

Public Forums/Hearings
Child Care and Development Fund Plan (CCDF) Plan
And
Proposed Office of Early Childhood
FFY 2014-2015 Goals and Reporting for the next Biennium

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with the Governor's Early Childhood Planning Office, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet and the state's Child Day Care Council, will convene public forums/hearings (*see schedule below*) to provide Connecticut parents, service providers, advocates and other interested parties, an opportunity to comment on child care services in Connecticut. Public participation is encouraged.

We will provide opportunity for attendees to discuss and review two critical topics at the public forums/hearings:

1. The proposed Office of Early Childhood
2. Connecticut's draft Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) draft Plan for federal fiscal year 2014 and 2015

Office of Early Childhood (OCE) – Governor Malloy has presented a proposal in the Governor's Biennial Budget proposal for FFY 2014-2015, that will establish a new Office of Early Childhood that will attempt to coordinate existing child care programs and services from five agencies and increase the opportunities to improve efficiencies and outcomes for children and families. The current delivery of early childhood services is fragmented over many agencies making it confusing for parents and inefficient for service providers. Staff from the Governor's Early Childhood Planning Office will attend to review the proposed changes. A power point is available at the following web site <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2340&q=490684>.

The proposed Office of Early Childhood will be the Connecticut responsive entity as of July 1, 2013 to coordinate all state and federal funds that support early childhood services targeted primarily to children birth to age 5. As such, the OCE will, in the future be responsible for development and distribution of CT's Child Care and Development Fund federal plan.

Connecticut's draft Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) draft Plan FFY 2014-2015

The Connecticut Department of Social Services must prepare the state's CCDF Plan to access federal funds. The CCDF plan must be submitted to Washington, D.C., by July 1, 2013. The draft plan will be posted in the Publications section on the DSS website at www.ct.gov/dss in April prior to the public forums/hearings.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care goals for CCDF are as follows:

- Ensuring the Health and Safety of children
- Building Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
- Building Strong Professional Development and Workforce Initiatives
- Building a Child Care Subsidy System that is Child-focused, Family Friendly, and Fair to Providers
- Strengthening Program Integrity

Connecticut annually distributes federal child care funds to support the child care financial needs of limited-income families and professional needs of child care providers. The CCDF plan describes Connecticut strategies to work with state and local partners to address a variety of early childhood topics. For example, there are sections in the draft CCDF Plan that report about the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program, health and safety provisions for Connecticut child care providers, early learning guidelines for parents and service providers to understand outcomes for children served in such settings, components for a quality improvement system, components for a successful workforce and professional development system.

During this past federal fiscal year, Connecticut reported on activities that addressed a series of quality service components as required by the CCDF Plan. Please access the following link www.ct.gov/dss for Connecticut's **Quality Performance Report - Federal Fiscal Year 2012**.

This report outlines the progress made toward the goals in the current CCDF plan and identifies data elements pertaining to key Connecticut child care areas.

Public Hearing Schedule

- **Hamden – Thursday, May 16, 2013 - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at Connecticut Charts-A-Course, Training and Conference Room, 2321 Whitney Avenue, Building 2, Suite 501, Hamden, CT 06518
- **Middletown – Thursday, May 30, 2013 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457. (Held immediately following the Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet meeting)

Written Comments

In addition to the opportunity to share ideas and comments at the public forums/hearings, written comments will be accepted and reviewed as part of the process. Written comments may be sent by email to julie.bisi@ct.gov or mail to ATTN: Child Care Division – CCDF Plan, Connecticut Department of Social Services, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106, no later than June 10, 2013. For questions please call the Department of Social Services' Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press option 6) or 860-424-5877.