

Early Childhood Education Endowment

Early Start CT is a new OEC- funded program that combines Child Day Care Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplement Grants — into 1 new program.

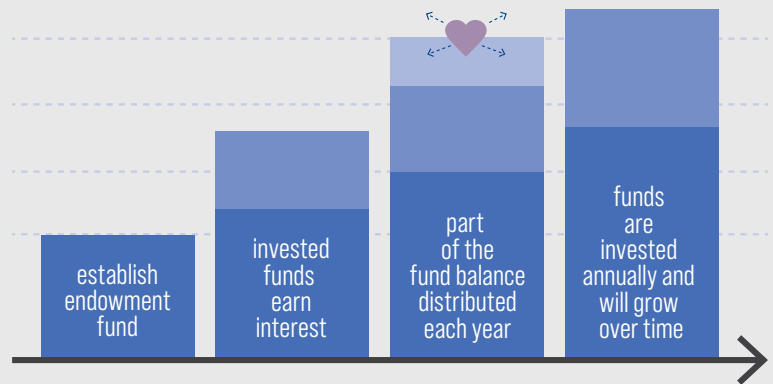
Governor Lamont set up a permanent savings account to fund early childhood education, that will grow over time.

This is the first important step to build a strong, sustainable child care system for the state.

There are milestones, rules, and an advisory board to guide how the funds are used.

The advisory board will be chaired by the OEC Commissioner, a House of Representatives member, and a Senate member.

How The Endowment Works



How The Endowment Helps

family and
community
voice

high
quality

affordable
access

provider
and system
stability

equity

Initial Investment

Starting in July 2025, the endowment will provide the first year of funding, up to \$36 million, to support the early child care system for Connecticut.

Early Start CT

OEC issues contracts with providers for early childhood spaces. More changes will follow to increase the number of spaces and programs. Provide funding to support the quality and financial health of the overall system, including more competitive compensation.

All Programs

Bond funding will help support facility construction and improvements. Access Health CT will conduct a study to understand health insurance needs and opportunities for early childhood workers.

Early Childhood Education Endowment

Timeline

Now

Early Start CT Providers

Launch of Early Start CT with contracts between OEC and providers
Launch of Local Governance Partners (LGPs)

Later This Year

Early Start CT Providers

Through June 2026

Add more than 1,000 new Early Start CT spaces
OEC payments to providers will increase for Early Start CT spaces
Additional payments intended to improve staff compensation

Next Year

Early Start CT Providers

July 2026

OEC payments to providers will increase for Early Start CT spaces
Add new Early Start CT spaces
Additional payments intended to improve staff compensation

Future Years

Early Start CT Providers

After July 2027

Family fees for Early Start CT spaces will be free or reduced based on income:
Less than \$100K = free
More than \$100K = 7% cap on gross annual income per family
Additional Early Start CT spaces added through competitive process
Additional payments intended to improve staff compensation
Collaborate with public school districts to expand part-day to full school-day pre-k spaces; foster inclusive learning environments for all children, including those with disabilities and diverse learning needs

Later This Year

All Providers

Through June 2026

Facilities funding available
Health Insurance study conducted by Access Health CT
Additional scholarship funding available

Next Year

All Providers

July 2026

Facilities funding continues; Professional development and technical assistance
Health insurance subsidy launched as pilot to help provide health coverage for ECE workers
Additional scholarship funding available

Future Years

All Providers

After July 2027

Facilities funding continues; Professional development and technical assistance
Additional scholarship funding available