

At A Glance: Idaho Child Care Program



The Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) enrollment has dropped significantly since the reduction to income eligibility and enrollment pause in August 2024. At that time, there were 7,631 participants in the program. Since then, over **2,500 Idaho families** no longer qualify for ICCP subsidies, reflecting a **33% decline in enrollment** in just one year.

Providers report that these eligibility changes led to:

- 62% saw increased hardship for families.
- 46% noticed withdrawals from care.
- 77% felt negative impacts to their business.

Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) Enrollment 2023-2025

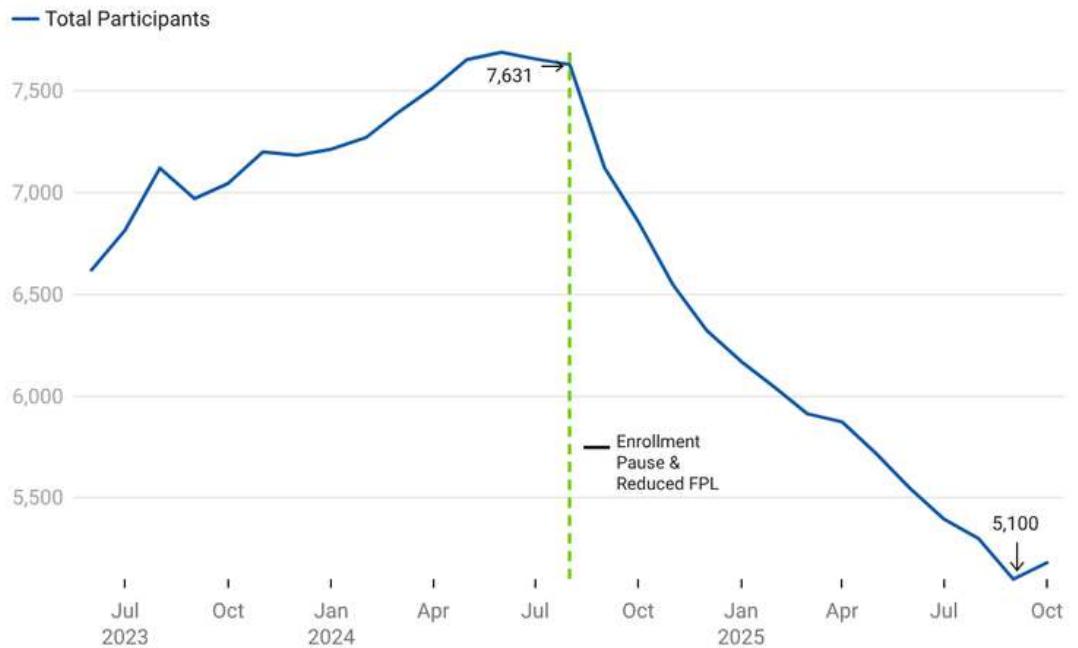


Chart: Idaho Kids Covered • Created with Datawrapper

Recommendation:

Raise the household income eligibility to 155% FPL (\$42,346/year) to help families access affordable childcare and support providers in maintaining safe, quality care.

Meet the Roberts family. Dad works as a custodian and mom works as a grocery clerk, they both work full-time which means they need affordable childcare for their 4-year-old. They once qualified for the ICCP subsidy but lost it after the reduction to household income eligibility in 2024.

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|---|------------------|
| Family size = 3 at 155% FPL | |
| Monthly household income (gross) | = \$3,530 |
| Take home pay after taxes | = \$2,988 |
| Rent | -\$1,069 |
| Utilities | -\$154 |
| Groceries | -\$1,223 |
| Phone/Internet | -\$116 |
| Remaining | = \$426 |

After paying for the very basics, \$426 is what the Roberts family has left to cover childcare, transportation, healthcare, diapers, and other monthly expenses.

By restoring the household income eligibility back to its original standards, the Roberts family would once again qualify for the ICCP.

HOW CHILDCARE FUNDING WORKS



Childcare is an industry that has been functioning with the support of federal funding, primarily through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and its associated Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). The block grant allocates money to individual states to support low-income families and childcare providers. These dollars supplement eligible small childcare businesses' revenue generated from other sources like fees, individual donations, and private grants.

The childcare funds listed above are managed by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, through our Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP). The intention of ICCP is to provide assistance to working families with children under the age of 13, or over when the child has a disability, through partial payments for childcare.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG):

a Congressional act that governs the use of state and federal dollars from the Child Care Development Fund. This act was reauthorized in 2014, after passage in 1990.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF):

the primary funding source provided by the federal government to states to help working families pay for childcare. Additionally, the CCDBG allows these funds to be used to improve the quality of care within a state by supporting the license application process, quality of care improvements, and professional development for childcare professionals.

IdahoSTARS: the leading expert and resource for quality childcare in Idaho.

IdahoSTARS is a project from the University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD). The program empowers parents and early childhood professionals to make safe, healthy, nurturing, and educational childcare a top priority. They provide support to childcare professionals to continually improve early care and educational practices.²

WHO RECEIVES FUNDING?

Childcare providers who choose to participate in ICCP must be licensed by the state and then receive support directly from the Department. In Idaho, childcare providers are required to be licensed if they care for seven or more children and receive compensation for providing care for one or more of those children.

Families with young children are eligible for support through the ICCP, helping cover childcare costs so parents or caregivers can work. Families pay a portion of the cost of care through a "copayment" based on the size of family and household income, but also eligibility requirements like employment, job training, and/or participation in the Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho program.¹ The copayment for each family is calculated based on number of hours parents are in school or working, household income, and the state rate based on the age of child, type of care, and location of provider. The copayment is paid directly to the childcare providers, and the ICCP program then matches the families' copayment and provides the remaining dues to the provider. It is up to the childcare provider to secure payment from parents.

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1. Idaho Child Care Program, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/children-families/idaho-child-care-program>
2. Idaho STARS: <https://idahostars.org/About-Us>