



WORKFORCE & QUALITY

EQUITABLE & AFFORDABLE ACCESS

SYSTEMS

FUNDING

- A. Support professional compensation for a strong and stable ECE workforce in all ECE programs.**
 - ☑ Expanded Qualified Workforce Incentives (QWI) to include BA plus 12 ECE credits
 - ☑ Care 4 Kids rates up 11% and state-funded preschool rates up 17% to stabilize programs
 - ☑ \$9M in wage supplement workforce payments
- B. Pursue strategies that support ECE workforce recruitment and retention.**
 - ☑ Covered cost of background check fees
 - ☑ \$5M center-based workforce pilot for 400 apprentices
 - ☑ Funded Family Child Care apprenticeship
 - ☑ RFP issued for another round of ECE center apprenticeship programs
- C. Simplify credentialing process. Adopt 3-step career ladder aligning compensation and credentials with the Unifying Framework (UF).**
 - ☑ Aligned requirements for Qualified Staff Member (QSM)
- D. Help ECE programs maximize their fiscal health to support stability, quality, and increased workforce compensation.**
 - ☑ Increased Care 4 Kids and state-funded program rates to stabilize programs
 - ☑ Funded Women’s Business Development Council to provide technical assistance and emergency grants
- E. Expand strategies to support improved quality of early childhood programs.**
 - ☑ Launched Pyramid work with family child care homes
 - ☑ 175 providers bonused \$1,480 for Elevate plans
 - ☑ Increased Family Child Care accreditation by 40%
 - ☑ Increased Child Care Centers accreditation by 4%

- A. Expand affordability for low- and middle-income families.**
 - ☑ Care 4 Kids system updates:
 - Expanded Care 4 Kids to serve 1,500 more children
 - Capped family fees at 7% of family income
 - Reduced the benefit cliff
 - ☑ 900 new state-funded spaces
 - ☑ Tri-Share pilot funded and established in legislation
- B. Increase the supply of affordable infant and toddler care for families.**
 - ☑ 1,290 new infant and toddler spaces
 - ☑ Group Child Care Homes workgroup established
 - ☑ Family child care Incubator development
- C. Improve access to programs and services to meet the needs of children with special needs and their families.**
 - ☑ Legislation requiring Birth to Three access to ECE classrooms
- D. Increase equitable access to high-quality care, especially for under-resourced families and communities.**
 - ☑ Prioritize diversity in apprenticeship funding
 - ☑ Smart Start per classroom cap removed allowing greater access

- A. Simplify state-funded system and better align with federal systems to reduce complexity and increase utility.**
 - ☑ Early Start CT state-funded program established
- B. Maximize existing resources; opportunities for alignment and innovation, reduce administrative burdens, and barriers to accessing state systems.**
 - ☑ Early Start CT reduces administrative burdens
 - ☑ Care 4 Kids Parent Portal reduces administrative burdens
 - ☑ Improved ECE reporter data system for state-funded providers
 - ☑ Head Start on Housing partnership with Department of Housing
- C. Ensure family and representative community voice are central in the ECE system.**
 - ☑ Engaged OEC Parent Cabinet, Parent Ambassadors, and 2Gen Parents
 - ☑ Early Start CT prioritizes local governance with community voice
- D. Develop data and information systems to track and improve systems and outcomes, in coordination with other statewide efforts.**
 - ☑ Provider 360 Portal established and launched

- A. Develop a plan to transition to funding based on the cost of care starting with infant and toddler care and high need communities.**
 - ☑ Completed cost analysis
- B. Develop a flexible fiscal model to support implementation and help to prioritize and stage investments in alignment with system reforms.**
 - ☑ Awarded facilities grants to high SVI providers - \$13M to date: \$10M in new state bonding
 - ☑ Funding partnership with CDFI and CHEFA
- C. Identify new dedicated funding streams to support sustained and significant public and private incremental investment in ECE.**
 - ☑ Early Childhood Care and Education Fund established in legislation
 - ☑ Designated members to the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund Advisory Commission

