A Multi-Dimensional Definition of Child Care and Early Education Access that is Centered on Families

Multi-Dimensional Framework of Access to Child Care and Early Education (CCEE)

Reasonable effort
For example,
- CCEE program is a reasonable distance from home or work
- Information about CCEE programs is easily available and accessible
- Desired CCEE program has availability

Affordability
For example,
- Parents’ financial contribution is a reasonable proportion of their household income
- Families who qualify can use subsidies and scholarships
- Families who qualify can access free care

Supports child’s development
For example,
- CCEE program is high-quality
- CCEE program offers developmental screenings and referrals
- CCEE program offers high-quality care to children with disabilities and families experiencing hardships
- CCEE provider offers instruction in children’s home language

Meets parents’ needs
For example,
- CCEE program is parents’ preferred type (e.g., center, home)
- Provider offers transportation for families who need it
- Hours of operation align with parent needs/work schedule
- Provider and parent can communicate in shared language

CCEE leaders can promote equitable access to CCEE by developing data-informed policies that reflect the needs, preferences, and constraints of local families.


This infographic was produced through the Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis (CCEEPRA) project funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.