Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners, 2019

Children in Connecticut


Children by Race & Ethnicity: 57.5% White; 12.2% Black; 4.5% Asian; 22.2% Hispanic; 6.8% Two or More Races; 6.6% Other. 0-18 Years in age, 2012-2016.3

36,239  Children enrolled in public school kindergarten, 2017-18.4

14.8%  Of students in public schools are receiving special education and related services.5

36.7%  Of students in public schools are eligible for Free/Reduced-priced meals.6

13%  Of children are in households with income below poverty level.7

19%  Of children in families that receive public assistance.8

71,841  Three- and four- year olds in the state, 2015 + 2016 births.9

183,321  Children under 5 years in age10

Early Care and Education

- **School Readiness** – 11,966 school readiness spaces – 7,775 full-day, 2,098 school-day, 1,634 part-day and 459 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 312 sites in 67 communities, 2018-19.11
- **Child Day Care Centers** – 4,387 spaces - 1,306 Infant-Toddler full-time spaces; 178 Infant-Toddler wrap-around spaces; 2,044 pre-school full-time spaces; 626 wrap-around spaces; for 3- and 4-year-old children, and 233 school-age spaces contracted at 107 community based sites in 47 towns, 2018-19.12
- **Smart Start** – 665 spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children in 24 School Districts, 2018-19.13
- **Preschool Development Grant**, Federal – 439 high-quality Expansion and 301 Improved preschool spaces for 4-year-olds at 37 sites in 13 communities. Family income must be below 200% FPL.14
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program** – 46 children (44 families) in 2019, ages birth to 5 years old and the 46 parents, receive comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success, provided by 3 grantees.15
- **Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids** – 24,914 children were served by 5,440 providers in FFY18. The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care. Families choose their provider from Licensed and License-Exempt Centers, Licensed Group, Licensed Family, Unlicensed Family, and Licensed and License-Exempt Youth Camps.

Head Start and Public School Early Care and Education

- **Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs - 5,887 children enrolled.16
- **Early Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs - 1,842 children and 150 pregnant women enrolled.17
- **State Head Start Services** – 320 spaces to add capacity to federal Head Start & EHS funded programs.18
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**, 222 children, birth to 4 years, in center & home-based care.19
- **Public School Preschool** Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – 18,737 children attended preschool in public school districts in 2017-18.
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 FY18 there were 9,704 referrals. 9,566 of those children were evaluated, and 6,004 of those (62%) were determined to be eligible. Over the course of the FY, the system supported the families of 10,464 children under age 3 with an Individualized Service Plan (IFSPs) regardless of when they were determined to be eligible.
- **Early Childhood Special Education** and related services, (CSDE): **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** – and related services through local education organizations for 5,379 children.

Information and Referral

- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** – 2,605 Help Me Grow referrals; 21,810 CDI calls; 2,220 new Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments; 8,123 total ASQ enrollment in FY 2018.
- **211 Child Care** – fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referral. In SFY 2018 – 80,163 Service Request Referrals included 27,695 Infant, 13,994 Toddler, 15,662 Preschool, 9,195 School Age child care and 6,284 Provider Training, plus other service referrals.

Home Visiting

**Home Visiting** services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk/in high-risk communities.
- **Parents as Teachers (Nurturing Families Network)** - 3,003 parents and 2,565 children served in FFY 2018 (state-funded and federal MIECHV combined).
- **Child First** - 307 children served in Connecticut (federal MIECHV) in FY 2018.
- **Nurse Family Partnership** - 79 children (113 families) served (federal MIECHV) in FY 2018.
- **Early Head Start** – 56 children (57 families) served (federal MIECHV) in FFY 2018.

Program Standards

Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing
- **Licensed Child Care programs** - 3,844 Licensed Child Care facilities - include 1,382 Child Day Care Centers, 25 Group Child Care Homes, 1,916 Family Child Care Homes, and 521 Licensed Youth Camps.

Accreditation
- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - 537 accredited programs.
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)** – 22 accredited programs.

Workforce

Early Care and Education Workforce Development
- **Workforce Registry** – of the 36,000 accounts, 17,700 have been through the new renewal process.
- **Registry Processing SFY18**: 565 Head Teacher applications; 3,079 Scholarship applications; 19,335 Documents verified and uploaded; 30,692 verified Education and Training entries; 184 ECTC applications; 911 administrative access requests.
- **Scholarships** to improve Workforce qualifications SFY18- $716,496 was awarded to 362 individuals.
- Connecticut’s **Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)** - 494 Credentials awarded, 261 at the associate degree level and 233 at the bachelor degree level.
- **Accreditation and Quality Improvement Support (AQIS)** from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 provided on-site technical assistance to 30 programs serving 2,005 children in 148 classrooms with 395 staff; and provided 82 overview and study groups trainings.

Facilities

Early Childhood Bond Funds for Minor Capital Improvements
- **Grants-in-aid** to municipalities and organizations for facility improvements and minor capital repairs to state-funded and municipal programs serving children birth-5. Improvements and repairs to 8,888 state funded early care and education spaces, in 111 programs, at 156 program sites, in 69 communities, in 3 Cohorts.
Connecticut Department of Public Health, Annual Registration Reports, Birth Statistics, Residence Birth in Connecticut


Ibid.

Ibid.
