

Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet



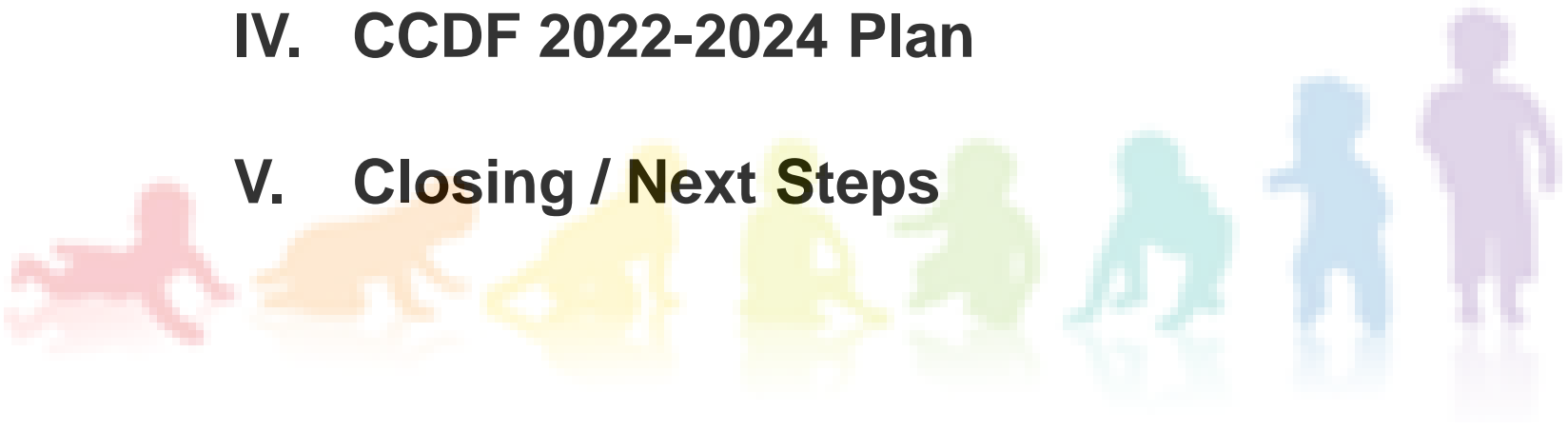
May 20, 2021
2:30 p.m.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. CT's Early Childhood Cabinet**
- III. Update on OEC Initiatives**
- IV. CCDF 2022-2024 Plan**
- V. Closing / Next Steps**



CT Early Childhood Cabinet

Purpose: to develop a high-quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education among the wide array of early childhood programs in the state, including Head Start, child care and School Readiness.

In 2005, the Early Childhood Cabinet was created in Public Act 05-245



In 2007, the Governor established the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood as part of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.



In January 2010, the CT Early Childhood Cabinet was designated to be the State Advisory Council



During the 2014 Legislative Session, the State Advisory Council was renamed as the Early Childhood Cabinet.



2021: Re-Engagement





Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

OUR VISION:

All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support, and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

OUR MISSION:

To partner with families of young children to advance equitable early childhood policies, funding and programs; support early learning and development; and strengthen the critical role of all families, providers, educators, and communities throughout a child's life. We will assertively remove barriers and build upon the strengths of historically disenfranchised people and communities to ensure fair access to OEC resources.

Office of Early Childhood: Our Work

The state agency oversees a network of programs and services that help young children and families thrive.



Early Care and Education (ECE)

Support more than **400** ECE programs serving over **40,000** children*



Care 4 Kids

Provide child care funding for low - and - moderate income families who are working or participating in education



Home Visiting

Provide parenting and child development support to families of young children and pregnant women



Birth to Three

Provide supports for families whose children have developmental delays



Parent Cabinet

Advisory group that partners with OEC to elevate family voice and develop family-centered policies, programs, and practices



Licensing

License and inspect more than **4,000** child care and youth camp programs to ensure health and safety



Background Checks

Oversee comprehensive background checks for child care providers



Quality Improvement

Provide early childhood professionals with supports to improve child care practices



Agency Administrative Functions

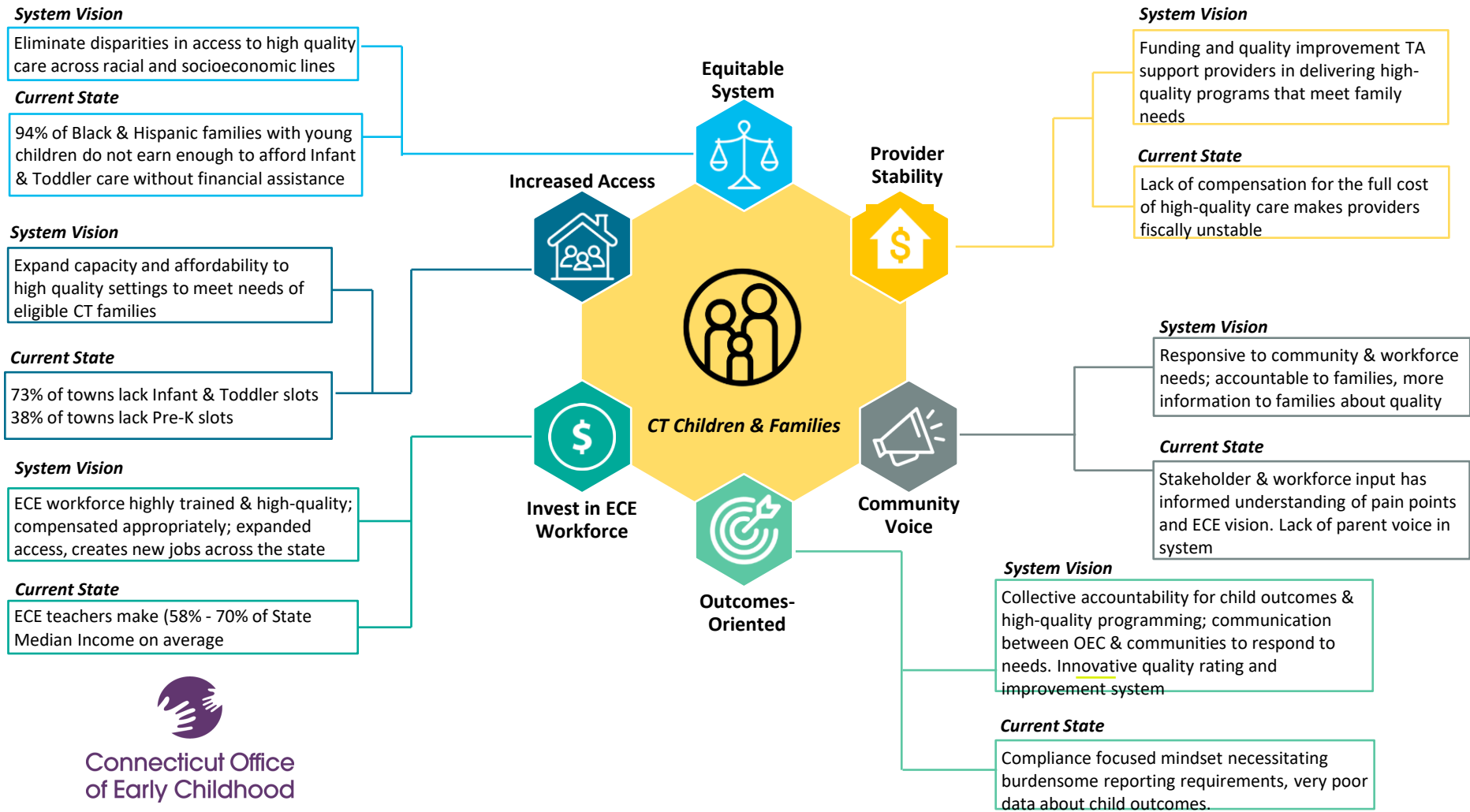
Fiscal, Legal, Communications, Information Technology, Data & Research



Government & Community Relations

Outreach and engagement with key stakeholders and partners

Overview System Re-Design: A vision for early care and education in CT



Connecticut Office of Early Childhood



READY SET REBUILD

ct's child care recovery plan



THE FEDERAL FUNDS



Round 1 - \$23.5 million CARES Act

CTCares for Child Care, CTCares for Frontline Workers, CTCares for Child Care Businesses, CTCares for Family Child Care, CTCares for Hospital Workers, CTCares for Workforce Development

Round 2 - \$70 Million CRRSA

Obligated by 10/30/22 and liquidated by 10/20/23

The CRRSA Act allocated approximately \$10 billion in supplemental funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus

Round 3 ~ \$276 million – American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

\$170 million for stabilization and \$106 million for expanded child care assistance

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act

On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) of 2014 was enacted into law.

The law reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program for the first time since 1996.

This law made significant advancements focused on strengthening child care in this country to better support the success of both parents and children.



Child Care and Development Fund Activities (CCDF)

- Care 4 Kids
- Licensing and Regulation
- Quality Improvement
- Workforce Registry
- Data Systems
- Family Child Care Networks
- 211 Infoline (Child Care and Help Me Grow)
- Administration

CT CCDF Annual Funding

Annual Federal Funding: Mandatory = \$18,700,000, State Matching = \$16,000,000, Discretionary = \$33,400,000



Care 4 Kids (C4K)

C4K is Connecticut's child care subsidy program. The program makes child care more affordable for low to moderate income families. The program is a partnership between the State, families and the child care providers.

There are eligibility requirements for parents, children and providers.

Families must:

- live in Connecticut;
- be working or attending a temporary family cash assistance (Jobs First) approved education or training activity; and
- meet the program's income requirements.

Children must:

- live in Connecticut; and
- be under age 13, or if the child has special needs, be under age 19.



2-1-1 Child Care

2-1-1 Child Care helps families find child care to best meet their needs and maintains current listings of licensed and license exempt child care programs in Connecticut.

In addition, 2-1-1 Child Care provides early care professionals with training, technical assistance and resources.



2019-2021 CCDF State Plan Milestones

OEC and Child Care 2-1-1 Launched Enhanced Child Care and Youth Camp Search Tool

- Search for programs that serve specific age groups
- Search for programs with fees, hours, quality indicators, etc. that match family needs
- See any violations cited by the OEC over the past five years
- View OEC inspection reports

Provider Registry Enhancements

- Simplify access for providers to free health and safety trainings
- Provide TA documents in English and Spanish with enhancements for family childcare providers
- Enhanced document management to allow providers to upload training documents

Staffed Family Child Care Networks

- Grew from 5 to 12 Staffed Family Networks statewide
- 1,700 providers now affiliated with Networks (85%)
- Business management supports in addition to program quality and health and safety



Staffed Family Child Care Networks



CONNECTICUT

**STAFFED
FAMILY
CHILD CARE
NETWORKS**



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

2019-2021 CCDF State Plan Milestones (continued)

ImpaCT Launch- New Information Technology System for C4K

- Ensure data security
- Allow for changes and upgrades necessary to meet the CCDF monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Improve data integrity
- Align DSS client information with child care to allow for required federal reporting for TANF, SNAP and Medicaid clients.

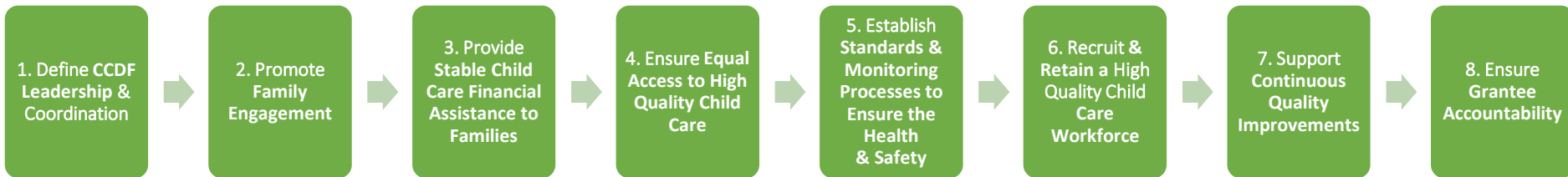
Background Checks

- Reduce time to receive criminal results from an average of 3+ months to less than 3 weeks
- Launch digital fingerprinting program (reduced errors from average of 30% to less than 3%)
- Pay criminal background check fees (4/19 - 12/19 & 8/20 - 12/20) to alleviate costs for providers
- Develop online DCF and FBI forms that reduced processing time and provider costs
- Redesign Consumer Education Website incorporating user input



8 Sections of the CCDF Plan

1. Define and Coordinate CCDF Leadership
2. Promote Family Engagement
3. Provide Stable Financial Assistance to Families
4. Ensure Equitable Access to High Quality Care
5. Establish and Enhance Standards and Quality
6. Recruit and Retain High Quality Workforce
7. Continuous Quality Improvement
8. Accountability



Goals in 2022-2024 CCDF Plan

Access to high
quality child
care

Provider rates
and quality
incentives

Market Rate
Survey + Cost
of Quality

Background
Check System
(BCIS)

Quality
Improvement
System

Staffed Family
Child Care
Networks



Quality Improvement System



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

Market Rate Survey Changes

OEC will pursue a hybrid model, taking price and costs into consideration to inform subsidy rates.

- **Request a waiver for** to complete an MRS and narrow cost analysis or an alternate methodology for **OEC to design a cost study process**
- **Include state funded providers** in hybrid model (have not been included previously)
- **Leverage the Provider Cost of Quality Calculator (PCQC)** and collect data to inform model through **interviews with providers and a survey**
 - **Deploy a survey** with the United Way of CT that **collects both MRS and certain cost data from providers**



Public Input on 2022-2024 CCDF Plan

Public comment forum will be held on **June 8, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

The forum is intended to allow interested participants to provide input on Connecticut's CCDF Plan. [Please register here.](#)

The Draft 2022-2024 CCDF Plan will be available for review on the OEC website June 4th in advance of the public comment session.

An online portal will be available for public comments beginning June 8, 2021 and closing June 21, 2021. The link to the online portal will be posted on the OEC website June 4, 2021.



In Closing

- Questions / Comments
- Next Steps
- Wrap up

