

Comparison of City-funded Preschool Programs

Tempe Facts

Tempe, AZ population: 168,228

Population of children 3yrs and 4yrs of age: 3,075 (2010 census)

West Sacramento, CA population 49,891

- **UP4WS** serves over 500 children per year
- Funded from *Power of Preschool* Grant from *First 5 California*
- Program Budget \$1 million direct funding – over \$2.8 million local matching dollars
- Reduced fee of \$530.00 per month
- 90% of all families participating in UP4WS are at or below poverty level. About 40% of UP4WS students are learning English as a second language.
- The program budget is currently just over a million dollars a year in direct funding, with over \$2.8 million in local matching dollars (direct or in-kind), which is required by the First 5 California grant. The largest contributor is First 5 California, which provides \$913,000 yearly in funding. The City of West Sacramento, and First 5 Yolo each contribute \$100,000.
- Washington Unified School District and the Yolo County Office of Education contribute approximately \$1.3 million each in local in kind matching dollars. Additionally, Communicare Health Center contributes \$200,000 in local in kind match dollars. The rest of the program funds are made up of additional grants, in the amounts of \$5,000-\$15,000 each.

Denver, CO population 649,495

- **Denver Preschool Program**
- Voter-approved 12 cent sales tax on \$100 purchases for initial 10-year period
- Reaches 70% of city's 4-year olds
- The Denver Preschool Program's tuition credits help Denver families pay for high-quality preschool for their 4-year-olds. The amount of support a family receives depends on family size and income, the quality of the preschool chosen, and the child's level of attendance. Denver Preschool

Program tuition credits are available for **ALL** Denver families - regardless of income - with a child in their last year of preschool before kindergarten.

- Families can choose from more than 250 preschools in the metro Denver area. Eighty-five percent of preschool partners are rated 4 or 5 stars.

Seattle, WA population 652,405

- **Seattle Preschool Program**
- Four-year \$58 million levy for demonstration phase to build towards serving 2,000 children in 100 classrooms by 2018
- Cost of \$43.46 per year or \$3.61/mo for average homeowner
- The program will be open to Seattle residents who:
 - Are 4-years-old on August 31st prior to the beginning of a school year of enrollment, or
 - Are 3-years-old on August 31st from families with income equal to 300% of Federal Poverty Level or below.
- As the program is ramping up, priority will be given to:
 - Children who are currently enrolled in preschool with a contracted organization.
 - Children whose sibling is currently enrolled in the **Seattle Preschool Program** and would be concurrently enrolled with the sibling in the year of enrollment.
 - Children living in close proximity to available program classrooms.
 - Children who are 4-years-old relative to children who are 3-years-old, both during the initial enrollment process and when there is a wait list.

Washington, DC population 658,893

- Starting at age 3 can attend preschool 5 full days a week
- Paid for by city's taxes
- Lottery system
- Preschool: child must turn 3 years of age on or before September 30 to be eligible for preschool.
- Pre-kindergarten: child must turn 4 years of age on or before September 30 to be eligible for pre-kindergarten.

San Francisco, CA population 837,442

- Proposition H, **Preschool for All**
- All 4 year old children residing in San Francisco County

- In order for a program to join **Preschool for All**, it must agree to provide at least a half day of preschool to qualifying families free of charge.
- For many state- and federally-funded programs such as State Preschool or Head Start, programs were free or of minimal cost to families even before Preschool for All, so Preschool for All funding goes to enhance the quality of those programs.
- For private programs or public programs also serving tuition-based children, programs will either be free if they are part-day programs, or tuition costs will be significantly reduced for families if they are full-day programs. The amount of the tuition reduction depends on the individual program, but typically is about 25%—the equivalent of making a part day free within the context of a full day.

San Antonio, TX population 1.409 million

- **Pre-K 4 SA** is funded by a 1/8 cent sales tax and has a budget of \$36.5 million for FY 2015
- Universal Pre-K
- Full-day classes
- Year One – 2 centers serving 700 children, 70 on sliding fee scale (10%)
- Year Two – 4 centers serving 1500 children, 150 on sliding fee scale (10%)
- Must live within the City of San Antonio limits,
- Must live within a participating school district,
- Is eligible for the National Free and Reduced Lunch Program or receives Food Stamps or TANF benefits; or
- Is unable to speak and comprehend the English language (as determined by assessment); or
- Is homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
- Is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
- Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
- Is or has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing.
- Tuition students pay affordable rates to attend **Pre-K 4 SA**.
- Tuition rates are calculated on sliding scale based on gross household income and adjusted for household size. Depending on income and

household size, families will pay 1, 2, 3, or 4% of their income as annual tuition.

- Example:
 - A family of 4 with an income of \$25,000 pays approximately \$250 for annual tuition (\$25 per month).
 - A family of 2 with an income of \$45,000 pays approximately \$1,811 for annual tuition (\$181 per month).
 - A family of 6 with an income of \$120,000 pays approximately \$3,161 for annual tuition (\$316 per month).

Chicago, IL population 2.719 million

- **Chicago Early Learning**
- Children over 3 and under 5
- ½ day pre-K free
- Priority given to those who qualify for FRL
- Mostly Head Start and Early Head Start

State of Florida

- **Voluntary PreKindergarten**
- Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds regardless of family income.
- Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year to be eligible.
- Parents can choose from different educational settings and various program options. Private child care centers, public schools and specialized instructional services providers offer *VPK*.
- A school-year program provides 540 hours of instruction with class sizes of no more than 20 children. A summer program includes 300 instructional hours and class sizes no larger than 12 students.
- About 80 percent of all Florida 4-year-olds attend *VPK*. Florida is first of 50 states in the nation for pre-K access.
- In 2011-12, 79 percent of children who finished *VPK* were ready for kindergarten. Only 55 percent of children who didn't go to *VPK* were kindergarten ready.
- Florida has raised the bar for *VPK* providers who get public dollars, requiring 70 percent of children who attend be ready for kindergarten. In 2011-12, the percentage of *VPK* programs that met the higher standards rose to 72 percent from 68 percent in 2010-11.