Early Start CT

RFA Info Session

Agenda

- **Housekeeping**

- **Registration and Application**

- **Baseline Funding Process**

- **OEC Website- Early Start**

- **Next Steps**

Account Registration

- To register, click Registration link and complete account registration using the **same email address** that is listed on Early Start email.

- Create Password

- Click "Register"

- Register confirmation message will display on the same screen. Click *confirm* registration in that message.

Accessing the Application

- Use the LOG IN button at the **top right** to access your unique ES Application

Registration Link

Program Eligibility

Program Eligibility | Program Operation | Spaces And Funding | Head Start | Narrative Responses | Final Attestation

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Program Eligibility

Be a current child care program that is:

- Licensed family child care home(DCFH)
- Licensed group child care home(DCGH)
- Licensed child care center(DCCC)
- License – exempt center based program(DCEX)
- Located in a public school

Meet OEC accreditation requirements.

- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children(NAEYC) or
- National Association for Family Child Care(NAFCC) accredited, and / or
- Head Start/Early Head Start approved or
- Have an approved waiver and a plan to achieve accreditation according to the waiver agreement with OEC.

Continue

Program Operation

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Program Operation

Site Name

Site Address

Site Town/City

Site Zip Code

Site Contact Name

Site Contact Email

Registry ID

Total Capacity

Capacity Under 3

Annual Funding Amount

CHEFA Obligation

State Head Start Funding Total

☑ The applicant's facility is financed through CHEFA tax-exempt loans.

Note

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Baseline Formula

The OEC used data in ECE Reporter to calculate Baseline Funding amounts using this 5 Step Process

Step 1: Add up the funds your program received for the last 2 fiscal years

This is the amount your program received (what we paid you) for used spaces through Child Day Care Contracts and School Readiness grants. Check your monthly reports that were submitted in ECE Reporter to find the number.

Then combine the funds for the last two fiscal years. Remember that fiscal years are different than calendar years.

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2023: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2024: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

That amount is your **total funds earned**.

EXAMPLE:

$45,000 [total funds earned FY 2023] + $47,000 [total funds earned FY 2024] = $92,000 [total funds earned]

Step 2: Add the funds your program was eligible to receive for the last 3 fiscal years

Now, add up the amount that you were **allocated** (what you were eligible to receive based on the full number of spaces). You can check your contract or grant award to find the number. It might be higher than the amount you actually earned.

Do this for the last 2 years.

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2023: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2024: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

That is your **total funds allocated**.

EXAMPLE:
$50,000 [total funds allocated FY 2023] + $50,000 [total funds allocated FY 2024] = $100,000 [total funds allocated]

Step 3: Divide the total funds earned by the total funds allocated

This will give you a percentage that is your **average utilization.**

EXAMPLE:

$92,000 [total funds earned] / $100,000 [total funds allocated] = 0.92 (92% average utilization)

Step 4: Add a 4% bonus to your average utilization (up to 100%)

This will give you your **final percentage**. The final percentage cannot exceed 100%. The 4% bonus ensures programs are eligible for the same amount or more funding than they have been receiving the past 2 years.

EXAMPLE:

92% [average utilization] + 4% [bonus] = 96% [final percentage]

Step 5: Get the funds your program is eligible to receive for fiscal year 2025

You can find this number in your contract or grant award.

- Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Step 6: Multiply your fiscal year 2025 contract number by your final percentage

This is your final estimate baseline funding amount.

EXAMPLE:

$100,000 [total funds allocated FY 2025] x 0.96 (96%) [final percentage] = $96,000

Spaces and Funding

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Spaces and Funding

Your funding amount for spaces is: **$358,300.43**

Space Request Calculation:$0.00

Ages Served	Age Group	Space Type Care Level	Definition	Description	Annual Rate	# of Spaces requested
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Full Time (12 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **35-50 hours per week.**	Current Full-Day Slot	$13,500	0
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Half Time (12 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **16-34 hours per week.**	School-Day slot	$9,300	0
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Quarter Time (12 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **2-15 hours per week.**	Current Wrap Around Slot	$4,800	0
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Full Time (10 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **35-50 hours per week.**	Current Full-Day Slot	$11,250	0
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Half Time (10 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **16-34 hours per week.**	School-Day slot	$7,750	0
6 weeks – 3 years	Infant/Toddler	Quarter Time (10 Months)	Care for children from six weeks to three years of age that is provided for **2-15 hours per week.**	Current Wrap Around Slot	$4,000	0

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Spaces and Funding, cont.

3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Full Time(12 Months)	Care for children from 3 years* – 5 years of age that is provided for at **least 35 hours per week.**	Current Full-Day Slot	$10,500	0
3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Half Time(12 Months)	Care for children from 3 years* – 5 years of age that is provided for **16-34 hours per week.**	Current School-Day or Part Day Slot	$6,000	0
3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Quarter Time(12 Months)	Care for children from 3 years*- to 5 years of age that is provided for **2-15 hours per week.**	Current Part Day, Wrap-Around, or Extended Day slot	$3,600	0
3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Full Time(10 Months)	Care for children from 3 years* – 5 years of age that is provided for at **least 35 hours per week.**	Current Full-Day Slot	$8,750	0
3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Half Time(10 Months)	Care for children from 3 years* – 5 years of age that is provided for **16-34 hours per week.**	Current School-Day or Part Day Slot	$6,000	0
3 years – 5 years *not enrolled in kindergarten	Preschool	Quarter Time(10 Months)	Care for children from 3 years*- to 5 years of age that is provided for **2-15 hours per week.**	Current Part Day, Wrap-Around, or Extended Day slot	$3,000	0
Enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years	School Age	Full Time	Care for children from 5 years of age and enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years of age that is provided for at **least 35 hours per week when school is not in session, and 10-25 hours per week when school is in session.**	Hybrid slot that provides before & after care when school is in session and full-day care when school is not in session	$4,125	0
Enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years	School Age	Half Time	Care for children from 5 years of age and enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years of age that is provided for at **least 10-25 hours per week when school is in session, 10 months/year only.**	Slot for Before & After School care only when school is in session (Sept – June)	$2,700	0
Enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years	School Age	Quarter Time	Care for children from 5 years of age and enrolled in Kindergarten – 12 years of age that is provided for **least 35 hours per week when school is NOT in session, 2 months/year only.**	Slot for Full-day care only when school is not in session (July & Aug)	$1,150	0

Spaces and Funding, cont.

* OEC Licensing allows a child to be enrolled in a preschool space at 2.8 years as a three-year old providing each of the following requirements are met:

- The child care center or group child care home is licensed by OEC
- The program holds a preschool endorsement on their DCCC or DCGH license;
- The program obtains authorization from the child's parent or guardian to enroll the child in preschool;
- The program director provides authorization for the enrollment of the child in preschool;
- Written authorizations are maintained on file.

**Programs can choose between 10 or 12 months of care for only the space types indicated.

☐ Please indicate if your program is currently supported by a fiduciary/contractor who pays you directly?

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Head Start

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Head Start

Applicants for Early Start CT (State Head Start) must be a federal Head Start/Early Head Start grant recipient and/or delegate agency who currently receives the State Head Start Supplement grant. Head Start/Early Head Start Partners may not apply for Early Start CT (State Head Start)

- Pursuant to legislation, State Head Start funding is to be allocated in the following way:
  75% of total funding is to:
  - Create new extended day, year-round spaces for HS/EHS classrooms
  - Create new full day, year-round spaces for HS/EHS classrooms
  - Expand existing federal HS/EHS spaces to extended day, year-round classrooms
  - Expand existing federal HS/EHS spaces to full day, year-round classrooms
- 25% of total funding is to be for the purpose of enhancing program quality.
- **100% of funding amount is 27319.39**
- **75% of funding amount is 20489.54**
- **25% of funding amount is 6829.85**

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Head Start, cont.

# New Extended Day/Year Round Spaces (**Head Start Services**)	
# New Full Day/Year Round Spaces (**Head Start Services**)	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces (**Head Start Services**)	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces (**Head Start Services**)	
# New Extended Day/Year Round Spaces (**Early Head Start Services**)	
# New Full Day/Year Round Spaces (**Early Head Start Services**)	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces (**Early Head Start Services**)	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces (**Early Head Start Services**)	

For the purposes of this application, OEC defines "enhancing program quality" in the following ways. Please check all items below that describe how your program will use 25% of funding to enhance program quality.

☐ Create new extended day, year-round spaces for HS/EHS classrooms
☐ Create new full day, year-round spaces for HS/EHS classrooms
☐ Create new extended day, year-round spaces for HS/EHS classrooms
☐ Expand existing federal HS/EHS spaces to full day, year-round classrooms
☐ Create or expand early literacy programming for HS/EHS children
☐ Create or expand social emotional learning programming for HS/EHS children
☐ Increase compensation, particularly for positions that are not receiving competitive wages and benefits (including consideration of elementary school compensation), experiencing higher rates of turnover, challenging to fill, or preventing programs from reaching full enrollment
☐ Increase career opportunities for entry level staff through support for increased credentials and commensurate compensation increases, including through scholarships, mentors, and coaches – with direct connection to OEC resources and scholarships for staff incentives
☐ Improve preventive mental health screening, assessment, and interventions for children
☐ Enhance mental health consultation — including hiring of additional mental health professionals — to better support staff and improve the organizational approach to identifying mental health needs and integrating supports and services for children, families, and staff
☐ Hire additional qualified family services staff or home visitors to expand comprehensive services to non-HS/EHS children or to Early Start CT funded spaces within the program, and enhance family-staff relationships and improve quality of responsive, individualized services
☐ Provide ongoing coaching to staff
☐ Provide training on trauma-informed approaches to all staff, governing boards, and Policy Councils, and ensure training is accompanied with coaching and opportunities for reflective practice and supervision
☐ Enhance transportation services to promote more regular participation by children and families in services designed to support development and learning and address trauma.

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Head Start, cont.

# New Extended Day/Year Round Spaces **(Head Start Quality)**	
# New Full Day/Year Round Spaces **(Head Start Quality)**	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces **(Head Start Quality)**	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces **(Head Start Quality)**	

# New Extended Day/Year Round Spaces **(Early Head Start Quality)**	
# New Full Day/Year Round Spaces **(Early Head Start Quality)**	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces **(Early Head Start Quality)**	
# Expanded existing federal HS spaces to extended day, year-round spaces **(Early Head Start Quality)**	

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Narrative Responses

Program Eligibility   Program Operation   Spaces And Funding   Head Start   Narrative Responses   Final Attestation

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Narrative Responses

1. Are you currently utilizing any child assessment tool(s) and the data from those assessments to inform communication with families about their children's learning and development? If yes, please describe what you are using and how it informs your communication with families about their children's learning and development.

2. What is your enrollment strategy to meet the requirements outlined in the legislation establishing Early Start CT (2024 P.A. 24-78 (S.B. 14, Sec. 26))? Here is the link to the legislation:

3. What is your plan to recruit and retain a diverse staff that is reflective of the community your program serves?

4. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) expects that all children and families have a sense of full belonging and are valued, respected, and supported. This occurs through full participation in everyday activities. Our OEC providers, communities and schools adopt and promote the culture, practices, and relationships necessary to foster inclusion and meaningful access and participation for the benefit of all children, including children with disabilities. How are you supporting serving children with disabilities?

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Final Attestation

Early Start Connecticut Request for Application

Final Attestation

Submission of this application to the Office of Early Childhood is attestation by the applicant they will meet the enrollment requirements outlined in the legislation establishing Early Start CT (2024 P.A. 24-78 (S.B. 14, Sec. 24)): "At least sixty per cent of the eligible children enrolled in an early care and education program receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT shall be members of a family that is at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income."

Submission of this application to the Office of Early Childhood is attestation by the Applicant they have reviewed the State of Connecticut Purchase of Service (POS) state contract, , Part II and attest they will comply with the requirements as set forth in in the Connecticut POS contract Part II.

Submission of this application to the Office of Early Childhood is attestation the Applicant is in compliance with General Policy A-03, Data Reporting Requirements (ECE Reporter and Registry).

Disclaimer: OEC reserves the right to:

- Require changes to the space types requested to meet the needs of children and families;
- Offer a one-year contract for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to programs that:
  - have been issued a consent order on or after January 1, 2023; and/or
  - had an open investigation since January 1, 2023; and/or
  - have been operating with state funds prior to January 1, 2021 and are not accredited (NAEYC or NAFCC) or Head Start approved or have an OEC approved waiver.

☑ I have read and agree to the terms and conditions and am an authorized person to submit this application.

Full Legal Name	Email Address	Phone Number

Submit

Next Steps

- Application Due Date – December 5th
- Questions – oec.app.eceqi@ct.gov
- Q&A and Webinars – OEC Early Start webpage - https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/