



*Connecticut Department of Social Services*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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*State Seeks Input on Plans, Services*  
**Child Care Hearings Scheduled**

*May 6, 2005*

HARTFORD--State Social Services Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker has announced a series of public hearings to give parents, service providers and advocates the opportunity to comment on child care services in Connecticut.

The state is preparing a comprehensive child care plan to access federal funds and guide programs and services over the next two years. Public hearings have been scheduled in five communities across the state.

"We are seeking wide input and participation in the child care planning process," Commissioner Wilson-Coker said. "We encourage parents, providers and all others interested in child care services to become involved."

The draft plan is available by visiting the Department of Social Services website at [www.dss.state.ct.us/ccare](http://www.dss.state.ct.us/ccare). Comments can be submitted via e-mail at the website.

The child care plan presents various strategies to work with state and local partners to increase professional development opportunities, early learning standards, wage enhancements and other services to support the child care field. The state uses federal child care funds to support the child care needs of limited-income families and professional needs of child care providers.

The full schedule of public hearings follows:

- **Norwalk** - Tuesday, May 10; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Norwalk City Hall, 125 East Avenue.
- **Waterbury** - Wednesday, May 11; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at New Opportunities, Inc., conference room, 232 North Elm Street.
- **New Haven** - Monday, May 16; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Connecticut Charts-a-Course, conference room, 495 Blake Street.
- **Hartford** - Tuesday, May 17; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olive Child Development Center, 30 Battles Street.
- **Hampton** - Monday, May 23; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at EASTCONN, 376 Hartford Turnpike (Route 6).

Further information is available by calling the Department of Social Services' Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press option 6).

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