



## WORKFORCE & QUALITY

- A. Support professional compensation for a strong and stable ECE workforce in all ECE programs.**
  - ☑ Expanded Qualified Workforce Incentives (QWI) to include BA plus 12 ECE credits
  - ☑ Care 4 Kids rates up 11% and state-funded preschool rates up 17% to stabilize programs
  - ☑ \$9M in wage supplement workforce payments
- B. Pursue strategies that support ECE workforce recruitment and retention.**
  - ☑ Covered cost of background check fees
  - ☑ \$5M center-based workforce pilot for 400 apprentices
  - ☑ Funded Family Child Care apprenticeship
  - ☑ RFP issued for another round of ECE center apprenticeship programs
- C. Simplify credentialing process. Adopt 3-step career ladder aligning compensation and credentials with the Unifying Framework (UF).**
  - ☑ Aligned requirements for Qualified Staff Member (QSM)
- D. Help ECE programs maximize their fiscal health to support stability, quality, and increased workforce compensation.**
  - ☑ Increased Care 4 Kids and state-funded program rates to stabilize programs
  - ☑ Funded Women's Business Development Council to provide technical assistance and emergency grants
- E. Expand strategies to support improved quality of early childhood programs.**
  - ☑ Launched Pyramid work with family child care homes
  - ☑ 175 providers bonused \$1,480 for Elevate plans
  - ☑ Increased Family Child Care accreditation by 40%
  - ☑ Increased Child Care Centers accreditation by 4%

## EQUITABLE & AFFORDABLE ACCESS

- A. Expand affordability for low- and middle-income families.**
  - ☑ Care 4 Kids system updates:
    - Expanded Care 4 Kids to serve 1,500 more children
    - Capped family fees at 7% of family income
    - Reduced the benefit cliff
  - ☑ 900 new state-funded spaces
  - ☑ Tri-Share pilot funded and established in legislation
- B. Increase the supply of affordable infant and toddler care for families.**
  - ☑ 1,290 new infant and toddler spaces
  - ☑ Group Child Care Homes workgroup established
  - ☑ Family child care Incubator development
- C. Improve access to programs and services to meet the needs of children with special needs and their families.**
  - ☑ Legislation requiring Birth to Three access to ECE classrooms
- D. Increase equitable access to high-quality care, especially for under-resourced families and communities.**
  - ☑ Prioritize diversity in apprenticeship funding
  - ☑ Smart Start per classroom cap removed allowing greater access

## SYSTEMS

- A. Simplify state-funded system and better align with federal systems to reduce complexity and increase utility.**
  - ☑ Early Start CT state-funded program established
- B. Maximize existing resources; opportunities for alignment and innovation, reduce administrative burdens, and barriers to accessing state systems.**
  - ☑ Early Start CT reduces administrative burdens
  - ☑ Care 4 Kids Parent Portal reduces administrative burdens
  - ☑ Improved ECE reporter data system for state-funded providers
  - ☑ Head Start on Housing partnership with Department of Housing
- C. Ensure family and representative community voice are central in the ECE system.**
  - ☑ Engaged OEC Parent Cabinet, Parent Ambassadors, and 2Gen Parents
  - ☑ Early Start CT prioritizes local governance with community voice
- D. Develop data and information systems to track and improve systems and outcomes, in coordination with other statewide efforts.**
  - ☑ Provider 360 Portal established and launched

## FUNDING

- A. Develop a plan to transition to funding based on the cost of care starting with infant and toddler care and high need communities.**
  - ☑ Completed cost analysis
- B. Develop a flexible fiscal model to support implementation and help to prioritize and stage investments in alignment with system reforms.**
  - ☑ Awarded facilities grants to high SVI providers - \$13M to date: \$10M in new state bonding
  - ☑ Funding partnership with CDFI and CHEFA
- C. Identify new dedicated funding streams to support sustained and significant public and private incremental investment in ECE.**
  - ☑ Early Childhood Care and Education Fund established in legislation
  - ☑ Designated members to the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund Advisory Commission



YEAR ONE PROGRESS  
**blue ribbon panel**

