Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners - 2016

Young Children in Connecticut

35,523 Births in Connecticut in 2014.1
37,653 Children entered kindergarten in Connecticut in the fall of 2014.2
14.8% Of children are in households with income below poverty level.3
37.7% Of students in public schools are eligible for Free/Reduced-priced meals.4
12.7% Of students in public schools are in Special Education.5
71,566 Three- and four- year olds in the state, 2012 + 2013 births.6
228,490 Children in Connecticut under 6 years in age 7

Early Care and Education

• School Readiness – 12,270 school readiness spaces - 7,862 Full-day, 1,800 School-day, 2,118 Part-day and 490 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 320 sites in 67 communities, 72% of the spaces are in community based settings and 28% of the spaces are in local School Districts, 2015-16.8
• Child Day Care Centers – 4,150 spaces - 1,218 Infant and Toddler spaces plus 142 Infant-Toddler wrap-around spaces; 2,142 pre-school spaces plus 407 wrap-around spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children, and 241 school-age spaces contracted at 103 community based sites in 48 towns, 2015-16.9
• Smart Start – 386 3- and 4-year-old children in high-quality preschool in 13 School Districts10
• Preschool Development Grant, Federal - 433 high-quality Expansion and 279 Improved preschool spaces for 4-year-olds at 37 sites in 13 communities. Family income must be below 200% FPL.11
• Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program - 39 children, birth to 5 years old & their parents - comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success.12
• Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids – On average, 20,034 children (in 13,525 families) receive care vouchers/subsidies monthly. In December of 2015 - 20,716 children were served including 7,305 Infants and Toddlers + 7,159 Preschool Age + 6,252 School-Age Children.13 The annual unduplicated number of children in Care 4 Kids equaled 35,233 in SPY 2015.14 Settings included Licensed and License-Exempt Centers; Licensed Group and Licensed Family; and Family, Friends, and Neighbors.

Head Start and Public School Early Care and Education

• Head Start, Federal Funding direct to programs – 7,736 children ages 3 to 5 years enrolled.15
• Early Head Start, Federal Funding direct to programs – 1,220 children, birth to 3 years enrolled in 2014.16 In 2015, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants awarded to 3 sites (approx. 200 families).
• Public School Preschool Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – 17,529 children 3- and 4-years-old attended preschool in public school districts (may include 4,836 children receiving special education, through IDEA Part B, Section 619; 3,433 children in School Readiness; and children in LEA Head Start).17

Services for Young Children and their Families

Early Intervention services for children under age 3 identified with developmental delays:
• Birth to Three (IDEA Part C) Served 10,153 children with developmental delays or disabilities, 2015.18

Early Childhood Special Education and related services, (CSDE):
• Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619) - and related services through local education organizations for 4,836 children three- and four- year old19
### Information and Referral

- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** – 1,472 Help Me Grow referrals; 22,486 CDI calls; 2,314 new Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments; 4,410 total ASQ enrollment in 2015.20

- **211 Child Care** – fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referral. In 2015 - 72,016 Service Request Referrals included 21,814 Infant, 10,945 Toddler, 14,689 Preschool, 9,125 School Age child care and 9,125 Provider Training, plus other service referrals.21

### Home Visiting

**Home Visiting** services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk /in high-risk communities:

- **Child First** - 927 children served in services in Connecticut (567 - State funded & 360 - MIECHV).22
- **Early Head Start** – 58 children (60 families) served by MIECHV in FY 2015.23
- **Family School Connections** - 99 families participated in FY 2015.24
- **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program** (MIECHV) - 764 families enrolled.25
- **Nurse Family Partnership** (MIECHV) - 92 children (111 families) served.26
- **Nurturing Families Network (NFN)/Parents As Teachers (PAT)** - 2,466 parents participated, 2015.27
- **Parents as Teachers (MIECHV)** – 654 children served, 2015.28

### Program Standards

#### Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing

- **Licensed Child Care programs** - 3,690 Licensed Child Care facilities - include 1,437 Child Day Care Centers + 2,222 Family Child Care Homes + 31 Group Child Care Homes.30
- **549** Licensed Youth Camps.31

#### Accreditation

- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - 493 accredited sites (447 programs) serving 29,098 children.32
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)** – 1 accredited programs.33
- **National After School Association (NAA)** - 1 accredited program.34
- **Head Start and Early Head Start** – 114 approved programs. 72 in Licensed Centers (33 with NAEYC); 36 in License-Exempt facilities (13 with NAEYC); and 6 are Licensed Family Child Care Homes.35

### Workforce

#### Early Care and Education Workforce Development

- **Workforce Registry** – 19,409 early childhood teachers, directors, trainers, and consultants registered.36
- **Scholarships to improve Workforce qualifications** – 787 Scholarships were awarded to individuals and 57 scholarships to licensed child care program group-based professional development.37
- **Connecticut’s Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)** – 271 Credentials Awarded 175 at the Associate Degree Level & 96 at the Bachelor Degree Level.38
- **Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)** provided targeted technical assistance to 125 programs and over 1000 staff through individualized onsite support, group activities, and professional development.39

### Facilities

#### Early Childhood Bond Funds for Minor Capital Improvements and Wiring for Technology

- Grants-in-aid to municipalities and organizations for facility improvements and minor capital repairs to state-funded programs serving children birth-5 and to additional EC programs serving children birth-5 in municipalities eligible for state early childhood funds Cohort 1 - 76 projects at 57 program sites serving 4,984 children in 35 towns.40

Cohort 2 – 43 projects at 37 program sites
ENDNOTES

3 U.S. DHHS, ACF, Office of Child Care “State and Territory Profile –Connecticut” (U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010)
7 U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, S0901 Children Characteristics.
10 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, H. Feldlauf, 02/19/16.
11 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Preschool Development Grant, Spaces & Locations document, 02/11/16.
14 FY 2015-16 Income eligibility by State Median Income (SMI) for a family of three: 50% SMI=$44,601 to 75% SMI=$66,902.
17 Ibid.
21 Department of Education, Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC). Data for the number of children ages 3 and 4 in Pre-Kindergarten receiving special education and related services, 2015-16. Email S. O’Day 02/18/16.
25 Ibid.
26 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, L. Harris, February 16, 2016.
29 Ibid.
30 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
44 Ibid.