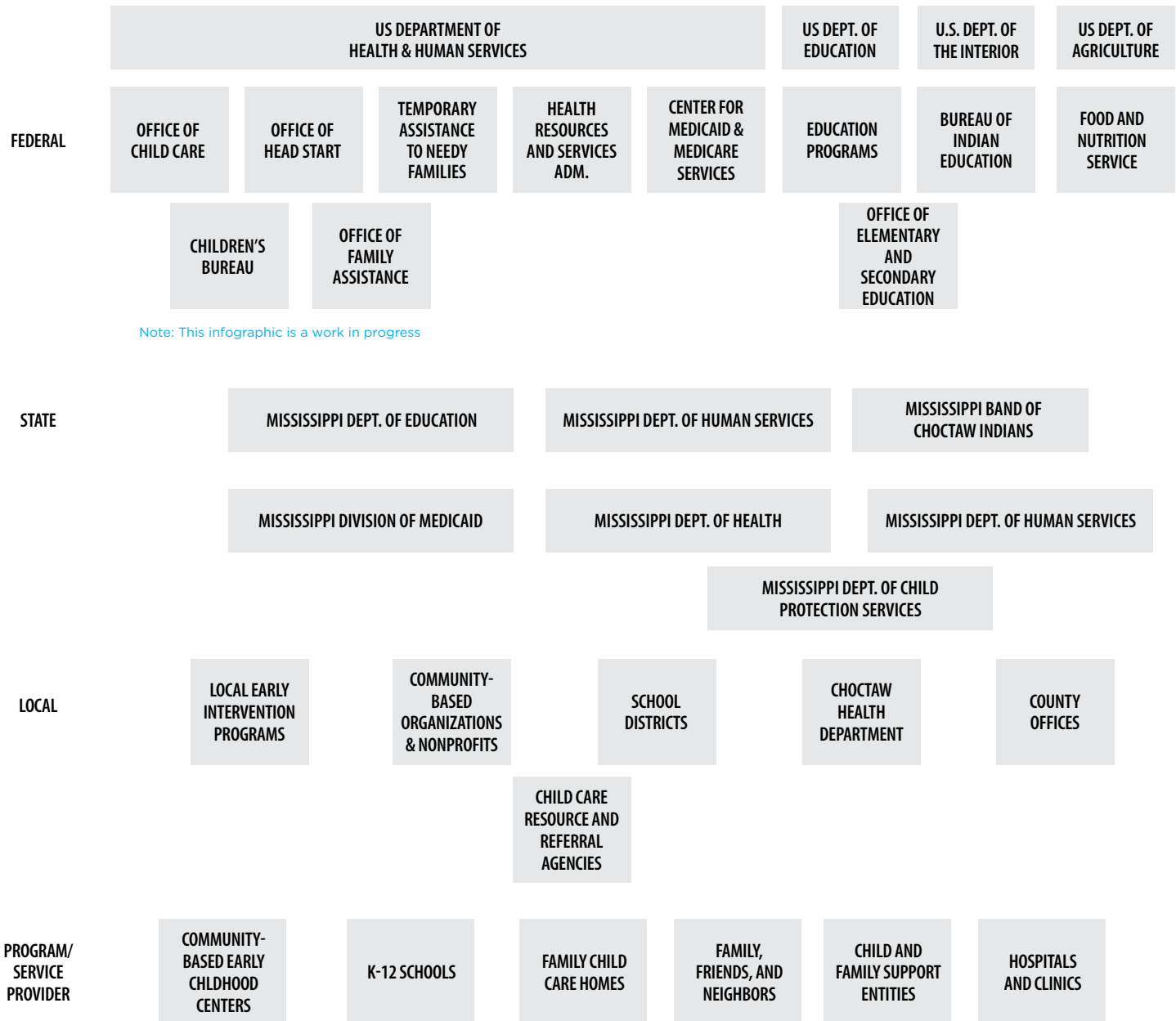
- MOTHER OF A  
THREE-YEAR-OLD IN JACKSON

#### Each profile answers four key questions:

- What is the program?
- Who benefits?
- How much funding is there?
- Who are the providers?

These profiles help provide clear information and insights about each program, who is served and who could be served, which will help inform the SECAC’s strategic vision for a strong early childhood system moving forward.

## MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM MAP




Note: This infographic is a work in progress

## NAME OF SERVICE/PROGRAM



Head Start



Child Care Payment Program (CCPP)



Early Childhood Special Education (IDEA Part B 619)



Early Intervention (IDEA Part C)



Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)




Early Learning Collaboratives



Title I Pre-K



Home Visiting Services (MIECHV)



Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC)



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)



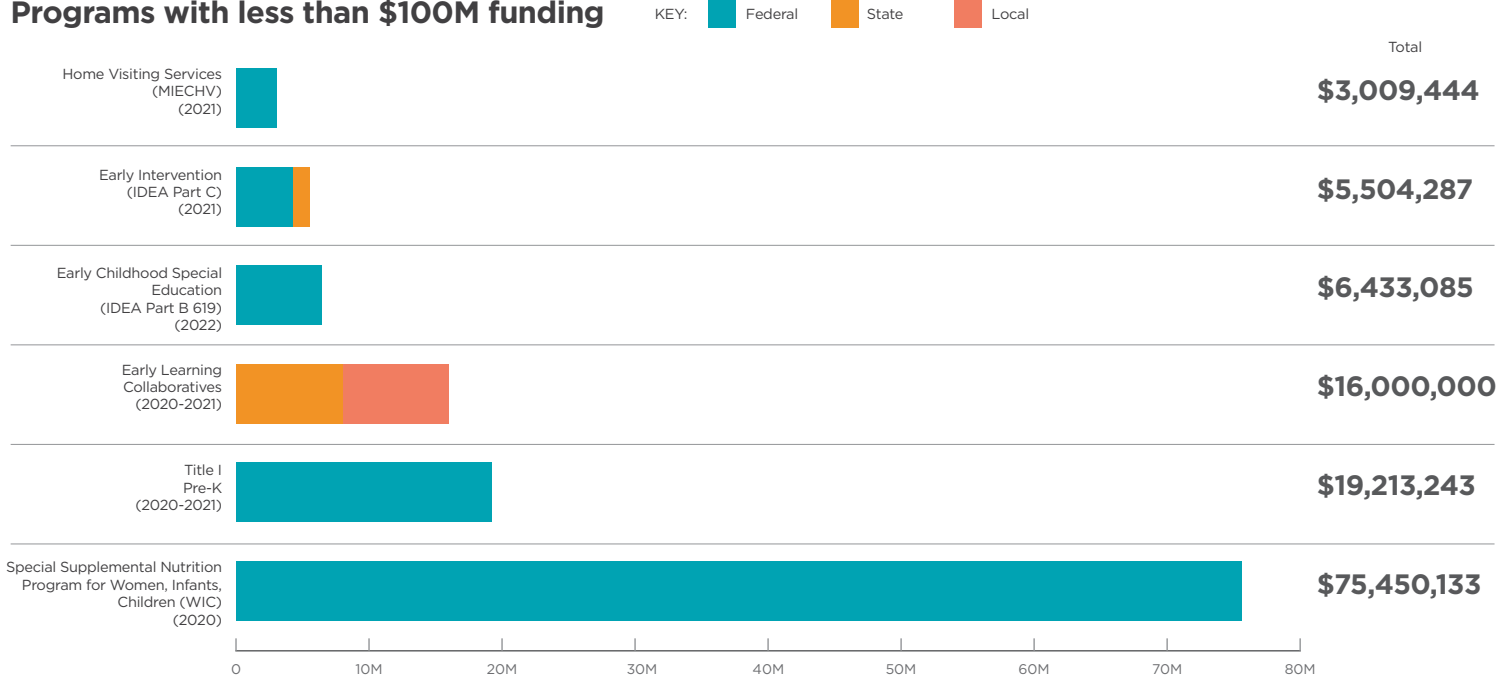
Child Protective Services

## FUNDING

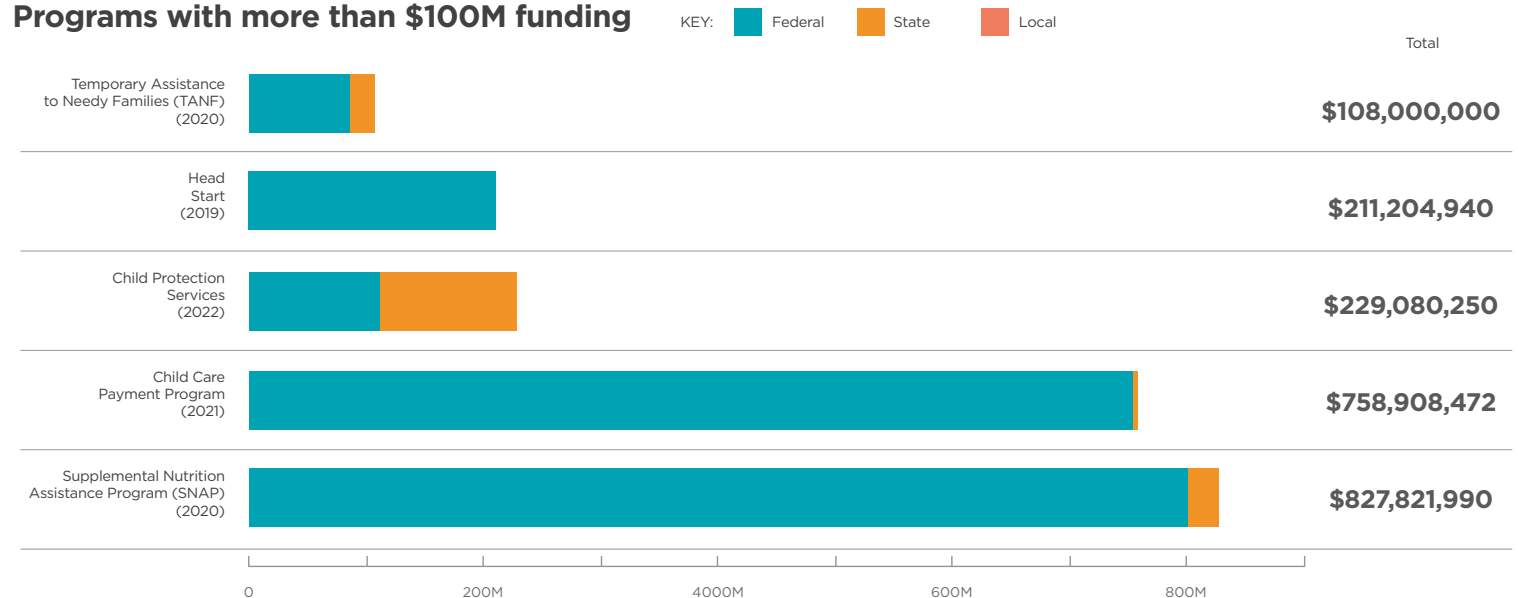


## Early Childhood Public Funding in Mississippi

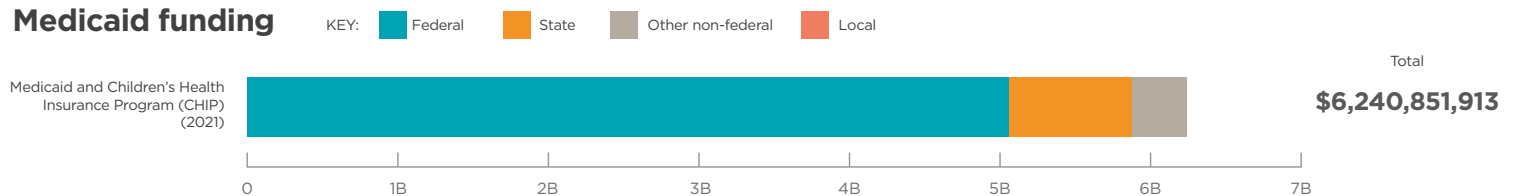
## Programs with less than \$100M funding



## Programs with more than \$100M funding



## Medicaid funding





# PROGRAM PROFILES



# Child Care Payment Program

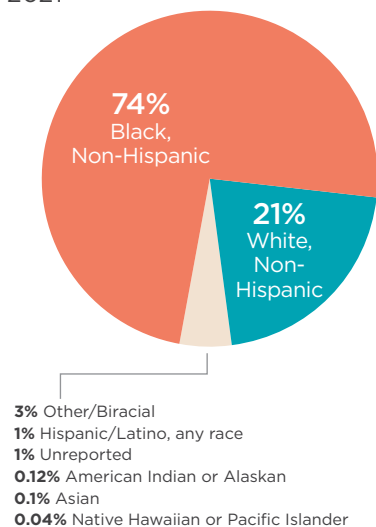
## CHILDREN SERVED 2021

# 35,101

## TOTAL FUNDING 2021

# \$758,908,472

## Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2021<sup>xi</sup>



Learn more at the [Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood Care & Development website.](#)

## What is the program?

**The Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) is funded through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)** federal block grant. CCPP is administered by the Division for Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD) at the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). CCPP provides assistance in the form of vouchers for eligible families to help cover the cost of child care. MDHS has a sliding fee scale based on family size and income that determines the voucher amount a parent can use at a participating child care provider of their choice. Parents pay the remaining amount of tuition directly to the provider if the rate of assistance does not meet the full cost of care.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** In FY2021, CCPP served a total of 35,101 children.<sup>i</sup> Of the children served, 8% were under age 1, 24% were 1-3 years old, 25% were 3-5 years old, 33% were 6-13 years old, and 10% were above the age of 13.<sup>ii</sup>

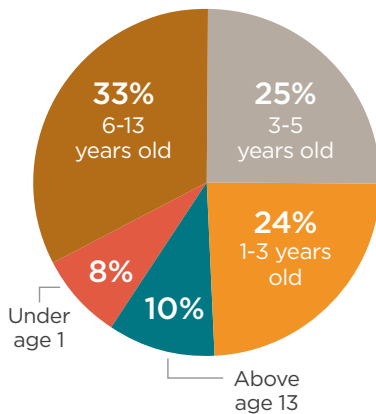
**Eligibility Criteria:** Child care assistance is available to families with a child under age 13 (or under age 19 with special needs or under court supervision). Federal rules require that parents or guardians must be working or attending an education or training program. Income is capped at 85% of State Median Income (SMI).<sup>iii</sup> The child must be a U.S. citizen or qualified legal alien, even if the parents are not. Much of the program design and other eligibility rules are left to the discretion of state lead agencies. Currently in Mississippi, parent(s) must be in cooperation with child support, if applicable.

Federal rules also require lead agencies to prioritize children with special needs, families with very low incomes, and families experiencing homelessness. The Mississippi CCPP Program additionally prioritizes recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), recipients of Transitional Child Care (TCC), children meeting the definition of Protective Service, children served by Healthy Families Mississippi home visiting program, and teen parents who meet work and/or educational requirements.

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** In 2018, CCPP served a total of 24,304 children,<sup>iv</sup> approximately 20.23% of the potentially eligible children whose family income was less than 85% of the state median income.<sup>v</sup> While there is still much work to be done, Mississippi served greater than the national average of 15% of potentially eligible children through CCPP in 2018.



### CCPP recipients by age:



## Child Care Payment Program (continued)

### How much funding is there?<sup>vi</sup>

Total funding in in 2021 is **\$758,908,472**.

- Federal: **\$754,186,738** including:
  - **\$96,897,978** from CCDF block grant
  - **\$657,288,760** in American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act funding
- State: **\$4,721,734**

Funding covers child care assistance and administrative costs of the program. States must meet a 9% quality spending requirement and a 3% infant and toddler quality spending requirement, which includes support for professional development and technical assistance and funding for a statewide child care resource and referral system.<sup>vii</sup> DECCD also utilized supplemental federal relief dollars to pay a 25% enhanced subsidy rate to child care providers and to cover the cost of parent co-payments.<sup>viii</sup>

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Type(s):** The following types of providers accept CCPP:

- licensed center-based child care providers
- license-exempt center-based child care providers (including accredited public, private, and parochial schools)
- licensed family child care providers (6-12 children in care)
- registered, unlicensed family child care providers (5 or fewer children in care)
- In-home child care providers (for children with special needs).<sup>ix</sup>

**Number of Providers:** There are currently **1,559** licensed or registered child care providers in Mississippi, and **967** providers (**62%**) accept CCPP.<sup>x</sup>



# Head Start

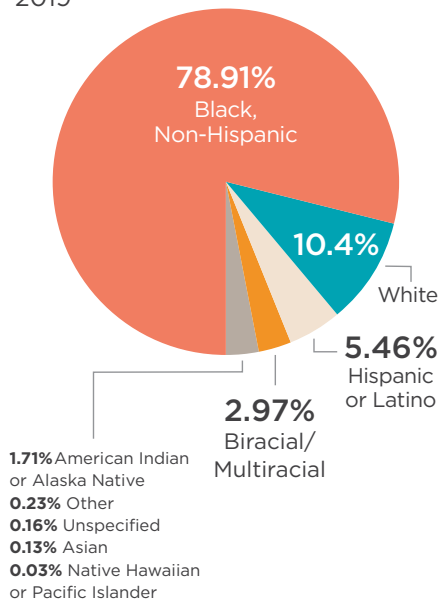
## CHILDREN SERVED 2021

# 15,691

## TOTAL FUNDING 2021

# \$211,204,940

### Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2019\*



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Head Start Association website.](#)

## What is the program?

**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 Mississippi Head Start Association's (MHSA) mission is to provide children ages birth to 5 and their families with a range of individualized services including education, early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition and parent engagement. Early Head Start and Head Start services include center-based and home-based options for families. The Mississippi Head Start State Collaboration Office (MSHSSCO), located in the Office of the Governor, facilitates communication and coordination of services, alignment of planning, enrollment, administration, and reporting systems among state and local leadership across funding streams and disciplines.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** In 2021, the funded enrollment for Head Start and Early Head Start in Mississippi totaled 21,024 slots, and 268 slots for MS American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) programs.<sup>i</sup> The cumulative enrollment for Head Start and Early Head Start was 15,691 children and for AIAN programs was 290 children. 18.71% of children served in Head Start were ages 0-2 and 81.29% were ages 3-5.<sup>ii</sup> Head Start programs are required to maintain a consistent enrollment number equal to 85% of their funded slots. While some programs served more children than their funded enrollment in 2021, many grantees fell significantly short of this requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers under the age of 3 as well as pregnant women and Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5. Head Start and Early Head Start services are available to families with incomes below the federal poverty guidelines. Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children from families receiving public assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible, regardless of income. Families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are also eligible for Head Start.<sup>iii</sup>

## PROGRAM PROFILES

**Primary Type of Eligibility:<sup>iv</sup>**

Income at or below 100% of federal poverty level:

**84.01%**

Public assistance such as TANF and SSI:

**4.46%**

Foster care:

**0.64%**

Homeless:

**0.64%**

Eligibility based on other type of need:

**6.70%**

Income between between 100% and 130% of federal poverty line:

**3.55%**

**Head Start** (continued)

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** In 2019, Head Start and Early Head Start had a funded enrollment of 23,781<sup>v</sup> and there were 66,000 children under age 5 statewide who met the income eligibility requirements for the program,<sup>vi</sup> reaching approximately of 36% eligible children.

**How much funding is there?<sup>vii</sup>**

Total funding in 2019 was **\$211,204,940**.<sup>vii</sup>

- Federal: **\$211,204,940**
  - For Head Start and Early Head Start: **\$208,907,300**
  - For AIAN Head Start and Early Head Start: **\$2,297,640**

In 2021, Mississippi received an additional \$15 million through the American Rescue Plan. Head Start funds are awarded directly to eligible program operators at the local level. Program operators can use funds for a wide range of program expenses including operations, professional development, quality improvement, and investments in technology. Up to 5 percent of program budgets go to staff education and training.

**Who are the providers?**

**Provider Type(s):** Head Start and Early Head Start providers include the following agencies:

- Community Action Agencies (CAAs)
- Private/Public Non-Profits (non-CAAs such as churches or non-profit hospitals)
- School Systems
- Government Agencies (non-CAAs)
- Tribal Governments or Consortiums (American Indian/Alaska Native)

**Number of Providers:** All **82** counties in Mississippi are served by Head Start programs, which are administered by different grantees. There are a total of **16** Head Start grantees administering **47** programs across **290** sites<sup>viii</sup> There are **81** sites that provide both Head Start and Early Head Start services, **41** sites that provide Early Head Start and **168** sites that provide Head Start services.<sup>ix</sup>

# Title I Preschool

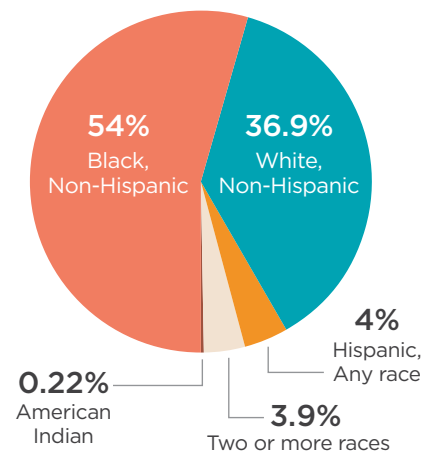
CHILDREN SERVED 2020-2021

**4,796**

TOTAL FUNDING 2020-2021

**\$19,213,243**

Children Served by  
**RACE & ETHNICITY**  
2020-2021



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department of Education's website.](#)

## What is the program?

**Title I, Part A is a federal funding stream under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act**, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) intended to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I funds may be used for a variety of services, including to establish or enhance preschool programs for eligible children. Programs are to comply with the Head Start Performance Standards for educational services. They may provide comprehensive services for children enrolled such as health, nutrition, hearing and vision screening, mental health, and family support services. Title I programs must coordinate with other local early childhood education programs and support transitions to elementary school.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:**<sup>ii</sup> 4,796 students were enrolled in 2020-2021, including 70 3-year-olds and 4,726 4-year-olds. 5,676 students were served in 2019-2020. Enrollment declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends.

**Eligibility Criteria:**<sup>iii</sup> Title I preschool may serve children from birth to the age at which the school district provides free elementary education. In MS, Title I preschool usually serves 4-year-olds until they are eligible for kindergarten.

Title I funds are distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) and schools with high percentages of children from low-income families. Eligibility is partly based on whether a program is a schoolwide, districtwide, or a targeted assistance program. If at least 40% of the families in the area are low-income (or the school receives a waiver), a schoolwide Title I program may be implemented to serve all students within the attendance area. If a Title I school or district cannot serve all students or if it is a targeted assistance program, it must establish multiple, educationally related, objective criteria, to identify the children who are most at risk of failing to meet academic standards, such as:

- Developmentally appropriate measures of child development,
- English language learners,
- Children receiving special education services.



Approximately,  
66,000 children  
in poverty under  
the age of 6  
in MS could  
benefit from a  
Title I preschool  
program.

## Title I Preschool (continued)

Family income can be considered, though children should not be identified as eligible solely based on this. Some children are automatically eligible, including children who:

- Participated in a Head Start or a Title I preschool program during the prior two years,
- Are experiencing homelessness,
- Received services under Title I, Part C (migrant education) in the prior 2 years, and
- Are in a local institution or attending a community day program for neglected or delinquent children.

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** Approximately 12.7% of all 37,159 4-year-olds in MS are served in Title I preschool programs.<sup>iv</sup> Approximately, 66,000 children in poverty under the age of 6 in MS could benefit from a Title I preschool program.<sup>v</sup>

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020-2021<sup>vi</sup> was **\$19,213,243**.

- Federal: **\$19,213,243**
- State: Not applicable

Title I funding is flexible and may be used for a wide range of program expenses including operations, family engagement, professional development, and investments in technology. Funds may also be used to expand or enhance existing early learning programs such as Head Start or childcare programs.

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** LEAs or public school districts receive and control how Title I funds are used. A Title I preschool program may be provided in a school building or other privately-owned setting. In MS, all Title I preschool classrooms are in schools.

**Number of Providers:** **173** schools in **72** school districts.<sup>vii</sup>

# Early Learning Collaboratives

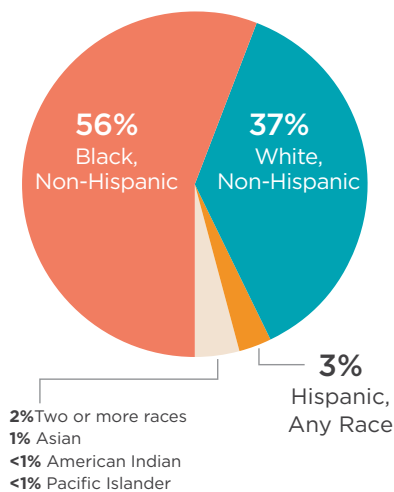
CHILDREN SERVED 2020-2021

**2,801**

TOTAL FUNDING 2020-2021

**\$16,000,000**

Children Served by  
**RACE & ETHNICITY**  
2020-2021



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department of Education's website.](#)

## What is the program?

**Early Learning Collaboratives (ELC) provide voluntary half or full day preschool programming**, with curriculum and assessment aligned to comprehensive early learning standards. ELCs also provide family engagement opportunities, screenings and/or referrals for vision, hearing and other health issues. As a partnership of multiple preschool providers, they support the local coordination of preschool programming. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) awards funds based on a community's commitment, capacity, and need. To determine need, MDE shall consider low academic achievement within the school district and the number and percentage of students without quality pre-k options.<sup>i</sup>

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:**<sup>ii</sup> 2,801 children were enrolled in 3,220 funded slots in the school year 2021-2022. 3,090 were enrolled in school year 2019-2020. Enrollment declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends.

An additional 2,890 slots were funded to be served in the 2022-2023 school year, which will bring the total to 6,110.<sup>iii</sup>

**Eligibility Criteria:** ELCs serve children who are not yet in kindergarten but are four years of age on or before September 1 of a school year. There are no eligibility requirements for students or families set by the state for the ELCs. Programs that are part of the ELC follow the eligibility and selection criteria that are applicable to their program type, i.e., Head Start, Title I preschool, and Child Care Payment Program.

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** Approximately 16% of all four-year-olds can be served in ELCs in 2022-2023.

## PROGRAM PROFILES

### Characteristics of Children and Families Served

# 3%

of children served speak a language other than English as their home language

# 8%

of children served have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special needs

### Early Learning Collaboratives (continued)

#### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020-2021 was **\$16,000,000**.

- State: **\$8,000,000**
- Local: **\$8,000,000**

A 1:1 local match is required. The match may include local tax dollars, federal dollars as allowed (e.g. Head Start, Title I), parent tuition, philanthropic contributions, or in-kind donations of facilities, equipment and services required as part of the program such as food service or health screenings. Funds may be used for staffing, educational materials and equipment, child assessment, professional development, administering, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the programs.

#### Who are the providers?

**Provider Type(s):** ELCs are partnerships comprised of:

- a public school district
- a local Head Start affiliate, if in existence
- private or parochial schools
- licensed childcare centers.

ELCs may include organizations that work with young children and their families to provide resources and coordination, even if they are not prekindergarten providers. Each ELC has a lead partner, which is the public school district or other nonprofit with the expertise and capacity to manage the program.

**Number of Providers:** 18 ELCs provide preschool services at 98 sites.<sup>iv</sup>



# Healthy Families Mississippi

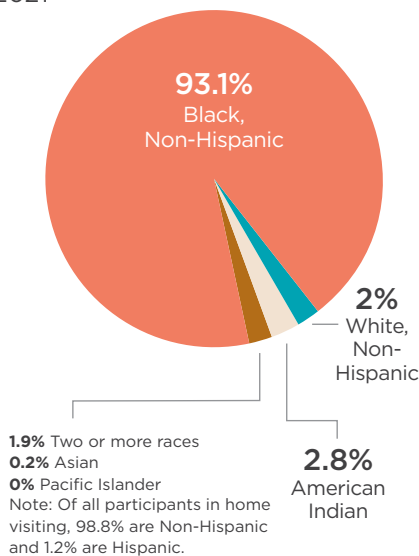
## FAMILIES SERVED 2021

656

## TOTAL FUNDING 2021

\$3,009,444

## Participants Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2021



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department of  
Human Services Healthy  
Families website.](#)

## What is the program?

In MS, voluntary home visiting programs are primarily funded by the **Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV)**, a federal program that supports expecting parents and parents with young children. The MIECHV program aims to improve maternal and child health, promote children's development and school readiness, prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce domestic violence and crime, connect families to needed community resources and supports, and increase family education levels and earning potential. Home visitors provide vital support - listening to parents, answering questions, assessing family strengths and needs and providing services tailored to their needs. They share information, teach positive parenting skills, help families to set goals for their future, conduct screenings and make referrals. Healthy Families Mississippi is the MIECHV-funded, evidence-based model offered. Early Head Start also offers a home visiting program. See the Head Start Program Profile for more information.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** 656 families/households were served in FY21 in 750 funded slots, including 1303 total participants (adults and children).<sup>1</sup>

**Eligibility Criteria:** MIECHV is intended to serve families who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive maternal and child health outcomes. Families must live in one of the 16 counties served. Healthy Families Mississippi serves pregnant women, mothers, fathers, and guardians with children from birth to age three. Families must enroll during pregnancy or before the child is three months of age. MIECHV funding could be used to serve children up to the age of kindergarten entry. Programs must give priority to eligible families who meet one of the following criteria:

- Low income
- Expecting parents/parents under the age of 21
- Have a history of child abuse or neglect or have had interactions with child welfare services

## PROGRAM PROFILES

### Characteristics of Children and Families Served

# 90.7%

of households were low income

# 4.7%

of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21

# 1.1 %

of children had an Individualized Family Support Plan or Individualized Education Program for special needs

# 100%

of families speak English as their home language

## Healthy Families Mississippi (continued)

- Have a history of substance abuse or need substance abuse treatment
- Have users of tobacco in the home
- Have children with developmental delays or disabilities
- Have served or are serving in the Armed Forces.

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** In MS, there are an estimated 167,000 families with pregnant mothers and/or children under 6 who could benefit from home visiting, including approximately 56% (93,520) who meet one or more priority criteria and 27% (45,090) who meet two or more priority criteria.<sup>ii</sup> MS currently has the capacity to serve 1.67% of this high priority population in home visiting.

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in FY21 was **\$3,009,444**.<sup>iii</sup>

- Federal funding: **\$3,009,444**
- State: **\$0**

MIECHV funding may be used for administrative costs and a wide range of program expenses including operations, professional development, quality improvement, and investments in technology.

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Type(s):** County Offices

**Number of Providers:** Home visiting is provided in 16 counties, including: Claiborne, Jefferson, Coahoma, Copiah, Desoto, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Neshoba, Sharkey, Issaquena, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington, Wilkinson.

There are **38** Family Support Specialists, **10** Site Supervisors and **2** Regional Supervisors.

# Early Intervention (Part C)

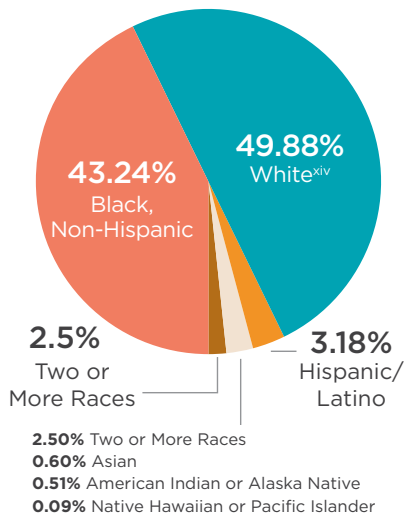
## CHILDREN SERVED 2020

# 3,360

## TOTAL FUNDING 2020

# \$5,504,287

## Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2020



Learn more at the [Mississippi State Department of Health's Early Intervention website](#).

## What is the program?

**Mississippi First Steps, administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)**, is the state's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C early intervention program. The Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program provides supports and services to children with special needs under three years of age and their families. These family-centered services are meant to enhance children's development through early learning opportunities embedded in their daily routines and activities.<sup>i</sup> An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is created for each child eligible for early intervention that outlines services tailored to their needs. Early intervention services can include signed and cued language services, assistive technology, evaluation, special instruction, service coordination, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, audiology, and psychometric services, among others.<sup>ii</sup>

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** Cumulatively, First Steps served 3,360 infants and toddlers throughout the course of 2020.<sup>iii</sup> Enrollment in First Steps declined after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, consistent with national trends.<sup>iv</sup>

**Eligibility Criteria:** The Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program is available to infants and toddlers from birth to three years old who qualify under three main eligibility categories:

- **Developmental Delay**, meaning the child has demonstrated through an assessment that they have a 33% delay in one area of development or a 25% delay in two or more areas: cognitive, physical (gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing), communication, social-emotional, and adaptive development.
- **Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition**, including but not limited to chromosomal abnormalities, genetic or congenital disorders, sensory impairments, inborn errors of metabolism, disorders reflecting disturbance of the development of the nervous system, congenital infection, severe attachment disorders, and disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances, including fetal alcohol syndrome.
- **Informed Clinical Opinion**, which may be used by qualified professionals to establish a child's eligibility for First Steps if their evaluation and assessment results do not meet the developmental delay criteria or the child does not have a diagnosis.<sup>v</sup>

## PROGRAM PROFILES

## Settings in which Children Received their Early Intervention Services

Fall 2020

# 72%

or **1,160** children, receive their services in the home.

# 8%

or **129** children, receive their services in a community-based setting

# 20%

or **332** children, receive their services in another setting that is not community-based or in the home

## Early Intervention (Part C) (continued)

IDEA Part C federal law allows states to set their own definition of developmental delay. Federal law also allows states to serve children who are at risk for developmental delay; Mississippi does not include “at risk” children in its Part C eligibility criteria.

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** To estimate how many children may be eligible but are not being served, Mississippi Thrive’s policy brief on First Steps cites the national average of 6.8% of infants and toddlers being served in Part C programs. Mississippi was serving 1.5% of the birth-two-year-old population as of fall 2020. If 6.8% of Mississippi infants and toddlers were served in a given year by First Steps, approximately 7,300 children would receive services.<sup>iv</sup> Given this estimate, Mississippi served approximately 46% of potentially eligible children in 2020.

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020 was **\$5,504,287**.

- Federal: **\$4,226,412**<sup>vii</sup>
- State: **\$1,277,875**<sup>viii</sup>

Mississippi also received one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding for early intervention directly from the federal government as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>ix</sup> The sources of Mississippi’s state funding include approximately \$390,000 from state general funds, \$700,000 in special education dollars transferred to MSDH from the Mississippi Department of Education, and a \$188,000 set aside from the Tobacco Trust Fund. Moving forward, the legislature will no longer earmark this Tobacco Trust Fund money for Early Intervention.<sup>x</sup> In addition to this state funding, First Steps bills the state Medicaid program for targeted case management.<sup>xi</sup>

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** First Steps Early Intervention Program is divided into nine Local Early Intervention Programs. Service coordinators employed by MSDH process referrals to First Steps and coordinate with the Local Early Intervention Programs to provide the evaluations and services needed for each child. These services are delivered by Early Intervention providers from various disciplines (e.g., family therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, etc.) who contract with MSDH and are reimbursed for their services.<sup>xiii</sup>

**Number of Providers:** **52** service coordinators were employed by MSDH as of April 2022. There are over **300** providers who provide direct services to Part C-eligible children and families.

# Early Childhood Special Education (Part B 619)

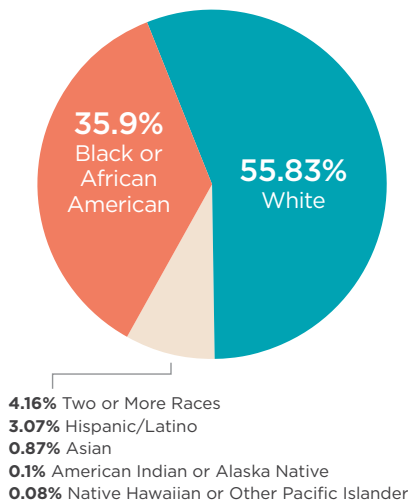
## CHILDREN SERVED 2020

# 3,914

## TOTAL FUNDING 2022

# \$6,433,085

## Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2020<sup>ix</sup>



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department  
of Education's website.](https://www.msde.edu/)

## What is the program?

**Children with disabilities ages three through five are afforded the right to a free appropriate public education** in the least restrictive environment through Part B Section 619. This program includes an affirmative duty to locate all children who may be eligible for services, conducting initial evaluations to determine their eligibility for services, creation of an individualized education program (IEP) defining the supports and services that are tailored to each child's strengths and needs, and ultimately service delivery.<sup>i</sup> The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) administers Part B 619 services.

## Who benefits?

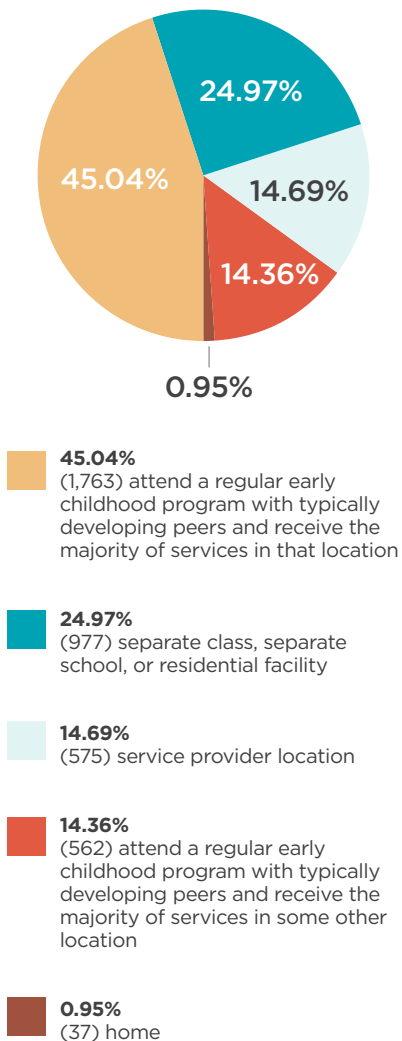
**Children Served:** A total of 3,914 children ages 3-5 were served in Early Childhood Special Education in Mississippi as of fall 2020.<sup>ii</sup> Enrollment in ECSE declined after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with national trends, from 8,391 children in fall 2019 to 3,914 children.<sup>iii</sup>

**Eligibility Criteria:** ECSE services are for children ages three through five with disabilities or developmental delays. To receive services, the school district Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team must determine that the child meets the criteria for one of 12 categorical disabilities (autism, deaf-blind, emotional disability, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, language/speech impairment, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, orthopedic impairment, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury, visually impaired) or have a developmental delay. A developmental delay is defined as 1.5 standard deviations below the mean of an assessment based on standard scores or a developmental age 25% below the child's chronological age on an assessment based on age equivalents.<sup>iv</sup>

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** To estimate how many children may be eligible but are not being currently served in ECSE, it is helpful to consider the 2020 national average of 4.19% of children ages three-five served in Part B 619 programs. As of fall 2020, Mississippi served 3.52% of the three-five-year-old population. If 4.19% of Mississippi's three-to-five-year-olds were served in ECSE, approximately 4,659 children would receive services.<sup>v</sup> According to this estimate, approximately 84% of potentially eligible children were served as of fall 2020.

## PROGRAM PROFILES

### Educational Environments in which Children Received their Early Childhood Special Education Services

Fall 2020<sup>x</sup>

### Early Childhood Special Education (Part B 619) (continued)

#### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2022 was **\$6,433,085**.

- Federal: **\$6,433,085**
- State: **\$0<sup>vi</sup>**

In fiscal year 2022, Mississippi received both federal IDEA Part B 619 and American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B 619 funding. Local funds may be used for Early Childhood Special Education, but the amount is not available.

#### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** Part B 619 services are provided through local school districts – known as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

**Number of Providers:** In fiscal year 2022, **141** school districts in Mississippi received IDEA Part B 619 and American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B 619 funding.<sup>vii</sup> As of fall 2019, there were a total of **152** teachers employed to work with children ages 3 through 5 who are receiving special education under IDEA, Part B.<sup>viii</sup>

#### MDE Grants for Inclusive Blended Pre-K Classrooms

In 2018, MDE's Offices of Special Education and Early Childhood started a competitive grant for school districts to create blended prekindergarten classrooms with children with disabilities learning in an inclusive environment alongside their non-disabled peers.<sup>xi</sup> Three cohorts of school districts received grant funding to invest in curriculum, professional development, classroom materials and other "start-up" costs for creating blended preschool classrooms with less than 40% children with disabilities. Participating classrooms were required to have a fully certified general education preschool teacher and special education teacher or a dually certified special education/preschool teacher. Grant funds did not pay for teacher salaries so that school districts would plan to sustainably support staffing beyond the grant. This initiative resulted in 17 blended classrooms in 11 districts where children with disabilities now have access to high-quality, inclusive preschool services.<sup>xii</sup> It is uncertain if IDEA funding will continue to be set aside for these blended preschool grants beyond FY2022.

# Child Protection Services

## CHILDREN SERVED 2020

# 8,136

child abuse victims

# 14,069

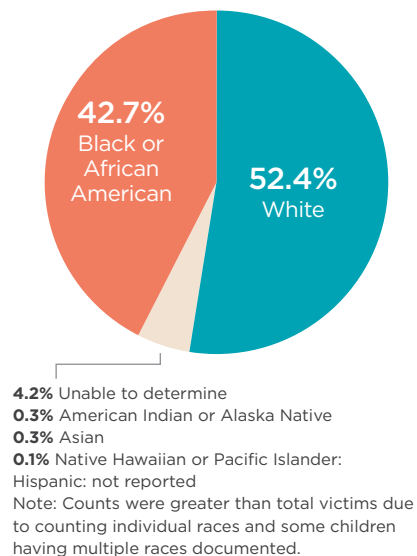
children received child abuse prevention services

## TOTAL FUNDING 2022

# \$229,080,250

Child Abuse & Neglect Victims  
Under Age 8 by

## RACE & ETHNICITY 2020



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department  
of Child Protection  
Services website](#)

## What is the program?

**MDCPS works to protect Mississippi children from abuse and neglect,** assuring their safety and wellbeing by partnering with families, communities, and government in an ethically, culturally, and socially responsible manner. MDCPS has the statutory authority and responsibility for accepting and investigating all reports of child abuse and/or neglect of children under age 18. Statute also charges the agency with the responsibility for serving the needs of Mississippi's children by providing treatment services and foster placement outside their home when such placement is necessary. MDCPS also offers family support, preservation, and reunification services, a Kinship Navigator Program, and legal guardianship and adoption promotion.<sup>i</sup>

MDCPS also supports children birth through eight who are involved with the child welfare system through:

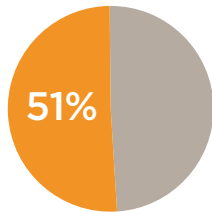
- Child Care and Development Block Grant funding for eligible children in foster care
- Automatic referral of child abuse victims under age 3 to early intervention services.<sup>ii</sup>
- Participation of MDCPS social workers in Individualized Education Program (IEP) conferences as needed for children in Early Childhood Special Education services.<sup>iii</sup>
- Informal connections with Healthy Families Mississippi (home visiting) and Head Start.<sup>iv</sup>

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** In 2020, **40,918** received an investigation or alternative response to potential child abuse or neglect. **8,136** children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect. Of these **8,136** child victims, **4,132 (50.7%)** were under the age of 8 years old.<sup>v</sup> In 2020, an estimated **14,069** children received child abuse prevention services. This includes **2,581** children and **6,427** families served by Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants as well as prevention services under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program and other funding.<sup>v</sup>

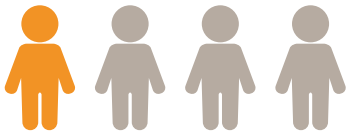
**Eligibility Criteria:** The programs and services offered by MDCPS are intended for children experiencing abuse and neglect or for children *at risk* of experiencing abuse and neglect and their families. MDCPS provides services to children from birth to age 18.





51%

of child abuse victims in Mississippi are under age 8.<sup>xvi</sup>



Approximately

1 in 4

child abuse victims under age 8 are infants in the first year of life.<sup>xvii</sup>

## Child Protection Services (continued)

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year.<sup>vii</sup> In Mississippi in 2020, approximately 1 in 85 children were identified as child abuse or neglect victims.<sup>viii</sup>

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2022 was **\$229,080,250**.

- Federal: **\$111,499,443**
- State: **\$117,580,807<sup>ix</sup>**

Federal funding for child welfare activities includes:

- **Title IV-B of the Social Security Act**, including Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program.
- **Title IV-E of the Social Security Act**, including Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, Kinship Guardianship Assistance, and more.
- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**, including CAPTA state grants and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants.

In addition to federal funding, Mississippi has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) to use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for child welfare. In past years, MDCPS had a MOU with MDHS to use funding from the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), but this year it was not made available to MDCPS.<sup>x</sup>

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** MDCPS services are coordinated by intake staff, frontline caseworkers, adoption caseworkers, licensure workers, and therapeutic and prevention services staff. Services are provided by community organizations receiving Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants, medical providers, therapeutic service providers, and foster and adoptive families. MDCPS also contracts with organizations to provide in-home services to children and families focused on preventing children's entry into foster care.<sup>xii</sup>

**Number of Providers:** MDCPS has approximately **1,399** employees with **85** county offices and a State Office providing services to all **82** counties of the state.<sup>xiii</sup>

# Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

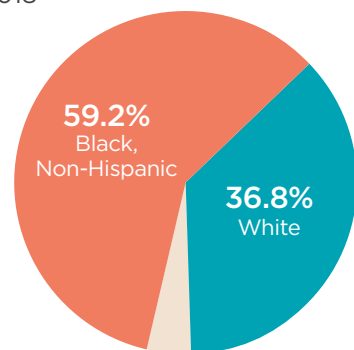
## CHILDREN SERVED 2020

**59,831**

## TOTAL FUNDING 2022

**\$75,450,133**

### Women & Children Served by RACE & ETHNICITY 2018<sup>v</sup>



Note: 95.5% MS Band of Choctaw Indians-American Indian

Learn more at the  
[Mississippi State Department of Health WIC website](#)  
and the [MS Band of Choctaw Indians WIC](#).

## What is the program?

**WIC is the special supplemental nutrition program** for women, infants, and children. The program provides the benefits of nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and health screenings and referrals. Participants purchase healthy foods at WIC eligible grocery stores and pharmacies statewide using an electronic WIC card.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** **77,546** women, infants, and children were served in FY20,<sup>i</sup> **76,866** by the MS State Department of Health, including **17,568** women (22.85%), **22,394** infants (29.13%) and **36,904** children (48.03%) and **679** by the MS Band of Choctaw Indians, including **147** women (21.64%), **193** infants (28.42%) and **340** children (50.07%).

**Eligibility Criteria:**<sup>ii</sup> Women who are pregnant, postpartum (up to 6 months after pregnancy), or breastfeeding (up to the infant's first birthday), infants (up to the infant's first birthday), and children (up to the child's fifth birthday). Individuals must meet the following criteria to be eligible for WIC:

- **Residency:** Eligible participants must live in Mississippi
- **Income:** Eligible participants must meet federal income guidelines described here, equivalent to income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or individuals receiving SNAP, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are adjunctively eligible
- **Nutrition Risk:** Determined to have a medical-based condition (e.g., anemia, underweight or overweight, or history of poor pregnancy outcome) or a dietary-based conditions (e.g., poor diet).

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:**<sup>iii</sup> **61.6%** is the overall estimated coverage rate for 2018. Coverage rates were highest for infants (nearly **100%**) and postpartum women (**92.8%**) and lowest for pregnant women (**55.4%**), two (**48.9%**), three (**44.4%**) and four-year-old children (**27.9%**). The coverage rates by race included: **58.5%** for White, Non-Hispanic women and children, **61%** for Black, Non-Hispanic women and children and **96.9%** for Hispanic women and children. Coverage rate estimate is not available for American Indians.

## PROGRAM PROFILES

Coverage rates were highest for infants (nearly

**100%**

Postpartum women

**92.8%**

and lowest for pregnant women

**55.4%**

two-year-old children

**48.9%**

three-year-old children

**44.4%**

and four-year-old children

**27.9%**

## Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) (continued)

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020 was **\$75,450,133**.<sup>iv</sup>

- Federal- **\$75,450,133**
  - To the State Department of Health: **\$74,846,865**
  - To the MS Band of Choctaw Indians: **\$603,248**
- State: Not applicable

WIC funding covers food costs, nutrition services and administration.

### Who are the providers?

WIC services are provided at **95** County Health Departments and **22** non-profit/independent clinics throughout the state.

WIC services are also provided at the Choctaw Health Center, clinics, or WIC Office.

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

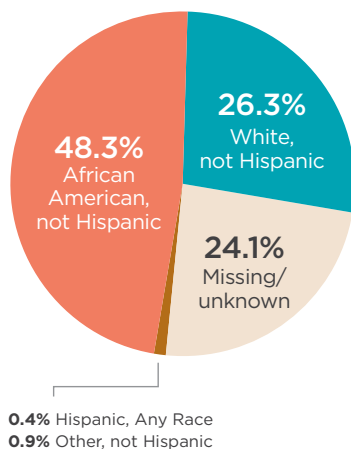
## CHILDREN SERVED 2021

65,690

## TOTAL FUNDING 2022

\$827,821,990

People Served by  
**RACE & ETHNICITY**  
2018 (head of household)<sup>xi</sup>



Learn more at the  
[MDHS SNAP website](#)

## What is the program?

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) is an anti-hunger program helping low income individuals and families afford a basic diet. SNAP benefits include an electronic benefits card that may be used to purchase food. The amount of the monthly benefit depends on income and the number of people in the household.

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** 418,451 was the total participation of adults and children in FY2021.<sup>i</sup> 505,308 was the average number of people (adults and children) participating in SNAP per month in FY18,<sup>ii</sup> including 245,579 children (48.6%), 65,690 (13%) birth to age 5 and 179,890 (35.6%) school age.<sup>iii</sup>

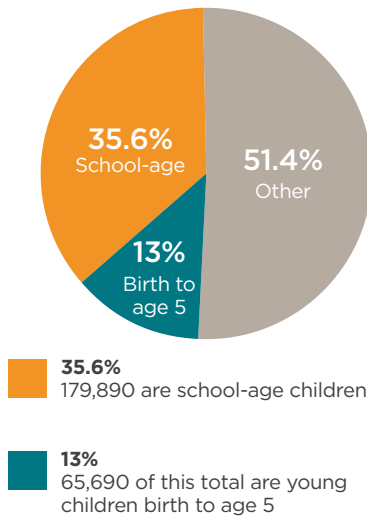
**Eligibility Criteria:** Individuals or households must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Gross monthly income generally must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line. Households with an elderly or disabled member need not meet this limit,
- Net monthly income, or income after deductions are applied for items such as high housing costs and child care, must be less than or equal to the poverty line,
- Assets must fall below certain limits: in fiscal year 2019 the limits are \$2,250 for households without an elderly or disabled member and \$3,500 for those with an elderly or disabled member.<sup>iv</sup>
- Work requirements - not applicable to households with children under 18.
- Additionally in MS, parents and guardians must cooperate with Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Enforcement to establish paternity and obtain support for the child(ren).<sup>v</sup>

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** 71% of all eligible people participated in MS in FY2018.<sup>vi</sup>

## PROGRAM PROFILES

## Age breakdown of SNAP participants



# 505,308

average number of people participating in SNAP per month in 2018

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

(continued)

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2020 was **\$827,821,990**<sup>vii</sup>

- Federal: **\$774,433,886** in total issuances (regular SNAP and emergency allotments) and **\$26,772,286** for the federal share of administrative costs<sup>viii</sup>
- State: **\$26,615,818** for the state share of administrative costs<sup>ix</sup>

The federal government fully funds SNAP benefits for all eligible participants, but the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and state agencies share administrative expenses, with each paying about 50 percent.

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** County Department of Human Services Economic Assistance Eligibility Offices facilitate the application process. SNAP benefits may be used at participating retailers including superstores, grocery stores, convenience stores and farmers' markets.

**Number of Providers:** There are **80** County Department of Human Services Economic Assistance Eligibility Offices. SNAP benefits may be used at about **3,061** participating retailers.<sup>x</sup>

# Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

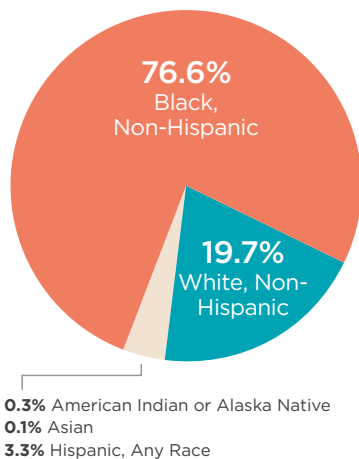
## CHILDREN SERVED 2020

# 2,888

## TOTAL FUNDING 2020

# \$108,000,000

Children Served by  
**RACE & ETHNICITY**  
2019<sup>viii</sup>



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Department of  
Human Services TANF website.](#)

## What is the program?

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), commonly known as welfare, is a monthly case assistance program** for up to 60 months for low-income families with children under age 18. TANF provides temporary financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, childcare and other non-medical expenses and also provides adults with job readiness training, job skills training, vocational training, other educational training programs to help them prepare for employment. TANF is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families and is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS).

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** A total of 3,158 Mississippians received TANF in 2020. 2,888 or 91% of TANF recipients were children.<sup>i</sup>

**Eligibility Criteria:** States have broad discretion to determine eligibility for their TANF cash assistance programs. Federal law generally requires that TANF cash assistance is provided to “needy” families with parents/guardians who are unemployed or underemployed and have at least one child under age 18.<sup>ii</sup> Federal law allows states to extend eligibility to pregnant persons with no other children, which Mississippi does. Mississippi set the income eligibility threshold at \$680/month for a family of three. States also have the flexibility to set their own benefit levels. Mississippi recently increased TANF grants from \$170/month for a family of three (9% of the federal poverty level) to \$260/month (14% of the federal poverty level).

Federal law also requires states to meet “work participation rate” targets. Mississippi requires parents/guardians to participate in the TANF Work Program and to register with Mississippi Works. Federal law also requires recipients to cooperate with child support enforcement. Mississippi additionally requires recipients to complete a Substance Abuse Screening Inventory.

### TANF Families by Public Assistance Program (FY2019):<sup>iii</sup>

- Medical Assistance: **100%**
- Subsidized Housing: **3.4%**
- Subsidized Child Care: **15.3%**
- SNAP: **86.5%**

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** In 2020, TANF served approximately 5% of families with children living in poverty statewide.<sup>vi</sup>

States can carry over unspent funds to future years. Mississippi spent **\$77,000,000** in federal and state funds in 2020 and has accumulated **\$47,000,000** in unspent TANF block grant funds.

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF) (continued)

### How much funding is there?<sup>v</sup>

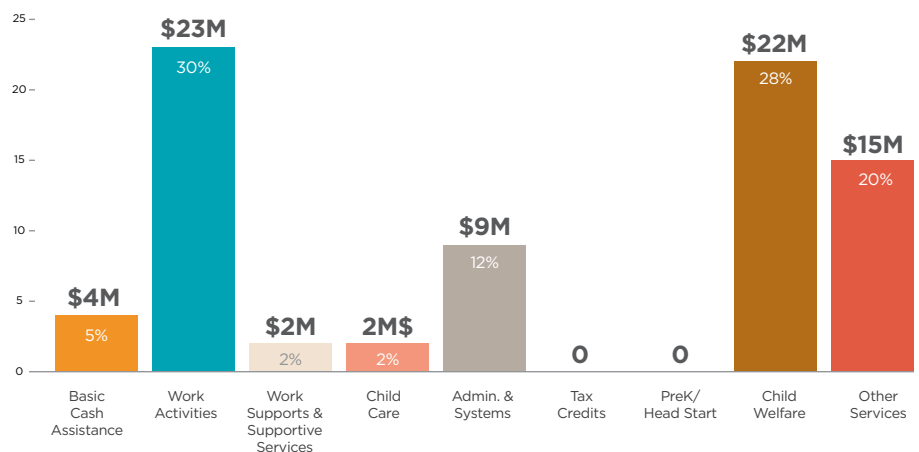
Total funding in 2020 was **\$108,000,000**.

- Federal: **\$86,000,000**
- State: **\$22,000,000**

States can carry over unspent funds to future years. Mississippi spent **\$77,000,000** in federal and state funds in 2020 and has accumulated **\$47,000,000** in unspent TANF block grant funds.<sup>vi</sup>

### How is the funding spent?<sup>vii</sup>

Year 2020; In Millions



### Who are the providers?

TANF is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) offices in each of the **82** counties.



# Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

## CHILDREN SERVED 2022

**424,503**

enrolled in Medicaid

**41,657**

enrolled in CHIP

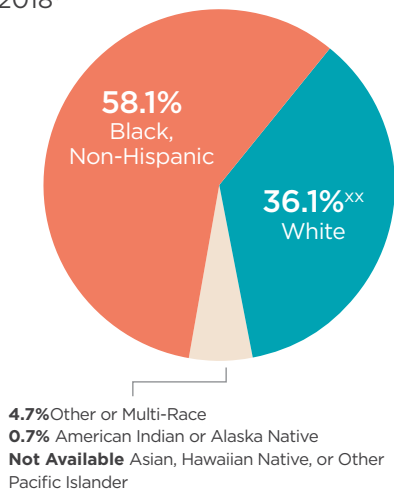
## TOTAL FUNDING 2021

**\$6,240,851,913**

Children Under 18 Covered  
by Medicaid

## BY RACE & ETHNICITY

2018<sup>v</sup>



Learn more at the  
[Mississippi Division of  
Medicaid's website.](#)

## What is the program?

**Medicaid is a state and federal program, overseen by the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM), that provides health coverage** for eligible, low-income people. Mississippi also has a Medicaid managed care program called the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN) that aims to increase beneficiaries' access to medical services, improve the quality of their care, and maintain predictability of costs.<sup>i</sup>

The DOM also manages programs that specifically support young children and their mothers:

- **CHIP** provides health coverage for children under age 19 who are low-income but are not eligible for Medicaid and are uninsured.<sup>ii</sup>
- **The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment** program provides Medicaid eligible children up to age 21 with preventive care such as free check-ups and medical services needed to correct or ameliorate physical or mental illnesses and conditions, without regard to service limitations and with prior authorization.<sup>iii</sup>
- **DOM works with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)** to provide Targeted Case Management for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays or disabilities in the Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program.<sup>iv</sup>
- **DOM works with MSDH to provide the Perinatal High Risk Management/Infant Services System (PHRM/ISS)**, which is a multidisciplinary case management program established to help improve access to health care and to provide enhanced services to Medicaid-eligible pregnant/postpartum women with risk factors and infants. The goal of the PHRM/ISS Program is to reduce the infant mortality rate and low-birth weight.<sup>v</sup>

## Who benefits?

**Children Served:** As of May 2022, **426,027**, or **53%** of all Medicaid beneficiaries, are children.<sup>vi</sup> In 2019, an estimated **121,477** children under age 6 were covered by Medicaid.<sup>vii</sup> As of May 2022, **41,547** Mississippi children were enrolled with CHIP. Over **39,000** pregnant or postpartum individuals are covered by Medicaid.<sup>viii</sup>

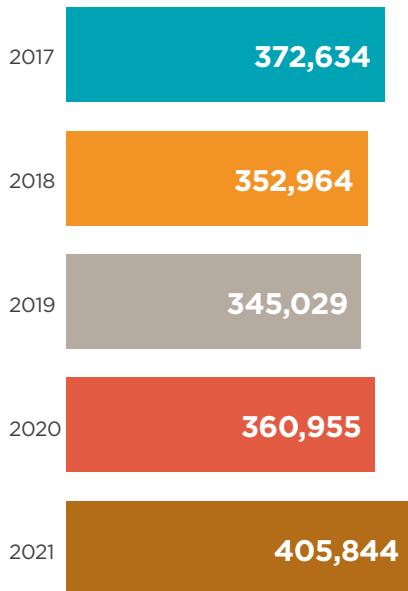
**Eligibility Criteria:** In Mississippi, children qualify for Medicaid based on the following guidelines:

- Birth to age 1 – **194%** Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Age 1 up to 6 – **143%** FPL
- Age 6 up to 19 – **133%** FPL<sup>ix</sup>



## Medicaid: Annual Average of Children Served

By Fiscal Year



## Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program

(CHIP) (continued)

Children are eligible for CHIP if they are not enrolled in Medicaid or other private health insurance and have a household income of up to **209% FPL**.<sup>x</sup> Pregnant women are eligible for Medicaid if their household income is up to **194% FPL**. A child born to a Medicaid-eligible mother is automatically eligible until the age of one.<sup>xi</sup> Parents or caretakers who are unemployed or have very low income (<\$382 per month for a two-person household) and who have minor children living in their home are Medicaid-eligible. These adults must cooperate with child support enforcement requirements.<sup>xii</sup>

**Percentage of Eligible Children Served:** Due to the complexity of Medicaid eligibility criteria, an estimate of the percentage of eligible children served is not available. However, based on the Census Bureau's 2019 estimates from the American Community Survey, **10,175** children under age 6 did not have any health insurance coverage, and **35,426** children between ages 6-18 were uninsured.<sup>xiii</sup> Mississippi's Risk and Reach Report estimates from 2014-2018 that **3.8%** of children under age 6 were uninsured, with counties identified as "high risk" ranging from **6.6%** to **14.6%** uninsured.<sup>xiv</sup>

### How much funding is there?

Total funding in 2021 is **\$6,240,851,913**.

- Federal: **\$5,060,091,511**
- State: **\$814,125,206**
- Other (non-federal): **\$366,635,196**

Of the total budget, **97%** is used to reimburse medical providers for services and about **3%** is used for program administration. **\$160,356,889** is used for CHIP.<sup>xvi</sup>

### Who are the providers?

**Provider Types:** Health services are provided to children through private physicians, **82** Mississippi County Health department clinics operating at **87** sites, **21** federally qualified health centers (FQHC), school health nurses, Indian Health Service clinics, and Community Mental Health clinics.<sup>xvii</sup>

**Number of Providers:** The Division of Medicaid employs **885** people with approximately **600** staff in **30** Regional Medicaid Offices and **300** in the central office. DOM was funded for **1,011** total positions.<sup>xviii</sup> As of April 30, 2022, DOM had **1,636** providers enrolled as EPSDT providers.<sup>xviii</sup> Information about the number of providers who accept Medicaid is not readily available.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Note not designed

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  - o Kelly Butler, Chief Executive Officer, Barksdale Reading Institute
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  - o Dr. Angela Rutherford, Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Director, Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction, University of Mississippi
  - o Andrea Sanders, Executive Director of SECAC, Commissioner, Child Protective Services
  - o Tamara Smith, Director, Little Samaritan Montessori Center
  - o Dr. Linda Southward, Executive Director, Children's Foundation of Mississippi
  - o Holly Spivey, Head Start Collaboration Director, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Tate Reeves
  - o Candice Taylor, 619 Coordinator, Mississippi Department of Education
  - o Nita Thompson, Chair of SECAC, Executive Director, MS Head Start Association
  - o Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education
- Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Public Reporting, Office of Technology and Strategic Services, Office of Elementary Education and Reading
- Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division for Early Childhood Care and Development, Healthy Families Mississippi
- Mississippi State Department of Health, First Steps Early Intervention Program, Office of Health Services
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- Mississippi Division of Medicaid
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# ENDNOTES

