

OVERVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS, 2021

CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT

- 35,012** Births in Connecticut in 2017.¹ 36,021 Births in 2016 and 35,711 Births in 2015.²
----- Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-18 Years in age: 56.7% White; 12.3% Black;
4.5% Asian; 22.8% Hispanic; 7.0% Two or More Races; 6.8% Other, 2013-2017.³
- 36,566** Children enrolled in public school kindergarten, 2019-20.⁴
15.9% of students in public schools are enrolled with Special Education Status.⁵
43.3% of students in public schools are eligible for Free & Reduced-priced meals.⁶
13.5% of children are in households with income below Federal Poverty Level.⁷
20.0% of children in families that receive public assistance in Connecticut.⁸
71,033 Three- and four- year-olds in the state, 2016 + 2017 births.⁹
181,710 Children under 5 years in age¹⁰

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **School Readiness:** **12,277** school readiness spaces – 7,773 full-day, 1,507 school-day, 2,541 part-day and 456 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 310 sites in 67 communities, SFY 2021.¹¹
- **Child Day Care Centers:** **3,937** spaces - 1,522 Infant-Toddler spaces; 2,210 preschool spaces for 3- and 4-year-olds; and **205** school-age spaces; contracted at 98 community-based sites in 48 cities/towns, SFY 2021.¹²
- **Smart Start:** **650** spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children in 44 Classrooms in 23 School Districts/28 Schools, SFY 2021¹³
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program:** **37** children in 2021, ages birth to 5 years old and the **26** parents, receive comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success, provided by 3 grantees.¹⁴
- **Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids (C4K):** SFY 2020 = **26,218** children in **17,521** families received C4K services by **5,375** providers as compared to CY 2020 = **24,731** children in **16,684** families received C4K services by **5,345** providers service month.¹⁵ The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care. C4K Subsidy Expenditures in SFY2020 = \$127,160,878. The monthly averages for Jul-Dec 2020 = 15,748 Children (10,671 Families); Jan-Jun 2020 = 17,748 Children (12,302 Families); Jul-Dec 2019 = 17,476 Children (12,044 Families) received C4K services. The unduplicated count (monthly average) of providers in SFY2020 = **1,163 (942)** Licensed & License-Exempt Centers, Youth Camps & Group Homes; 984 (844) in Licensed Family, and 3,228 (2,174) Unlicensed Family.
- **Public School Preschool** Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – **18,829** children enrolled in public school district preschool in 2019-20.¹⁶

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

- **Head Start (HS),** federal funding direct to 21 programs for school readiness of children ages three to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child including connecting families with medical, dental, and mental health services and family support to ensure children are receiving all the services they need. – **5,095** children ages 3 -5 years in HS enrollments.¹⁷
- **Early Head Start (EHS),** federal funding direct to 17 programs for comprehensive services, **1,586** children, prenatal to age 2 and **97** pregnant women served in center-based, family child care, and home visiting.¹⁸
- **State Head Start Services** – In FY21, there were 47 program sites, **220** new spaces that add capacity to federal Head Start & EHS funded programs in 14 communities. **911** Extended Day/Extended Year spaces in 23 communities.¹⁹

- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**, a partnership to expand Head Start standards and comprehensive services to children in child care - 222 children, birth to 3 years in center-based care, and birth to 4 years, in home-based care.²⁰

The above Early Care and Education spaces include duplicates across funding types. For example: Smart Start and School Readiness spaces that are located in public schools are also in the Public School Preschool counts.

SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Early Intervention supports families with children under age 3 identified with developmental delays or disabilities.

- **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C)** - During FY20 there were 9,230 referrals. 9,425 of those children were evaluated, and 6,014 of those (64%) were determined to be eligible.²¹ Over the course of the FY, the system supported the families of 11,281 children under age 3 with an Individualized Service Plan (IFSPs) regardless of when they were determined to be eligible.²²
- **Early Childhood Special Education** and related services, (CSDE): **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** - and related services through local education organizations for 4,988 children in FY21.²³

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** - 2,743 Help Me Grow referrals; 14,160 CDI calls; 1,651 new Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments; 9,837 total ASQ enrollment in FY2020.²⁴
- **211 Child Care** - fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referrals and requests. In SFY 2020 - 58,710 Service Request Referrals including and pertaining to: 23,204 Infant, 11,831 Toddler, 15,082 Preschool, 8,888 School Age Child Care; 9,339 Covid-19 Supports (Financial, PPE, Child Care Placement); 7,630 Provider Training; 1,944 Child Care Subsidies; 755 Internet Information Resources; 670 Licensing/Certification/ Accreditation requests; and 1,190 other service referrals.²⁵

HOME VISITING

Home Visiting services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk, in high-risk communities.

- **Parents as Teachers (Nurturing Families Network)** - 2,380 parents and 2,348 children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).²⁶
- **Child First** - 342 parents and 350 children served in Connecticut in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).²⁷
- **Nurse Family Partnership** - 121 parents and 98 children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).²⁸
- **Early Head Start** - 51 parents and 51 children served in FFY 2020 (federal MIECHV).²⁹
- **Family Check-up** - 83 parents and 77 children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded).³⁰
- **Minding the Baby** - 6 parents and 2 children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded).³¹

WORKFORCE

Early Care and Education Workforce Development

- **Workforce Registry SFY20:** 4,362 new accounts; 29,151 accounts with activity³²
- **Registry Processing SFY20:** 408 Head Teacher applications; 3,429 Scholarship applications; 15,616 Documents verified and uploaded; 69,958 Verified Education and Training entries; 138 Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) applications; 583 administrative access requests.³³
- **Scholarships** to improve Workforce qualifications SFY20: \$1,208,906 awarded to 397 individuals.³⁴
- **Connecticut's Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) SFY20** (as of 6/30/20): 589 Credentials awarded: 294 at the associate degree level and 295 at the bachelor degree level.³⁵
- **Accreditation and Quality Improvement Support (AQIS) SFY20:** short term bridge contract September to December 2019 supported 48 programs expiring / candidates in late 2019/ early 2020; new contract executed May 2020 with 2 entities (CTAEYC and RESC Alliance) with 14 staff statewide establishing new AQIS structure, offering pandemic office hours, and revising supports to virtual.³⁶

PROGRAM STANDARDS & FACILITIES

Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing

- **Licensed Child Care programs - 3,625** Licensed Child Care facilities - including 1,374 Child Day Care Centers; 1,922 Family Child Care Homes; 20 Group Child Care Homes; and 309 Youth Camps.³⁷

Accreditation

- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2020: 502** accredited program sites.³⁸
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) 2020 – 45** accredited programs.³⁹

Background Check Information System: In 2020, the fingerprint rejection rate was cut in half through the use of digital livescan fingerprints, from 24% to 12%.⁴⁰

ENDNOTES

- 1 Connecticut Department of Public Health, Annual Registration Reports, Birth Statistics, Residence Birth in Connecticut Table 3, 2017 <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>.
- 2 Connecticut Department of Public Health, Annual Registration Reports, Birth Statistics, Residence Birth in Connecticut Table 2A, 2015 & Table 3 2016 <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>.
- 3 The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Child Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2013-2017 <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>
- 4 Department of Education, Student Enrollment Counts, 2019-20, All Districts by Grade, <http://edsight.ct.gov> January 27, 2021.
- 5 Department of Education, Student Enrollment Counts, 2019-20, All Districts, Special Education Status, <http://edsight.ct.gov>.
- 6 Department of Education, Student Enrollment Counts, 2019-20, All Districts, Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligibility, <http://edsight.ct.gov>.
- 7 The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Children in Poverty, 2013-2017 <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>
- 8 The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Children in families that receive public assistance in Connecticut, 2019 <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>
- 9 Connecticut Department of Public Health, Annual Registration Reports, Birth Statistics, Residence Birth in Connecticut Tables 3 & 3, <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>, 2016 & 2017. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/101-child-population-by-age-group>, Connecticut, Age Group 0 to 4, 2019.
- 10 Note: the U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Under 5 years in Age 5.1% (or 180,598) of population 3,565,287 Population. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US09>
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- 13 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, "Smart Start Space Grid SFY 2021," M. Levy email, January 29, 2021
- 14 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, OEC-UConn Partnership, H. Buch email, February 2, 2021.
- 15 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood J. Bisi Analysis of ImpaCT Ad Hoc Export by Deloitte, K. Settles 02/03/2020, Jul 2019 to Dec 2020 Services paid prior to 02/03/2020.
- 16 Department of Education, Student Enrollment Counts, 2019-20, All Districts by Grade, <http://edsight.ct.gov> January 29, 2021.
- 17 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Head Start & Early Head Start Total Cumulative Enrollment Self-Reported by program SFY20, email from E. Trueworthy, February 24, 2021.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, "State Head Start # by Town SFY2021," A. Carbone email, February 1, 2021.
- 20 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, A. Carbone email, January 29, 2021.
- 21 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Connecticut Birth to Three, email from N. Cossette, January 25, 2021.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Department of Education, D. Murphy email February 17, 2021, Part B inclusion criteria osep_age (3,4) in PK & P3, 2020-21.
- 24 United Way of Connecticut, K. DuPlessis email, January 27, 2021.
- 25 United Way of Connecticut, 211 Child Care Program Report FY20, S. Sutera email, January 27, 2021.
- 26 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, MIECHV Home Visiting Program, C. Heye, Email January 28, 2021.
- 27 Ibid.
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- 32 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Early Childhood Professional Registry www.ccaregistry.org, M. Gustafson, January 27, 2021.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Ibid.
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- 36 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, M. Gustafson, January 28, 2021, AQIS selected program data and contracts.
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