

# 2024 By the Numbers

## Children's Funding Project

### Annual Snapshot

#### Our Mission

Children's Funding Project helps communities and states expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.

#### Our Vision

Children's Funding Project envisions a nation where all children and youth thrive because all communities maintain equitable, coordinated, and sustainable funding for comprehensive programs and services.

We help communities and states secure new public funding for children and youth.

15

communities received our advice and support as they prepare to pursue local ballot measures to create dedicated streams of public funding for children's services

4

communities approved ballot measures to create new dedicated sources of public funding for kids

\$133 million

of new dedicated annual public revenue approved by voters for kids' services

Specifically

\$72.8 million

will support increased access to care and services for infants and toddlers

and  
\$60.4 million

will support other child and youth services such as mental and behavioral health services, after-school and summer programs, and youth violence prevention

42,800

children will receive expanded services across the communities that approved local ballot measures to fund kids' services

Specifically

22,300

infants and toddlers will benefit from increased access to care and services

CHILDREN'S  
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## We support communities and states from coast to coast.

67

communities and

35

states received our technical assistance  
with their strategic public financing work



# We train local leaders and advocates in strategic public financing.



213

professionals received our coaching and training in strategic public financing



8

states joined our first national cost modeling cohort



5

new states joined us as state fiscal mapping partners, bringing the total number of states in our fiscal map database to

23



10

communities have a children's funding coordinator



36

communities received ongoing coaching through our voter-approved children's fund community of practice



14

states and communities worked with us to explore potential sources of additional funding to support their goals for kids

# Spotlight on Cost Modeling

## Supporting Increased Wages for Pre-K Staff in Boston, MA

During the 2023–2024 school year, **Boston Public Schools partnered with Children’s Funding Project** to update its pre-K program cost model, which the district originally developed with us during the 2021–2022 school year. School district leaders also collaborated with us to update the funding formulas that support the program to ensure Boston Pre-K teachers and staff receive adequate wages.

Boston Pre-K’s free high-quality preschool reaches more than 3,500 students, including 1,300 in community settings. The school district provides preschool services in public school buildings, community-based child care organizations, and family child care homes.

Establishing minimum salaries for Boston Pre-K staff has been crucial in retaining center-based teachers and reducing staff turnover. Consequently, **local leaders aligned the minimum compensation levels for center-based Boston Pre-K teachers with the entry-level salary of the Boston Teachers Union Traditional Teacher Salaries scale**. School district leaders also established a standard process to ensure that salary minimums for other center-based staff will increase proportionally to any salary increases lead teachers receive.

“Children’s Funding Project set the foundation for us to sustain a funding formula that promotes high-quality learning environments in our community classrooms,” said David McAuley, Boston Pre-K project manager. “Compensating and retaining high-quality educators—who are trained on our nationally recognized curriculum—is a crucial investment to ensure Boston’s youngest learners continue to excel in our classrooms.”

School district leaders also used the updated cost model to inform how the district reimburses community-based Boston Pre-K programs for nonpersonnel costs. A new funding formula will ensure that funding for nonpersonnel costs like rent or mortgage payments, classroom supplies, and food costs now keeps pace with inflation. Boston Public Schools leaders also simplified its funding approach to better respond to the needs of Boston Pre-K classrooms that serve 10 or fewer children and ones that serve mostly children from outside the city limits.

By maintaining and regularly updating the Boston Pre-K funding formula and cost model, Boston school leaders can meet the needs of Boston Pre-K teachers in both public school and community-based organizations and ensure families have greater choice for their child’s early education.



Photo provided by Boston Public Schools

## What Our Partners Say About Our Work

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“The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is proud to support the Children’s Funding Project community of practice for local level leaders across the country so that they can come together, learn from one another, and be supported by the thoughtful expertise of the Children’s Funding Project team. We know that implementation of good ideas—like more public funding for the education and care of young children—can be challenging and appreciate the relationship-based approach that Children’s Funding Project uses as they bring together community leaders who are working at the local level to help children thrive.”

—**Nara Topp, Ed.D.**, program officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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“As the first children’s funding coordinator working with Children’s Funding Project, I received technical assistance to conduct financial analyses that informed the work which ultimately led to a successful ballot measure campaign for Travis County, TX. With Children’s Funding Project support, we were able to develop a model that showed what it actually takes to pay for child care at different quality levels.”

—**Margo Kinneberg**, early care and education special project manager, United Way for Greater Austin

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“Children and youth are an elemental building block for the betterment of communities, cities, and society. Better information on what we are spending on children and youth is essential to helping government finance professionals understand the impact of what is being spent and to help lead conversations around if we are spending enough and in the right places. Thank you to Children’s Funding Project for all you do to support the children and youth fiscal maps that support learning and better understanding needed to push change in the area of public finance for children and youth across the country.”

—**Kyle Wedberg, Ph.D.**, senior manager, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)





## Coming in 2025!

- Interactive online versions of our cost modeling and fiscal mapping 101 courses
- Updates to 14 state fiscal maps
- Fiscal mapping, cost modeling, and funding gap analysis work with six children's funding coordinators, thanks to support from our partner StriveTogether
- Our fifth Children's Funding Institute in King County, WA
- Expanded work to support funding for Native children and youth
- Additional support for California ballot measures through our California affiliate Funding the Next Generation
- Resources and tools to support advocacy for state funding for children and youth

To read past impact reports and see our progress toward our current impact goals, visit our [impact page](#).

Children's Funding Project is a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities, states, and Native nations expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing. [childrensproject.org](https://childrensproject.org)

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