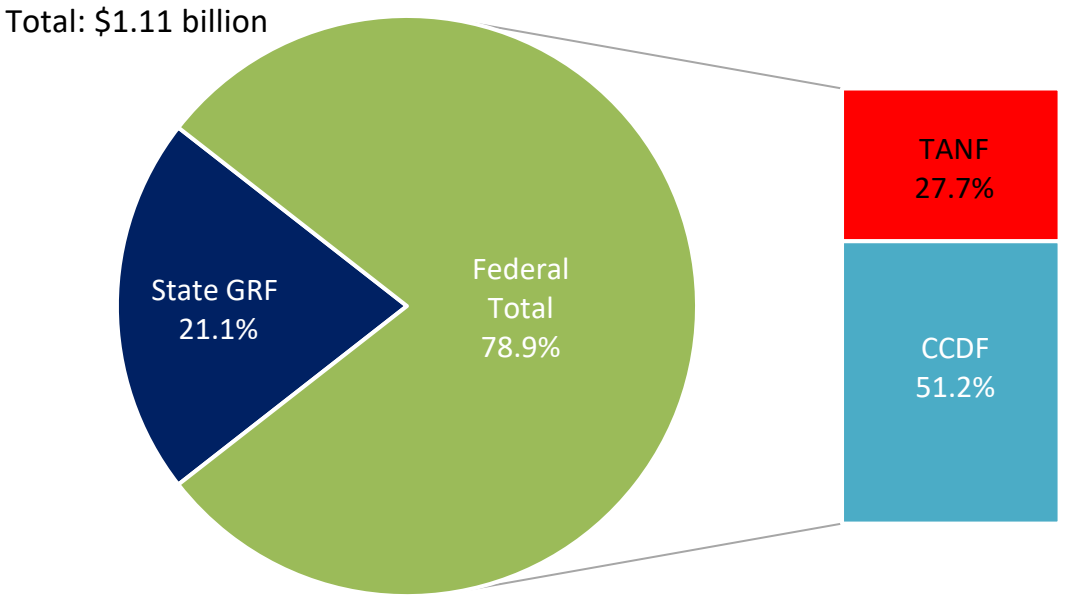
Majority of child care was funded by federal grants in FY 2026

Child Care Program Expenditures by Funding Source, FY 2026*



*LBO staff filtered expenditures for direct service costs for publicly funded child care and administrative costs relating specifically to child care.
Source: Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS)

- Of the approximately $1.11 billion spent on the Child Care Program in FY 2026, 78.9% were federal funds, which consists of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block grants. The CCDF made up 51.2% of these federal funds.
  - Child Care Program expenditures include subsidized and quality payments to providers, child care licensing, and administration.
- TANF funds make up 27.7% of child care spending. TANF funds are also used for cash assistance and other programs for low-income families.
- State GRF funds expended for child care are used to meet federal maintenance of effort and matching requirements.
- Families with incomes up to 145% federal poverty level (FPL) (150% FPL for a child with special needs) are eligible for initial services and can continue to receive services until their incomes reach 300% FPL. Families pay copayments based on their income and family size.
- Beginning in April 2024, the Department of Children and Youth established the Child Care Choice Voucher Program (CCCVP) to allow families with incomes between 146% FPL and 200% FPL to receive child care subsidies. These expenditures are included in the chart.
- 95.0% of expenditures were for subsidies, which includes provider payments and CCCVP subsidies. The remainder was spent on administration.