

1. Name:

Cora D'Alessandro

2. Email:

3. Town *

Guilford

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☒ Parent

☐ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☒ Early Childhood Teaching Faculty

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

My name is Cora D'Alessandro, and I am a faculty member in the Early Childhood Specializations at the University of Connecticut, Waterbury. I am also the parent of two young children enrolled in full-time early care and education. I am writing to express both my support for the vision behind the proposed Early Childhood Endowment and my deep concerns about urgent gaps that must be addressed if this policy is to succeed.

I work every day to prepare the next generation of early childhood educators, and I can confidently say that right now, recruitment into this profession is in crisis. I strongly support the intent behind requiring bachelor's-level teachers in state-funded programs and the commitment to paying them more. This is the direction Connecticut must go in to elevate the field and ensure high-quality environments for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. However, the gap between where programs are today and where this policy expects them to be is enormous. Programs are already struggling to hire and retain qualified educators. Many are at risk of losing their state funding simply because they will not be able to meet the new staffing quota quickly enough. And we, as faculty, are struggling to recruit students into early childhood programs because the pathway still does not make financial sense.

My students complete hundreds of UNPAID practicum hours required for graduation, even though the programs they are placed in are so understaffed and desperately need support. If we want bachelor's-level educators in every classroom, we need a system that makes entering the field financially feasible. That means:

1. Paid practicum and student-teaching opportunities
2. Clear incentives or scholarships tied directly to entering the early childhood workforce
3. Transitional supports so programs are not penalized while they build a qualified staff pipeline

The endowment is a promising step, but without these supports, we risk worsening the staffing crisis rather than solving it.

I also want to speak as a parent living the reality of Connecticut's childcare costs. My family pays 26% of our household income on childcare for our two young children. I want to emphasize that we are a dual-income household with stable employment, and yet the cost of care is equivalent to a second mortgage.

Under the proposed model, the center my children attend would not qualify as an Early Start Program because it does not meet the required percentage of families below the median household income. But that threshold does not reflect the real financial strain families across Connecticut are facing. Middle-income families, especially those just above the cutoff for Care4Kids, are being squeezed the hardest. We make "too much" to qualify for help, but nowhere near enough to absorb fees that exceed college tuition. If the goal is to build an equitable early childhood system, then affordability must extend to all families in Connecticut. Otherwise, we will continue to see parents, especially mothers, pushed out of the workforce because childcare costs exceed what they can earn.

I want to reiterate my support for the Early Childhood Endowment. It is a meaningful investment and a sign that Connecticut is taking this issue seriously. However, we cannot overlook the immediate and structural challenges.

1. The workforce pipeline cannot grow without paid training opportunities and better financial incentives.
2. Programs need transitional support, so they are not penalized while working toward higher qualification standards.
3. Parents across all income levels need relief from unaffordable childcare costs.

If we address these gaps, the endowment has the potential to transform early childhood education in Connecticut. If we do not, we risk building a system that looks strong on paper but collapses in practice.

Sincerely,
Cora D'Alessandro

1. Name:

Joyce Abate

2. Email:

3. Town *

Norwalk

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☒ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

1.) Will C4K be available to families receiving Early Start after 7/1/27? This is imperative. Every early childhood program is a business. High quality for young children requires more money - I hope we are all in agreement with this concept because it is reality. C4K is a vital supplement income for programs, especially for those families that will have free child care starting 7/1/27. There has to be additional funding provided to offset the number of families that are paying the program nothing. Additionally, to make Early Start mandates/restrictions on programs' income work financially for programs, there can only be a certain percentage of free to the percentage of those paying - this is the calculative law of ratio. Otherwise, programs will go out of business. So, if C4K is not available, there has to be an alternative supplemental income provided/offered/made available for Early Start programs. Each time there has been a webinar or zoom meeting regarding the Early Start Endowment, the same question is repeatedly asked by providers - "Will C4K be available to Early Start families starting 7/1/2027?" The response by OEC at these meetings is: "We don't know". Providers that own their own programs plan ahead because of obvious reasons - that direction is good for many reasons as I'm sure you can understand. We need to know what income will be available to work with and what will not way before 7/1/2027. Please give us an answer to this important question about C4K. I've sat in on meetings where providers state C4K is a problem - however, C4K works very well as a supplemental income for many of our programs and is necessary.

2.) All the above also directly relates to the OEC's requirement for programs to increase the number of staff employed with teachers that have BA/BS degrees. Although that is a wonderful direction educationally, it's next to impossible to achieve - especially in programs that have a considerable amount of teachers employed and offering 1/3 of our Early Start enrollment as free from paying a parent share. In addition, as I'm sure you know, the cost of living in Fairfield County CT is more expensive than all other CT counties. This concept is reality and should be the catalyst to move OEC to provide increased funding to programs in Fairfield County. This has been a discussion for many years, since I served on the Governor's Child Day Care Council in the early 2000's - the issue has never been resolved and it should be. Staff wages, food, and most all expenses in Fairfield County are higher than in any other county in CT. High quality for young children requires more money and teachers employed with BA/BS degrees cost more money.

3.) In the last few years, I have observed the number of graduates receiving degrees in Early Childhood Ed, and degrees that are acceptable to CT OEC, across CT colleges and Universities. This number is extremely low as colleges that used to turn out 100's of such graduates, are now graduating under 10 graduates/year. Again - it is a wonderful goal for programs to employ teachers with BA/BS degrees, especially those that wish to make early childhood education their life-long career. Unfortunately this is currently an unrealistic mandate by OEC - to require programs to hire staff, (and increase the number of staff as time goes on), with BA/BS degrees as the number of those majoring in Early Childhood Ed, and degrees accepted by OEC in colleges and universities, is very low in proportion to the number of licensed and funded child care programs that are required by CT OEC to employ them.

3.) The Early Start Family Fee Schedule printed on the OEC website is so tiny that it's almost impossible to read. OEC please enlarge this so programs can easily print it and share it.

4.) Since the 8% increase per child is being offered by the Governor to Early Start programs, effective October 1, 2025, exactly when will Early Start programs be receiving this increase?

1. Name:

Shannon Knudsen

2. Email:

3. Town *

New Haven

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☐ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☒ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Shannon Knudsen, and as director of an early child I am here in strong support of the Early Childhood Education Endowment.

Investing in early childhood is one of the most effective and fiscally responsible decisions we can make. High-quality early learning experiences lay the foundation for lifelong success—academically, socially, and economically. Yet too many families still struggle to find or afford safe, enriching care for their young children.

This endowment directly addresses those challenges.

First, it will help families gain reliable access to quality education and care. By expanding availability and reducing financial barriers, more children, regardless of zip code or family income, will be able to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Second, it supports higher wages for early childhood educators. We cannot expect quality without valuing the people who provide it. Competitive, stable compensation means we can recruit and retain skilled teachers who build strong relationships with children and deliver the level of care families deserve.

Finally, the endowment will improve early learning facilities. Safe, modern, developmentally appropriate environments are essential to children's growth. Facility upgrades not only enhance learning, but also ensure that programs meet health, safety, and licensing standards.

In short, the Early Childhood Education Endowment is a long-term, sustainable solution that strengthens families, supports our workforce, and benefits the broader economy. When we invest in our youngest children, we invest in our state's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge your support.

1. Name:

Tyshell Gore

2. Email:

3. Town *

Hamden

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☒ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board Public Hearing
December 10, 2025

Good evening members of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Tyshell Gore, and I am the owner and director of The Learning Center in Connecticut, as well as director of The Turnaround Table, an organization dedicated to supporting youth, families, and community stability across New Haven and Hamden.

I am writing today in strong support of robust, sustained investment in early childhood education through the Early Childhood Education Endowment. As a long-time childcare provider, community partner, and employer, I see every day how critical high-quality early learning is—not only for children, but for working parents, our local workforce, and the long-term health of our communities.

For seven years, my organization has served infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children, including families facing housing insecurity, financial hardship, and involvement with DCF. Our staff works tirelessly to meet state standards, maintain licensing compliance, pursue NAEYC accreditation, and provide safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive. Yet the cost of delivering true quality—qualified staff, competitive wages, curriculum materials, facility improvements, mental-health supports, and extended-day services—continues to rise far faster than reimbursement rates or family affordability.

This Endowment has the potential to finally stabilize early childhood programs like mine, ensuring that providers can:

- Recruit and retain qualified educators with salaries that reflect their expertise
- Expand access to infants and toddlers, the age groups with the highest demand and lowest funding
- Invest in accreditation, curriculum, and professional development that elevate program quality
- Support families facing instability, including those experiencing homelessness, DCF involvement, or language barriers
- Build long-term sustainability so centers can focus on children, not constant financial crisis management

Connecticut families deserve a system that does not depend on underpaid educators and overstretched programs. Sustainable funding is the foundation for a stronger workforce, stronger school readiness outcomes, and stronger local economies.

I urge you to prioritize investments that reach community-based programs—the centers doing the most intensive work with the fewest resources. We know what our children need. What we lack are the stable, predictable funds to provide it.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to strengthening Connecticut's early childhood landscape. I welcome any opportunity to participate in future conversations, pilots, or working groups as the Endowment moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyshell Gore
Owner/Director, The Learning Center

1. Name:

Jola Borto

2. Email:

3. Town *

Middletown

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☐ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☒ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☒ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

I am pleased to submit written testimony to the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board. My name is Jola Borto, and I am a Senior Director for Early Childhood and Family services at Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc. (ABH) in Middletown. ABH is a nonprofit organization that provides behavioral health services across Connecticut and is the developer of the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®).

The ECCP® program is a nationally recognized, evidence-based Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program designed to address the social-emotional needs of young children, birth to age five. ECCP® is listed as an evidenced based model in the national database of evidence-based programs in "What Works Clearinghouse", as well as in the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse (CEBC).

Developed in 2002, the primary goal of the ECCP® Program is to reduce and prevent the incidence of suspension and expulsion of young children. The ECCP® program continues to be managed by ABH and is funded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Grant funding allows that all licensed early care and education programs across Connecticut are eligible to receive services from master's level ECCP® Consultants. ECCP® Consultants are embedded in local communities and bring mental health expertise directly to ECE programs. ECCP® Consultants work with educators and families to help them learn and implement best practice social-emotional strategies, which in turn help children gain skills regulating emotions, following directions, engaging pro-socially with peers and learning to navigate conflict; all of which help children to be ready to engage in academic instruction.

We are seeing an increase in young children presenting with concerning and challenging behavior. This, coupled with staffing challenges, has resulted in many early childhood education programs experiencing a high degree of burnout and turnover among their staff. By investing in ECCP®, we are investing in promoting the social-emotional development of young children as well as supporting the ECE workforce. For over 22 years, ECCP® has been supporting the ECE workforce with our evidence-based model of IECMHC. In this time, ECCP® Consultants have supported over 19,000 educators and over 66,000 children. Educators who partner with ECCP® regularly remark that the skills they learn from working with their ECCP® Consultant reduces their stress as educators and makes a positive impact in their classroom and the children they are supporting. They also state that they feel they are better prepared to manage similar challenges should they arise again.

ABH is excited that Connecticut passed legislation that created the Early Childhood Endowment. ECE providers in our state are laying the foundation for our state's future success as they care for and support the development of our youngest residents.

ABH is looking forward to exploring how we may be able to partner through the Early Childhood Endowment to increase the capacity of our statewide ECCP® Consultant team, which would allow us to provide more services to ECE providers across our state. Currently we have over 85 referrals for Child-Specific services and over 50 referrals for Core Classroom/Family Childcare Program services waiting to be paired with an ECCP® Consultant. We know that the endowment will create more ECE slots for families, thus bringing more educators to the workforce. We fully anticipate and look forward to receiving even more referrals to the ECCP® program. We are submitting this written testimony to voice our support for the endowment, and our desire to learn more about how funding from the endowment may be used to increase ECCP® capacity so that we will be ready to respond to increased referrals and continue to support ECE programs and thus young children, throughout our state.

Please visit our website to learn more about ECCP, at www.eccpct.com.

Thank you,
Jola Borto, PsyD

1. Name:

Tane Trimble

2. Email:

3. Town *

Hamden

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

As a business owner in the child care sector, I have seen the profound effects that child care endowments can have on our industry, particularly regarding the challenges posed by long wait lists for child care services. The ability to provide accessible and quality care is vital for families and the overall health of our community.

Currently, many families face long wait lists for child care placements, which places immense pressure on parents who need reliable care to pursue their jobs. This situation poses several challenges:

Lengthy wait lists create uncertainty for parents, forcing them to seek alternative arrangements, which can be stressful and less ideal. This uncertainty can lead to financial burdens if parents need to take time off work or switch jobs, impacting their economic stability.

For small business like mine, long wait lists mean that we are unable to serve as many families as we would like. It limits our growth potential and creates a ripple effect within the community, as parents may have to leave the workforce or seek employment elsewhere. This is a loss not just for the families but for the local economy as well.

In conclusion, the child care endowment is crucial not only for enhancing the quality of care but also for addressing the long wait lists that families face. This support directly affects our small business's ability to serve our community effectively while allowing parents to feel secure about their child care options.

Together, we can work towards a future where families have the access they need to quality child care, benefiting everyone involved.

Thank you for considering my testimony regarding the importance of child care endowments in our community, particularly in addressing the challenges posed

Thank You

Tane's Lil World Daycare

1. Name:

Mary Peniston

2. Email:

3. Town *

CT ECFC covers statewide

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2 options.

☐

Parent

☐

Childcare Provider

☐

Early Childhood Educator

☐

Community Organization

☐

Employer

☐

Advocate

☒

ED of CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Testimony from the CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (CT ECFC) for the Public Hearing of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Committee, Wednesday, December 10, 2025

(1) The bold vision that has been put forth - to provide all Connecticut families with access to affordable, high quality early care and education – can only be realized with significant annual investments to grow the endowment. Our state needs to make an ongoing commitment to significantly grow the endowment over the coming years; otherwise, our state will not be able to generate the necessary income to build and sustain a system that meets the needs of Connecticut's families and stabilizes the business model of ECE providers.

(2) We also encourage the Advisory Committee to thoughtfully consider the priorities of how endowment income is invested in the Early Start system so that Connecticut creates the equitable and mixed delivery system that has been promised. We recommend balancing the goal of expanding access with the imperative to raise Early Start rates, recognizing that creating new slots will only be sustainable if rates adequately support program quality and stability. Without funding that covers the true cost of care, Early Start providers are being forced to tap into Care 4 Kids in addition to Early Start funding. This is contributing to the high demand for Care 4 Kids which is currently maxed out and has a wait list of about eight months.

(3) Family Child Care (FCC) currently relies on Care 4 Kids as its primary source of public funding and those providers are often subsidizing low-income families out of their own pockets while families are on the waitlist. Family Child Care is an important part of the ECE system as it is the primary source of care during non-traditional hours and is well suited to serving culturally and linguistically diverse families. Early Start needs to be more accessible to FCCs. They need clear supports to be able to increase participation, and consideration should be given to how contracts are set up, possibly through an intermediary, to ensure accessibility.

(4) We also support advocates' position to ensure Early Start funding covers full day/full year rather than school day/school year. We should not depend on Care 4 Kids or families to have to pay the significant additional costs that would not be covered by a system that only subsidizes school day/school year.

(5) Finally, we want to highlight that child care businesses need information about Early Start changes in a timely manner. These businesses need to plan for changes in revenues and costs or other requirements that will have an operational impact.

About the CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative: Established in 2011, CT ECFC's mission is to bring the collective voice and resources of philanthropy to build and sustain a comprehensive and equitable early childhood system that works for all children, families, communities and the workforce in Connecticut. Our collaborative of 20 funders is honored to be part of the good work being done in our state that is building towards "a comprehensive and equitable early childhood system, that is effective, efficient, and high quality that leads to improved outcomes for all children, families, communities and the workforce in Connecticut."

Thank you for your time and consideration. We invite the Committee to reach out to CT ECFC as implementation plans continue to develop. We welcome continuing to share our perspective.

Contact: Mary Peniston, CT ECFC Executive Director, mpeniston@ctphilanthropy.org, December 8, 2025

1. Name:

Lushanna TThompson

2. Email:

3. Town *

Hamden

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Public Testimony Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board Hearing
Presenter: Lushanna Thompson
Owner, Every Child Ahead LLC
Hamden, Connecticut

Good afternoon,

My name is Lushanna Thompson, and I'm the owner of Every Child Ahead LLC in Hamden, Connecticut. I've been in early childhood education for nearly two decades, and I'm here today because this work is not just my business; it's my life's work.

I want to be very clear: childcare providers are tired, but we are still standing. We are still opening our doors every morning. We are still feeding children, educating them, loving on them, protecting them, and preparing them for school and life, even when the systems meant to support us feel shaky.

Every Child Ahead has survived recessions, a pandemic, staffing crises, policy changes, and rising costs that hit us from every angle. Food costs are up. Supplies are up. Insurance is up. Rent, utilities, everything is up. But our tuition can only go so high, because the families we serve are already stretched.

And yet, providers are still expected to perform at the highest level with the lowest level of stability. That is not sustainable.

At the same time, families are also struggling to access help. Right now, Care4Kids still has over 4,000 families and more than 6,000 children on the waiting list.

That means thousands of parents want to work, want to be stable, but cannot secure affordable childcare. Providers want to serve those families, but without

funding support, our hands are tied. This waiting list is not just a number. It represents real parents, real children, and real lost opportunities every single day.

The Early Childhood Education Endowment matters because it represents something we rarely get in this field: long-term security. Not temporary relief. Not a quick fix. But real investment in the future of early learning and the people who make it possible.

Let me say this plainly:

You cannot keep asking providers to pour from an empty cup.

We cannot keep losing talented educators because they can't afford to stay.

We cannot keep saying children are our future while underpaying the people shaping that future every day.

This Endowment has the power to:

- Stabilize programs like mine
- Support wages that reflect the real value of this work
- Keep providers from closing their doors
- Expand access for families who desperately need care
- And help reduce the Care4Kids waiting list so families can actually move forward

I serve infants through Pre-K. I work with hardworking families, doing their best, and just trying to keep their households together. When childcare is stable, families are stable. When childcare is unstable, everything else starts to crumble.

Early childhood education is not a convenience; it is infrastructure. Parents cannot work without us. Children cannot thrive without us. And communities cannot grow without us.

I am asking this Board to continue protecting, growing, and strengthening this Endowment, with providers at the center of every decision. Make sure small programs like mine are not left behind. Make sure the workforce is not treated as an afterthought. Make sure sustainability is not a slogan, but a reality.

When you invest in early childhood, you are not just funding a program; you are shaping lives, families, and futures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued commitment to early learning in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

Lushanna Thompson

Owner, Every Child Ahead LLC

Hamden, Connecticut

1. Name:

Dr. Janice Gruendel

2. Email:

3. Town *

Branford

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☐ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☒ Advocate

☒ Researcher

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

As founders of the CT 359 Network, we present this written testimony today to acknowledge and celebrate the immense work and accomplishment of thousands of providers, advocates, legislators, and other policy makers in creation of the CT Early Childhood Education Trust. This brave work has achieved well-deserved national recognition to strengthen and support a sector – early care and education – that has been in fiscal and workforce crisis for many years. We also celebrate the state’s reinvestment in local governance partnerships at the community level and believe that the required needs assessments and formal strategic community plans will advance on-target development of younger children across early care and education and other sectors necessary for child and family health, parenting,

We also present this testimony to share some basic data on the well-being of young children here in Connecticut. This data strongly suggests we need a cross-sector, aligned focus on young children’s health and development as well as the health, mental health, and basic needs of the families in which they live and grow. Of course, the early care and education is a core part of this kind of young child policy framework, but it is not the only part.

What we have learned is that -- even in a state as economically advantaged as Connecticut -- young children are struggling. While one in two young children are enrolled in Medicaid, four in ten may not be receiving a pediatric developmental screening at all, and fewer than 14% are identified as having a developmental concern requiring action by the pediatrician. There is wide variability across communities, and some variation by age with the fewest formal screenings occurring during the first year of life.

As many as one in two three-year olds entering Head Start does not demonstrate age-expected development. As many as three in ten Connecticut preschool-enrolled students experience “disabilities” and are enrolled in PreK special education. Each year several thousand young children who are referred to the CT Birth to Three Part C Early Intervention program with concerns about developmental delays are not eligible for services. Yet among children entering public kindergarten over the past decade six in ten need moderate to substantial instructional support. Over the period from 2020 through 2023, the number of K-12 students enrolled in special education in Connecticut grew from 79,348 to 85,497, an increase of 8% and greater than the national increase of 6.2%.

And, at the present time, the DAS 2024 Information Technology Strategic Plan reports that data siloes prevent state agencies from connecting child, family and service data in order (a) to improve service connection and service delivery for present families and (b) to examine data over time to improve child outcomes, program quality, and fiscal strategies informed by “return on investment” analyses.

On behalf of the CT 359 Network, we look forward to continued fiscal, workforce, and quality investment in the entire child care and preschool sector, and we recognize that it will take several more years for the state’s investment to reach target levels.

At the same time, we hope that information from other sectors (such as shared above) may suggest that including a few additional members from the obstetric, pediatric and family health sector to the Endowment’s Advisory Council will enable Connecticut to begin to achieve a whole child, whole family, whole community framework – connected across sectors – to support our youngest citizens and the families in which they grow and nurture.

1. Name:

Ruben Mallma Medina

2. Email:

3. Town *

New Haven

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

TESTIMONY. To: Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board.

My name is Ruben Mallma Medina, and I have been working in childcare for approximately 24 years in the Fair Haven neighborhood, one of the poorest areas in New Haven County. I thank the Governor and the members of the Legislature for the wise decision to allocate a special budget for childcare. It is an excellent investment they are making in the future of children and the well-being of working families. In all these years of sacrifice, like all or most Home Childcare Providers, I have come to the conclusion that Family Childcare Homes are not being properly considered when it comes to obtaining benefits that help us maintain our businesses. Based on the principle of fairness, we want the money to be distributed equitably among all (Childcare Centers, Home Childcare Groups, and Family Childcare Homes). In the past, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Care Homes have received little to no support compared to Child Care Centers. We were even denied PPP loans through complicated procedures or simply ignored by all the agencies responsible for distributing them. Furthermore, when it comes to childcare relief funds, Home Child Care Providers are not even considered for access to information, much less for providing input on decision-making.

I hope that this time a fairer approach will be taken and that the requirements and documentation will be simpler and more accessible for Home Child Care Providers. Thank you

Ruben Mallma Medina
Childcare Provider
License Number: DCFH.53883
32 Alton St. 2nd.Floor LEFT
New Haven CT 06513
Cell: 203-675-9055
Email: mallmaruben1@gmail.com

1. Name:

Maria Matos

2. Email:

3. Town *

West Haven

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Buenas tardes, estoy muy agradecida por la oportunidad de expresar los problemas que he estado enfrentando:

- Care 4 Kids.

Las familias aplican a Care 4 Kids, porque ? Porque necesitan ayuda y las pasan a una lista de espera, de más de 7 meses, es muy larga la espera para todos las familias y los Proveedores. Cuando he hablado telefónicamente, he tenido de parte de Care 4 Kids, la siguiente respuesta: " los padres deben de hacerse cargo de los gastos del

Day Care, hasta que salgan de la lista de espera"... los padres no pueden pagar la tarifa completa, es por eso que llenan la solicitud de ayuda....como proveedor, he tenido que llegar a un acuerdo con los padres para ayudarlos a ellos y a mí, ya que necesito trabajar. Las familias que solicitan asistencia, lo hacen porque lo necesitan ¿Cómo se puede esperar que asuman la responsabilidad y paguen mientras están en lista de espera? necesitan trabajar para mantener a sus familias, para eso necesitan alguien que le atiendan a sus hijos, de lo contrario no pueden ir a trabajar, no trabajan, no comen.....Si tienen que esperar siete meses, ¿cómo alimentan a sus familias? ¿Cómo pueden pagar la factura completa? ¡Care 4 Kids necesita cambiar! Ayudar a las familias y apoyar a los proveedores que hacen el trabajo duro. Cuando las familias salen de la lista de espera, solo reciben la ayuda retroactiva por un par de semanas, para atrás, a pesar de que los niños recibieron nuestra asistencia todo el tiempo. Sería justo que los pagos retroactivos para los proveedores fueran más atrás que solo dos semanas, o que las familias salgan de la lista de espera más rápidamente. Tube una madre de 5 hijos, que estuvo esperando 8 meses, en la lista de espera, su hija pasó al Pre-School...yo recibiendo un mínimo.

Todo esto es por un futuro mejor para los niños y nuestra comunidad.

- Por que los pagos de DCF son tarde ??? Este año he asistido a un niño de DCF, en 2 oportunidades en vacaciones. La primera vez que asistió fue en las vacaciones del pasado Abril, se estaban demorando y demorando, por el pago, le reclamaba a la asistente y me decía: "que faltaba información en el invoice, luego que era porque tenían un programa, un sistema nuevo de computación, luego que no me tenían dentro del sistema" Pasó el tiempo, lograron ponerme en el sistema, me dijeron, "que bueno!! usted ahora hasta en el sistema, ya no va a haber problemas de demoras más en el futuro" La segunda vez que asistió fue en Agosto.

Y hoy estoy todavía esperando el pago por mis servicios del mes de Agosto, que se supone que una Proveedora deba hacer ?? Como paga los gastos de su negocio, la luz, el agua, el gas. Tengo que decirles también : "I'm Sorry voy a voy a averiguar, qué raro que esté pasando eso..." Yo, a la luz o el agua, no le puedo decir eso, porque me cortan los servicios, y si a otras cosas las pago tarde tengo recargo! Que estoy haciendo como Proveedora, pagando para poder trabajar? Eso no es justo!

Es otro sistema Del Estado que no está funcionando bien, yo ya hice mi trabajo, hace 4 meses y donde está mi paga ? y que reconocimiento hay?

Sólo tengo que esperar por un servicio hecho, donde luego me toca pagar TODO atrasado?

Eso es justo eso está correcto ? NO!

El sistema de pago de DCS para las Proveedoras de cuidado de niños en el hogar tiene que cambiar !!!

Todas las cosas suben, el costo de vida sube, por donde lo miras todo sube, y nosotros tenemos que estar esperando cuatro meses para que se nos pague un trabajo ya terminado? He hablado con otras colegas y he estado en la misma situación ellas.

Eso no funciona bien?

- Las ayudas, préstamos a la proveedoras, cómo fue la distribución del dinero que había ?

Los requisitos: mejoras para la seguridad o salud, ser de una ciudad desierto, tener cupos. Yo estoy en West Haven (ciudad desierto), necesitaba hacer una salida, tenía nueve cupos disponibles, elevé en tiempo y forma, la solicitud no tuve ninguna oportunidad, y otros recibieron hasta 2 ayudas y más... Por que ?

1. Name:

H Rojas

2. Email:

3. Town *

West haven

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2 options.

- ☐ Parent
- ☒ Childcare Provider
- ☐ Early Childhood Educator
- ☐ Community Organization
- ☐ Employer
- ☐ Advocate
- ☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

Como proveedora de cuidado infantil en casa , Yo Helen Rojas , quiero expresar la gran preocupación que estamos viviendo por los fondos no habidos de Care for Kids. Esta situación nos está afectando directamente a los proveedores y también a las familias que dependen de este apoyo para poder trabajar.

Los pagos retrasados o que no llegan nos ponen en una posición muy difícil. Muchos de nosotros estamos usando nuestros propios recursos para mantener la calidad del programa, comprar comida, materiales y cubrir los gastos del hogar. Sin el apoyo de Care for Kids, se nos hace casi imposible sostener nuestros servicios.

Las familias también están sintiendo este impacto. Están preocupadas, estresadas y temen perder el cuidado de sus hijos porque nosotros, los proveedores, no podemos seguir sin recibir lo que corresponde.

Solo pedimos más apoyo y una solución urgente. Queremos seguir cuidando a los niños y apoyando a las familias, pero necesitamos que el sistema también nos respalde para poder continuar.

