



**Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut  
Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners - 2017**

**Young Children in Connecticut**

- 35,523** Births in Connecticut in 2014.<sup>1</sup>
- 37,653** Children entered kindergarten in Connecticut in the fall of 2014.<sup>2</sup>
- 14.8%** Of children are in households with income below poverty level.<sup>3</sup>
- 37.7%** Of students in public schools are eligible for Free/Reduced-priced meals.<sup>4</sup>
- 12.7%** Of students in public schools are in Special Education.<sup>5</sup>
- 71,566** Three- and four- year olds in the state, 2012 + 2013 births.<sup>6</sup>
- 228,490** Children in Connecticut under 6 years in age <sup>7</sup>

**Early Care and Education**

- **School Readiness** – **12,085** school readiness spaces - 7,826 Full-day, 1,893 School-day, 1,859 Part-day and 507 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 327 sites in 67 communities, 71% of the spaces are in community based settings and 29% of the spaces are in local School Districts, 2016-17.<sup>8</sup>
- **Child Day Care Centers** – **4,142** spaces - **1,262** Infant and Toddler spaces plus 178 Infant-Toddler wrap-around spaces; **2,125** pre-school spaces plus 337 wrap-around spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children, and **240** school-age spaces contracted at 106 community based sites in 49 towns, 2016-17.<sup>9</sup>
- **Smart Start** – **521** 3- and 4-year-old children in high-quality preschool in 17 School Districts<sup>10</sup>
- **Preschool Development Grant, Federal** - **439** high-quality Expansion and **291** Improved preschool spaces for 4-year-olds at 37 sites in 13 communities. Family income must be below 200% FPL.<sup>11</sup>
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program** – **45** children birth to 5 years old and **45** adults, a total of 90 individuals, receive comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success.<sup>12</sup>
- **Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids** – SFY 2016 number of children receiving Care 4 Kids vouchers/ subsidies on a monthly average was **20,117** children (**13,756** families).<sup>13</sup> The monthly average by age group 7,399 Infants and Toddlers + 6,956 Preschool Age + 6,098 School-Age children.<sup>14</sup> The percent of children served by setting type 50% in Licensed Centers; 17% in Licensed Family Homes; 6% in Licensed Exempt Schools and Programs; and 29% in Unlicensed Relative Care, on a monthly average in SFY 2016.<sup>15</sup> The annual unduplicated number served equaled 32,210 children, in 21,340 families, in FFY 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- **State Head Start Supplement** – **271** state funded spaces that add capacity to federally designated Head Start and Early Head Start programs.<sup>17</sup>

**Through Partnership with US Department of Health and Human Services**

- **Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to 114 programs – **7,736** children ages 3 to 5 years enrolled.<sup>18</sup>
- **Early Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs – **1,220** children, birth to 3 years enrolled in 2014.<sup>19</sup> In 2015, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants awarded to 3 sites (approx. 200 families).

**Through Partnership with Connecticut Department of Education**

- **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).<sup>20</sup>
- **Early Intervention: Early Childhood Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** (CSDE) and related services through local education organizations for **4,836** children three- and four- years old<sup>21</sup>

**Early Intervention**

- **Early Intervention** services for children under age 3 identified with developmental delays: In 2015, **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C)** served **10,153** children with developmental delays or disabilities.<sup>22</sup>

### 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.<sup>23</sup>
- **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.<sup>24</sup>

### Home Visiting

**Home Visiting** services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk/in high-risk communities. Federal funding is provided by the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.

- **Nurturing Families Network (NFN) / Parents As Teachers (PAT)** - **2,968** families participated in SFY 2016.<sup>25</sup>
- **Child First** - **983** children served in Connecticut in SFY 2016 (618 DCF + 365 MIECHV funded<sup>26</sup>)
- **Nurse Family Partnership** - **110** families served (MIECHV funded) in SFY 2016<sup>27</sup>
- **Early Head Start** - **65** families served (MIECHV funded) in SFY 2016.<sup>28</sup>
- **Family School Connections** - **125** families participated in SFY 2016.<sup>29</sup>

### Program Standards

#### Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing; Program Accreditation; and Head Start Approved Programs:

- **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.<sup>30</sup> **494** Licensed Youth Camps.<sup>31</sup>
- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - **493** accredited sites (447 programs) serving 29,098 children.<sup>32</sup> About 100 receive assistance for program improvement & accreditation. Of the NAEYC Accredited sites, 46 are also Head Start and Early Head Start approved.
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)** - **1** accredited programs.<sup>33</sup>
- **National After School Association (NAA)** - **1** accredited program.<sup>34</sup>
- **Head Start and Early Head Start:** 72 in Licensed Centers (33 with NAEYC Accreditation); 36 in License-Exempt facilities (13 with NAEYC Accreditation); and 6 are Licensed Family Child Care Homes.<sup>35</sup>

### Workforce

#### Early Care and Education Workforce Development:

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

### 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.<sup>40</sup> Cohort 2 - **43 projects** at 37 program sites serving 3,208 children

in 25 towns.<sup>41</sup> In 2015, Cohort 3 – **102 projects** at 74 program sites serving 5,572 children in 40 towns and Cohort 3A – **2 projects** at 2 sites serving 108 children in 2 towns.<sup>42</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Connecticut Birth to Three System SFY 2015 “Annual Data Report,” page 4.
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Education, CSDE Reports & Research, Enrollment Data 2014-15, [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov).
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. DHHS, ACF, Office of Child Care “State and Territory Profile –Connecticut” (U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010)
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Education, CSDE Reports & Research, Enrollment Data 2014-15, [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov). Family Income for Free-priced meal is <185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (2015, Family of 3 = \$37,167). Income for Reduced-priced <135% of FPL.
- <sup>5</sup> Department of Education, CSDE Reports & Research, Enrollment Data 2014-15, [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov).
- <sup>6</sup> Connecticut Department of Public Health, Annual Registration Reports, Birth Statistics, 2012 and 2013, [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph).
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, S0901 Children Characteristics.
- <sup>8</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Priority & Competitive School Readiness Contracted Slot Grids, 2016-17, Sept. 2016
- <sup>9</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Child Day Care Contracts Contracted Slot Grid, 2016-17, 11/30/2016.
- <sup>10</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, SR-SS-SHS CDC 2016 Overview document, 08/1/2016.
- <sup>11</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Preschool Development Grant, Spaces & Locations document, 02/24/17.
- <sup>12</sup> CT Even Start Family Literacy Report, A. Garcia, Email 02/24/17.
- <sup>13</sup> Care 4 Kids Monthly Expenditures Report, CT002ARP, Run Date 06/30/2016. Average Monthly Number of Paid Children and Paid Families calculation by Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, J. Bisi.
- <sup>14</sup> Care 4 Kids Monthly Report – Number of Children Paid by Age Category and Service Setting, July, 2015-June, 2016. Calculation of Average Monthly for SFY 2016, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, J. Bisi, November 2016. The sum (20,453) of children in all age groups exceeds the average monthly (unduplicated) count of children (20,117) because of duplication of children moving into the next age group.
- <sup>15</sup> Child Care and Development Fund Annual Report, ACF-800, FFY 2016, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.
- <sup>16</sup> Child Care and Development Fund Annual Report FFY 2016, ACF-800 Form, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.
- <sup>17</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, G. Whitney 02/21/16. RE: 2015-2017 State Head Start Supplement.

United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care Program Report FY15, email from S. Sutera, 2/4/16.

- <sup>18</sup> Head Start Enrollment Data for Connecticut, 2014. [www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables), 02/14/2016.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> Department of Education, CSDE Reports & Research, Public District Enrollment Data 2014-15, [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov). Connecticut Department of Education, Data Source SEDAC 2015-16. Email S. O’Day 02/18/16. CT OEC School Readiness Slot Grids, December 2015.
- <sup>21</sup> 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.
- <sup>22</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Connecticut Birth to Three System SFY 2015 “Annual Data Report,” page 25.
- <sup>23</sup> United Way of Connecticut, 2015 Annual Report. <http://www.ctunitedway.org/Media/AnnualReport>.
- <sup>24</sup> United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care Program Report FY15, email from S. Sutera, 12/29/15.
- <sup>25</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, C. Heye, Email March 27, 2017.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, <https://www.elicense.ct.gov/lookup>, February 14, 2016.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> NAEYC Website Data for Connecticut: [http://oldweb.naeyc.org/academy/summary/center\\_summary.asp](http://oldweb.naeyc.org/academy/summary/center_summary.asp) and [www.naeyc.org/academy/accreditation/search](http://www.naeyc.org/academy/accreditation/search), February 15, 2016.
- <sup>33</sup> United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care dataset, 2015.
- <sup>34</sup> United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care dataset, 2015.
- <sup>35</sup> <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices> and United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care dataset, 2015.
- <sup>36</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, November, 2015.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>39</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, D. Flis, November, 2015.
- <sup>40</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, A. Garcia, February 25, 2014.
- <sup>41</sup> Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, A. Garcia, February 18, 2016.
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid.