

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Office of Early Childhood SFY26 Spending Plan for the Early Childhood Education Endowment		
Expansion Costs	SFY 2026	Description
Smart Start Expansion - Operations Funds	\$ 2,025,000	Expanding public school preschools by approximately 19 classrooms
Smart Start Expansion - Capital Improvements	\$ 1,570,000	Support facility expansions for next school year for additional Smart Start classrooms
Early Start Expansion and Rate Increases	\$ 19,774,264	Increasing child care access by approximately 1,000 spaces and increasing rates to pay more per space.
Administrative Costs	SFY 2026	Description
Agency Administrative Costs	\$ 2,816,166	OEC Agency capacity and staffing, IT and Data system improvements and planning
Programmatic Costs	SFY 2026	Description
Enrollment Campaign	\$ 250,000	Supports communication with the field and public listening sessions.
Registry/Scholarships	\$ 1,150,000	Increase in funding for expansion of the Registry and scholarship funding
Quality Enhancement/Improvement	\$ 350,000	Workforce landscape planning, including pay parity and compensation schedule.
Local Governance Partners (LGPs)	\$ 4,700,000	Stipends for Parent Ambassadors, Quality Enhancement Funding, Incentives for regional LGP expansion, and match funds for every community LGP
Health Insurance	\$ 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)
Total Endowment Fund Costs	\$ 32,935,430	