

Early Start CT Local Governance Partners (LGPs)

**YOUR COMMUNITY HUB
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD**



Every Child Is Unique, Every Community Is Too

Just as each child develops at their own pace with unique strengths and needs, every Connecticut community has distinct priorities and challenges. Connecticut's early childhood system supports children birth through age five and their families by meeting communities where they are. **Local Governance Partners are designed to make this happen.**

What Are Local Governance Partners?

Local Governance Partners (LGPs) are located in cities and towns that receive Early Start CT funding, or they are regional across multiple communities. They bring together parents, early childhood providers, and community organizations to strengthen services for children birth to age five. The LGPs empower the community's voice to shape how services are delivered locally. LGPs are part of the Early Start CT system, but they are intended to engage and support all early care and education programs in the community, including those that do not receive state funding.

How LGPs Work

Every LGP has 4 essential parts working together for the community:

Fiduciary

A local organization that manages the LGP contract and distributes fiscal resources to support the Liaison(s), Parent Ambassadors, and Community Table collective efforts.

Liaison(s)

One or more individuals employed to coordinate LGP work, such as supervising and mentoring the Parent Ambassadors and supporting community-wide early childhood efforts and partnerships. Liaisons provide coaching and technical assistance to Early Start CT programs.

Parent Ambassadors

Trained parent leaders from the community who connect families to resources and ensure family voices are central in planning and decision-making.

Community Table

A group of community members who meet regularly to assess local needs and champion improvements. The Community Table is responsible for engaging parents and offering technical assistance and professional development opportunities to local early childhood providers.



Local Governance Partners (LGPs)



How LGPs Are Funded

Each LGP receives Early Start CT state funding to support the compensation for the Liaison(s) and Parent Ambassadors, the work of the Community Table, and local program coordination.

What LGPs Do (Primary Responsibilities)

All LGPs across Connecticut operate within the same framework, while adapting to local needs. Every LGP must:



EMPLOY
Liaison(s)
and Parent
Ambassadors



Regularly
CONVENE a
Community
Table



CONDUCT
a data-driven
needs assessment
and create a
community plan



SUPPORT all
early childhood
providers in their
area, not only those
funded by the state



STRENGTHEN
partnerships
with families
and community
organizations

How You Can Interact With Your LGP

AS A PARENT

- > Find quality child care and services that fit your needs
- > Join community engagement efforts and programs
- > Have your voice heard and be part of planning and decisions

AS A PROVIDER

- > Engage with and contribute to planning and decision-making in the early childhood community
- > Access professional development and ongoing support, including OEC resources
- > Get help connecting families to your program

AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER

- > Be part of Community Table meetings and help shape decisions around local needs
- > Serve as a volunteer or committee member to plan initiatives and events
- > Stay informed about early childhood issues in your area

LGP Support: The Intermediary

Through a competitive procurement process, the OEC contracted with Shine Early Learning, an Intermediary organization that provides funding and oversight to all LGPs across Connecticut. Just as teachers need ongoing professional development and support to do their best work, LGPs need specialized training and resources. Shine will ensure consistency across communities, share best practices, and identify and implement solutions.

