

OEC Updates

11/6/2020





Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

OUR MISSION:

To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding, and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators, and communities play in a child's life.

OUR VISION:

All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support, and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

**The OEC is currently revising its mission and vision statements to reflect the importance of advancing equity.*

OEC to Cover Today

Data, Memo
Updates

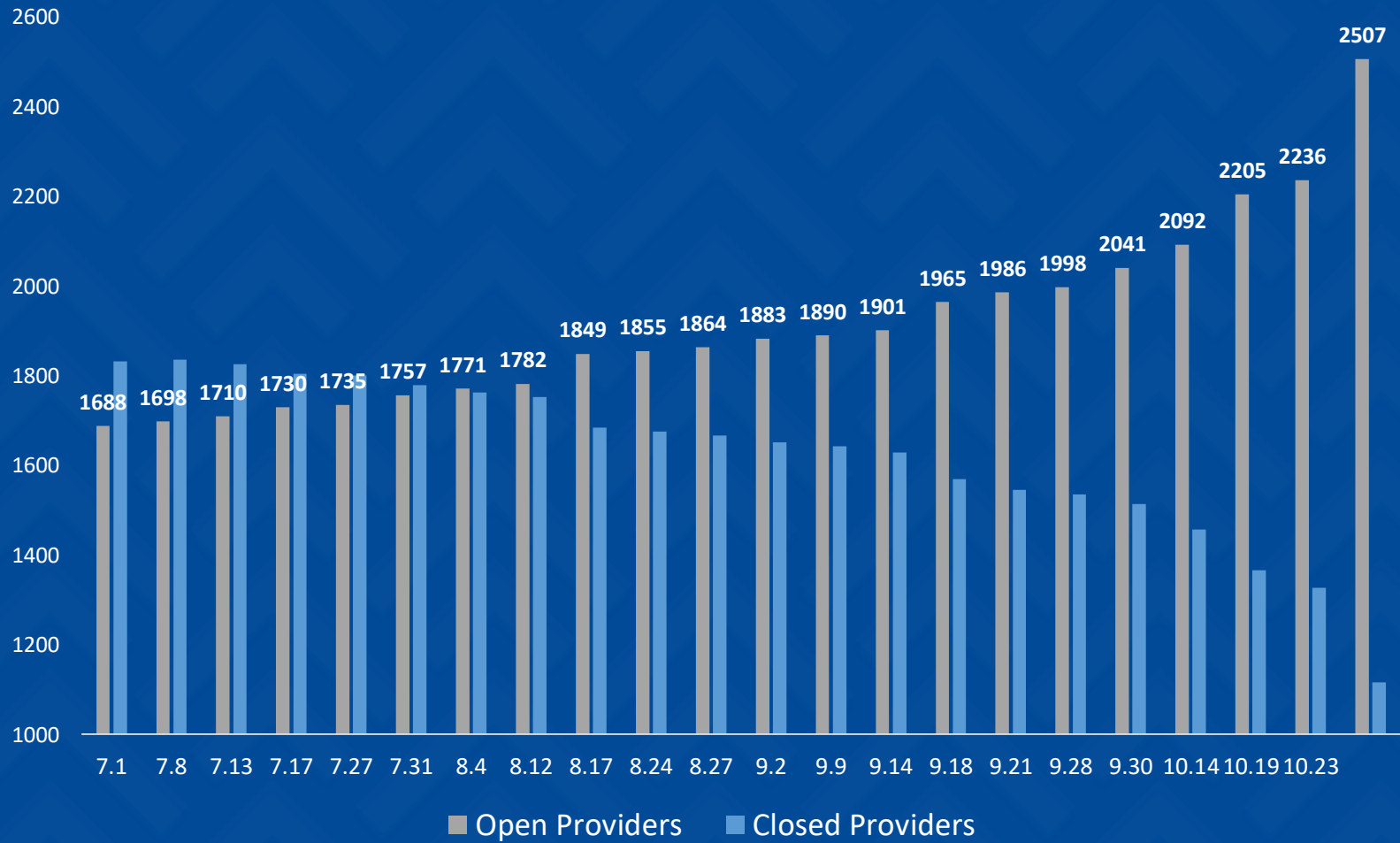
Resources,
Supports

Communication,
Listening
Sessions

Licensing,
Consumer
Friendly
Website

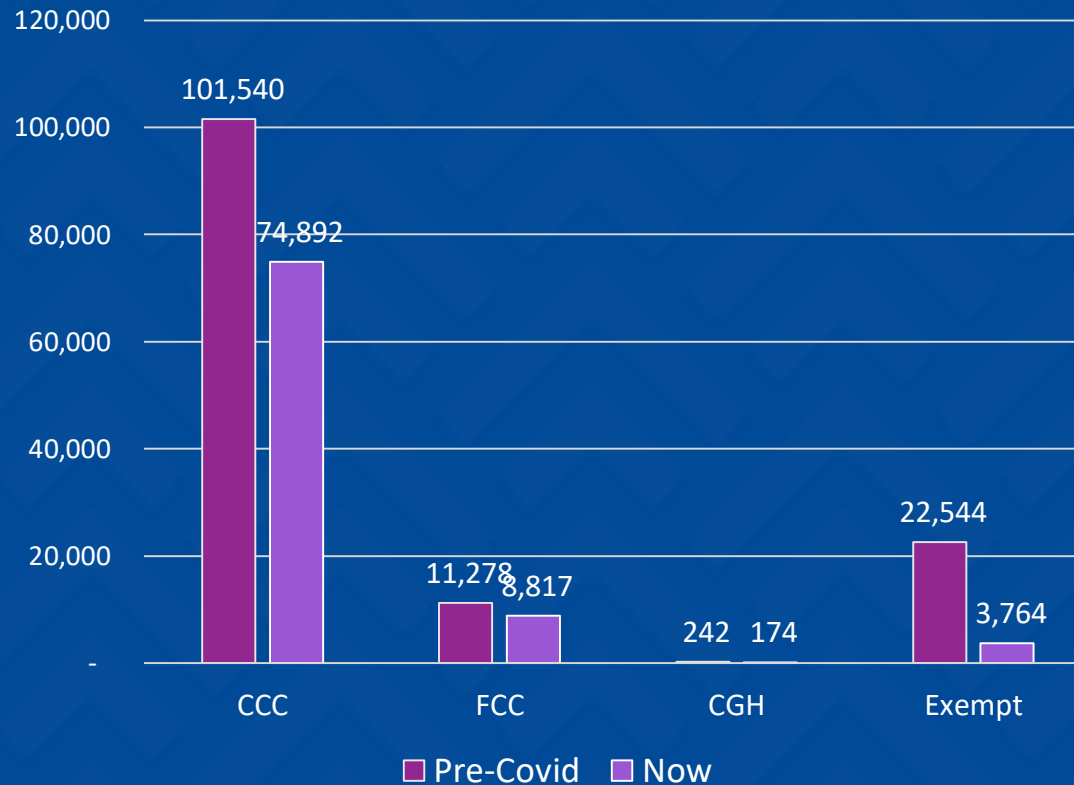
Program Open/Closed Status

Open / Closed Programs (7/1/20 - 10/23/20)



Program Open/Closed Status

Child Care Slots Available by Type (Pre-COVID
vs. Now - 10/23/20)



Program Open/Closed Status

- The total number of available child care slots the week of 10/27 was an estimated 87,647 or 64.6% of the pre-COVID total.
 - This represents a 3.4% increase in available child care slots since 10/7.
- There was an increase in the number of open child care centers. 40 new programs opened in October, increasing the number of open centers from 899 to 939 (68.2% of all licensed). The number of family child care homes open increased by 10. As a result, 1,476 homes (78.5% of licensed) are open.
- Expired licenses since March: 2 FGH dropped license (2%), 52 Centers (4%), 102 FCC Homes (5%). 83 FCC licenses issued in same period.

OEC Calls with Local Health Directors and Superintendents



Young children still learn through play and social interactions.



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Connecticut COVID (COCO) Child Care Parent Survey

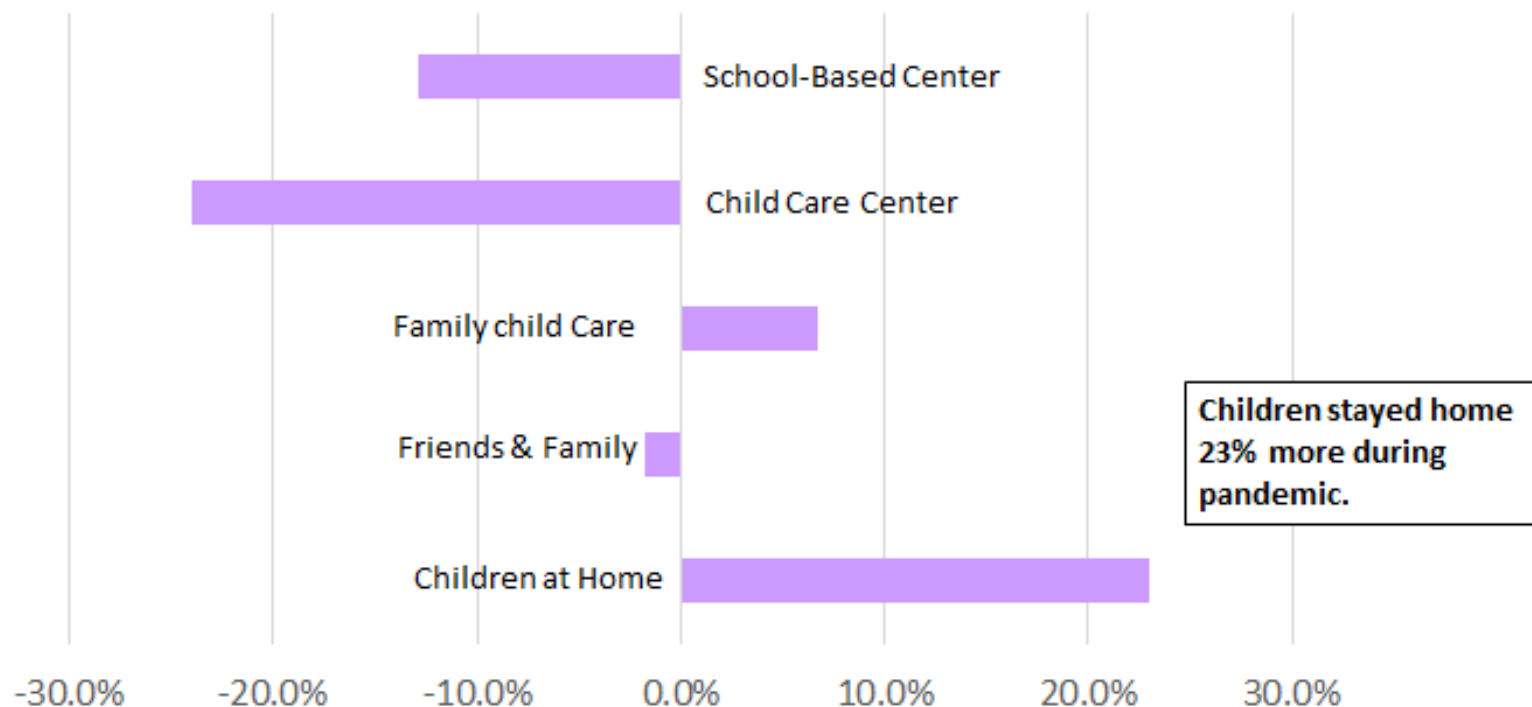
Survey was fielded **9/2/20 – 9/21/20**.

It was advertised through Facebook,
child care providers, and ECE listerv.

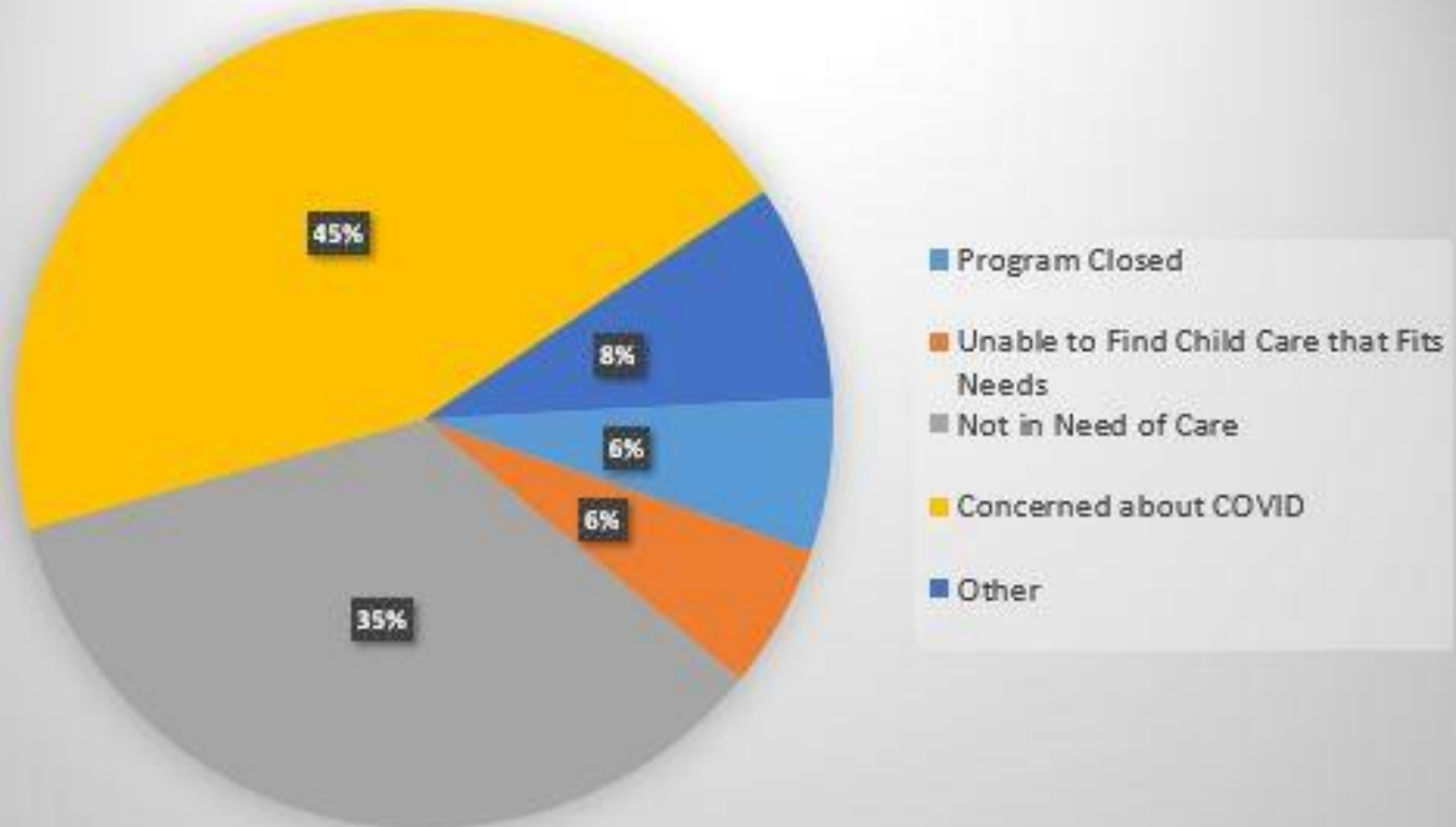
3.917 families responded;
representing **1.925 preschoolers** and
1.527 infants and toddlers.



Changes in Child Care Arrangements Before COVID & During COVID



Reasons Parents Said They Kept Their Children Home



“I would rather care for him myself even if it means working nights and weekends, keep him safe ...

– Mansfield

65% of families are **significantly**
or **extremely** worried about their
“Family Being Exposed to COVID”

Memo Updates:

- Finalized updates to all memos, available on website.
 - **Updates do not include any new policy changes.**
 - OEC has updated policy memos to ensure consistency and clarity in this ever-changing climate.
 - All updates dated November 3, 2020 ensure that earlier versions of memos are consistent with current policies.
 - Response to field requests
 - Group Size, masks most recent
 - [Link here:](https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/memos/)
<https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/memos/>

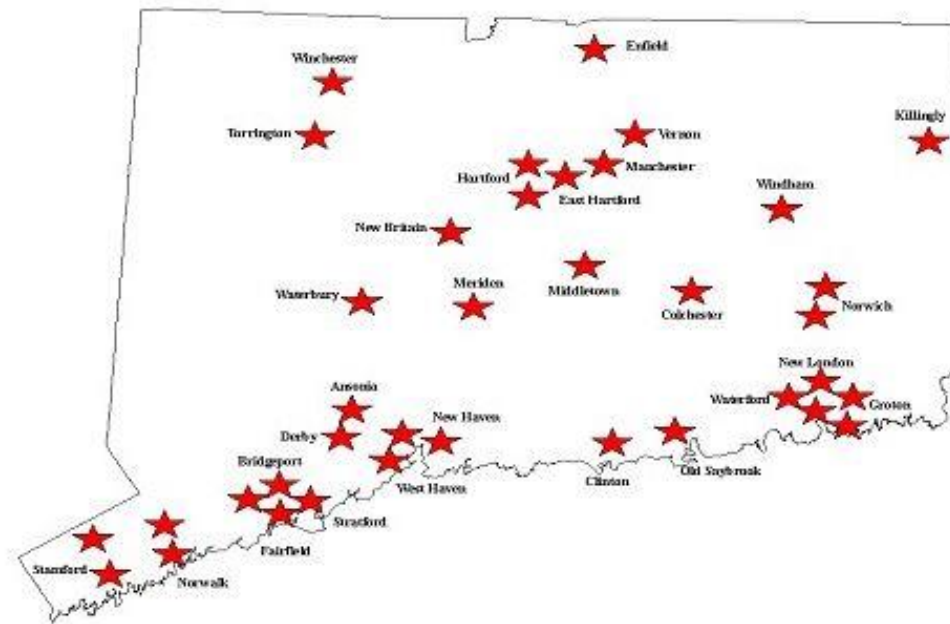
Resources and Supports



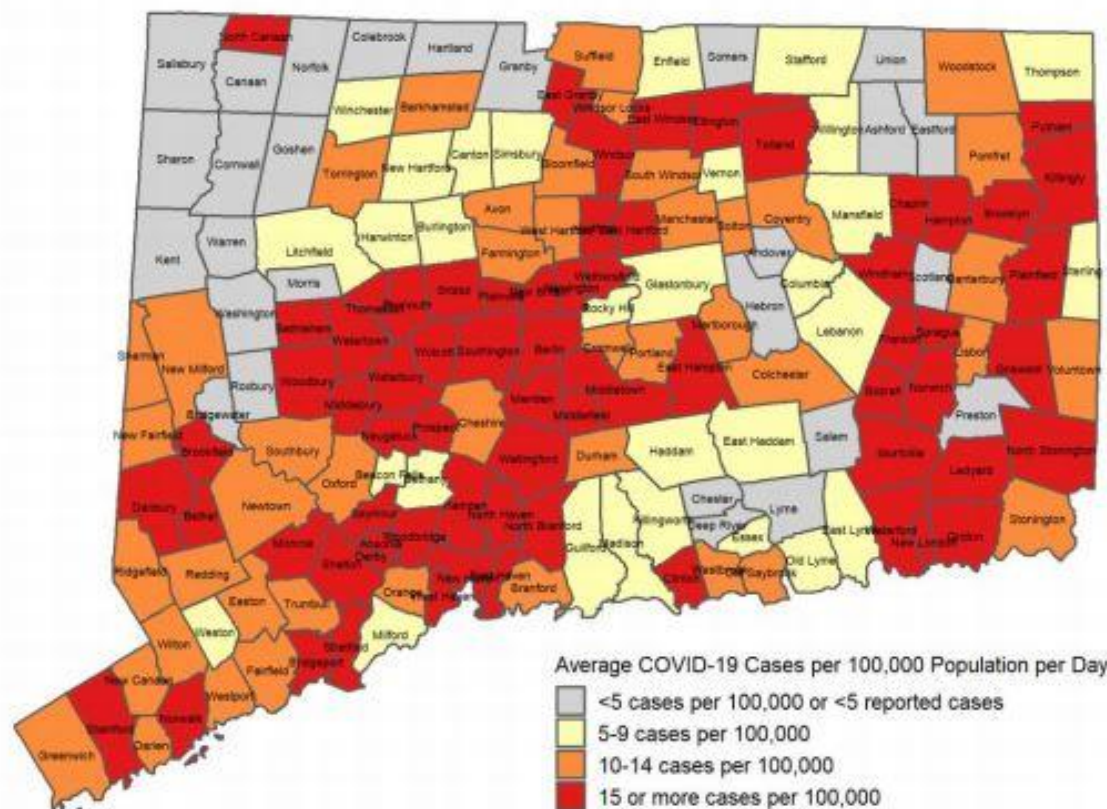
COVID-19 Testing - Memo 23

Go to the following site to access free testing at one of more than 100 sites in Connecticut. [ct.gov/priority testing](http://ct.gov/priority%20testing)

Testing sites can be located at 211 (www.ct211.org/covidtesting), and residents of those cities and towns identified as high risk are encouraged to avail themselves of the testing program.



Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases among People Living in Community Settings
per 100,000 Population by Town
with Specimen Collection or Onset Date During October 18-31



Map does not include 61 cases pending address validation

Grants

CT CARES Small Business Grant Program through DECD

- Department of Economic and Community Development
- \$50 million grant program to help Connecticut small businesses and non-profits during COVID-19.
- **Child care business may be eligible for a \$5,000 grant that you can receive before the end of the year.**
- Online application will be available the week of November 9. Information sessions available.

CTCARES for Workforce Development

- Gov. Lamont assigned funds from the Workforce Council to OEC to support child care infrastructure.
- Family Child Care Licensing Toolkit and enhanced supports to get licensed.
- Workforce board contracted child care spaces, Oct. – Dec.

CT CARES for Child Care Businesses

- WBDC Emergency relief grants

CCCCB: WBDC (Women's Business Development Council)

- Application is open for emergency operating funds from the Governor's Workforce Council (\$875,000 to be awarded; application closes 12-10-2020)
- 262 programs have applied as of 10-28-2020
- Requirements and details at <https://ctwbdc.org/childcare-emergency-grant/>
- WBDC will help providers to create business documents if they do not already have them
- English and Spanish application, and live bilingual support
- Programs that do not qualify or are not awarded will still be offered support from WBDC under the original OEC contract



Business and Operational Support

CTCARES for Child Care Businesses

Kickstart and Supply Grants

1. Extended to programs that opened between February 1 to September 30.
2. **Additional funding to applicants funded under first round.**
 - Proportion of first kickstart amount plus full supply subsidy for all programs.
 - KS based on CCDF CARES Funds available.
 - \$6⁺ million total for CCCCB to programs so far
 - \$2-3 million in this round
 - WBDC Business Supports
 - Background Check Fee Subsidy
 - Training Subsidy
 - Scholarship funds and PD through Registry
 - AQIS Supports and PD

Online Forms and Digital Fingerprinting



Save time, paper, and postage for your OEC background checks

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has developed digital resources to save you time, lower your business costs, and greatly improve the acceptance rate for fingerprints.



Online DCF Authorization and FBI Privacy Rights Act Statement forms are available here: <https://resources.211childcare.org/backgroundcheck/>

Your information is securely transmitted to OEC, with no need for printing, envelope, or postage. The two forms are followed by an invitation to book your digital fingerprinting appointment, which you can accept or not.



Already submitted paper forms?

Go ahead and request your digital fingerprint appointment here:
<https://211childcare.org/fingerprint/>

Governor's Emergency Educational Relief (GEER)

What is it ?

- Funding for GEER comes from \$3 billion dollars Congress set aside for the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act.
- CT received \$27.8 million dollars, of which OEC received \$4 million dollars

Who are we reaching?

- Intended to offer equitable resources to at risk (yet resilient) Connecticut families with young children who have limited access to remote learning technology and resources.

Specifically, GEER is reaching out to:

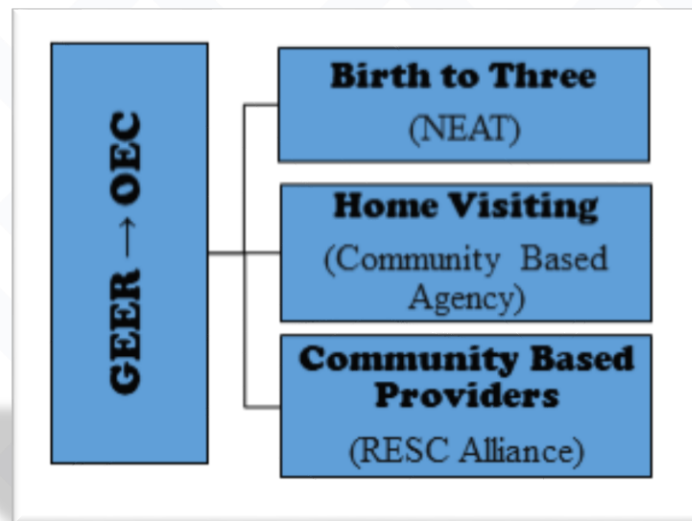
- Families with children with medical complexities
- Families with children where family member has comorbid medical condition
- Families with economic challenges (low income)



GEER

How is this Implemented?

- OEC is Partnering with the **Regional Educational Service Center Alliance (RESC)**, **New England Assistive Technology (NEAT)**, and a **Community Based Agency** to help distribute iPads and provide technical support and learning for children and families.



GEER

When does it end?

- GEER Funds will be used from now until September 2021*
...However, there is no end date regarding the return on investment

Deliverables

- iPad with Cellular Data and Protective Case
- Connectivity (Hotspots)
- Laptops, Coaching, Tech support, and Professional Development (PD by Erikson Institute)
- Sparkler: Mobile Developmental Screening (ASQ's) and Tips for Parents on Healthy Brain Development

Smaller Group Listening Sessions Feedback

1. Time of Day?
2. Topical or open ended?
 1. What topics if preference?
3. Most effective group size for listening and back and forth?
4. Upcoming meetings for SR and CDC programs in November.

Consumer Friendly Website



Inspection and Complaint History						
Visit Date	Visit Type ⓘ	Violations	Inspection Reason	Resolution	Status	Documents
09/30/2020	UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION - PARTIAL	0 Violations	Inspection & Findings	Closed No Violations 10/05/2020	CLOSED	1 Document
01/13/2020	Follow-Up Inspection	0 Violations	Follow-Up Visit for 11/21/2019	Corrective Action Plan 01/13/2020	CLOSED	1 Document
11/21/2019	UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION - FULL	4 Violations	Inspection & Findings	Corrective Action Plan 01/13/2020	CLOSED	2 Documents
03/20/2019	UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION - FULL	4 Violations	Inspection & Findings	Corrective Action Plan 04/03/2019	CLOSED	Not Available Online
05/24/2018	UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION - FULL	4 Violations	Inspection & Findings	Corrective Action Plan 07/09/2018	CLOSED	Not Available Online
09/18/2017	UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION - FULL	8 Violations	Inspection & Findings	Corrective Action Plan 10/10/2017	CLOSED	Not Available Online

OUR WORK

OEC is a state agency that oversees a network of programs and services that help young children and families thrive. OEC is made up of various divisions and programs which include:



Early Care and Education (ECE)

Support more than **400** ECE programs serving over **40,000** children



Care 4 Kids

Provide child care subsidies for lower income families who are working or are in approved education and training activities



Home Visiting

Provide parenting and child development support to families of young children and pregnant women



Birth to Three

Provide supports for families whose children have developmental delays



Parent Cabinet

Advisory group that partners with OEC to elevate family voice and develop family-centered policies, programs, and practices



Licensing

License and inspect more than **4,000** child care and youth camp programs to ensure health and safety



Background Checks

Oversee comprehensive background checks for child care providers



Quality Improvement

Provide early childhood professionals with supports to improve child care practices



Agency Administrative Functions

Fiscal, Legal, Communications, Information Technology, Data & Research



Government & Community Relations

Outreach and engagement with key stakeholders and partners



THANK YOU!