



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



### Connecticut Administered State Funded Program General Policy D-01

#### Local Governance Partners: Membership and Responsibilities

- X   OEC Early Start CT Programs  
      OEC Smart Start CT Programs
- 

Connecticut General Statutes Sec.10-550c states that the role and responsibilities of a local or regional governance partner (LGP) shall include, but are not limited to conducting and administering a data-driven needs assessment for its community or region, ensuring parental engagement, providing technical assistance regarding best practices in early care and education and family engagement, and ensuring that community outreach is regularly conducted and maintained with community stakeholders. LGPs are supported by a Local Governance Partner Fiduciary.

#### **POLICY**

LGP shall be made up of the following four subgroups. As defined in the LGP Intermediary contract, each subgroup serves a critical role in supporting strong partnerships between state and local entities and state-funded programs:

- **Local Governance Partners Fiduciary** - the entity responsible for signing the Contract with the LGP Intermediary and the Office of Early Childhood, and receiving funding to support the LGP Liaisons, Parent Ambassadors, and LGP Community Table convenings.
- **Local Governance Partners Community Table** - a collaborative space that serves as a neutral, inclusive forum where diverse organizations, parents, and stakeholders come together to engage in open dialogue, share insights, and work towards collective community goals.
- **Local Governance Partners Liaison** - one or more individuals who are employed year-round to coordinate and assist the efforts of the LGP to meet the needs of the community, deliver services and activities, supervise the Parent Ambassador(s), visit ESCT programs to support and enhance quality and compliance through on-going monitoring and consistent feedback to providers. Liaison's shall participate in:
  - **Community Engagement:** Identify and respond to local needs in alignment with LGP goals.
  - **Parent Ambassador Support:** Supervise and mentor Parent Ambassador(s) to strengthen family and community engagement.



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- **Program Monitoring:** Conduct site visits to ESCT programs to support quality improvement and ensure compliance through ongoing monitoring and consistent, constructive feedback in the preferred language of the programs.
- **Culturally Responsive Communication:** Ensure all feedback and communications are delivered in ways that are respectful of and responsive to the cultural needs of programs.
- **Parent Ambassadors** - a trained parent leader within the community who serves as a trusted messenger for families and supports parents and families across the entire community.

### **Local Governance Partner Community Table Membership**

As defined in the LGP Intermediary contract, the Local Governance Partner Community Table shall reflect the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the town or region it serves. As described in Connecticut General Statutes Sec.10-550c, be comprised of early care and education professionals, including but not limited to the following:

1. Elected and appointed officials
2. Parents
3. Representatives with expertise in early care and education programs
4. Smart Start representatives
5. Local education and healthcare providers in the community
6. Local homeless education liaison
7. Community representatives from workforce or job training entities; and
8. Other community representatives who provide services to children

### **Technical Assistance and Professional Development**

The LGP Community Table and Liaison offer technical assistance and professional development to ESCT programs and community to support high quality early care and education. This should be provided to programs in culturally responsive ways to meet the needs of families and staff.

These technical assistance and professional development opportunities are offered in collaboration with OEC, focusing on:

- Sharing resources, information and best practices
- Providing technical assistance on policies and practices
- Assessing needs and setting program and community priorities
- Problem solving common challenges among programs
- Developing collaborative initiatives across programs.

### **OTHER POLICY INFORMATION**

LGP shall collaborate with the Intermediary to:

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- Empower parents by providing access to OEC initiatives, statewide programs, community resources as well as information and referrals regarding the early care and education system in the preferred language of the family;
- Build supportive relationships between families, programs, and the LGP Community Table;
- Assess community needs in order to improve equitable access to affordable, high quality early care and education, and;
- Provide resources, guidance, professional development opportunities, and Quality Enhancement funds to allow programs to best support children's learning and development, ensuring such things are culturally responsive to the program.

LGP Fiduciary's that reach the \$250,000 administrative funding cap per year for FY26 and/or FY27 are eligible for additional funding that matches the amount of local funding an LGP receives, up to \$50,000 per year. The LGP Fiduciary shall, if eligible, apply for match funding from the intermediary as outlined in the LGP Fiduciary contract.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- I. **Local Governance Partner Intermediary:** The entity, funded by OEC, responsible for providing oversight and coordination to LGPs.
- II. **Smart Start:** competitive grant program that provides funding to establish or expand a preschool program in public schools which represents funding separate from ESCT.

*In the unlikely event that any provision of this General Policy is found to be inconsistent with any contract or grant provision, the contract or grant shall govern.*

For further information concerning this GENERAL POLICY please contact your OEC Program Manager or visit <https://www.ctoec.org/contact-us/>