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# **Early Start CT Child Attendance & Program Reimbursement**

June 17 & 18, 2025



Office of Early Childhood

# Agenda

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- Introduction
- Early Start CT Overview
- Grants & Contracts Reminders
- Where We Are
- General Policies
  - Attendance & Reimbursement
- Next Steps
- Questions?

**Please put questions in the [Q&A box](#) and use the [Chat](#) feature for conversation with participants and hosts.**

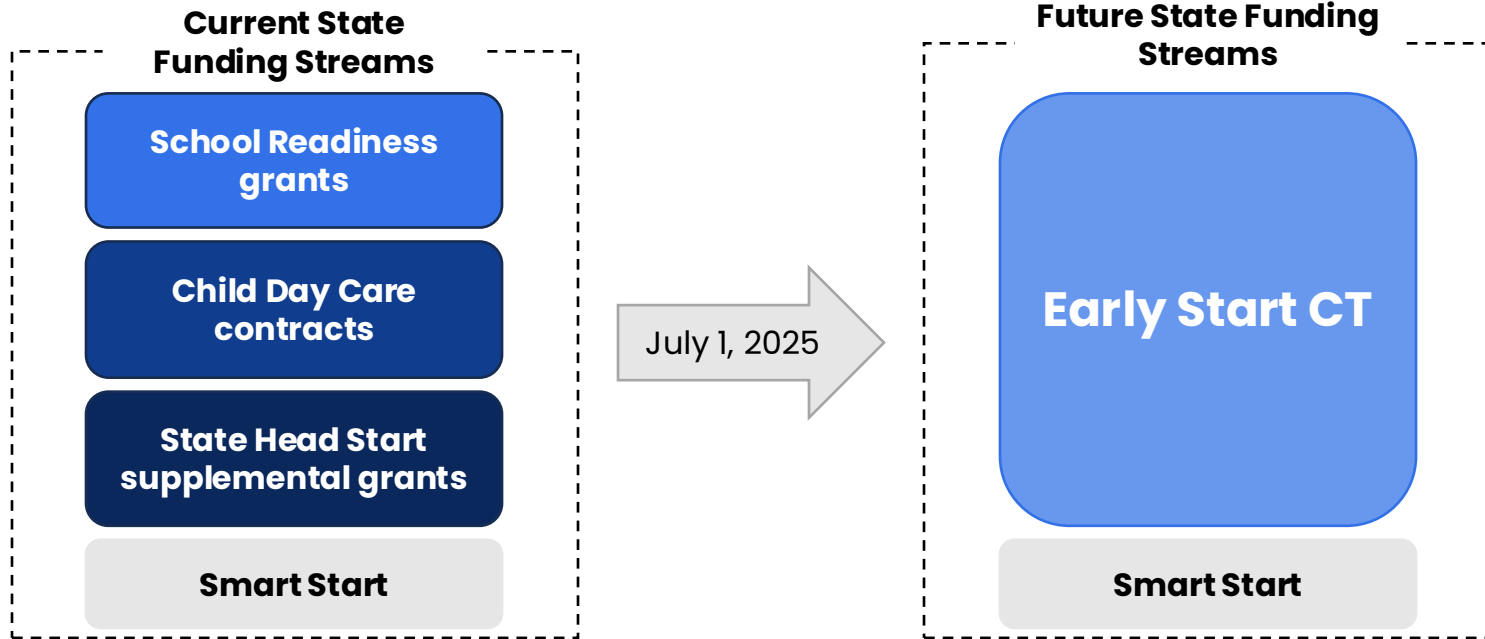
## Goals for Today's Session

- 1) Have a clear understanding of child attendance and program reimbursement for Early Start CT
- 2) Know how to access and use available resources related to child attendance and program reimbursement



# What is Early Start CT?

Early Start CT is the new state funding stream that combines the current School Readiness grants, Child Day Care Contracts, and State Head Start supplemental grants; it goes into effect **July 1, 2025**



# Early Start CT Goals

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**Empower families and amplify parent voice** to better meet the needs of Connecticut children.



**Strengthen system collaboration and a shared vision** to build lasting partnerships between community stakeholders.



**Improve equitable access** to affordable, high-quality care and early childhood services and supports that meet a range of family needs.



**Promote best practices** to enhance provider's ability to support children's learning and development.

# Pre-Contracting Reminders

- **ALL Vendors** (new and existing) must submit the **Agency Vendor Form** to: **[erica.previti@ct.gov](mailto:erica.previti@ct.gov)**
- **Delay** in submission of the Agency Vendor form = **delay** in contract processing = **delay** in payment
- For a complete list of **precontracting resources**, forms and the frequently updated Q&A document visit Early Start Resources at: **<https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct-resources/>**

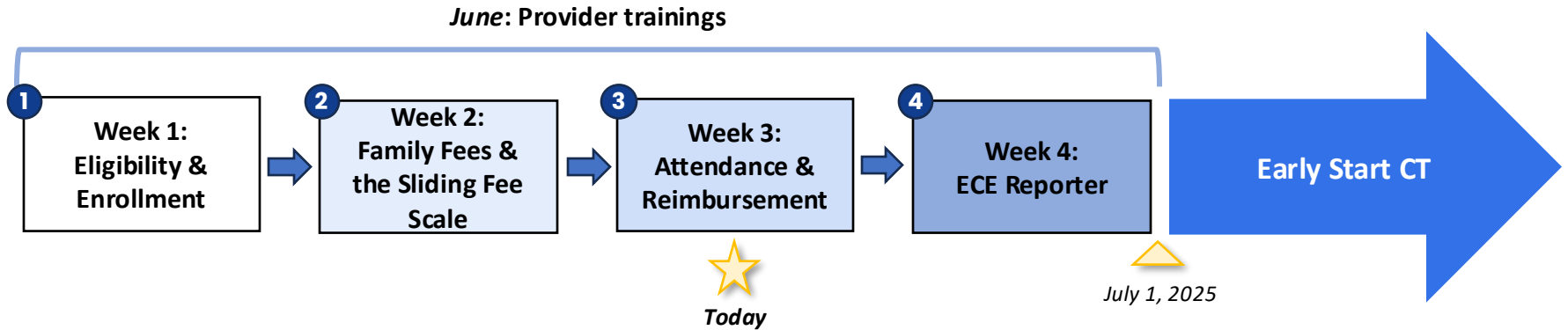


# Early Start Contract Overview

- To **expedite** contract execution, the OEC has worked with the Office of Attorney General on an **approved** ESCT contract template.
- Individual contracts **do not need** to go to the OAG for final approval.
- OAG approved templates **do not allow** for individual contract language change requests.
- The Early Start CT contract template **follows the same structure** as previously executed Child Day Care contracts **BUT is more condensed** and does not contain the content that is covered in General Policies.
- This week, OEC will begin **processing and sending contracts** to Vendors who have submitted the necessary forms and for which OEC has verified the business name in all systems.



# Timeline: ESCT training and launch



The Early Start CT Team will be offering additional trainings this fall.



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# General Policies





# General Policy: Attendance

## General policy language

- Programs are required to utilize all state-funded spaces on a consistent basis.
- Children enrolled in Early Start CT spaces **must** attend the program **at least one (1) day** per monthly reporting period.

## Relevant Guidance

### ***What is a monthly reporting period?***

Each calendar month of the year is a **monthly reporting period**

- For example: August 2025's monthly reporting period goes from **August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025**
- The requirement of utilization of spaces one (1) day per monthly reporting period is a **minimum**. Programs are expected to have families consistently attend state-funded spaces.



# General Policy: Reimbursement & Utilization

## Early Start CT

### General policy language

#### Early Start CT

- Contractors are paid quarterly and in advance of services provided.
- Programs that utilize **at least eighty-five percent (85%)** of their assigned Early Start CT spaces each quarter will be paid a full quarterly payment.
- Programs that **do not** meet the eighty-five percent (85%) monthly utilization threshold will be paid based on utilized spaces only.

### Relevant Guidance

#### How is utilization calculated?

- Utilized spaces will be calculated at the monthly report site level using ECE Reporter site data.
- ECE Reporter will automatically calculate utilization percentages and compute funds earned.
- Utilization is reconciled during the year to ensure accurate payments were made.



# General Policy: Reimbursement & Utilization

## *Early Start CT State Head Start*

### General policy language

#### *Early Start CT State Head Start*

- ESCT programs with State Head Start spaces will receive their full quarterly payment provided their utilization of spaces for the previous quarter is **at least fifty percent (50%)**.
- If utilization falls below fifty percent (50%), programs will be required to meet with their assigned OEC Program Manager and submit a Utilization Plan explaining how the program will increase utilization, with timeline.
- If utilization does not increase by the end of the following quarter, funding may be reduced.

### Relevant Guidance

#### *How is utilization calculated?*

- Utilized spaces will be calculated at the monthly report site level using ECE Reporter site data.
- ECE Reporter will automatically calculate utilization percentages.



# General Policy: Reimbursement & Utilization

Overall Enrollment								
Age Group	Space Type	Capacity	Attended	Spaces Utilized	Monthly per Child Rate	Funding Allocation ?	Funds Earned by Utilization ?	Funds Received ?
Preschool	Full-day/Full-year	78	78	78	\$875.00	\$68,250.00	\$68,250.00	\$68,250.00
Infant Toddler	Full-day/Full-year	13	15	13	\$1,125.00	\$14,625.00	\$14,625.00	\$14,625.00
						Average Percentage of Utilization: <b>100%</b> ?		
						Precise Percentage of Utilization: <b>100%</b>		



# Infant Toddler Reimbursement Rates

Ages Served	Space Type Care Level	Months of Care Provided Annually	Definition	Annual Reimbursement Rate
6 weeks – 3 years	Full Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>35–50 hours per week.</b>	\$13,500
6 weeks – 3 years	Half Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>16–34 hours per week.</b>	\$9,300
6 weeks – 3 years	Quarter Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>2–15 hours per week.</b>	\$4,800
6 weeks – 3 years	Full Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>35–50 hours per week.</b>	\$11,250
6 weeks – 3 years	Half Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>16–34 hours per week.</b>	\$7,750
6 weeks – 3 years	Quarter Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>2–15 hours per week.</b>	\$4,000



# Preschool Reimbursement Rates

Ages Served*	Space Type Care Level	Months of Care to be Provided Annually	Definition	Annual Reimbursement Rate
2.8 years – 5 years	Full Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>35- 50 hours per week.</b>	\$10,500
2.8 years – 5 years	Half Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>16- 34 hours per week.</b>	\$7,200
2.8 years – 5 years	Quarter Time	12 months	Care that is provided <b>2-15 hours per week.</b>	\$3,600
2.8 years – 5 years	Full Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>35- 50 hours per week.</b>	\$8,750
2.8 years – 5 years	Half Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>16- 34 hours per week.</b>	\$6,000
2.8 years – 5 years	Quarter Time	10 months	Care that is provided <b>2-15 hours per week.</b>	\$3,000

\*Children enrolled in a state-funded preschool space **may not be eligible for kindergarten.**



# School Age Reimbursement Rates

Ages Served	Space Type Care Level	Definition	Annual Reimbursement Rate
Enrolled in Kindergarten - 12 years	School Age	Care that is provided <b>at least 35 hours per week when school is not in session and 10-25 hours per week when school is in session.</b>	\$4,125
Enrolled in Kindergarten - 12 years	School Age	Care that is provided <b>at least 10-25 hours per week when school is in session, 10 months per year only.</b>	\$2,700
Enrolled in Kindergarten - 12 years	School Age	Care that is provided <b>at least 35 hours per week when school is NOT in session, 2 months per year only.</b>	\$1,150



# General Policy: Full Time Shared Space

## General policy language

**Programs may utilize a full-time space to serve one or two children.** If a full-time space is split between two children, a minimum of 35 hours of care must be utilized between the two children weekly.

## Relevant Guidance

**ECE Reporter** will have an option to choose if a child is attending a shared space. Programs will enter the hours the children each attended to meet the 35-hour a week minimum for a full time space reimbursement.





# Provider Training Schedule

JUNE				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3 <b>Overview of ESCT</b> 12-1pm on Zoom	4 <b>*Overview of ESCT</b> 6-7pm on Zoom	5 <b>OEC Office Hours</b> 9-10am on Zoom	6
9	10 <b>Family fees &amp; sliding scale</b> 12-1pm on Zoom	11 <b>*Family fees &amp; sliding scale</b> 6-7pm on Zoom	12 <b>OEC Office Hours</b> 9-10am on Zoom	13
16	17 <b>Attendance &amp; reimbursement</b> 12-1pm on Zoom	18 <b>*Attendance &amp; reimbursement</b> 6-7pm on Zoom	19 <i>OEC closed for Juneteenth holiday</i>	20
23 <b>OEC Office Hours</b> 9-10am on Zoom Register <a href="#">*here*</a>	24 <b>ECE Reporter</b> 12-1pm on Zoom Register <a href="#">*here*</a>	25 <b>*ECE Reporter</b> 6-7pm on Zoom Register <a href="#">*here*</a>	26 <b>OEC Office Hours</b> 9-10am on Zoom Register <a href="#">*here*</a>	27
30	31	July 1 ★ <i>Early Start CT</i> ★ <i>officially launches!</i>	<b>* Spanish translation services offered</b>  All events will be recorded, and materials will be shared with programs. All recordings will be available on the Early Start CT website.	



# Check out these resources!

- Early Start CT website - <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/>
- Current State-Funded General Policies - <https://www.ctoec.org/general-policies/>
- ECE Reporter-<https://ece-reporter.oec.ct.gov>
- Family Fee Calculator - <https://ece-reporter.oec.ct.gov/#InstructionTab>
- OEC Professional Registry-<https://oecregistry.org>

## Reminder!

**This presentation will be emailed to all participants following the last session and posted to the Early Start CT website, along with this recording.**



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**Please add to the Q&A future webinar topics you  
would like to see offered by the OEC team**



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# Thank you!

