

Definitions

Administration for Children and Families: A federal agency that gives funding to states, territories, and local and tribal governments to provide family assistance, child support, child care, Head Start, child welfare, and other programs relating to children and families.¹

Block grant: Fixed sums of money that the federal government gives to states, territories, and local and tribal governments to provide benefits or services.

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF): A federally funded program that provides child care assistance for children under age 13 in families with low incomes when the parent is working or attending school. States, territories, and local and tribal governments are awarded funds to develop and implement child care subsidy programs and to improve child care quality. The **Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG)** is a law that authorizes the CCDF program.²

Discrimination: The unfair or prejudicial treatment of people based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

Disaggregating data: The process of breaking data down into smaller subgroupings.

Early care and education: Nonparental care for infants and young children that occurs outside a child's home.

Early care and education system: Includes early care and education programs and services, as well as the policies, regulations, and financing that shape their operation and the professional training needed for each setting.³

Early Head Start: A federally funded program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and family engagement and support services to families with low incomes that include pregnant women, infants, and toddlers under age 3.⁴

Funding: Money provided by organizations or by a government sector for a specific purpose.

Head Start: A federally funded program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and family engagement and support services to families with low incomes that have children ages 3 to 5.⁵

Insecure job: Employment that is precarious in nature, including temporary, contract, or part-time work.

Socioeconomic status: The social standing or class of an individual or group, measured as a combination of education, income, and occupation.⁶ Socioeconomic status is not a specific, mathematical measurement; rather, it is a framework for conceptualizing the social contexts that influence inequality.⁷

State Pre-K: A program funded, controlled, and directed by a state to educate and care for 3- and 4-year-old children; must offer group learning experiences for a minimum of two days per week focused on early childhood education.

Structural racism: A system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity.

Racial equity: Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. Racial equity requires eliminating the policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messaging that reinforces (or fails to eliminate) differential outcomes based on race.⁸

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): A federally funded program that provides financial assistance and other supports to states to support families when parents or other caregivers cannot provide for basic needs.⁹

References

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- ⁴ Office of Head Start. (2020). *Head Start services*. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/about/head-start>.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ American Psychological Association. (2020). *Socioeconomic status*. <https://www.apa.org/topics/socioeconomic-status>.
- ⁷ American Psychological Association, Task Force on Socioeconomic Status. (2007). *Report of the APA Task Force on Socioeconomic Status*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/task-force-2006.pdf>
- ⁸ Potapchuk, M., Leiderman, S. (2020). *Racial equity tools glossary*. Center for Assessment and Policy Development. <https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary>.
- ⁹ Administration for Children and Families (2020). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/temporary-assistance-needy-families-tanf>