OVERVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS, 2020

CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT

36,021  Births in Connecticut in 2016.1 35,711 Births in 2015 and 36,130 in 2014.2
-----  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
35,837  Children enrolled in public school kindergarten, 2017-18.4
15.4% of students in public schools are enrolled with Special Education Status.5
42.1% 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
19.0% of children in families that receive public assistance in Connecticut.8
71,732  Three- and four- year-olds in the state, 2015 + 2016 births.9
183,134  Children under 5 years in age.10

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

• **School Readiness:** 11,920 school readiness spaces – 7,821 full-day, 2,152 school-day, 1,488 part-day
  and 459 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 310 sites in 67 communities, SFY 2020.11
• **Child Day Care Centers:** 4,009 spaces - 1,506 Infant-Toddler spaces; 2,240 preschool spaces for 3- and
  4-year-olds; and 263 school-age spaces; contracted at 100 community based sites in 47 towns, SFY 2020.12
• **Smart Start:** 665 spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children in 45 Classrooms in 24 School Districts, SFY 2020.13
• **Preschool Development Grant:** 740 spaces – 439 high-quality Expansion and 301 Improved
  preschool spaces for 4-year-olds, in families with income below 200%, at 36 sites in 13 communities.14
• **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program:** 46 children in 2020, 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:** 25,697 children in 17,341. Families were served by 5,082
  providers in CY 2019.16  The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families
  pay for child care. From June to December of 2019, a monthly average of over 17,000 Children
  (11,800 Families) chose their providers from Licensed and License-Exempt Centers, Licensed Group,
  Licensed Family, Unlicensed Family, and Licensed and License-Exempt Youth Camps.
• **Public School Preschool** Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – 18,973 children enrolled in public
  school district preschool in 2018-19.17

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. – 5,243 children ages 3-5 years in HS enrollments.18
• **Early Head Start (EHS),** federal funding direct to 17 programs for comprehensive services, 1,858 children,
  prenatal to age 2 and 92 pregnant women served in center-based, family child care, and home visiting.19
• **State Head Start Services** – 50 program sites, 228 new spaces that add capacity to federal Head Start &
  EHS funded programs in 14 communities. 911 Extended Day/Extended Year spaces in 23 communities.20
• **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.21

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 FY19 there were 10,810 referrals. 10,064 of those children were evaluated, and 6,845 of those (68%) were determined to be eligible. Over the course of the FY, the system supported the families of 11,315 children under age 3 with an Individualized Service Plan (IFSPs) regardless of when they were determined to be eligible.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
- 211 Child Care – fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referrals and requests. In SFY 2019 – 82,265 Service Request Referrals including and pertaining to: 28,497 Infant, 14,033 Toddler, 16,134 Preschool, 9,037 School Age Child Care; 7,403 Provider Training; 2,061 Child Care Subsidies; 1,105 Internet Information Resources; 1,047 Licensing/Certification/Accreditation requests; and 2,948 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) - 2,199 parents and 1,994 children served in FFY 2019 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).
- Nurse Family Partnership - 111 parents and 80 children served in FFY 2019 (federal MIECHV).
- Early Head Start – 56 parents and 56 children served in FFY 2019 (federal MIECHV).
- Family Check-up – 26 parents and 29 children served in FFY 2019 (federal MIECHV).

WORKFORCE
Early Care and Education Workforce Development
- Workforce Registry SFY19: 16,991 active accounts.
- Registry Processing SFY19: 517 Head Teacher applications; 3,261 Scholarship applications; 26,074 Documents verified and uploaded; 67,682 verified Education and Training entries; 241 Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) applications; 1,130 administrative access requests.
- Scholarships to improve Workforce qualifications SFY19: $608,000 awarded to 450 individuals.
- Connecticut’s Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC): 578 Credentials awarded, 291 at the associate degree level and 287 at the bachelor degree level.
- Accreditation and Quality Improvement Support (AQIS) SFY19: 15 NAEYC Accreditation overviews; 107 study groups; July-Dec. 2018 = 22 programs receiving group support and 30 programs receiving on-site support; Jan-June 2019 = 35 programs receiving on-site support. Sep-Dec 2019 provided on-site technical assistance to 43 programs serving almost 4,000 children.

PROGRAM STANDARDS & FACILITIES
Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing
- Licensed Child Care programs - 3,856 Licensed Child Care facilities - including 1,392 Child Day Care Centers; 1,891 Family Child Care Homes; 21 Group Child Care Homes; and 552 Youth Camps.

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

Background Check Information System: Fingerprint completion average # of days at <20 from over 100.
ENDNOTES

6 Department of Education, Student Enrollment Counts, 2018-19, All Districts, Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligibility.
16 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood J. Bisi Analysis of ImpaCT Ad Hoc Export by Deloitte, K. Settles 02/05/2020, Jan thru Dec 2019 Services Paid prior to 02/06/2020.
19 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
30 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
38 Email to M. Gustafson from M. Graves at NAEYC November 14, 2019.
39 National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), Alicia Pratt email, February 13, 2020, in Connecticut as of 02/13/2020.
40 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, All Staff Meeting Power Point Presentation, Slide 4, June, 2019.