OVERVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS, 2021

CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT

35,012 Births in Connecticut in 2017.\(^1\) 36,021 Births in 2016 and 35,711 Births in 2015.\(^2\)

----- Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-18 Years in age: 56.7% White; 12.3% Black; 4.5% Asian; 22.8% Hispanic; 7.0% Two or More Races; 6.8% Other, 2013-2017.\(^3\)

36,566 Children enrolled in public school kindergarten, 2019-20.\(^4\)

15.9% of students in public schools are enrolled with Special Education Status.\(^5\)

43.3% of students in public schools are eligible for Free & Reduced-priced meals.\(^6\)

13.5% of children are in households with income below Federal Poverty Level.\(^7\)

20.0% of children in families that receive public assistance in Connecticut.\(^8\)

71,033 Three- and four- year-olds in the state, 2016 + 2017 births.\(^9\)

181,710 Children under 5 years in age\(^{10}\)

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **School Readiness:** 12,277 school readiness spaces – 7,773 full-day, 1,507 school-day, 2,541 part-day and 456 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 310 sites in 67 communities, SFY 2021.\(^{11}\)

- **Child Day Care Centers:** 3,937 spaces - 1,522 Infant-Toddler spaces; 2,210 preschool spaces for 3- and 4-year-olds; and 205 school-age spaces; contracted at 98 community-based sites in 48 cities/towns, SFY 2021.\(^{12}\)

- **Smart Start:** 650 spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children in 44 Classrooms in 23 School Districts/28 Schools, SFY 2021\(^{13}\)

- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program:** 37 children in 2021, ages birth to 5 years old and the 26 parents, receive comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success, provided by 3 grantees.\(^{14}\)

- **Child Care Subsidies - Care 4 Kids (C4K):** SFY 2020 = 26,218 children in 17,521 families received C4K services by 5,375 providers as compared to CY 2020 = 24,731 children in 16,684 families received C4K services by 5,345 providers service month.\(^{15}\) The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care. C4K Subsidy Expenditures in SFY2020 = $127,160,878. The monthly averages for Jul-Dec 2020 = 15,748 Children (10,671 Families); Jan-Jun 2020 = 17,748 Children (12,302 Families); Jul-Dec 2019 = 17,476 Children (12,044 Families) received C4K services. The unduplicated count (monthly average) of providers in SFY2020 = 1,163 (942) Licensed & License-Exempt Centers, Youth Camps & Group Homes; 984 (844) in Licensed Family, and 3,228 (2,174) Unlicensed Family.

- **Public School Preschool** Local Education Agency (LEA) funded – 18,829 children enrolled in public school district preschool in 2019-20.\(^{16}\)

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

- **Head Start (HS),** federal funding direct to 21 programs for school readiness of children ages three to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child including connecting families with medical, dental, and mental health services and family support to ensure children are receiving all the services they need. – 5,095 children ages 3 -5 years in HS enrollments.\(^{17}\)

- **Early Head Start (EHS),** federal funding direct to 17 programs for comprehensive services, 1,586 children, prenatal to age 2 and 97 pregnant women served in center-based, family child care, and home visiting.\(^{18}\)

- **State Head Start Services** – In FY21, there were 47 program sites, 220 new spaces that add capacity to federal Head Start & EHS funded programs in 14 communities. 911 Extended Day/Extended Year spaces in 23 communities.\(^{19}\)
• **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**, a partnership to expand Head Start standards and comprehensive services to children in child care - **222** children, birth to 3 years in center-based care, and birth to 4 years, in home-based care.\(^{20}\)

The above Early Care and Education spaces include duplicates across funding types. For example: Smart Start and School Readiness spaces that are located in public schools are also in the Public School Preschool counts.

## Services for Young Children and Their Families

**Early Intervention** supports families with children under age 3 identified with developmental delays or disabilities.

- **Birth to Three (IDEA Part C)** - During FY20 there were **9,230** referrals. **9,425** of those children were evaluated, and **6,014** of those (64%) were determined to be eligible.\(^{21}\)

Over the course of the FY, the system supported the families of **11,281** children under age 3 with an Individualized Service Plan (IFSPs) regardless of when they were determined to be eligible.\(^{22}\)

- **Early Childhood Special Education** and related services, (CSDE): **Preschool Special Education (IDEA Part B, 619)** - and related services through local education organizations for **4,988** children in FY21.\(^{23}\)

## Information and Referral

- **Help Me Grow / Child Development Info Line** – **2,743** Help Me Grow referrals; **14,160** CDI calls; **1,651** new Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments; **9,837** total ASQ enrollment in FY2020.\(^{24}\)

- **211 Child Care** – fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referrals and requests. In SFY 2020 – **58,710** Service Request Referrals including and pertaining to: **23,204** Infant, **11,831** Toddler, **15,082** Preschool, **8,888** School Age Child Care; **9,339** Covid-19 Supports (Financial, PPE, Child Care Placement); **7,630** Provider Training; **1,944** Child Care Subsidies; **755** Internet Information Resources; **670** Licensing/Certification/Accreditation requests; and **1,190** other service referrals.\(^{25}\)

## Home Visiting

**Home Visiting** services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk, in high-risk communities.

- **Parents as Teachers (Nurturing Families Network)** - **2,380** parents and **2,348** children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).\(^{26}\)

- **Child First** - **342** parents and **350** children served in Connecticut in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).\(^{27}\)

- **Nurse Family Partnership** - **121** parents and **98** children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded and federal MIECHV-funded combined).\(^{28}\)

- **Early Head Start** – **51** parents and **51** children served in FFY 2020 (federal MIECHV).\(^{29}\)

- **Family Check-up** – **83** parents and **77** children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded).\(^{30}\)

- **Minding the Baby** – **6** parents and **2** children served in FFY 2020 (state-funded).\(^{31}\)

## Workforce

**Early Care and Education Workforce Development**

- **Workforce Registry SFY20**: **4,362** new accounts; **29,151** accounts with activity.\(^{32}\)

- **Registry Processing SFY20**: **408** Head Teacher applications; **3,429** Scholarship applications; **15,616** Documents verified and uploaded; **69,958** Verified Education and Training entries; **138** Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) applications; **583** administrative access requests.\(^{33}\)

- **Scholarships** to improve Workforce qualifications SFY20: **$1,208,906** awarded to **397** individuals.\(^{34}\)

- **Connecticut's Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC) SFY20**: (as of 6/30/20): **589** Credentials awarded: **294** at the associate degree level and **295** at the bachelor degree level.\(^{35}\)

- **Accreditation and Quality Improvement Support (AQIS) SFY20**: short term bridge contract September to December 2019 supported **48** programs expiring / candidates in late 2019/ early 2020; new contract executed May 2020 with **2** entities (CTAEYC and RESC Alliance) with **14** staff statewide establishing new AQIS structure, offering pandemic office hours, and revising supports to virtual.\(^{36}\)

## Program Standards & Facilities

Child Care and Youth Camp Licensing
- Licensed Child Care programs - **3,625** Licensed Child Care facilities - including **1,374** Child Day Care Centers; **1,922** Family Child Care Homes; **20** Group Child Care Homes; and **309** Youth Camps.

**Accreditation**

- **National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2020: 502** accredited program sites.
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) 2020 – 45** accredited programs.

**Background Check Information System:** In 2020, the fingerprint rejection rate was cut in half through the use of digital livescan fingerprints, from 24% to 12%.

ENDNOTES

7. Note: the U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Under 5 years in Age 5.1% (or 180,598) of population 3,565,287 Population. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US09
14. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
38. Email to M. Gustafson from M. Graves at NAEYC November 14, 2019 (we are in the process of collecting this data for FY21).
39. National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), Alicia Pratt email, February 13, 2020, in Connecticut as of 02/13/2020 (we are in the process of collecting this data for FY21).