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 2014.¹
- 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** – 12,085 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, 2016-17.⁸
- **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, 2016-17.⁹
- **Smart Start** – 521 3- and 4-year-old children in high-quality preschool in 17 School Districts¹⁰
- **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.¹¹
- **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.¹²
- **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).¹³ The monthly average by age
  group 7,399 Infants and Toddlers + 6,956 Preschool Age + 6,098 School-Age children.¹⁴ 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 2016.¹⁵
  The annual unduplicated number served equaled 32,210 children, in 21,340 families, in FFY 2016.¹⁶
- **State Head Start Supplement** – 271 state funded spaces that add capacity to federally designated Head
  Start and Early Head Start programs.¹⁷

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.¹⁸
- **Early Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs – 1,220 children, birth to 3 years enrolled in 2014.¹⁹
  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).²⁰
- **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 old²¹

Early Intervention

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⁵ Connecticut Department of Education, Special Education \[2015\] (2016) Special Education Information Report

• **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.\(^{22}\)

**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.\(^{23}\)

• **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.\(^{24}\)

**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.\(^{25}\)

• **Child First** – **983** children served in Connecticut in SFY 2016 (618 DCF + 365 MIECHV funded)\(^{26}\)

• **Nurse Family Partnership** – **110** families served (MIECHV funded) in SFY 2016.\(^{27}\)

• **Early Head Start** – **65** families served (MIECHV funded) in SFY 2016.\(^{28}\)

• **Family School Connections** - **125** families participated in SFY 2016.\(^{29}\)

**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.\(^{30}\) **494** Licensed Youth Camps.\(^{31}\)

• **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC) - 493** accredited sites (447 programs) serving 29,098 children.\(^{32}\) 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.\(^{33}\)

• **National After School Association (NAA)** – **1** accredited program.\(^{34}\)

• **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.\(^{35}\)

**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 serving **3,208** children.
ENDNOTES

12. CT Even Start Family Literacy Report, A. Garcia, Email 02/24/17.

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

19. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
42. Ibid.