

Monday, December 29, 2025

Office of Early Childhood SFY26 Spending Plan for the Early Childhood Education Endowment			
Expansion Costs	September 2025 Proposed Expenses	January 2026 Proposed Expenses	Description
Smart Start Expansion - Operations Funds	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 1,425,000	Expanding public school preschools by approximately 11 classrooms
Smart Start Expansion - Capital Improvements	\$ 1,570,000	\$ 1,445,000	Support facility expansions for next school year for additional Smart Start classrooms
Early Start CT Expansion	\$ 19,774,264	\$ 6,000,000	Increasing child care access by approximately 1,050 spaces
Early Start CT Rate Increases		\$ 5,254,994	Up to 8% rate increase per space
Administrative Costs			Description
Agency Administrative Costs	\$ 2,816,166	\$ 1,050,811	OEC Agency capacity and staffing, IT and Data system improvements and planning
Programmatic Costs			Description
Special Education Supports	\$ -	\$ 300,000	Contracting to provide training and assistance
Enrollment Campaign	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	Supports communication with the field and public listening sessions.
Registry/Scholarships	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,450,000	Increase in funding for expansion of the Registry and scholarship funding
Quality Enhancement/Improvement	\$ 350,000	\$ 771,250	Workforce landscape planning, including pay parity and compensation schedule.
Local Governance Partners (LGPs)	\$ 4,700,000	\$ 2,680,000	Support for the Local Needs Assessment, Stipends for Parent Ambassadors, Quality Enhancement Funding, Incentives for regional LGP expansion, and match funds for every community LGP
Health Insurance	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	Funds to conduct a study on the need of a health insurance subsidy for the employees of early childhood programs. In accordance with P.A. 25-93, Sec. 15 (b)
Stabilization Grants	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	One time child care provider stabilization grants support the financial sustainability of licensed providers by offsetting rising operational costs and preventing program closures.
Total Proposed Endowment Fund Costs	\$ 32,935,430	\$ 30,927,055	