

OEC Overview

Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board Meeting

11/14/2025



Office of Early Childhood

History and Creation of OEC

Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed Public Act 14-39 establishing the Office of Early Childhood on May 28, 2014 to improve the delivery of early childhood services for children in Connecticut.

It's a distinct, cabinet-level agency, incorporating early childhood programs previously from:

- The Department of Education
- The Department of Social Services
- The Board of Regents
- The Department of Developmental Services
- The Department of Public Health



OEC's vision statement

All young children in Connecticut are **safe, healthy, learning, and thriving**. Each child is surrounded by a **strong network** of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support, and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.



Our Work

OEC is a state agency that oversees a network of programs and services that help young children and families thrive. OEC is made up of various divisions and programs which include:



Early Care and Education (ECE)

Supports more than 400 ECE programs serving over 18,000 children in Early Start CT. This division also oversees Smart Start.



Quality Improvement

Provides early childhood professionals with supports to improve childcare practices through Elevate, OEC's quality improvement systems and training and technical assistance activities such as AQIS, SFCCNs, Registry and scholarship, ELDS and CT DOTS support



Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

Subsidizes the childcare expenses for eligible low-income families averaging over 20,000 children per month while funding systems and policies to improve the overall quality of and increase the supply of childcare



Family Support

Home Visiting, Help Me Grow and Sparkler provide parenting and child development support to families of young children and pregnant women



Parent Cabinet

Advisory group that partners with OEC to elevate family voice and develop family-driven policies, programs, and practices



Birth to Three

Providers support families whose children have developmental delays and disabilities. Children and families are supported by licensed professionals in the child's home and community



Licensing

License and inspect nearly 4,000 childcare and youth camp programs to ensure health and safety



Background Checks

Oversee comprehensive background checks for childcare providers



Agency Administrative Functions

Fiscal, Legal, Communications, Grants and Contracts, Data and Research



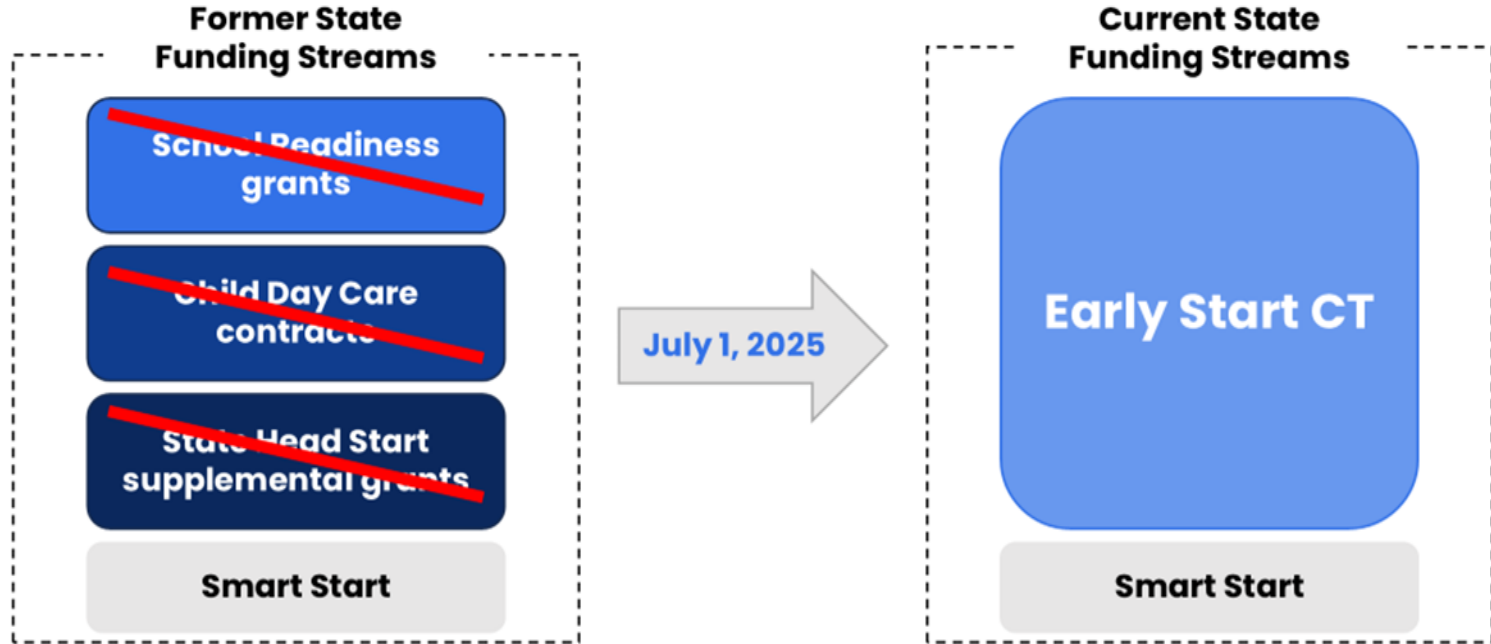
Government & Community Relations

Legislation and policy, outreach and engagement with key stakeholders and partners



What is Early Start CT?

Early Start CT is the new state funding stream that combines the current School Readiness grants, Child Day Care Contracts, and State Head Start supplemental grants; it went into effect **July 1, 2025**



OEC Fiscal Overview – State

Appropriated for state fiscal year 2026 (SFY26 July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026):

SID Description	Amount
Personal Services	9,426,912
Other Expenses	1,694,731
Birth to Three	34,082,762
Evenstart	545,456
2Gen – TANF	575,685
Nurturing Families Network	13,167,665
OEC Parent Cabinet	152,264
Head Start Services	5,833,238
Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	147,957,756
Child Care Quality Enhancement	5,954,530
Early Head Start	1,500,000
Early Care and Education	198,028,085
Smart Start	3,325,000
Total	422,244,084



Federal Funding

Grant Name	Time Line	Amount
CCDF Discretionary	10/1/24-9/30/27	103,308,791
CCDF Matching	10/1/24-9/30/27	21,141,057
CCDF Mandatory	10/1/24-9/30/27	18,738,357
MIECHV	9/30/25-9/30/27	11,341,203
MIECHV	9/30/24-9/30/26	10,847,001
B-3	7/1/25-9/30/27	6,212,445
B-3	7/1/24-9/30/26	5,935,965
CCDF ARA Supplemental	10/1/24-9/30/28	1,872,074
CBCAP	10/1/23-9/30/26	1,865,099
CBCAP	10/1/24-9/30/27	1,860,345
Head Start	2/1/25-1/31/26	190,564
TOTAL		183,312,901

*CCDF – Child Care and Development Fund
*MIECHV – Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting
*B-3: Birth to Three
*CBCAP: Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

*Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a federal and state partnership program authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG). States use CCDF funds to provide financial assistance to low-income families to access child care. In Connecticut, our child care subsidy program is Care 4 Kids.



Families/Children Served

Early Start CT:	18,000 children
Smart Start:	916 children
Birth to 3:	7,636 Children
Head Start:	5,718 children
Care 4 Kids:	approximately 23,000 children (annual average)

*Additional information and data on programs offered and families served can be found on the [OEC At-A-Glance](#). The At-A-Glance is updated annually, the most recent of which was in January, 2025.



Endowment Impact to date (FY26)

Smart Start:

- New classrooms: 15 new classrooms in 8 districts – \$1,275,000
- Capital Improvement Funds requested to open additional classrooms in SFY 2027 – \$1,670,000

Early Start CT:

- Expansion: \$6,000,000 for approximately 1,000 spaces.
 - Request for Application, a competitive procurement process, will be posted late fall, 2025
- Per Space Rate Increases of up to 8%



ECE Endowment Reporting Requirements



ECE Endowment Annual Report

Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall develop a report that includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) the financial health and actuarial future of the endowment based on information received from the Treasurer
- (2) the expenditures of funds from the endowment
- (3) status updates of early care and education programs, early childhood educators, families and children served, and
- (4) any recommendations for legislation.

The board shall submit such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children, appropriations and finance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.



ECE Endowment Impact Analysis Report

Not later than January 1, 2032, and every five years thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall prepare an impact analysis concerning the operations of the Early Childhood Education Endowment and the effect that the expenditure of funds from the endowment have had on the availability, affordability and quality of early child care in the state.

Such impact analysis shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a report on the solvency of the endowment prepared by the Treasurer, and (2) an analysis of the effect that the expenditure of funds from the endowment has had on:

- (A) early care and education programs receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b of the general statutes
- (B) early care and education programs that are not receiving state financial assistance
- (C) access of families to early care and education programs receiving state financial assistance under Early Start CT
- (D) tuition and family contribution rates
- (E) early childhood educator salaries and benefits
- (F) the state-wide demand for child care



Impact Data

Some data points currently collected by OEC contain, but are not limited to:

of new ESCT providers:

of new ESCT spaces:

Location of new spaces:

of new spaces by age group

- Infant/Toddler:
- Preschool
- School Age

of new spaces by space type

- Full Time:
- Part Time:
- Quarter Time:

Some data points that should be considered in endowment report:

- Family demographics
- Income bands



OEC Sharing Sessions



CONNECTICUT
Early Childhood

In June 2025, Governor Ned Lamont and state legislative leaders passed legislation to establish the Early Childhood Education Endowment, the largest expansion of early childhood education access in state history. The endowment is a permanent savings account to fund early childhood education that will grow over time. There are milestones, rules, and an advisory board to guide how the funds are used. Please join the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) at an upcoming listening session to learn more about the Endowment and ask questions. The sessions are open to the public.

Join us for an upcoming Endowment listening session:

DATE	LOCATION	SESSION
Thurs, November 6	On Zoom *Only in Spanish/ Español	Virtual 6-7:30pm
Wed, November 12	Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Learning Center 185 Goffe Street, New Haven, CT	In Person 6-7:30pm
Tues, November 18	North End Recreation Center 268 N Main St, Waterbury, CT	In Person 6-7:30pm
Thurs, November 20	Norwalk City Hall, Community Room 125 East Ave, Norwalk, CT	In Person 6-7:30pm

Pizza and salad will be offered at the in-person sessions.

OEC is committed to listening and engaging with families and the field as we use Endowment funding to expand Early Start CT and build a better early childhood system for Connecticut.

More information



To register for the sessions and for more updates about the Endowment, scan this QR code.
www.ctoec.org/early-childhood-education-endowment/

THANK YOU!

