

Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet



August 17, 2022
1:00 p.m.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. Updates from Cabinet Members related to young children and families
Birth to 5**
- III. Statutory Changes to Cabinet Appointments**
- IV. COVID Update**
- V. Head Start on Housing Initiative**
- VI. OEC Statutory and Planning Updates**
 - Workforce Pipeline
 - One-Time Wage Supports
 - Infant/Toddler Increase in Rates & Expansion
 - Infant/Toddler Study
 - QIS launched Service Navigation
- VII. Care 4 Kids Update**
- VIII. Public Comment**



Statutory Changes to Early Childhood Cabinet

- Adds a licensed family child care member who is a member of a staffed family child care network identified by the OEC Commissioner.
- Adds a member of the OEC Parent Cabinet who has been appointed by the OEC Commissioner (statutory language refers to the entity as a “parent advisory group”).
- Both new positions are appointed by the Governor.
- Parents or guardians who are members of the Early Childhood Cabinet may, within available appropriations, be compensated for any time and travel to attend Cabinet meetings.



A HEAD START ON HOUSING FOR CONNECTICUT'S FAMILIES

**Head Start Early Childhood Housing Outreach (ECHO) Program
ECE Cabinet Meeting**

August 17, 2022



What We Will Discuss Today

- Introductions & Overview
- Pilot Partners & Head Start grantees
- Families & Partners Behind the Vouchers
- Where We Are
- What's Next
- Question & Answer



**Housing for
CT Head Start
Families**

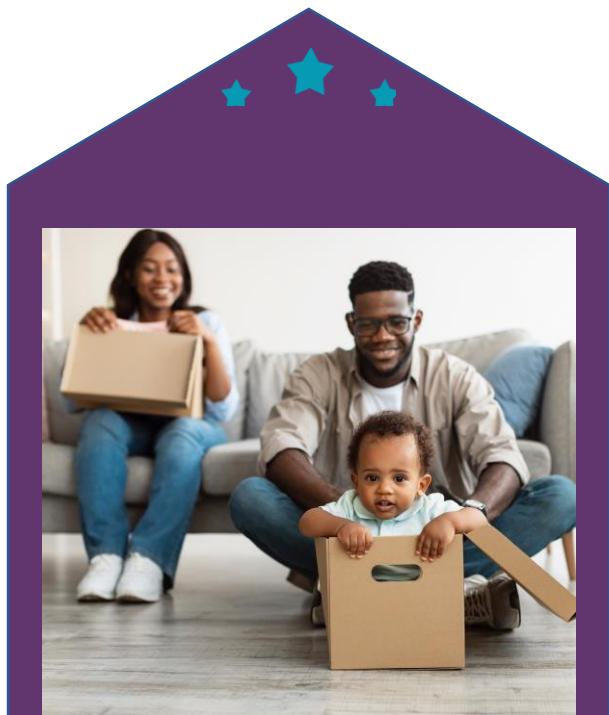
Overview of Head Start on Housing Pilot

The Connecticut Department of Housing earmarked 25 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) vouchers for families whose children are participating in CT's Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs.

To support and align with the current Coordinated Access Network (CAN) system with the goal of ending family homelessness in Connecticut, Head Start families will be prioritized for rental assistance program vouchers.

Pilot Partners

- Connecticut Department of Housing
- Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
- National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
- Connecticut Head Start Association
- Odonnell Company



Head Start Programs

- Alliance for Community Empowerment, Bridgeport
- LULAC Head Start, New Haven
- ACES Early Head Start, Middletown
- Stowe Early Learning Center, Enfield
- ECHN, Manchester/Vernon (beginning September 1, 2022)



Families & Partners Behind the Vouchers



*Meghan & Donald Gonzalez
Head Start family housed through pilot*



*Dr. Monette Ferguson, Executive Director of the
Alliance for Community Empowerment
Steve DiLella, Department of Housing*



ACES Head Start Staff

Landlord Recruitment

Landlords play a critical role in housing Head Start families!

- NCHCW has partnered with the Head Start programs to launch the Landlord Recruitment Campaign. Two strategies are planned:
 - Maintain an active data base of landlords and properties in our ECHO pilot site areas. This data base will be available for housing families.
 - Provide individual support and consultation with specific apartment search requests.
- NCHCW has assembled a volunteer Landlord Recruitment Committee and is working with Odonnell Company on marketing efforts.

Landlord Recruitment

**Making the case that
Head Start families are a
great investment!**

Families love stability. When you rent to a family with young children, you're looking at years of long-term tenants with little turnover.

WHY RENT TO HEAD START FAMILIES?

- ◆ Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children
- ◆ Programs support the whole family with resources and mentors to be successful
- ◆ Rental assistance guarantees reliable, on-time payments

**Interested in finding families to rent to?
Would you like to be a part of this initiative?
Call Betsy (XXX)XXX-XXXX.**



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Where We Are

- As of August 15, 2022:
 - 21 RAP vouchers assigned to Head Start families
 - **14 families housed!**
 - 2 apartment inspections pending
 - 4 apartment searches underway
 - 1 RAP orientation pending



Head Start family housed through pilot

What's Next?

- Facilitating housing search and successful lease-up of identified HS families
- Expanding pool of landlords and recruitment efforts
- Preparing to add the new pilot Head Start program in September
- Phase 2 - Expanding access to Section 8 with the Department of Housing administration plan revision

Question, Answer & Thank You!

Learn more at <https://headstartonhousingct.com/>

OEC Commissioner Updates



Workforce Pipeline

- Awardees and Goals

Service Navigation

- Launch in September

Wage Supports

- \$70 M to be distributed to all programs based on current staffing
 - Half in September
 - Half in January

Infant and Toddler Rates and Expansion

- \$13,500 increased rates effective July 1 for 1300 spaces
- Adding 1,300 spaces over the fiscal year

Infant and Toddler Care Study

- Researching and evaluating models



Caseload Growth

- Program has remained open
- Added Higher Ed, Job Training and up to 60% SMI with ARPA funds
- Planning for Waitlist to avoid Open/Closed issues

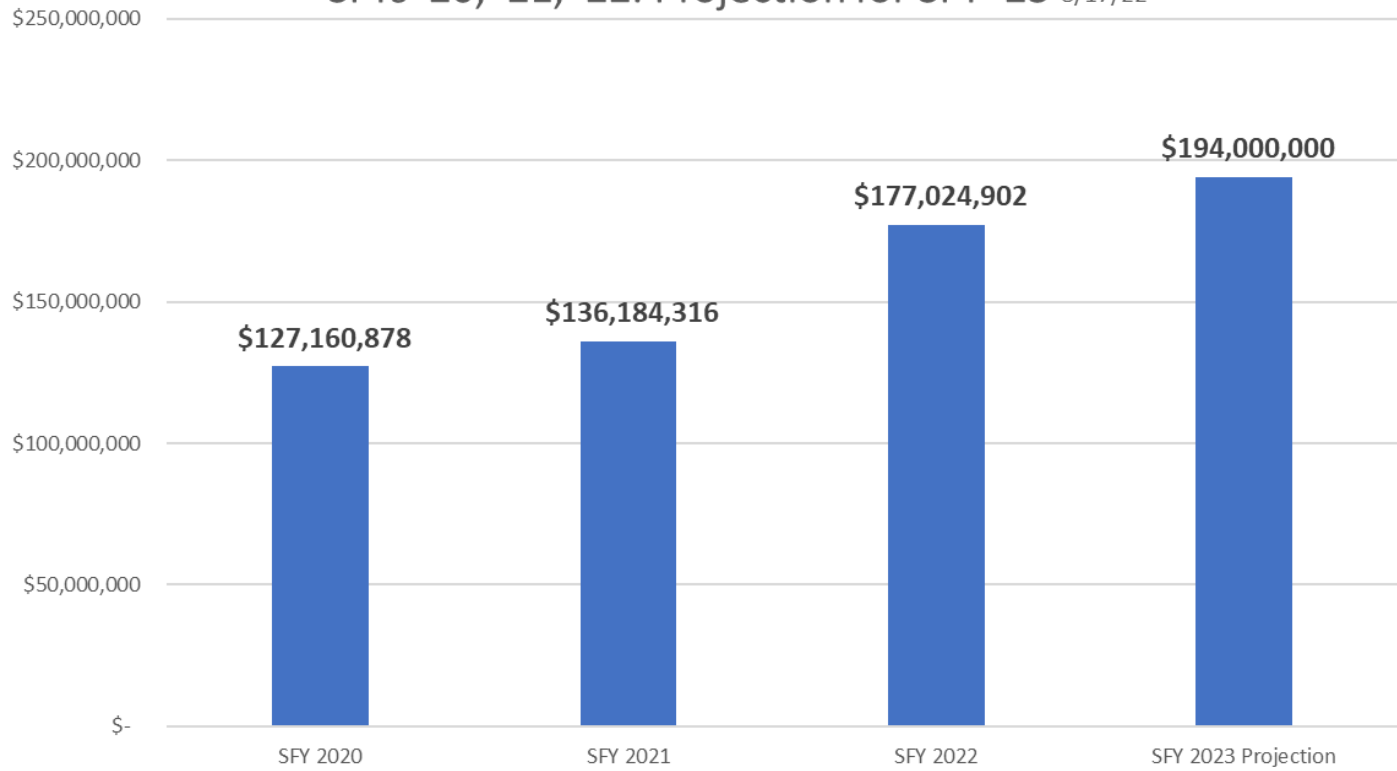
C4K Rates

- I/T increased in 2020 to 50% of Market Rate
- PreK rates at 20% of Market Rate
- School Age rates at 70% of Market Rate

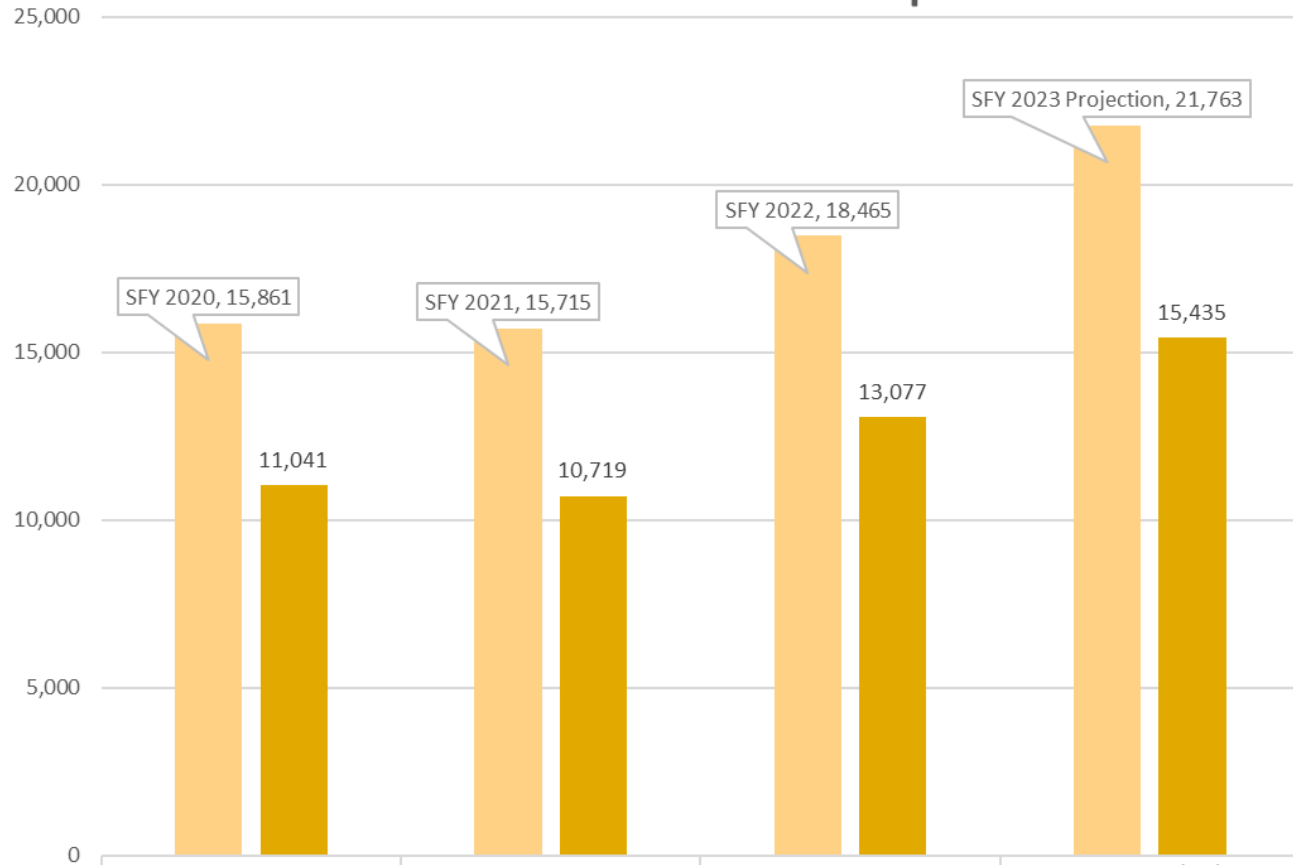
25% Accreditation Bonus - Center Based

Service Challenges –Call Wait times, Processing

Care 4 Kids Service Payments SFYs '20, '21, '22. Projection for SFY '23 8/17/22



Care 4 Kids Children & Families Paid per Month



	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023 Projection
■ Avg # of Children	15,861	15,715	18,465	21,763
■ Avg # of Families	11,041	10,719	13,077	15,435

Next Meeting:

November 9, 2022

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Proposed Agenda Items:

- Kindergarten Entry Age
- ARPA Federal Funding Updates – Response & lessons learned
- Update on Birth to 3 in Public schools
- Any other Cabinet member initiatives to address

