Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners - 2015

Young Children in Connecticut

- **35,463** Births in Connecticut in 2013.¹
- **38,815** Children entered kindergarten in Connecticut in the fall of 2013.²
- **73,375** 3- and 4-year-olds in the state, 2011 + 2012 births.³
- **14,853** Children in kindergarten eligible to receive Free/Reduced-priced meals, family income below 185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL).⁴
- **37,962** Children under age 6, below 100% of poverty.⁵
- **197,395** Children in Connecticut are between birth and five years in age.⁶

*These children live in every community in the state.*

After children enter kindergarten many of the services they need are coordinated through the schools. Many services for children, birth to age 5, are now coordinated by the new Office of Early Childhood.

Early Care and Education

- **School Readiness** – In 2014-15, there are **11,790** school readiness full-day (7,786), school-day (1,792), and part-day (2,212) spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 328 sites in 68 Priority and Competitive School Readiness communities.⁸ An additional **490** extended-day school readiness spaces. In 2013-14 there were 10,830 full-, school- and part-day spaces and 543 extended-day spaces.⁹
- **Child Day Care Centers** - **2,104** pre-school spaces, for 3- and 4-year-old children, plus 540 preschool wrap-around spaces contracted at 104 sites in over 52 communities. There are **1,107** infant/toddler spaces plus 190 infant-toddler wrap-around, and **242** school-age spaces contracted.¹⁰
- **Head Start** – **5,700** children ages 3 to 5 years & **Early Head Start** - **660** children, birth to 3 years.¹¹
- **Smart Start** – **416** additional 3- and 4-year-old children will attend high-quality preschool Fall 2015.¹²
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program** - **39** children, birth to 5 years old, and their parents - comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic and economic success.¹³
- **Public School Preschool** – **11,442** children ages 3- and 4-year-old attended preschool in Public, Charter, or Magnet schools (includes approximately 4,447 children receiving special education, through IDEA Part B, Section 619, but does not include 4,978 children also in School Readiness & Head Start).¹⁴

Child Care Subsidies
- **Care 4 Kids** – On average, **19,819** child care vouchers/subsidies are issued monthly. In December of 2014, 18,613 children received C4K subsidy including 6,677 Infant/Toddlers + 6,612 Pre-School Age + 5,324 School-Age Children. Care 4 Kids Vouchers may be used at Licensed, License Exempt, and Family, Friends and Neighbor (FFN) settings.

**Services for Young Children and their Families**

**Early Intervention** services for children under age 3 identified with developmental delays (Birth to Three):
- **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C, CT DDS)** - **9,686** Children with developmental delays or disabilities served in FY 2014.

**Early Childhood Special Education** and related services, (CT SDE):
- **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** – and related services in pre-kindergarten through local education organizations = **4,447** three- and four-year-old children.

**Information and Referral**
- **Child Care Infoline** – serves as the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral service and handles child care referral.
- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** – 2,108 Calls Received in FY 2014.

**Home Visiting**

**Home Visiting** services to improve outcomes for families with young children at risk or in high-risk communities:
- **Child First** - **985** children served through services are available in Connecticut (state funding & MIECHV).
- **Early Head Start** – **660** children served and 100 families served by MIECHV in FFY 2014.
- **Family Resource Centers** – Parents As Teachers – **1,132** children served
- **Family School Connections** - **159** parents participated in FY 2014
- **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program** (MIECHV) - **651** families enrolled
- **Minding the Baby** – **36** children served
- **Nurse Family Partnership** (MIECHV) - **107** children served
- **Nurturing Families Network** - **2,336** parents participated in FY 2014
- **Parents as Teachers** (PAT - MIECHV) – **690** children served by NFN

**DCF Home Visiting Programs for Young Children**
- **Positive Parenting** – **1,558** children served
- **Caregivers Support** – **260** children served
- **Intensive Home-Based Services** – Family Based Recovery – **204** children served

**Families and Employment**

In Connecticut, nearly three-quarters (70%) of young children have all parents in their home working or seeking employment.

- Nearly all young children (93%) live in families with at least one parent employed or looking for work.
- Over one-quarter (27%) young children live in a single mother household.
- Over one-third (34%) young children live with only one parent.
• In 2012, more than a quarter (27%) of Connecticut women who gave birth had a high school education or less.28
Program Standards

Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing

- **Licensed Child Care programs** - 3,837 Licensed Child Care facilities - include 1,453 Child Day Care Centers + 2,355 Family Day Care Homes + 29 Group Day Care Homes and **512** Youth Camps are licensed. 29

Accreditation

- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - 429 accredited programs - 28,719 kids served. 30
- CT has the highest number in the country of NAEYC Accredited programs per capita. Annually, approximately 100 center-based programs receive technical assistance on program improvement & NAEYC Accreditation.
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) – 2 accredited programs
- National After School Association (NAA) - 1 accredited program
- Head Start and Early Head Start – compliance is deemed a high-quality standard.

Workforce

Early Care and Education Workforce Development

- **Workforce Registry** – 15,281 early childhood teachers, directors, trainers, and consultants are in the registry. 31
- **Scholarships to improve workforce qualifications** – 787 individuals received scholarship assistance and 57 licensed child care programs received group-based professional development scholarships. 32
- Connecticut’s **Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)** earned by 73 Individuals in 2013. 33
- UMass Donahue Center/CT Head Start Training & Technical Assistance Center-1,822 staff supported 2014 34

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 to age 5 and to additional early childhood programs serving children birth to age 6 in municipalities eligible for state early childhood funds Cohort 1 - 76 projects at 57 program sites serving 4,984 children in 35 towns. 35
ENDNOTES

1 Department of Developmental Services, Connecticut Birth to Three System 2014 Report “Learning From Each Other” and CT Department of Public Health, birth statistics by town.
2 Department of Education, CT Education Data and Research (CEDaR), “Enrollment - Public School Enrollment PK-12 by Grade,” 2011-12
5 U.S. DHHS, ACF, Office of Child Care “State and Territory Profile –Connecticut” (source: U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010)
6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
7 U.S. DHHS, ACF, Office of Child Care “State and Territory Profile –Connecticut” (source: U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010)
13 CT Even Start Family Literacy Final Report, Evaluation Results FY 2013, K. Mika, December 2013
14 Connecticut Department of Education, Data Source PSIS & PKIS 2011-12, & SEDAC 2013. Calculation by CT OEC, C. Schechter
16 United Way of Connecticut, January 30, 2014 data report to CT OEC. Statewide there are 3,953 Licensed Child Care facilities; 585 License-Exempt Child Care including public school settings; and 3,584 Family, Friends, and Neighbor (FFN) settings. FFN shown if received subsidy.
18 Data provided by the Department of Education, from the Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC), October 1, 2012.
19 The number children ages 3 and 4 in Pre-Kindergarten receiving special education and related services.
22 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, G. Whitney, Director, CT Head Start State Collaboration Office, PIR FY 2013-14
23 Connecticut Department of Public Health, Family Health Section, 02/19/14. MIECHC Enrollment from March 31, 2013–February 19, 2014
25 ibid.
26 ibid.
27 ibid.
28 ibid.
32 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, February 7, 2014
34 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, January 30, 2014
36 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, A. García, February 25, 2014