



## 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

### B. Increase the supply of affordable infant and toddler care for families.

- ☒ 900 new state-funded spaces
- ☒ Tri-Share pilot funded and established in legislation
- ☒ 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

