Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners - 2018

Young Children in Connecticut

39,770  Children entered kindergarten in Connecticut in the fall of 2016.
14.1%   Of children are in households with income below poverty level.
35.9%   Of students in public schools are eligible for Free/Reduced-priced meals.
13.9%   Of students in public schools are in Special Education.
74,743  Three- and four-year olds in the state, 2012 + 2013 births.
228,999 Children in Connecticut under 6 years in age

Early Care and Education

- **School Readiness** – 12,263 school readiness spaces – 7,866 Full-day, 1,821 School-day, 2,086 Part-day and 490 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 325 sites in 67 communities, 2015-16.
- **Child Day Care Centers** – 4,176 spaces – 1,306 Infant and Toddler spaces; 2,424 pre-school spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children, and 233 school-age spaces contracted at 102 community based sites in 53 towns, 2016-17.
- **Smart Start** – 665 3- and 4-year-old children in high-quality preschool in 17 School Districts
- **Preschool Development Grant**, Federal - 439 high-quality Expansion and 301 Improved preschool spaces for 4-year-olds in 55 classrooms in 13 communities. Family income must be below 200% FPL.
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program** - 45 children (43 families) in 2017, birth to 5 years old & their parents - comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success.
- **Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids** – 30,076 children were served by 7,073 providers in FY17. 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 and Licensed Family, and Family, Friends, and Neighbors.

Head Start and Public School Early Care and Education

- **Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs – 5,914 children ages 3 to 5 years enrolled.
- **Early Head Start**, Federal Funding direct to programs – 1,449 children, birth to 3 years enrolled in 2014. In 2015, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants awarded to 3 sites (approx. 200 families).
- **Public School Preschool**, Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – 18,762 children 3- and 4-years-old attended preschool in public school districts.

Services for Young Children and their Families

Early Intervention services for children under age 3 identified with developmental delays:

- **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C)** Served 10,069 children with developmental delays or disabilities, 2016.

Early Childhood Special Education and related services, (CSDE):

- **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** – and related services through local education organizations for 5,565 children three- and four- years old.
Information and Referral (Most recent numbers from UW)


- **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.

**Home Visiting** services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk/in high-risk communities:

- **Child First** - *927* children served in services in Connecticut (567 - State funded & 320 – federal MIECHV).
- **Early Head Start** – *61* children (54 families) served by MIECHV in FY 2017.
- **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program** (MIECHV) – *781* families enrolled.
- **Nurse Family Partnership** (MIECHV) - *84* children (113 families) served.
- **Nurturing Families Network** (NFN)/Parents As Teachers (PAT) - *2,407* parents participated, 2016.

**Program Standards**

**Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing**

- **Licensed Child Care programs** - *3,419* Licensed Child Care facilities - include 1,384 Child Day Care Centers + 2,010 Family Child Care Homes + 25 Group Child Care Homes. *515* Licensed Youth Camps.

**Accreditation**

- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - *514* accredited sites. CT has the highest number in the country of NAEYC Accredited programs per capita. About 90 receive technical assistance for program improvement & NAEYC Accreditation.
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)** – *13* accredited programs.

**Workforce**

**Early Care and Education Workforce Development**

- **Workforce Registry** – *25,251* early childhood teachers, directors, trainers, and consultants registered.
- **Scholarships to improve Workforce qualifications** – *787* Scholarships were awarded to individuals and *57* scholarships to licensed child care program group-based professional development.
- Connecticut’s **Early Childhood Teacher Credential** (ECTC) – *424* Credentials Awarded 238 at the Associate Degree Level & 194 at the Bachelor Degree Level.
- **Accreditation Facilitation Project** (AFP) provided targeted technical assistance to 125 programs and over 1000 staff through individualized onsite support, group activities, and professional development.