

**Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut 2014**  
**Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners**

**Young Children in Connecticut**

- 38,815** Children entered kindergarten in Connecticut in the fall of 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- 74,201** Three- and four- year olds in the state, 2010 + 2011 births.<sup>2</sup>
- 14,853** Children in kindergarten eligible to receive Free/Reduced-priced meals, family income below 185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL).<sup>3</sup>
- 37,962** Children under age 6, below 100% of poverty<sup>4</sup>

**Total Children Birth to age 5**  
**193,070** Children in Connecticut are between birth and five years in age.<sup>1</sup>

**These children live in every community in the state.**

After children enter kindergarten many of the services they need are coordinated through the schools.

Services for children, birth to age five, are now (or will be soon!) coordinated by the new Office of Early Childhood.

**Early Care and Education**

- **School Readiness** – 10,830 school readiness full-day, part-day and school-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 318 sites in 67 Priority and Competitive School Readiness communities.<sup>5</sup> There are an additional 543 school readiness extended-day spaces.
- **Child Day Care Centers** - 2,295 pre-school spaces, for 3- and 4-year-old children, plus 449 pre-school wrap-around spaces contracted at 104 sites in over 52 communities. There are 1,131 Infant/Toddler spaces plus 142 Infant-toddler wrap-around, and 242 school-age spaces contracted.<sup>6</sup>
- **Head Start** – 6,124 spaces served 3- , 4- and 5- year-old children last year.
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program** - 39 children, birth to 5 years old, and their parents - comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic and economic success.<sup>7</sup>
- **Public School Preschool** – 11,442 children ages 3- and 4-year-old attended preschool in Public, Charter, or Magnet schools (includes approximately 4,447 children receiving special education, through IDEA Part B, Section 619, but does not include 4,978 kids also in School Readiness & Head Start).<sup>8</sup>

**Child Care Subsidies**

- **Care 4 Kids** – 19,855 child care vouchers/subsidies issued in the month of December 2013, included care of 7,201 Infant/Toddlers + 6,993 Pre-School Age + 5,661 School-Age Children.<sup>9</sup> Care 4 Kids Vouchers may be used at Licensed, License Exempt, and Family, Friends and Neighbor (FFN) settings<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Education, CT Education Data and Research (CEDaR), "Enrollment - Public School Enrollment PK-12 by Grade," 2011-12

<sup>2</sup> Connecticut Birth to Three System, Annual Reports 2011 & 2012 and CT Department of Public Health, birth statistics by town.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate calculated based on Kindergarten Enrollment by School District multiplied by School District Strategic School Profile 2011-2012, Percent of "Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals" 2011-12 multiplied by district level data for "Enrollment - Public School Enrollment PK-12 by Grade," Kindergarten Enrollment, 2011-12 SDE, CT Education Data and Research (CEDaR) website Jan. 10, 2014 & Feb. 7, 2014. In FY 2013, Income eligibility for a family of 3 at 185% FPL=\$36,131 & 100% FPL for a family of 3 = \$19,530. Family of 4 at 185% FPL=\$43,568 & 100% FPL = \$23,550.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. DHHS, ACF, Office of Child Care "State and Territory Profile -Connecticut" (source: U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010)

<sup>5</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, 2013-14, Priority & Competitive School Readiness Contracted Slot Grids, February 2014

<sup>6</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, 2013-14, Child Day Care Center 2013-12 Contracted Slot Grid, M. Levy, February 2014

<sup>7</sup> CT Even Start Family Literacy Final Report, Evaluation Results FY 2013, K. Mika, December 2013

<sup>8</sup> Connecticut Department of Education, Data Source PSIS & PKIS 2011-12, & SEDAC 2013. Calculation by CT Office of Early Childhood, C. Schechter

<sup>9</sup> Care 4 Kids Expenditure Report by Region Setting and Age for December 2013. 2,104 children that received Care 4 Kids vouchers were in School Readiness, Head Start, or state-funded Child Day Care Center settings in 2013, per CCDF QPR Report FFY 2013. Income eligibility by State Median Income (SMI) – Example - family of three: 50% SMI=\$43,333, 75% SMI=\$64,999; Family of four: 50% SMI=\$51,587, 75% SMI=\$77,380.

<sup>10</sup> United Way of Connecticut, January 30, 2014 data report to CT OEC. Statewide there are 3,953 Licensed Child Care facilities; 585 License-Exempt Child Care including public school settings; and 3,584 Family, Friends, and Neighbor (FFN) settings. FFN shown if received subsidy.

## Services for Young Children and their Families

**Home Visiting** services to improve outcomes for families with young children at risk or in high-risk communities:

- **Early Head Start** – 659 families participated in FFY 2013<sup>11</sup>
- **Family School Connections** - 189 Parents Participated in FY 2013
- **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program** (CT DPH) - 651 Families Enrolled (3/13–2/14)<sup>12</sup>
- **Nurturing Families Network** - 2,371 Parents Participated in FY 2012
- **Parents as Teachers & Child First** services are available in Connecticut.

**Early Intervention** services for children under age 3 identified with developmental delays (Birth to Three, CT DDS):

- **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C)** - 9,345 Children with developmental delays or disabilities served in FY 2013.<sup>13</sup>

**Early Childhood Special Education** and related services, (CT SDE):

- **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** – and related services in pre-kindergarten through local education organizations = 4,447 three- and four- year old children.<sup>14</sup>

**Information and Referral**

- **Child Care Infoline** – fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referral.
- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** - 1,918 Calls Received in FY 2012.<sup>15</sup>

## Early Care and Education Workforce

**Early Care and Education Workforce Development**

- **Workforce Registry** – 15,281 early childhood teachers, directors, trainers, and consultants are in the registry.<sup>16</sup>
- **Scholarships to improve workforce qualifications** – 787 individuals received scholarship assistance and 57 licensed child care programs received group-based professional development scholarships.<sup>17</sup>
- Connecticut’s **Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)** earned by 73 Individuals in 2013.<sup>18</sup>
- UMass Donahue Center/CT Head Start Training & Technical Assist. Center - 1,822 staff supported 2014<sup>19</sup>

## Program Standards

**Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing**

- **Licensed Child Care programs** - 3,953 Licensed Child Care facilities - include 1,474 Child Day Care Centers + 2,454 Family Day Care Homes + 25 Group Day Care Homes and **509 Youth Camps** are licensed.<sup>20</sup>

**Accreditation**

- National Association Education of Young Children (**NAEYC**) - **437 accredited programs** - 29,362 kids served.<sup>21</sup>
- CT has the highest number in the country of NAEYC Accredited programs per capita. Annually, approximately 100 center-based programs receive technical assistance on program improvement & NAEYC Accreditation.
- CT is ranked third by number of NAEYC accredited programs, following MA and CA, respectively.

<sup>11</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, G. Whitney, Director, CT Head Start State Collaboration Office, February 11, 2014

<sup>12</sup> Connecticut Department of Public Health, Family Health Section, 02/19/14. MIECHC Enrollment from March 31, 2013 – February 19, 2014

<sup>13</sup> “Together from the Start Connecticut Birth to Three System 2013” report, page 24.

<sup>14</sup> Data provided by the Department of Education, from the Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC), October 1, 2012. The number children ages 3 and 4 in Pre-Kindergarten receiving special education and related services.

<sup>15</sup> Children’s Trust Fund, K. Foley-Schain, February 3, 2014

<sup>16</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, February 7, 2014

<sup>17</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, December, 2013 for SFY 2013.

<sup>18</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, January 30, 2014

<sup>19</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, G. Whitney, Director, CT Head Start State Collaboration Office, February 11, 2014

<sup>20</sup> Connecticut Department of Public Health, <https://www.elicense.ct.gov/lookup>, February 10, 2014

<sup>21</sup> NAEYC website: [http://oldweb.naeyc.org/academy/summary/center\\_summary.asp](http://oldweb.naeyc.org/academy/summary/center_summary.asp) Connecticut data February 10, 2014

- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) – **2 accredited programs**
- National AfterSchool Association (NAA) - **1 accredited program**
- Head Start and Early Head Start – compliance is deemed a high-quality standard.

### Families and Employment

In Connecticut, nearly three-quarters (70%) of young children have all parents in their home working or seeking employment.<sup>22</sup>

- Nearly all young children (93%) live in families with at least one parent employed or looking for work.<sup>23</sup>
- Over one-quarter (27%) young children live in a single mother household.<sup>24</sup>
- Over one-third (34%) young children live with only one parent.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2012, more than a quarter (27%) of Connecticut women who gave birth had a high school education or less.<sup>26</sup>

### Early Care and Education Facilities

**Early Childhood Bond Funds for Minor Capital Improvements and Wiring for Technology:** Grants-in-aid to municipalities and organizations for facility improvements and minor capital repairs to state-funded programs serving children birth-5 and to additional EC programs serving children birth-5 in municipalities eligible for state early childhood funds

Cohort 1 - 76 projects at 57 program sites serving 4,984 children in 35 towns<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Cyd Oppenheimer, J.D. , Tamara Kramer, J.D. & Edie Joseph, "Connecticut Early Connecticut Early Care & Education Progress Report, 2013," Connecticut Voices for Children: 4, available at [www.ctvoices.org](http://www.ctvoices.org). Includes reference to U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, A. García, February 25, 2014