

# Final Project Description

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## About the project

### Problem:

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a \$5 billion public program aiming to provide financial aid in order to facilitate child care for low-income households. While the CCDF program currently assists over 1.4 million children in the US (What Is the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)?, 2016), there is a lot of uncertainty, inequality, and administrative burden associated with the process (Jenkins & Nguyen, 2021). Furthermore, the eligibility criteria can be unclear, especially for minority populations (e.x., Hill et al., 2019). Thus, the **goal** of this project is to raise awareness of the program and inform families of their eligibility based on past data.

### Audience:

The main audience of the dashboard is low-income families with children, potentially qualifying for the aid. Apart from them, the website can be of interest to policymakers and researchers.

### Data source:

Data for the project will be taken from the University of Michigan Institution for Social Research website (Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrative Data Series, 2023). The source contains data on families and children receiving assistance through the CCDF from 2001 to 2019 in each US state. Data is accompanied by a code book clearly interpreting the variable names.

### Solution:

Proposed solution is a CCDF calculator which allows users to choose the characteristics of their family in order to see how many similar households have benefited from the program over the years. The app also generally describes the program and its state-specific benefits for potential aid recipients.

### References:

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrative Data Series. (2023). <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/series/215>

Jenkins, J. M., & Nguyen, T. (2021). Keeping Kids in Care: Reducing Administrative Burden in State Child Care Development Fund Policy. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 32(1), 23–40. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/muab020>

Hill, Z., Gennetian, L. A., & Mendez, J. L. (2019). A descriptive profile of state Child Care and Development Fund policies in states with high populations of low-income Hispanic children. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2018.10.003>

What is the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)? (2016, December 14). The Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/occ/faq/what-child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf>