



What's in the Budget for Babies?



What's in the FY2023 Omnibus Appropriations Package for Babies?

January 2023

On December 27, 2022, President Biden signed the FY2023 omnibus appropriations package into law. The package included much needed increases to a number of key programs that support infants and toddlers and their families, and provided a vehicle for the passage of critical legislation to better support families with young children from pregnancy onwards. ZERO TO THREE's comments on the passage of the package can be found [here](#).

As the State of Babies Yearbook [2022](#) makes clear, babies brains grow faster in the first three years than at any other point in life, setting the stage for future development and health outcomes. Investments that support their good health, strong families, and access to positive early learning experiences help support that early development, and the positive impacts of those investments persist throughout the course of babies' lives and into adulthood.

Highlights of the key investments and policy changes included in the FY2023 omnibus are below, organized into key impact areas for infants and toddlers and their families.





- **Early Childhood Development Experts in Health Settings:**

The agreement included \$30 million in new funding through the Bureau of Primary Health Care to integrate early childhood development services and expertise in community health centers, including by hiring or contracting for early childhood development specialists. In addition, the bill included \$10 million through the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant to place early childhood development experts in pediatric settings – a \$5 million increase over FY2022.

- **Supports for Maternal and Child Health:**

The agreement included \$324 million, a \$120 million increase over FY2022, in the budgets for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), specifically to improve maternal health outcomes. These investments include:

- A \$25 million increase for the CDC to expand support for Safe Motherhood/Infant Health
- A \$26 million increase for State Maternal Health Innovation Grants
- \$10 million for a new program to integrate services for pregnant and postpartum women
- \$10 million in new funding to establish a research network comprised of and supporting minority-serving institutions to study health disparities in maternal mental health outcomes

The bill also extended access to health care coverage for infants and postpartum parents, requiring state Medicaid and CHIP programs to provide 12-month continuous coverage to children after birth and permanently allowing states to offer 12-month postpartum coverage without a waiver.

- **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health:**

The agreement included \$15 million, a \$5 million increase, for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grants to support states and communities in building and supporting mental health services for children under 6. The bill also reauthorized the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grants program at \$50 million through 2027 and included language allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide training and technical assistance to support grantees in effectively using funds for infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention and treatment. The bill also included needed supports for maternal mental health, including \$10 million for maternal depression screening and treatment, a \$3.5 million increase, and \$7 million for a maternal mental health hotline, a \$3 million increase.

- **Good Nutrition:**

The agreement extends enhanced fruit and vegetable benefits for families enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The agreement did not include Child Nutrition Reauthorization as had been hoped.



Strong Families

- **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV):**

The agreement included the passage of the bipartisan Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022, a critically needed 5-year reauthorization of the MIECHV program. The reauthorization doubles federal investments in MIECHV over 5 years, in addition to requiring a state match on some of the funds, and also doubles the set-aside for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

- **Protections for Pregnant and Nursing People:**

The agreement included the passage of two bipartisan bills that offer new and needed workplace protections for pregnant people and breastfeeding parents. The [Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#) requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees during their pregnancies, and the [Providing Urgent Maternal Protections \(PUMP\) for Nursing Mothers Act](#) expanded protections for employees to pump and store breastmilk at work.

- **Infant-Toddler Court Teams:**

The agreement included \$18 million, a \$5 million increase, for the [Health Resources and Services Administration's](#) research-based [Infant-Toddler Court Teams](#) that work to change child welfare practices to improve the well-being of infants and toddlers and their families.





Positive Early Learning Experiences

- **Child Care:**

The agreement included an historic and much-needed \$1.9 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), bringing total funding for the program up to \$8 billion. It also included \$75 million, a \$10 million increase, for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools program, which supports student parents, and \$293 million, a \$205 million increase, for the construction and renovation of child development centers on military installations.

- **Head Start/Early Head Start:**

The agreement included \$12 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start, a \$960 million increase. This increase included \$596 million for a cost of living adjustment, \$262 million for quality improvement, and \$100 million to expand access to high-quality infant-toddler care through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

- **Early Intervention:**

The agreement included \$540 million, a \$44 million increase for IDEA Part C, which provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with, or at risk of developing, disabilities or delays. The bill also contains a provision allowing states to offer continued early intervention services to children who received services under Part C until the beginning of their next school year.

- **Preschool Development Grants:**

The agreement included \$315 million, a \$25 million increase, for Preschool Development Grants, which support state and local capacity to provide early care and education to children birth to age 5. As part of this funding, the bill prioritizes support for states that develop high-quality, culturally competent, dual immersion preschool programs to better meet the needs of dual language learners.

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Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations

Federal Program	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
Good Health		
Medicaid Coverage 12 Months Post-Partum		x
Mandatory 12-month Continuous Eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP		x
Early Childhood Development Expert Grants in Community Health Centers		\$30M
Early Childhood Development Expert Grants	\$5M	\$10M
Pediatric Mental Health Care Access	\$11M	\$13M
National Child Traumatic Stress Network	\$82M	\$94M
Project LAUNCH	\$24M	\$26M
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health	\$10M	\$15M
Maternal Health Innovation Grants	\$29M	\$55M
Maternal Mental Health Hotline	\$4M	\$7M
Maternal Mortality	\$15M	\$15M
Safe Motherhood and Infant Health	\$83M	\$108M
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	\$6B	\$6B
Enhanced fruit and vegetable benefits for WIC	x	x
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$140.4B	\$153.9B
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	\$4B	\$4.7B

Strong Families

Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act		x
Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) Act		x
Infant-Toddler Court Teams	\$13M	\$18M
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Child Protective Services State Grants	\$95.1M	\$105.1M
CAPTA Discretionary Grants	\$36M	\$38M
CAPTA Community-Based Grants for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	\$65.7M	\$70.7M
National Child Abuse Hotline		\$2M
Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)	\$377M	\$500M
Diaper Distribution Grant Program	\$10M	\$20M
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance/Housing Choice Voucher Program	\$27B	\$30.3B
Choice Neighborhoods	\$350M	\$350M

Positive Early Learning Experiences

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)	\$6.2B	\$8B
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$11B	\$12B
Part C of IDEA, Grants for Infants and Families	\$496.3M	\$540M
Child Care Access Means Parents in School	\$65M	\$75M

