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**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF  
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT  
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2019**

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Ned Lamont  
Governor



Connecticut Office of  
Early Childhood

Beth Bye  
Commissioner



**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.*

**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.*

## **SECTION 1: FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

The Office of Early Childhood oversees and monitors state and federal early care and education programs through grants, contracts and child care subsidies. The age of children served is from Birth to age 5 for infant/toddler and preschool care, and up to age 13 for school-age care. These funds include:

1. Child Day Care Contract Program
2. School Readiness Grant Program
3. Smart Start Grant Program
4. State Head Start Supplement Program
5. Early Head Start Child Care Partnership
6. Even Start
7. Child Care Development Fund (including Care 4 Kids Subsidy Program)
8. Bond Funds for Capital Improvements

### ***Child Day Care Program***

Child Day Care programs provide early care and education to infants and toddlers, preschoolers and/or school age children who meet certain eligibility requirements, including incomes below 75% of the state median income. These programs are located in towns and cities across Connecticut. Section 8-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) specifies that the purpose of this funding is for the development and operation of child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental conditions pursuant. The services provided through the Child Day Care contracts are supported through state funds.

<b>CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACT PROGRAM</b>	
Number of Communities	47
Number of Programs	51
Number of Sites	107
Sites that are also SR (40 PSR; 9 CSR)	49
Sites that are also SHS	17
Sites that are also PDG	10
Infant/Toddler Full-Time	1,306
Infant/Toddler Wraparound	178
Preschool Full-Time	2,044
Preschool Wraparound	626
School-Age Full-Time	233
School-Age Part-Time	213

### **School Readiness**

School Readiness, a state-funded initiative, supports school readiness programs to provide access for 3- and 4-year old children to preschool programs. At least 60% of households serviced must have incomes under 75% of the State Medium Income. The School Readiness Program is comprised of both Priority and Competitive Communities as defined in legislation and is structured to:

- promote the health and safety of children;
- provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and accredited programs;
- encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and services;
- recognize the specific service needs and unique resources available to particular municipalities; prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delays in children;
- enhance federally funded school readiness programs;
- strengthen the family through encouragement of parental involvement;
- reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special education.

<b>SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM</b>			
	Priority	Competitive	Total
Number of Communities	21	46	67
Number of Programs	230	82	312
Number of Children	10,546	1,420	11,966
Full-Day Spaces	7,137	638	7,775
School-Day Spaces	1,806	292	2,098
Part-Day Spaces	1,144	490	1,634
Extended-Day Spaces	459	NA	459

### **Smart Start**

Smart Start serves children ages 3 and 4 years old in public school settings. It reimburses local and regional boards of education for capital\* and operating expenses related to establishing or expanding a preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town. Smart Start services are supported through state funds.

\*No new Capital Improvement Funds for FY 19.

<b>SMART START</b>	
Number of School Districts	24
Number of Classrooms	45
Children Served	665

**State Head Start Supplement**

Head Start is funded directly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and provides comprehensive child and family services to low-income families with children ages 3 to 5 years old. Head Start is federally funded to serve approximately 6,000 children, and through the State Head Start Supplement Connecticut provides supplemental funding to 11 of the 19 federally funded Head Start grantees to increase capacity by 320 preschool-aged children. These funds also extend the day/year of federally funded Head Start spaces and support quality enhancement activities in Head Start programs.

STATE HEAD START SERVICES	
Head Start Grantees/Delegates	# of Spaces
19	320
Bridgeport	20
Norwalk	15
Danbury	18
East Hartford	36
Hartford/Bristol	36
Manchester	15
Meriden	18
New Britain	17
New Haven	29
New London	17
Norwalk	15
Norwich	17
Stamford	20
Waterbury	14
West Haven	16
Windham	17

**Care 4 Kids Subsidy Program**

The Care 4 Kids (C4K) subsidy program helps low- to moderate-income families in Connecticut pay for child care costs for children birth to age 13, or if the child has special needs, under age 19. Families earning under 50% of the State Medium Income, who are either working or participating in an approved education and training program, are eligible to enroll. At the 12-month redetermination, a family can earn up to 65% of the State Medium Income. A combination of state and federal funds supports the Care 4 Kids subsidy program. In FY 18, 5,440 providers served 24,914 children.

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**

Early Head Start (EHS) is funded directly by the U.S. Department of HHS to community-based organizations to provide year-round comprehensive child and family services to low-income pregnant

women and families with children birth to 3 years old. EHS settings include center-based, family child care and home-based (home visiting). Three EHS CT grantees were awarded a federal grant to partner with home-based and center-based child care programs to provide comprehensive services based on the EHS model. The OEC provides state funds to support children in the three federally funded EHS-CC Grant Partnership Programs whose families are not eligible for the Care4Kids subsidy program.

***Even Start Literacy Program***

Even Start is a program that gives families access to the training and support they need to create a literate home environment and to enhance the academic achievement of their children. Five primary components are integrated to create a comprehensive program, with all families participating in all components. Local programs build on existing community resources to offer educational and support services to help parents and children learn and succeed together. The following are the five components: 1) Early Childhood and/or School-Age Education; 2) Adult Education; 3) Parents and Children Learning Together (PACT); 4) Parent Education and Support; and 5) Home Visits to Support Educational Programs.

<b>EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM</b>	
Grantees	3
Number of Families	44
Number of Adults	46
Number of Children	46

***Bond Funds for Capital Improvements***

Capital Improvements through State Bond Funds (no bond funds issued moving forward in FY19) provide facility improvements and repair needs in facilities that house school readiness programs and state-funded child day care centers under two separate bond funding sources:

- Grants-in-aid for facility improvements and minor capital repairs to facilities that house school readiness programs and state-funded day care centers in two cohorts totaling \$17,816,817 were completed in FY19. Projects include playground updates, security systems, new windows and/or doors, HVAC updates, etc.;
- Urban Act Grant funds are used for the purpose of redirecting, improving and expanding state activities which promote economic and community development and improve the quality of life for urban residents. Grants totaled \$7,650,000 - \$4,650,000 for the Bristol Preschool Child Care Center to renovate a former public school building and \$3,000,000 for the Children's Learning Center of Fairfield County to assist with property identification, acquisition and planning for a facility to replace its current Maple Avenue facility.

<b>MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM</b>	
Number of Communities	69
Number of Programs	111
Number of Sites	156
Number of State-Funded Spaces	8,888

## **SECTION 2: EXPENDITURES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

PROGRAM	EXPENDITURE
CHILD DAY CARE	\$ 33,715,887
SCHOOL READINESS (PRIORITY AND COMPETITIVE)	\$ 90,642,043
SMART START	\$ 3,325,000
PRE-SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT	\$ 11,527,992
STATE HEAD START SUPPLEMENT	\$ 5,078,417
CARE FOR KIDS (C4K)	\$ 118,033,715
EARLY HEAD START CC PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,430,750

## **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION QUALITY ENHANCEMENT**

PROGRAM	EXPENDITURE
CCDF QE	\$ 6,576,798
SCHOOL READINESS QE	\$ 271,956
SMART START IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 295,406
STATE HEAD START LINK	\$ 782,079
MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 8,700

## SECTION 3: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION QUALITY

### Licensing

There are approximately 3,600 licensed child care programs in Connecticut:

Family Child Care Homes = 1,909

Child Care Centers = 1,384

Group Child Care Homes = 22

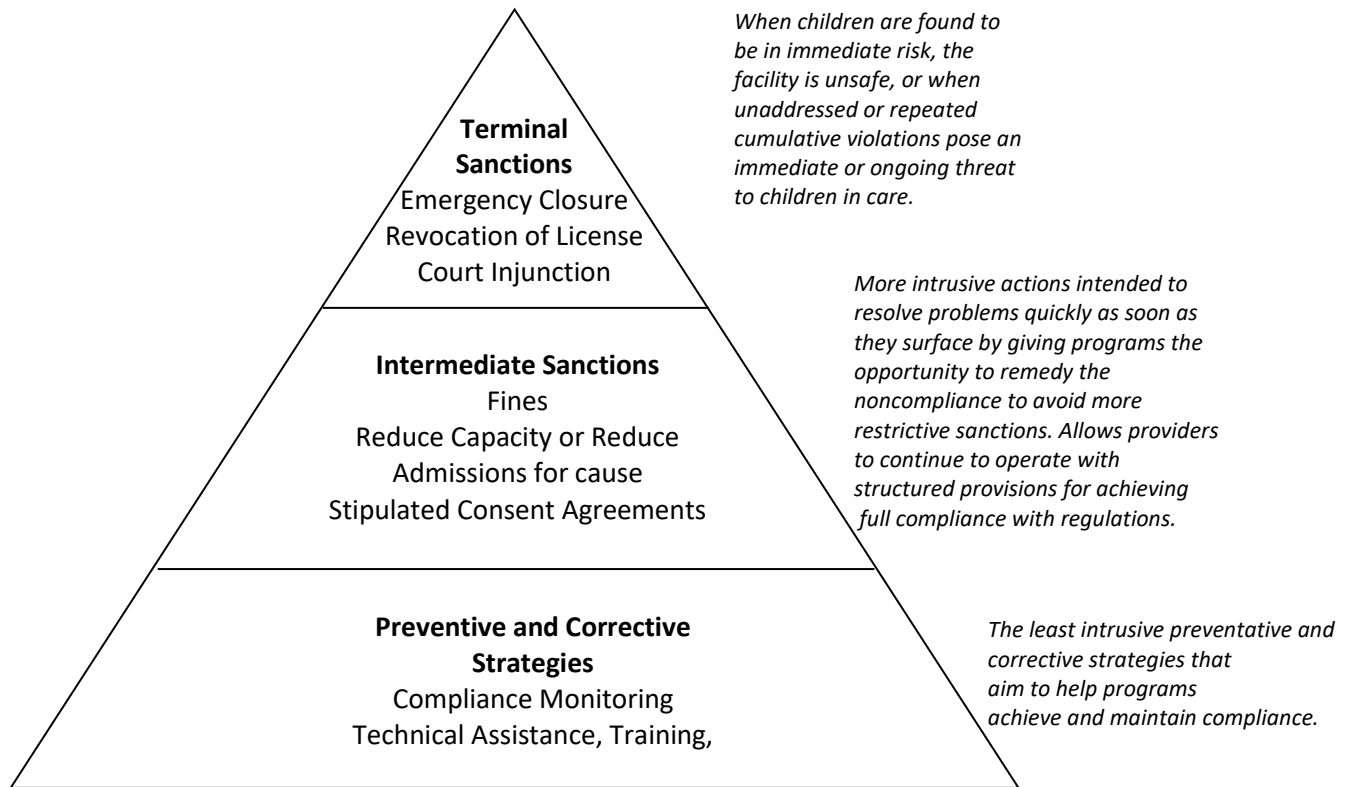
The licensing process includes enforcement to ensure compliance with the law and the regulations. Enforcement is critical for the delivery of quality, safe child care services. Connecticut’s licensing regulations are among the most rigorous in the country. However, as stated by the federal Office of Child Care, strong licensing regulations, without a commitment to taking action when they are not met, do not meet the goal of protecting children from harm. Effectiveness in enforcement includes the following:

- A strong licensing statute that sets forth a range of enforcement options;
- Fair and uniform enforcement of rules;
- Sufficient qualified staff;
- Adequate funding; and
- Strong administrative support.

Types of Inspections	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Family Child Care Homes Full, Unannounced Inspections	946	1131	2263	2266	2412	2018
Child Care Centers Full, Unannounced Inspections	931	1173	1595	1876	1752	1593
Group Child Care Homes Full, Unannounced Inspections	19	16	30	37	39	27
Total: All types of inspections (includes above types plus initials, partials, follow-ups, etc.)	3547	4339	6468	7220	7360	8097

Initial Licenses/Approvals/Issued by Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Family Child Care Homes	202	177	161	155	115	4
Child Care Centers	61	62	57	63	44	28
Group Child Care Homes	0	4	3	4	2	11
Family Child Care Staff-Assistant	59	84	66	53	37	10
Family Child Care Staff-Substitute	154	176	213	202	169	1

## Types of Enforcement Actions



Enforcement Actions Taken	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fines	5	6	8	9	10
Consent Agreements (generally also includes a fine)	26	24	25	33	27
Voluntary Surrender of license (in lieu of the state filing charges) May occur after a summary suspension.	15	10	8	7	15
Revocation of license	10	13	8	29	11
Summary Suspension of license/approval (emergency closure)	4	4	6	4	5

The need to take an enforcement action against a provider can also arise when a complaint is filed against the provider. All complaints are investigated, and those investigations are most often conducted by separate staff who are specifically assigned to investigate complaints. The most common types of licensing complaints concern supervision, staff-child ratios, health/safety/cleanliness/nutrition, and discipline/behavior management. However, another significant type of complaint is if someone suspects that a program is operating illegally.



**Number of complaints received (includes youth camps)**

Year	Number of Complaints Received	Number specific to suspected illegal care
2012	852	147
2013	772	188
2014	799	174
2015	821	177
2016	943	197
2017	851	132
2018	913	141

Approximately, one-third of the complaints of suspected illegal care were substantiated as being operating illegally.

**Complaints by setting and type**

Setting	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
Family Child Care Homes	43	116	60	98	53	91	45	94	50	96	44	91
Child Care Centers	141	287	167	297	162	330	187	406	195	365	188	459
Group Child Care Homes	1	8	3	4	0	2	0	4	2	4	0	2

*Level 1 complaints involve suspected abuse/neglect*

**WORKFORCE REGISTRY**

The Early Childhood Professional Registry is an information system that collects data on the demographics and education qualifications of the individuals who work in the early care and education field, as well as classroom-level staff assignment data for early care and education programs.

Using data in the user’s account, individual and program level compliance is measured for state funded Qualified Staff Member (QSM) and Care4Kids health and safety orientation. Data is also used to assess the following: licensing Head Teacher, the Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC), the OEC scholarship assistance fund, and technical assistance provider approval. Access to free online training (including Care4Kids health and safety orientation training) is accessible via the user’s account.

Participation is mandatory for the following populations:

- Staff who work in programs receiving School Readiness, Child Day Care, State Head Start, Smart Start, Preschool Development Grant, or Care4Kids; and
- Individuals applying for scholarships, licensing Head Teacher, and the ECTC.

<b>WORKFORCE REGISTRY</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>	<b>FY 16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18*</b>	<b>FY19*</b>
Total # Registry account holders	14,230	16,371	18,783	21,195	25,251	17,818*	15,288*
*In FY18 an annual account renewal process was created. Accounts not renewed become inactive. Numbers above depict active accounts, with a dip resulting from FY18 to FY19 mainly from new FY18 accounts of providers required to meet Care4Kids requirements, no longer holding active accounts.							

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Between FY 13 and FY 17, a total of 17,895 scholarships were awarded. Award categories include credit tuition toward credential and degree attainment, exam fees, and books. Funds awarded total \$6,628,375 over the last seven fiscal years.

	<b>Total # Awards</b>	<b>Leadership Credits</b>	<b>Pathways Exams</b>	<b>CDA / Equiv.</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>Degree fees</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Funds Awarded</b>
<b>FY13</b>	3,131	NA	94	33	453	668	68	327	1,070	418	\$1,076,753
<b>FY14</b>	2,282	52	142	54	274	458	64	281	705	252	\$708,240
<b>FY15</b>	3,750	63	86	92	390	910	60	753	1,238	158	\$1,213,387
<b>FY16</b>	3,236	25	8	112	206	873	71	803	1067	71	\$1,085,940
<b>FY17</b>	1,830	8	1	132	83	516	NA	484	598	8	\$865,760
<b>FY18</b>	1,554	54	5	58	80	767	NA	119	460	11	\$720,870*
<b>FY19</b>	2,092	75	7	178	74	922	NA	186	636	14	\$957,425**

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER CREDENTIAL (ECTC)

In 2013, Connecticut developed the Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) for both the associate and bachelor-degree levels. The ECTC ensures common programs of study among approved institutions ensuring that all graduates have similar knowledge, skills and competencies. Using the NAEYC bachelor-level professional development standards, Connecticut created a state approval system for programs of study not associated with public school certification. Participants are able to earn the ECTC through graduation from a college approved to offer the ECTC track, or by submitting materials for an individual review if graduating from a college that does not offer the ECTC track. Data below is from the OEC's Early Childhood Professional Registry as of 10-17-2019.

Route	A Level			B Level			Total Approved
	IT	PS	ITPS	IT	PS	ITPS	
Individual Review Route	4	14	7	7	70	25	127
Approved College Route	3	197	65	4	63	114	446
<b>Total</b>	290			283			573

**IT** = Infant and Toddler

**PS** = Preschool

**ITPS** = Infant through Preschool

**A level** = Associate Degree Level

**B level** = Bachelor Degree Level

## **SECTION 4: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RESOURCE AND REFERRAL**

2-1-1 Child Care is a free, confidential, and statewide service, funded by the state through United Way of Connecticut. This services helps match the requests of parents with child care providers and programs. Parents can contact 2-1-1 Child Care for resources and referrals to: licensed child care centers; family child care; before- and after-school programs; summer camps; nursery schools; nanny agencies; Head Start and Early Head Start; School Readiness programs; and play groups.

Child Care Referral Specialists help parents learn about options in their community and understand what to look for in finding a quality child care arrangement. In addition, Referral Specialists also help parents become connected to other resources such as Care 4 Kids or Birth to Three for families who may have concerns about their children’s development.

<b>FY 2019</b>	
<b>211 Child Care Transactions</b>	<b>65,792</b>
• Contact Center Transactions	22,049
• Web Search Engine	43,743
<b>Consumer Education Events</b>	<b>36</b>
• Parents Trainings (57 participants)	4
• Early Care Professionals (366 participants)	24
• Community Outreach Events	8
<b>On-site Family Child Care Tech Support Visits</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Child Care Referrals</b>	<b>67,701</b>
• Number of Infant	28,497
• Number of Preschool	16,134
• Number of Toddler	14,033
• Number of School Age	9,037