

Early Start CT

CONNECTICUT'S STATE-FUNDED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM



When Providers Thrive, Children Thrive

Your success is their success. When your child care program has the stability, resources, and support it needs to thrive, every child in your care benefits. That's the vision of Early Start CT. Providers who are part of Early Start CT contract with the OEC to receive funding to provide high-quality infant, toddler, preschool, and before- and after- school care spaces. This new early childhood education program combines Child Day Care Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplemental Grants into one unified system to help Connecticut providers and families thrive.

Caring For Providers Is Caring For Connecticut

Early Start CT strengthens the state's mixed delivery system for all:



CHILDREN

receive higher quality care for greater learning skills and brighter futures



FAMILIES

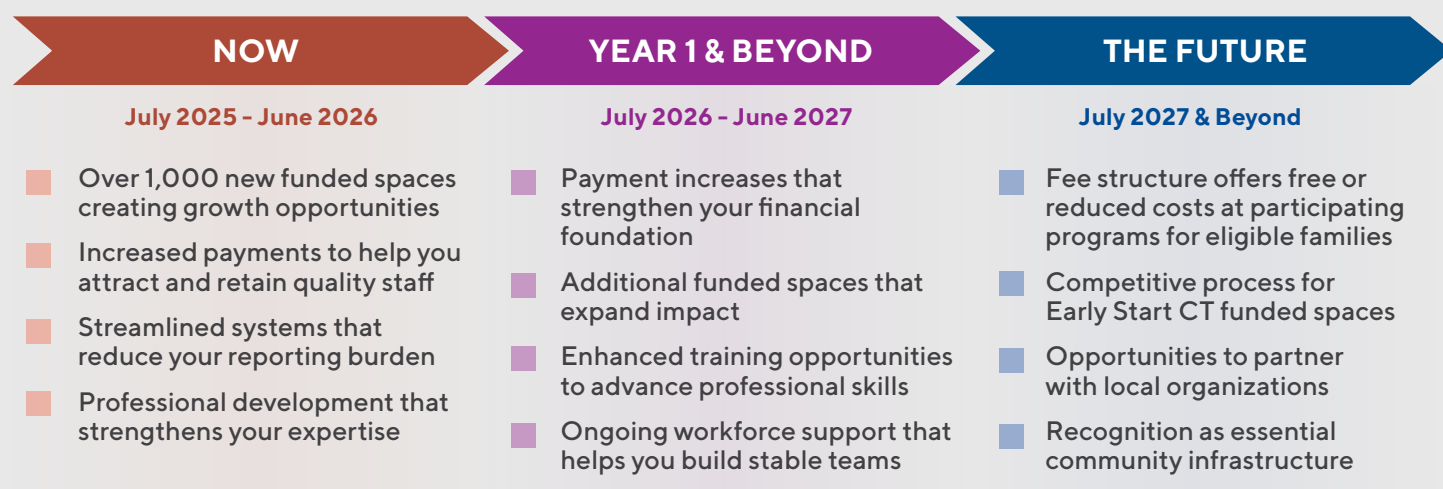
have access to affordable care from high quality, supported providers



COMMUNITIES

benefit from thriving child care businesses that anchor neighborhoods

Timeline: Building Success Over Time



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Provider Support, Community Impact

Early Start CT will roll out comprehensive support that strengthens programs and communities.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- > Guaranteed funding for Early Start CT spaces—reliable revenue to support planning
- > Predictable payment schedules that improve your cash flow and operations
- > Increasing payments designed to help you retain quality staff
- > Operating support that strengthens your business

ACCESS TO SUPPORT

- > Quality enhancement dollars to improve your facilities and programming
- > Professional development scholarships for you and your staff
- > Training resources and education opportunities
- > Best practices and improvement initiatives

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

- > Dedicated Early Start CT Liaison who assists you in your daily challenges
- > Local Governance Partner support and community advocacy
- > Direct connection to resources and assistance
- > Voice in local planning and policy decisions

Early Start CT Program Requirements

To participate in Early Start CT, providers must:



MEET REQUIREMENTS

Follow general policy requirements, staff qualifications, and family eligibility



MAINTAIN QUALITY

Maintain quality standards and work towards accreditation



COLLABORATE

Partner with Local Governance Partners and support eligible families



SHARE PROGRESS

Complete administrative processes including contracting and reporting

Ready To Thrive Together?

Whether you're already participating in Early Start CT or interested in learning more about joining the program, we're here to support you. Explore Early Start CT, connect with Local Governance Partners (LGPs), and find your Early Start CT Liaison. Visit the website or scan the QR code below to get started.

