
**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020**



Ned Lamont
Governor



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner



VISION

All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

MISSION

To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators and communities play in a child's life.

SECTION 1: FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Office of Early Childhood's Division of Early Care and Education oversees and monitors state and federal grants, contracts and subsidies that support early care and education programs. OEC is charged with ensuring the funds are administered efficiently and are used for the purposes intended. These funds include:

1. Child Day Care Contract Program
2. School Readiness Grant Program
3. Smart Start Grant Program
4. State Head Start Supplement Program
5. Early Head Start Child Care Partnership
6. Even Start
7. Child Care Development Fund (including Care 4 Kids Subsidy Program)

Child Day Care Program

Child Day Care programs provide early care and education to infants and toddlers, preschoolers and/or school age children who meet certain eligibility requirements, including incomes below 75% of the state median income. These programs are located in towns and cities across Connecticut. Section 8-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) specifies that the purpose of this funding is for the development and operation of child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental conditions. The services provided through the Child Day Care contracts are supported with state funds.

CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACT PROGRAM	
\$33,458,570	
Number of Communities	47
Number of Programs	51
Number of Sites	100
Sites that are also SR (40 PSR; 9 CSR)	49
Sites that are also SHS	17
Sites that are also PDG	10
Infant/Toddler Full-Time	1,506
Infant/Toddler Wraparound	187
Preschool Full-Time	2,240
Preschool Wraparound	297
School-Age Full-Time	220
School-Age Part-Time	210

School Readiness

School Readiness is a state-funded initiative that provide access to preschool programs for 3- and 4-year old children. At least 60% of households serviced must have incomes under 75% of the State Medium Income. School Readiness is comprised of both Priority and Competitive Communities as defined in legislation and structured to:

- promote the health and safety of children;
- provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and accredited programs;
- encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and services;
- recognize the specific service needs and unique resources available to particular municipalities; prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delays in children;
- enhance federally funded school readiness programs;
- strengthen the family through encouragement of parental involvement;
- reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special education.

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM			
\$93,567,435			
SPACES \$92,674,480 QE \$892,955			
	Priority	Competitive	Total
Number of Communities	21	46	67
Number of Programs	139	70	209
Number of Sites	229	81	310
Number of Children	10,491	1,422	11,920
Full-Day Spaces	7,137	638	7,775
School-Day Spaces	1,860	292	2,152
Part-Day Spaces	1,023	465	1,488
Extended-Day Spaces	459	NA	459

Smart Start

Smart Start serves children ages 3 and 4 years old in public school settings. It reimburses local and regional boards of education for capital* and operating expenses to establish or expand a preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town. Smart Start services are supported through state funds. Due to Executive Order 7C all public schools, including Smart Start classrooms, were closed statewide effective March 17, 2020 and remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

*No new Capital Improvement Funds for FY 20.

SMART START \$3,325,000	
Number of School Districts	24
Number of Classrooms	45
Children Served	665

State Head Start Supplement

Head Start is funded directly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to community providers that provide comprehensive child and family support services to low-income families with children ages 3 to 5 years old. Head Start serves approximately 6,000 children, and through the State Head Start Supplement, Connecticut provides supplemental funding to 11 of the 19 federally funded Head Start grantees to increase capacity by 320 preschool-aged children. These funds also extend the day/year of federally funded Head Start spaces and support quality enhancement activities in Head Start programs.

STATE HEAD START SERVICES \$5,083,238	
Number of Communities (14 Services & Innovative Enhancement funding options; 23 Innovative Enhancement funding option only)	37
Number of program sites	50
New Full day/full year Spaces Created (Services funding option) in 14 communities	228
Extended day/extended year Spaces (Innovative Enhancement option) in all Head Start programs	911

CCDF/Care 4 Kids Subsidy Program

The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) is the primary federal funding for low-income families who are working or participating in education and training to help pay for child care. The Care 4 Kids subsidy program allows eligible families to select a provider anywhere in the state for care. The subsidy can cover full-time, part-time, quarter-time and summer care, based on the family’s work schedule. Families earning up to 50% of the State Median Income (SMI) are eligible to enroll; at the 12-month redetermination, a family can earn up to 65% of SMI.

A combination of state and federal funds supports the Care 4 Kids subsidy program. In FY2020, 5,259 providers served 26,325 children. (Source ImpaCT Child Care Ad Hoc Report as of 07/01/2020).

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

Early Head Start (EHS) is funded directly by the U.S. Department of HHS to community-based organizations to provide year-round comprehensive child and family support services to low-income pregnant women and families with children birth to 3 years old. EHS settings include child care centers, family child homes and family home visiting. Three EHS CT grantees were awarded a federal grant to partner with home-based and center-based child care programs to provide comprehensive services based on the EHS model. The OEC provides state funds to support children in the three federally funded EHS-CC Grant Partnership Programs whose families are not eligible for the Care4Kids subsidy program.

EARLY HEAD START - CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP \$1,130,750	
Grantees	3
Number of Providers	44
Number of Children (Monthly Average)	222

Even Start Literacy Program

Even Start is a program that gives families access to the training and support they need to create a literate home environment and to enhance the academic achievement of their children. Five primary components are integrated to create a comprehensive program, with all families participating in all components. Local programs build on existing community resources to offer educational and support services to help parents and children learn and succeed together. The following are the five components: 1) Early Childhood and/or School-Age Education; 2) Adult Education; 3) Parents and Children Learning Together (PACT); 4) Parent Education and Support; and 5) Home Visits to Support Educational Programs.

EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM \$295,456	
Grantees	3
Number of Families	46
Number of Adults	46
Number of Children	49

SECTION 2: EXPENDITURES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

PROGRAM	EXPENDITURE
CHILD DAY CARE	\$ 31,893,798
SCHOOL READINESS (PRIORITY AND COMPETITIVE)	\$ 90,754,909
SMART START	\$ 3,325,000
PRE-SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT (FIRST GRANT)	\$ 1,176,995
STATE HEAD START SUPPLEMENT	\$ 4,507,650
CARE FOR KIDS (C4K)	\$ 127,160,878
EARLY HEAD START CC PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,402,269

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

PROGRAM	EXPENDITURE
CCDF QE	\$ 3,438,261
SCHOOL READINESS QE	\$ 271,956
SMART START IMPROVEMENTS	\$ non awarded
STATE HEAD START LINK	\$ eliminated
MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 948

SECTION 3: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION LICENSING

LICENSING

There are approximately 3,281 licensed child care programs in Connecticut:

Family Child Care Homes = 1,884

Child Care Centers = 1,378

Group Child Care Homes = 19

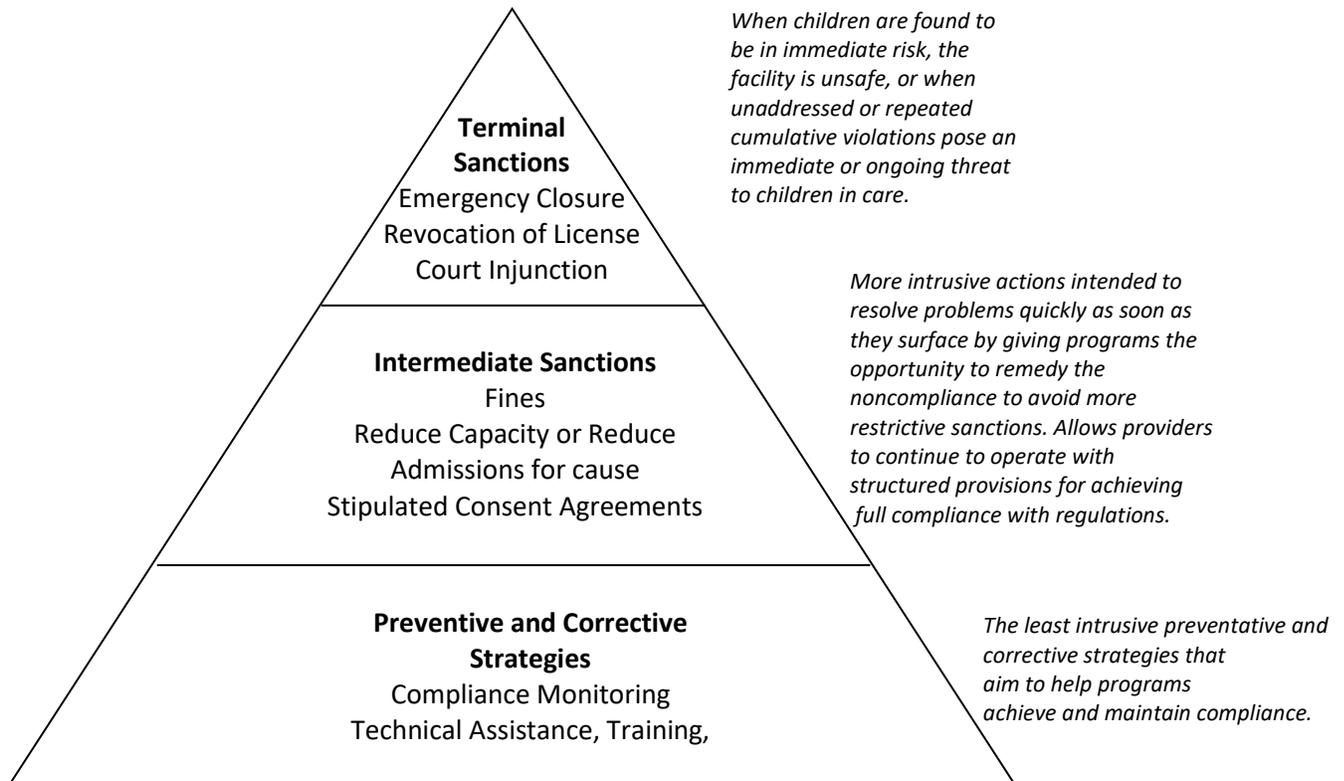
The licensing process includes enforcement to ensure compliance with the law and the regulations. Enforcement is critical for the delivery of quality, safe child care services. Connecticut's licensing regulations are among the most rigorous in the country. However, as stated by the federal Office of Child Care, strong licensing regulations, without a commitment to taking action when they are not met, do not meet the goal of protecting children from harm. Effectiveness in enforcement includes the following:

- A strong licensing statute that sets forth a range of enforcement options;
- Fair and uniform enforcement of rules;
- Sufficient qualified staff;
- Adequate funding; and
- Strong administrative support.

Types of Inspections	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Family Child Care Homes Full, Unannounced Inspections	946	1131	2263	2266	2412	2018	1453
Child Care Centers Full, Unannounced Inspections	931	1173	1595	1876	1752	1593	1041
Group Child Care Homes Full, Unannounced Inspections	19	16	30	37	39	27	17
Total: All types of inspections (includes above types plus initials, partials, follow-ups, etc.)	3547	4339	6468	7220	7360	8097	5417

Initial Licenses/Approvals/Issued by Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Family Child Care Homes	202	177	161	155	115	4	142
Child Care Centers	61	62	57	63	44	28	57
Group Child Care Homes	0	4	3	4	2	11	1
Family Child Care Staff-Assistant	59	84	66	53	37	10	60
Family Child Care Staff-Substitute	154	176	213	202	169	1	208

Types of Enforcement Actions



Enforcement Actions Taken	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019
Fines	5	6	8	9	10	4
Consent Agreements (generally also includes a fine)	26	24	25	33	27	25
Voluntary Surrender of license (in lieu of the state filing charges) May occur after a summary suspension.	15	10	8	7	15	3
Revocation of license	10	13	8	29	11	6
Summary Suspension of license/approval (emergency closure)	4	4	6	4	5	1

The need to take an enforcement action against a provider can also arise when a complaint is filed against the provider. All complaints are investigated, and those investigations are most often conducted by separate staff who are specifically assigned to investigate complaints. The most common types of licensing complaints concern supervision, staff-child ratios, health/safety/cleanliness/nutrition, and discipline/behavior management. However, another significant type of complaint is if someone suspects that a program is operating illegally.

Number of complaints received (includes youth camps)

Year	Number of Complaints Received	Number specific to suspected illegal care
2012	852	147
2013	772	188
2014	799	174
2015	821	177
2016	943	197
2017	851	132
2018	913	141
2019	776	88

Approximately, one-third of the complaints of suspected illegal care were substantiated as being operating illegally.

Complaints by setting and type

Setting	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Level 1	Level 2												
Family Child Care Homes	43	116	60	98	53	91	45	94	50	96	44	91	34	88
Child Care Centers	141	287	167	297	162	330	187	406	195	365	188	459	148	417
Group Child Care Homes	1	8	3	4	0	2	0	4	2	4	0	2	3	2

Level 1 complaints involve suspected abuse/neglect

SECTION 4: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE REGISTRY

The Early Childhood Professional Registry is an information system that collects data on the demographics and education qualifications of the individuals who work in the early care and education field, as well as classroom-level staff assignment data for early care and education programs.

Using data in the user’s account, individual and program level compliance is measured for state funded Qualified Staff Member (QSM) and Care4Kids health and safety orientation. Data is also used to assess the following: licensing Head Teacher, the Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC), the OEC

scholarship assistance fund, and technical assistance provider approval. Access to free online training (including Care4Kids health and safety orientation training) is accessible via the user's account.

Participation is mandatory for the following populations:

- Staff who work in programs receiving School Readiness, Child Day Care, State Head Start, Smart Start, or Care4Kids; and
- Individuals applying for scholarships, licensing Head Teacher, and the ECTC.

WORKFORCE REGISTRY	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Total # Registry account holders	14,230	16,371	18,783	21,195	25,251	17,818	15,288	26,280
*In FY18 an annual account renewal process was created; FY18 and FY19 numbers depict only renewed accounts. FY20 numbers above depict account with activity within the year.								

SCHOLARSHIPS

Between FY 13 and FY 20, a total of 20,366 scholarships were awarded. Award categories include credit tuition toward credential and degree attainment, exam fees, and books. Funds awarded total \$7,839,951 over the last eight fiscal years.

	Total # Awards	Leadership Credits	Pathways Exams	CDA / Equiv.	AA	BA	MA	Degree fees	Books	Other	Total Funds Awarded
FY13	3,131	NA	94	33	453	668	68	327	1,070	418	\$1,076,753
FY14	2,282	52	142	54	274	458	64	281	705	252	\$708,240
FY15	3,750	63	86	92	390	910	60	753	1,238	158	\$1,213,387
FY16	3,236	25	8	112	206	873	71	803	1067	71	\$1,085,940
FY17	1,830	8	1	132	83	516	NA	484	598	8	\$865,760
FY18	1,554	54	5	58	80	767	NA	119	460	11	\$720,870
FY19	2,092	75	7	178	74	922	NA	186	636	14	\$957,425
FY20	2,491	70	5	104	162	629	NA	709	786	26	\$1,211,576

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER CREDENTIAL (ECTC)

In 2013, Connecticut developed the Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) for both the associate and bachelor-degree levels. The ECTC ensures common programs of study among approved institutions ensuring that all graduates have similar knowledge, skills and competencies. Using the NAEYC bachelor-level professional development standards, Connecticut created a state approval system for programs of study not associated with public school certification. Participants are able to earn the ECTC through graduation from a college approved to offer the ECTC track, or by submitting materials for an individual review if graduating from a college that does not offer the ECTC track. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen increased interest in the Individual Review Route and have contracted with CT AEYC to manage the applications as part of OEC’s quality improvement contracts. Data below is from the OEC’s Early Childhood Professional Registry as of 11-30-20.

Route	A Level			B Level			Total Approved
	IT	PS	ITPS	IT	PS	ITPS	
Individual Review Route	4	14	7	7	75	25	132
Approved College Route	3	203	66	7	69	121	469
Total	297			304			601

IT = Infant and Toddler

PS = Preschool

ITPS = Infant through Preschool

A level = Associate Degree Level

B level = Bachelor Degree Level

SECTION 5: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

2-1-1 Child Care is a free, confidential, and statewide service, funded by the state through United Way of Connecticut. This service helps match the requests of parents with child care providers and programs. Parents can contact 2-1-1 Child Care for resources and referrals to: licensed child care centers; family child care; before- and after-school programs; summer camps; nursery schools; nanny agencies; Head Start and Early Head Start; School Readiness programs; and play groups.

Child Care Referral Specialists help parents learn about options in their community and understand what to look for in finding a quality child care arrangement. In addition, Referral Specialists also help parents become connected to other resources such as Care 4 Kids or Birth to Three for families who may have concerns about their children’s development.

FY 2020	
211 Child Care Transactions	
• Contact Center Transactions	58,710
• Web Search Engine	36,696
• Web Resource Views	144,760
Professional Development	36
• Early Care Professionals Trainings	205
• Early Care Professionals	2241
On-site Family Child Care Tech Support Visits	13
Child Care Referrals <i>(voice only does not include web)</i>	
• Number of Infant	23,204
• Number of Preschool	15,082
• Number of Toddler	11,831
• Number of School Age	8,888