



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Administered State-Funded Program General Policy E-02

Federal Head Start Grant Recipients Receiving State Funding

- ☒ OEC Early Start CT Programs
☐ OEC Smart Start CT Programs
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This policy applies to Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Early Start CT (ESCT) programs that also receive federal Head Start funding. It outlines the requirements for these programs that receive funding from multiple funding streams.

POLICY

OEC encourages combining funds, which may include *blending funding streams*, *braiding funding streams*, or *layering funding streams* to expand and enhance services for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

In addition to state funding, ESCT contractors may utilize other funding sources, including:

- *Federal Head Start, Early Head Start,*
- *Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Family Resource Center (FRC) programs, and*
- *Department of Children and Families (DCF) child care grantor programs (if the funding is not solely used to operate an ESCT space).*

Programs that receive multiple funding sources are expected to submit, upon request, detailed budgets, including budget narratives, identifying all funding sources. OEC requires programs to detail how state funds are used to provide child care services. Budgets shall be provided to OEC promptly upon request and will be reviewed for compliance with contract terms.

ESCT contractors shall comply with all applicable obligations of any funding source supporting an ESCT space. Contractors shall notify OEC within ten (10) business days of receipt of notification of any funding reduction or termination.

DEFINITIONS

- I. **Blending funding streams:** combining funds from two or more funding sources together to fund a specific part of a program or initiative. Federal compliance requires



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grant recipients be able to trace all funds used to support services back to the funding source.¹

- II. **Braiding funding streams:** two or more funding sources are used to support the total cost of a service while maintaining their separate identities. Revenues are divided and expenditures are tracked by different categories of funding sources. Cost allocation methods are required to ensure there is no duplicate funding of service costs and that each funding source is charged its fair share across the partners.¹
- III. **CT State Department of Education's (CSDE) Family Resource Center programs:** programs that provide access within a community to a broad continuum of early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families. CSDE administers the state's FRCs.
- IV. **Child care grantor programs:** DCF programs providing care to children for whom DCF pays child care costs.
- V. **Layering funding streams:** combining funding from different sources to offer comprehensive services guaranteeing federal funds will be used to improve service quality without duplication or replacement of existing child care funding (supplementing and not supplanting).¹
- VI. **Head Start:** any program authorized under the Head Start Act.
- VII. **Head Start Act:** legislation that authorizes Head Start programs to promote school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.²

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/>

¹ <https://headstart.gov/publication/cost-allocation-tip-sheet>

² <https://headstart.gov/policy/head-start-act>