



*Annual Report to the State Legislature*

## ***The Status of Child Care in Connecticut***

*State Fiscal year 2012-2013*



Dannel P. Malloy  
*Governor*

Roderick L. Bremby  
*Commissioner*







RODERICK L. BREMBY  
Commissioner


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



To: The Honorable Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Members, The State of Connecticut General Assembly

From: Roderick L. Bremby   
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

I am pleased to present the annual report of child care activities for the state fiscal year 2012-2013.

The report, *The Status of Child Care in Connecticut*, details and itemizes the allocation of state and federal funds for child care programs.

Some of the accomplishments that occurred in Connecticut are:

- A monthly average of approximately 14,600 children and their families received financial assistance to pay for child care from the **Care 4 Kids** program.
- Federal and state funds supported 8,486 **Head Start** pre-school children and their families along with 1,197 **Early Head Start** children pre-natal to 3 years of age in SFY 12-13.
- **The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)** supported 461 sites engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process: 212 achieved accreditation or re-accreditation in the new NAEYC system; 112 are sites continuing in the process.
- In SFY 12-13, the **School Readiness Program** served 11,432 children 3 and 4 years of age in 19 priority school districts or communities and 46 competitive school readiness districts.
- In SFY 12-13, **2-1-1 Child Care** received 21,491 requests for child care assistance by parents with children who are either infant-toddlers, pre-school and/or school age.

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## Children in Subsidized Child Care Annual Data

State and Federal Program		Infants and Toddlers	Pre-Schoolers	School-Age Children	Totals
Federal Early Head Start		1,197	n/a	n/a	1,197
Federal & State Head Start		n/a	8,486	n/a	8,486
Supported Child Care Centers		1,098	2,222	398	3,718
SDE School Readiness		na	11,432	na	11,432
DSS Care 4 Kids		7,464	9,047	7,020	23,531
	DSS School-Age Program	na	na	2200	2200
	SDE Extended-Day Program Grant	na	na	4,721	4,721
Before and After School Child Care Programs	21st Century Program Grant	na	na	10,921	10,921
	Family Resource Centers (FRC's)	na	na	6,950	6,950
<b>Totals</b>		<b>9,759</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>31,812</b>	<b>73,156</b>

## **Child Care Utilization**

### **Care 4 Kids Child Care Assistance Program**

The Care 4 Kids program provided subsidies for the care of approximately 22,000 average monthly paid children. About 14,600 families received an average of \$591 in child care benefits each month. For more information on Care 4 Kids, visit [www.ctcare4kids.com](http://www.ctcare4kids.com)

Care 4 Kids supports parents who are working or in approved education or training activities. In SFY 12-13, more than half (65%) of all payments went to families that did not receive Temporary Family Assistance (TFA); families transitioning off TFA received 23% while active TFA families received 12%.

### **State Supported Child Care Centers**

Contracts with child day care centers to develop and operate programs for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, environmental or social conditions operate in 19 priority school districts, 37 severe-need school communities, and 9 other towns. Funding in the amount of \$31.5 million benefited an average of 3,718 children per month in SFY 12-13.

### **School Readiness (SR) Program**

Established by state law in 1997, the School Readiness (SR) Initiative of the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to expand and enhance access to preschool child day care programs in 67 Connecticut communities. In SFY 12-13, the initiative served 11,432 children 3 and 4 years of age in 19 priority school districts or communities and 46 competitive school readiness districts. The initiative's goal is to provide children with a high quality and appropriate preschool experience that includes collaboration with community services, parent involvement, education and outreach, referrals for health services, family literacy, transition planning for kindergarten, annual program evaluation, and professional development for staff.



# Child Care Utilization

## Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

### Federal

- Pre-School: Federal Head Start funds received in Connecticut totaled \$59,161,047 and provided services to 7,759 children.
- Infant-Toddler: Federal Early Head Start program provides year-round comprehensive child and family development services to low-income families with children pre-natal to 3 years of age. Sixteen Early Head Start grantees in Connecticut provided services to 1,197 children and 103 pregnant women in fiscal year 2012-2013. Connecticut grantees received \$8,585,624.

### State

- The state supplemented the federal Head Start pre-school funds with \$5,661,150. These state funds provided services to an additional 727 pre-school children. The funds were also combined with federal pre-school funds to provide full day/full year services to 628 pre-school children.





# Child Care Utilization

## School-Age Child Care and After School Programs

**After-school services** are formal or informal custodial care, procured by families with private providers, for school-age children during after-school hours, on holidays and during school vacation time.

**After-school programs** include before and after-school care, vacation, and summer programs that assume responsibility for participants' safety. They extend educational support, among other services, to children and families in programs operating under state approval or licensing authority. Subsidized after-school programs report program or utilization data to the state.

Subsidized after-school programs included:

- **SDE Extended-Day Program Grant: 4,721 children; 26 sites;**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Grant: 10,921 children; 98 sites;**
- **DSS School-Age Program: 2,200 children; 7 sites; and**
- **Family Resource Centers (FRC's): 6,950 children; 62 sites.**



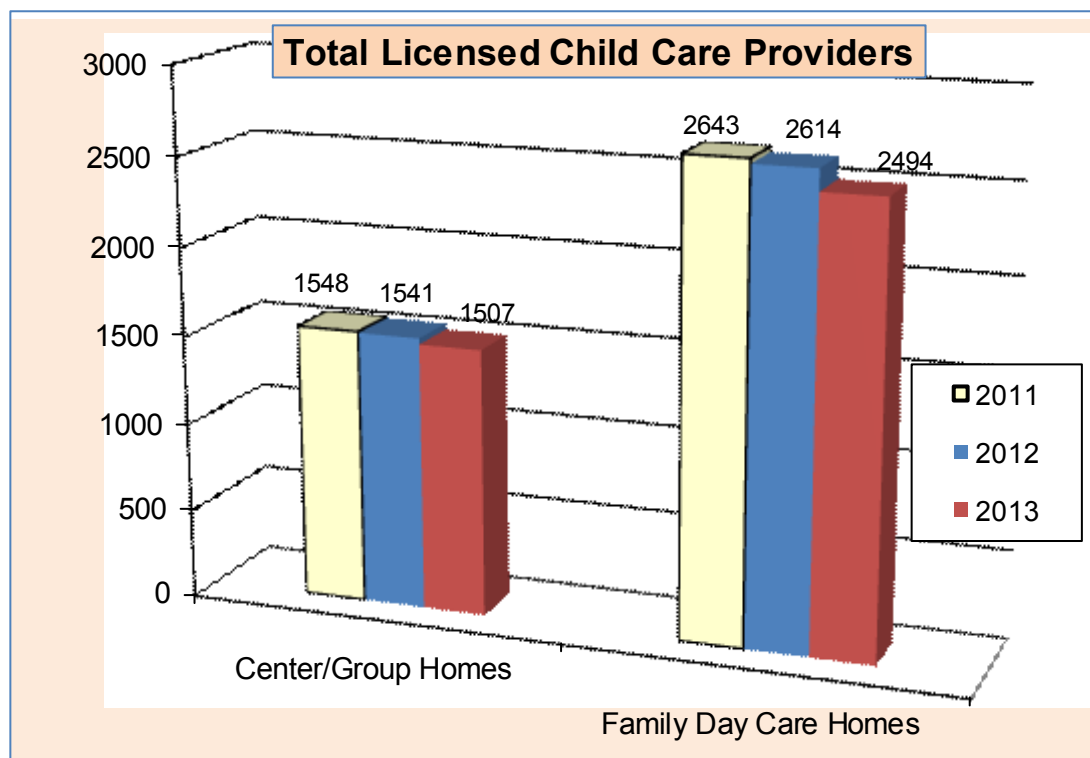


## Child Care Supply and Demand

### Child Care Supply: Centers, Group Homes, and Family Day Care Homes

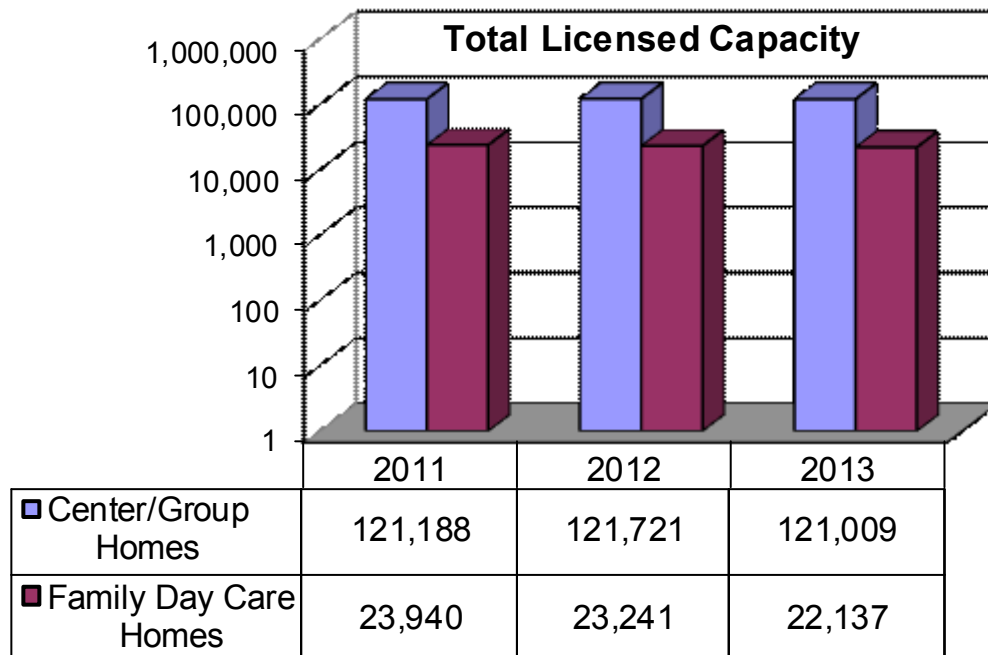
The total number of child care programs licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) decreased from 4,155 to 4,001 for the period July 2012 thru June 2013. More specifically, the total family day care homes decreased from approximately 2,614 to 2,494 while the total number of child day care centers/group day care homes decreased slightly from approximately 1,541 to 1,507.

During this same time period, the total number of licensed spaces in child care center programs decreased from 121,721 to 121,009. More specifically, the capacity of licensed family day care homes decreased from 23,241 to 22,137, while the capacity of licensed child day care centers/group day care homes increased from 98,540 to 98,872.



## Child Care Supply and Demand

### Child Care Demand:

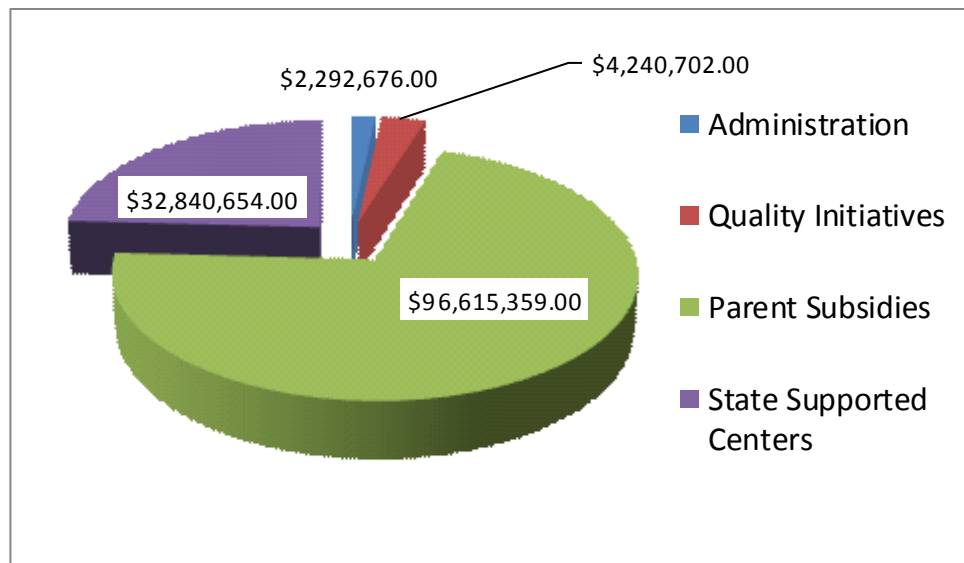


Child care demand is often difficult to fully measure as parent's need for child care may vary due to a variety of circumstances such as working status, family assistance, number of children, etc. **211-Child Care** is Connecticut's statewide resource and referral service that tracks daily calls from consumers seeking child care assistance, which is an excellent indicator of child care demand. For example, during the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, 21,491 requests for child care assistance were made by parents with children who are either infant-toddlers, pre-school and/or school age. While most parent inquiries are for licensed paid child care, some parent calls are about license-exempt family, friends and neighbor child care.

**Source: 2-1-1 Child Care Annual Report SFY 12-13**

## Child Care Expenditures

DSS Child Care Expenditures for SFY 2012-2013: State and Federal



(Expenditure categories shown as a percentage of total child care budget)

## Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

### Child Care Facilities Loan Fund

The Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) continues to operate the Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF) components that began in 1997. CHEFA collaborates with SDE, several banking institutions including Peoples' Bank (the lead bank providing loan origination and servicing) and the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation to administer the three CCFLF program components:

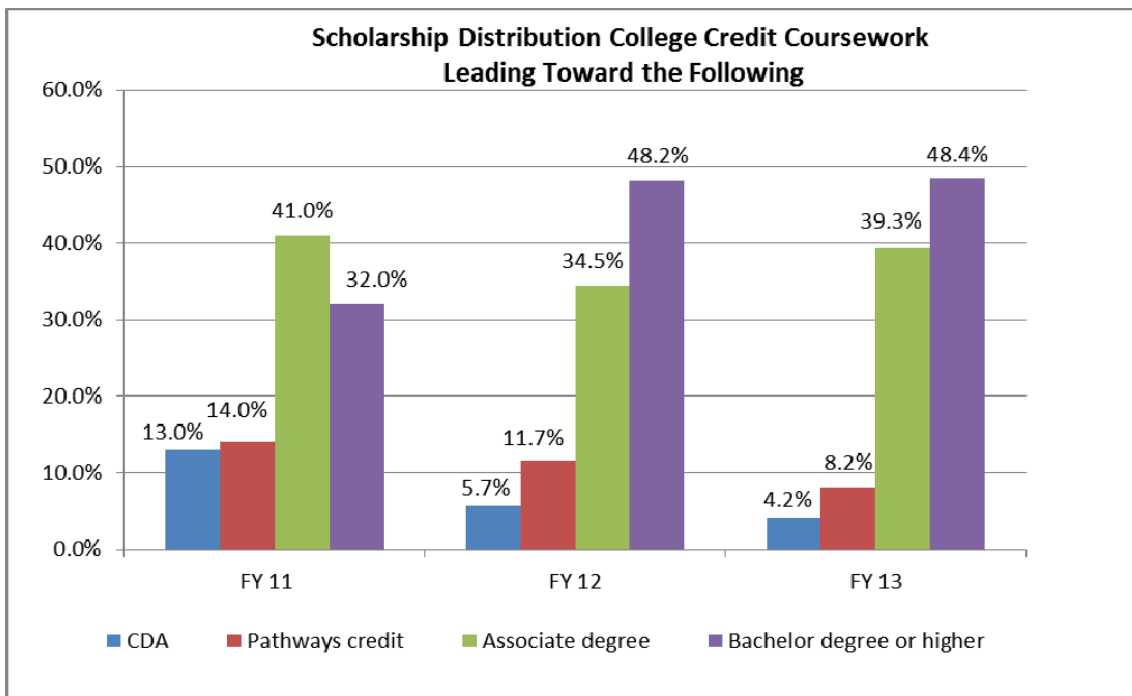
- The **Tax Exempt Loan** component consists of 29 facilities representing 26 child care providers. It is financed through the issuance of \$76.6 million in bonds and \$20.8 million in equity and grants to fund project costs of approximately \$93.9 million. Financed projects provide approximately 5,100 child care slots.
- The Guaranteed Loan Fund component, as of June 30, 2013, supported 17 projects with loans totaling \$15.5 million that built or renovated 1,713 child care spaces. Each loan is backed by an average 38% loan guarantee and a 3% interest rate subsidy by CHEFA.
- The Small Direct Revolving Loan Fund component supported 59 loans, ranging from \$8,000 to \$25,000, for disbursements totaling \$1.2 million through June 30, 2013.

## Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

The Department of Social Services and the Board of Regents support CCAC, the state's professional development and program improvement system. In SFY 12-13, CCAC's Scholarship Assistance Program distributed \$1,192,999 in scholarships from the Departments of Social Services and Education to 787 early childhood professionals.

DSS implemented a pilot program for young children where staff members enrolled in early childhood degree programs were provided classroom release time away from responsibility of children to meet course requirements. Eight programs, representing 12 individuals working on 14 classes utilized this pilot for a total of \$20,800.00 in program stipends, bringing the total scholarship spending to \$1,213,799.

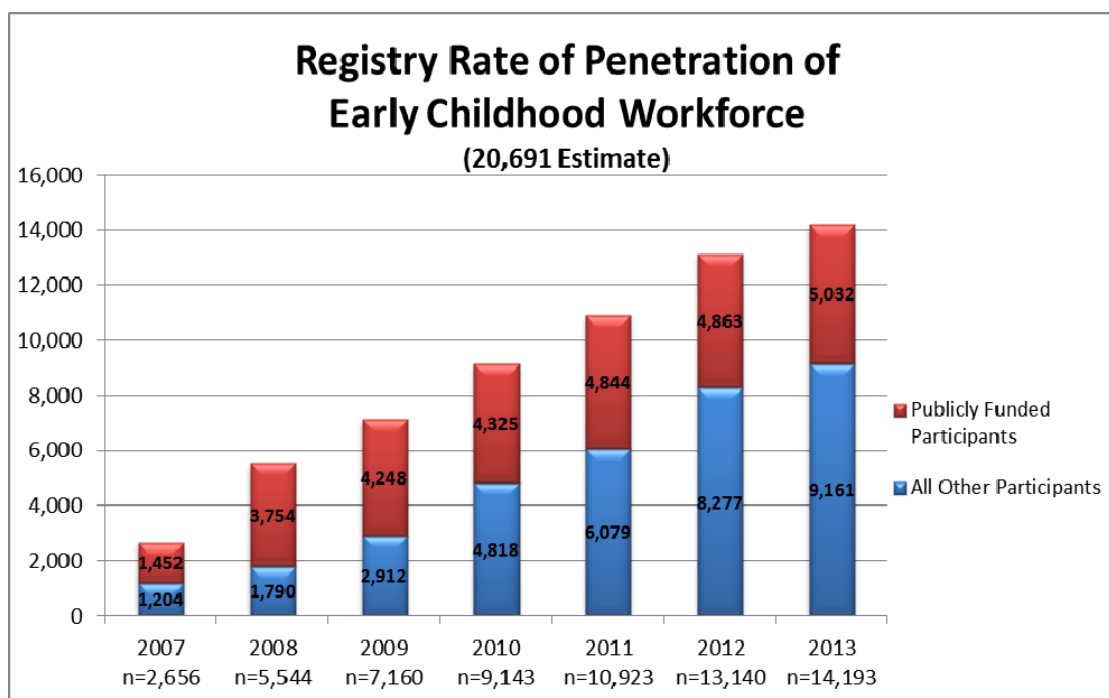
The table below provides a 3-year summary of the number of scholarships provided to individuals to help them attain the identified credentials.



## Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

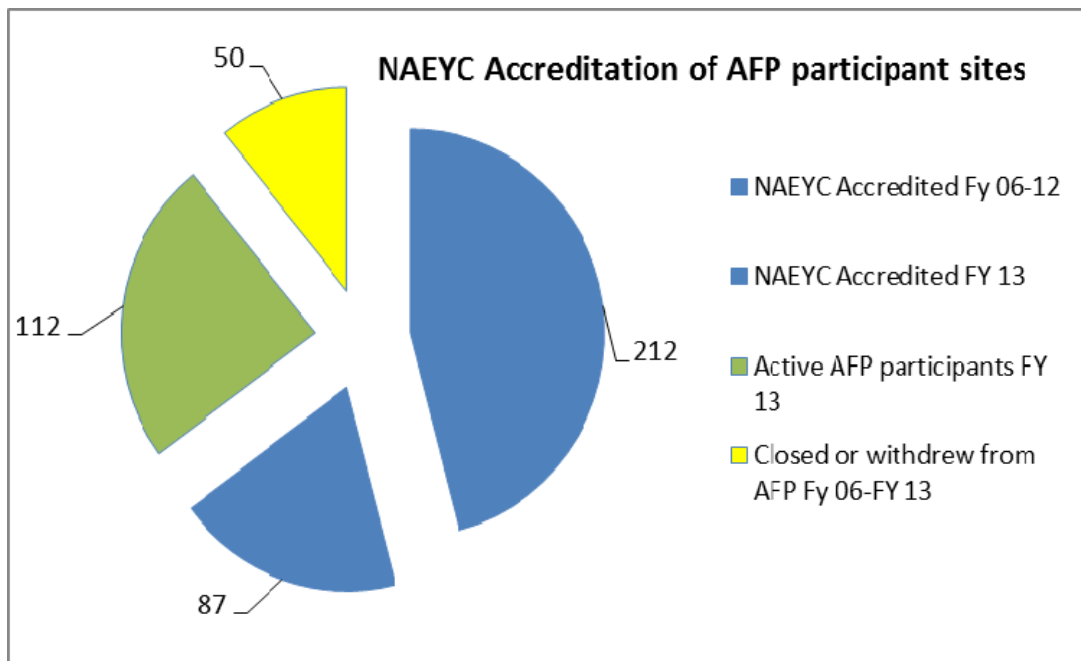
The table below reports the number of early childhood personnel who have enrolled in the Early Childhood Professional Registry. CCAC manages the Registry, a web-based data system that collects information on the demographics, education and qualifications of early care and education professionals. The Registry also serves as the vehicle for the Scholarship Assistance Program and other work systems such as a qualifications calculator for NAEYC Accreditation, a trainer approval system and database, and the verification and approval system for the Department of Public Health's head teacher certificate. Over 14,000 individuals are currently enrolled. Enrollment is required for all staff working in publicly funded programs.

CCAC manages the Early Childhood Professional Registry, a web-enabled data system that collects information on the demographics, education and qualifications of early care and education professionals. It currently has over 10,000 enrolled and is mandated for all staff who work in publically funded programs.



## Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

During SFY 13, the Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) supported the achievement of NAEYC Accreditation in 87 sites, bringing the total of sites supported by AFP to 461, with 299 having achieved accreditation or re-accreditation in the new NAEYC system. Another 112 sites continue to work with the AFP toward NAEYC Accreditation.



## **Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives Quality Enhancement (QE) Grants**

During SFY 12-13 State Department of Education (SDE) made \$1,100,678 available to the 19 priority school districts to improve the quality of existing early care and education programs. School Readiness Councils (SRCs) used funds to support teacher professional development; direct services to children and families; consultation services (including classroom assessment and evaluation) to licensed providers; staff training; and support to centers seeking NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) re-accreditation.

Services geared to kith & kin (K&K) care providers (also known as family, friends, and neighbors or FFN) included: home visits; mentoring; collaboration with museums and local libraries with staff who modeled teaching practices; children's health screenings; literacy and/or health care events at housing projects.

## **Child and Adult Care Food Program Kith and Kin Project**

Since 2006, DSS in collaboration with the Department of Education (SDE), the state agency administering the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program- CACFP for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been operating this project. It allows Kith & Kin (also referred to as Family, Friend and Neighbors or FFN) providers enrolled in the Care 4 Kids (C4K) program to claim reimbursement for food provided to children in their care. The project's purpose is to ensure that the nutritional needs of low-income children are met. Under DSS and SDE supervision, CACFP-sponsoring agencies verify C4K enrollment for participating K&K providers. They are also responsible for program monitoring, training, support and technical assistance to K&K caregivers on child nutrition, health and food safety, and child development topics. During SFY 12-13 an average of 52 providers and 156 children were enrolled for an average yearly 39,312 meals claimed.



### **Data Systems**

The workgroup refined and finalized the essential questions that an Early Childhood State Longitudinal Data System would need to answer. The co-chairs continued to participate on the state's P-20 WIN data interoperability committee as they progressed in implementing data connections between the Dept. of Education, institutions of higher education, and the Dept. of Labor.

A data demonstration project across several state agencies using the Child Health Information Network at the University of Connecticut Health Center was attempted however we learned that the design of the demonstration needed to include some form of data governance in order to be successful. We can look to the P-20 WIN data governance and MOU templates for guidance in the future.

### **Public Private Partnerships**

In March of 2013 the workgroup held its initial meeting. This meeting focused on an overview of Connecticut's early childhood landscape and Cabinet and the Governor's proposed budget, which established the new Office of Early Childhood. The second meeting was held in July of 2013 and focused on refining the mission and functions of the workgroup. The workgroup is composed of a diverse group of Connecticut professionals, entrepreneurs, business and government leaders at municipal and state levels, philanthropy, and the non-profit community. It will partner with the Office of Early Childhood to champion the value and importance of high-quality early childhood services and family supports in Connecticut and public-private partnerships and investments on behalf of Connecticut young children and families. Work continues to ensure the workgroup includes those individuals and entities that can provide a unique perspective on how to promote the Office of Early Childhood's values and guiding principles.

## **Family Involvement/Home Visitation**

Through an interdisciplinary membership, the workgroup has identified opportunities to embed family, including fatherhood, engagement practices into statewide and local service delivery systems. This is best exemplified by the passage of PA 13-178, a children's mental health bill that includes a coordinated home visitation system. The bill requires a common referral process for families, a core set of competencies and required training, a core set of standards and program outcomes, coordinated training for home visitation and early care providers, home based treatment options for parents with young children suffering from severe depression and relationship-focused intervention services for young children. This bill is part of a national Pew Foundation webinar of three best state practices in September. Additionally the workgroup provided a well-attended forum for the public health field on how to structurally partner with parents in medical homes, led focus groups with the early childhood field on their perceptions and needs regarding parents as assets and partners, provided a fatherhood audit to the home visitation model programs to assess how father-friendly their organizations and processes are; partnered with Strengthening Families on survey instrument additions to assist the early care field in its work with parent leadership, succeeded in assuring the continuance of a Parent Trust Fund in the state budget for family civics, and led two major forums with the legislature on home visitation, parent engagement and best practices.

## **Early Learning Standards**

In 2013 the Early Learning Standards workgroup finalized the draft Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) birth through age five. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) was selected to "content validate" the draft standards, with a final report from NAEYC expected in September 2013. On August 24<sup>th</sup> a "Block Party" was held in Bushnell Park as a kick-off event for the standards. This event was held so young children and their families could experience learning in all of the areas of development in a playful, fun manner and so families could familiar themselves with the developmental domains contained in the ELDS. Additionally, a prospectus for an age validation study was development and is currently being disseminated to and discussed with potential funders for this project.

## **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**

The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Workgroup was established by the Early Childhood Cabinet in the spring of 2012. At the Cabinet's request the workgroup developed plans to identify the actions and activities necessary to design a QRIS, establish a robust monitoring and rating process, develop QRIS Standards, promote quality improvement within and across levels of the system, promote use of information by communities and families, and develop sustainability plans to ensure the consistent and long-term existence of the system.

In September 2012, the Early Childhood Planning Team requested that the QRIS Workgroup complete a set of recommendations. In November 2012, the recommendations were presented to the Cabinet. The workgroup met to refine and clarify its recommendations through the spring of 2013. The recommendations included addressing governance, structure, standards, licensing, accreditation and approval, rating and monitoring, subsidies, incentives, and phase-in.

## **Health Promotions**

The Health Promotions Work Group was established in 2013 with the goal of ensuring comprehensive health (developmental, physical, socio-emotional, oral, physical activity, nutrition, environmental, etc.) and safety within the early childhood vision and action of our state. Accomplishments include: continuing to have the State Medicaid Director on the Work Group, sharing/updating one another on initiatives and opportunities to work together, reviewing draft of Early Learning Standards, and commissioning a monograph on developmental and behavioral screening. Recommendations include continuing to convene as a Work Group, better coordination and utilization of health resources, e.g., Child Care Health Consultants, and converting to an electronic Early Childhood Health Assessment Record

## Workforce / Professional Development

The Workforce / Professional Development workgroup developed *The Connecticut Early Childhood Workforce Core Knowledge and Competency Framework* (CKC's) intended for early childhood teachers across all settings who work with children, birth through age 5 and their families. The CKC's articulate the essential skills and knowledge that teachers who work with young children and their families need to know, understand, and be able to do to promote and assess young children's healthy development and learning.

Work towards developing an early childhood higher education consortium has begun; it is an evolving process that takes considerable time. Some of the colleges have begun to modify their agreements with other higher education institutions based on more current program requirements to support their students obtaining the CT-Early Childhood Teacher Credential (CT-ECTC). A survey of the existing Early Childhood/Child Study programs was conducted and a template of all course offerings was developed to assist in determining course offering duplications, etc., and to help advisors working with students or professionals who have not gone through approved ECTC program in meeting the standards.



# Directory of Related Child Care Services

Department of Social Services (DSS)  
1-800-811-6141  
<http://www.dss.state.ct.us/ccare/index.htm>

Child Care Licensing Program  
Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH)  
1-800-282-6063  
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/daycare>

Bureau of Early Childhood Education/  
Office of Early Childhood  
1-860-713-6744  
<http://www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/readiness/index>

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education  
Office of Early Childhood  
1-860-713-6528  
<http://www.ecpolicycouncil.org>

2-1-1 Child Care  
United Way of Connecticut  
1-800-505-1000  
[www.childcareinfo.org](http://www.childcareinfo.org)

Care 4 Kids  
United Way of Connecticut  
1-888-214-5437  
<http://www.ctcare4kids.com/>

Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)  
Office of Early Childhood  
1-800-832-7784  
1-203-407-6648  
<http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org>

Scholarship Assistance Program & Career Advisement  
Office of Early Childhood  
1-800-832-7784  
1-203-407-6646  
<http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org>

Child Care Registry  
Office of Early Childhood  
1-800-832-7784  
Office of Early Childhood

**Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF)**  
**Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority-CHEFA**  
**1-800-750-1862**  
**860-520-4700**  
**<http://www.chefa.com>**

**Child Care Tax Credits**  
**Department of Revenue Services (DRS)**  
**(Information)**  
**1-860-297-5698**  
**1-860-297-4932**  
**<http://ct.gov/drs>**

**HUSKY Plan (Health Care for Un-insured Kids and Youth)/**  
**Department of Social Services (DSS)**  
**1-877-Connecticut-HUSKY**  
**(1-877-284-8759)**  
**<http://www.huskyhealth.com>**

**Child Support Information Hotline**  
**Department of Social Services (DSS)**  
**1-800-228-5437**  
**<http://www.dss.state.ct.us/csdc/csdc.htm>**

**Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline**  
**Department of Children and Families (DCF)**  
**1-800-842-2288**



*Notes*



## *Notes*

**The Department of Social Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and offers its programs regardless of race, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, or marital status.**

**The Department of Social Services is responsible for the establishment of child care policies that support the mission of DSS as well as federal and state goals and objectives. The implementation of these policies is embodied in a coherent and coordinated system of program operations and service delivery for child care customers and providers.**

For information regarding this report, please call:  
**The Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press 6).**

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