Annual Report to the State Legislature

The Status of Child Care in Connecticut

State Fiscal year 2011-2012

Dannel P. Malloy

Governor

Roderick L. Bremby

Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Making a Difference

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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To: The Honorable Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Members, The State of Connecticut General Assembly

From: Roderick L. Bremby
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

I am pleased to present the annual report of child care activities for the state fiscal year 2011-2012.

The report, *The Status of Child Care in Connecticut,* details and itemizes the allocation of state and federal funds for child care programs.

Some of the accomplishments that occurred in Connecticut are:

- A monthly average of approximately 24,000 children and their families received financial assistance to pay for child care from the **Care 4 Kids** program.

- In federal fiscal year 2012, 7,780 children were served in **Head Start** programs for 3 and 4 year-olds in 49 Connecticut towns.

- **The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)** supported 325 sites engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process: 212 achieved accreditation or re-accreditation in the new NAEYC system; 73 are sites continuing in the process.

- In SFY 11-12, the **School Readiness Program** served 10,454 children 3 and 4 years of age in 19 priority school districts or communities and 46 competitive school readiness districts.

- In June of 2012 **The Early Childhood Education Cabinet** hosted an Early Learning and Development Institute that resulted in the initial draft of Connecticut's new Birth to Five Early Learning Standards.

- In SFY 11-12, ***2-1-1 Child Care*** *received* 21,491 requests for child care assistance by parents with children who are either infant-toddlers, pre-school and/or school age.

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Children in Subsidized Child Care Annual Data

State and Federal Program		Infants and Tod-dlers	Pre-School-ers	School Age Children	Totals
Federal Early Head Start		993	n/a	n/a	993
Federal Head Start		n/a	7,780	n/a	7,780
Supported Child Care Centers		1,155	2,860	465	4,480
SDE School Readiness		na	10,454	na	10,454
DSS Care 4 Kids		7,464	9,047	7,020	23,531
	DSS School-Age Program	na	na	2200	2200
	SDE Extended-Day Program Grant	na	na	6,300	6,300
Before and After School Child Care Programs	21st Century Program Grant	na	na	7,367	7,367
	Family Resource Centers (FRC's)	na	na	7,112	7,112
Totals		**9,612**	**30,141**	**29,999**	**70,127**

Child Care Utilization

Care 4 Kids Child Care Assistance Program

The Care 4 Kids program provided subsidies for the care of approximately 24,000 average monthly paid children . About 12,000 families received an average of $593 in child care benefits each month. For more information on Care 4 Kids, visit www.ctcare4kids.com

Care 4 Kids supports parents who are working or in approved education or training activities. In SFY 11-12, more than half (65%) of all payments went to families that did not receive Temporary Family Assistance (TFA); families transitioning off TFA received 23% while active TFA families received 12%.

State Supported Child Care Centers

Contracts with child day care centers to develop and operate programs for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, environmental or social conditions operate in 19 priority school districts, 37 severe-need school communities, and 9 other towns. Funding in the amount of $31.5 million benefited an average of 4,480 children per month in SFY 11-12.

School Readiness (SR) Program

Established by state law in 1997, the School Readiness (SR) Initiative of the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to expand and enhance access to preschool child day care programs in 65 Connecticut communities. In SFY 11-12, the initiative served 10,454 children 3 and 4 years of age in 19 priority school districts or communities and 46 competitive school readiness districts. The initiative's goal is to provide children with a high quality and appropriate preschool experience that includes collaboration with community services, parent involvement, education and outreach, referrals for health services, family literacy, transition planning for kindergarten, annual program evaluation, and professional development for staff.

Child Care Utilization

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

In federal fiscal year 2012, 7,780 children were served in **Head Start** programs for 3 and 4 year-olds in 49 Connecticut towns.

- The capacity through traditional **Head Start**, federal-only funding was 6,031 pre-school children.

- The capacity through state-only funding was 549 pre-school children. In addition, approximately 655 pre-school children in federal only funded programs were served in combined federal and state wrap around spaces that allowed these programs to provide full day/full year service.

- Total funding for **Head Start** was $58 million, and an additional local match of 20%. State Head Start supplement funds totaled $5,661,150.

- **The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Early Head Start** program provides year-round comprehensive child and family development services to low-income families with children pre-natal to 3 years of age. Sixteen **Early Head Start** grantees in Connecticut provided services to 993 children and 102 pregnant women in fiscal year 2011-2012.

Child Care Utilization

School-Age Child Care and After School Programs

After-school services are formal or informal custodial care, procured by families with private providers, for school-age children during after-school hours, on holidays and during school vacation time.

After-school programs include before and after-school care, vacation, and summer programs that assume responsibility for participants' safety. They extend educational support, among other services, to children and families in programs operating under state approval or licensing authority. Subsidized after-school programs report program or utilization data to the state.

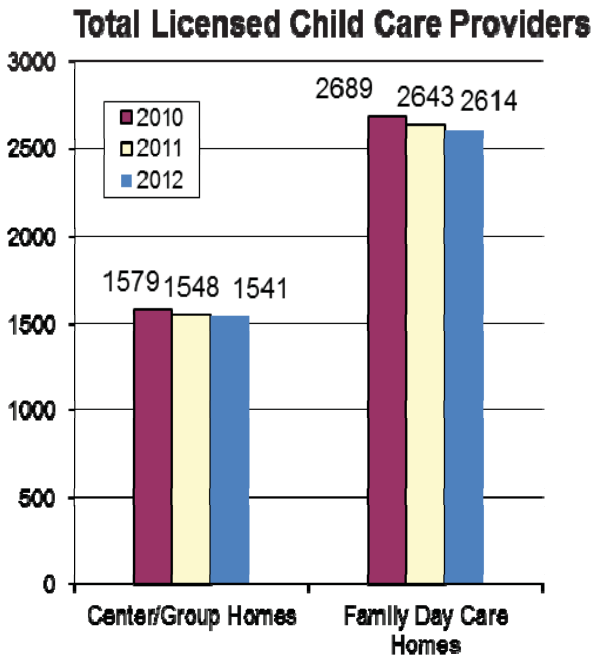
Subsidized after-school programs included:

- **SDE Extended-Day Program Grant: 6,300 children; 67 sites;**
- **21st Century Program Grant: 7,367 children; 95 sites;**
- **DSS School-Age Program: 2,200 children; 7 sites; and**
- **Family Resource Centers (FRC's): 7,112 children; 62 sites.**

Child Care Supply and Demand

Child Care Supply:
Centers, Group Homes, and Family Day Care Homes

The total number of child care programs licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) decreased from 4,241 to 4,155 for the period July 2011 thru June 2012. More specifically, the total family day care homes decreased from approximately 2,693 to 2,614 while the total number of child day care centers/group day care homes decreased slightly from approximately 1,548 to 1,541.

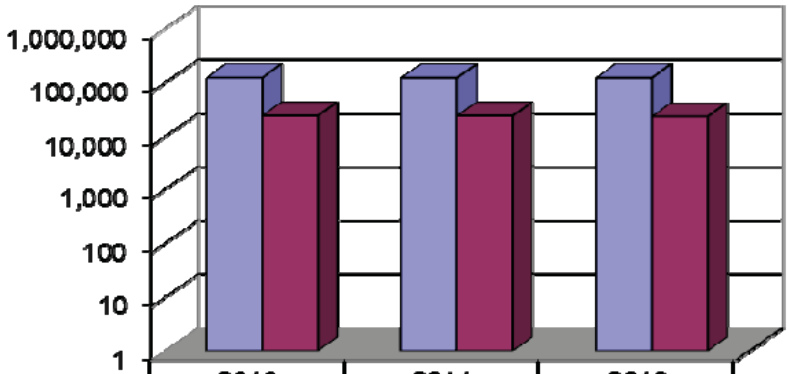


Source: CT Department of Public Health

During this same time period, the total number of licensed spaces in child care center programs increased from 121,188 to 121,721. More specifically, the capacity of licensed family day care homes decreased from 23,940 to 23,241, while the capacity of licensed child day care centers/group day care homes increased from 97,248 to 98,540.

Child Care Supply and Demand

Child Care Demand:



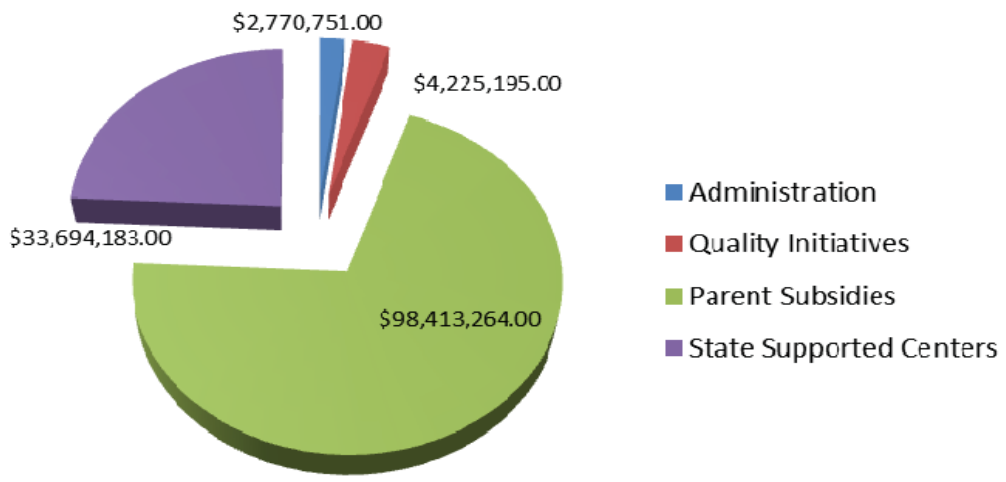
	2010	2011	2012
Center/Group Homes	121,974	121,188	121,721
Family Day Care Homes	23,888	23,940	23,241

Child care demand is often difficult to fully measure as parent's need for child care may vary due to a variety of circumstances such as working status, family assistance, number of children, etc. ***211-Child Care*** is Connecticut's statewide resource and referral service that tracks daily calls from consumers seeking child care assistance, which is an excellent indicator of child care demand. For example, during the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, 21,491 requests for child care assistance were made by parents with children who are either infant-toddlers, pre-school and/or school age. While most parent inquiries are for licensed paid child care, some parent calls are about license-exempt family, friends and neighbor child care.

Source: ***2-1-1 Child Care*** **Annual Report SFY 11-12**

Child Care Expenditures

DSS Child Care Expenditures for SFY 2011-2012: State and Federal



(Expenditure categories shown as a percentage of total child care budget)

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

Child Care Facilities Loan Fund

The Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) continues to operate the Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF) components that began in 1997. CHEFA collaborates with SDE, several banking institutions including Peoples' Bank (the lead bank providing loan origination and servicing) and the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation to administer the three CCFLF program components:

• The **Tax Exempt Loan** component consists of 29 facilities representing 26 child care providers. It is financed through the issuance of $76.6 million in bonds and $20.8 million in equity and grants to fund project costs of approximately $93.9 million. Financed projects provide approximately 5,100 child care slots.

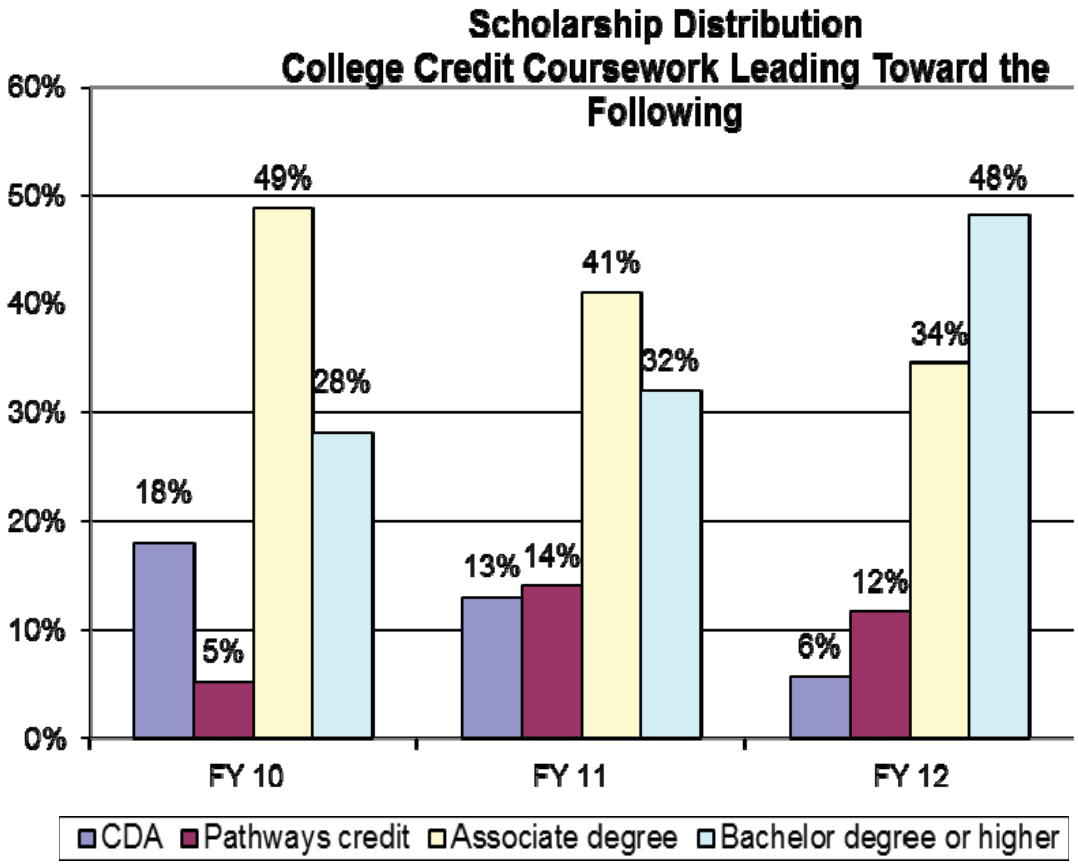
• The **Guaranteed Loan Fund** component, as of June 30, 2012, supported 16 projects with loans totaling $15.4 million that built or renovated 1,596 child care spaces. Each loan is backed by an average 42% loan guarantee and a 3% interest rate subsidy by CHEFA.

• The **Small Direct Revolving Loan Fund** component supported 58 loans, ranging from $8,000 to $25,000, for disbursements totaling $1.2 million through June 30, 2012.

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

The Departments of Social Services and Higher Education support CCAC, the state's professional development and program improvement system. In SFY 11-12, CCAC's Scholarship Assistance Program distributed $1,644,318 in scholarships to 1626 early childhood professionals. Its $TART Education Bonus awarded $53,500 to 273 individuals who advanced on the CCAC career ladder through training and the acquisition of the Child Development Associate credential .

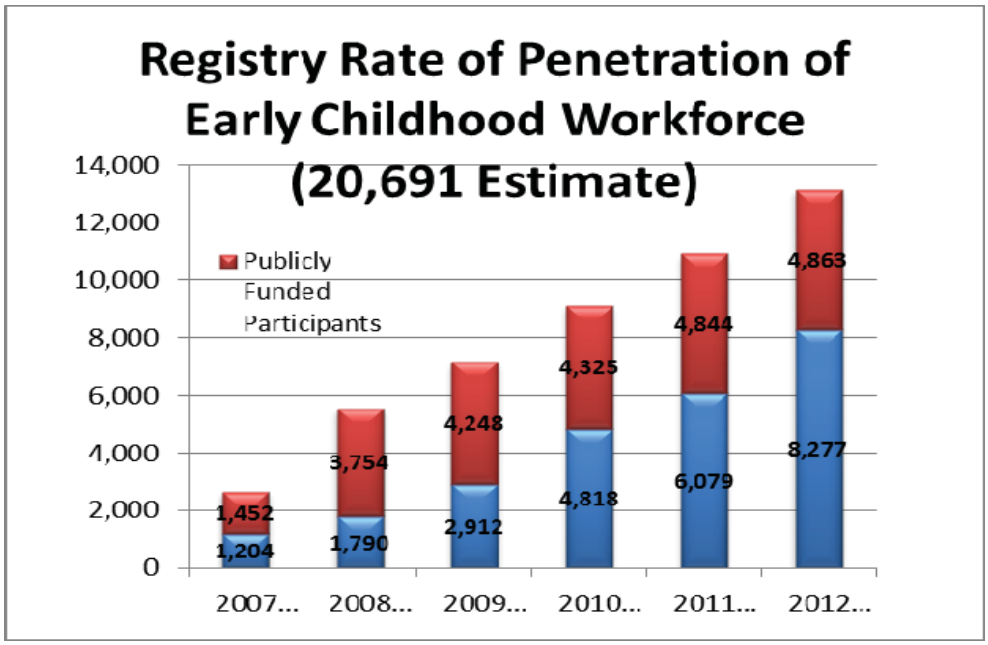
The table below provides a 3 year summary of the number of scholarships provided to individuals to help them attain certain credentials.



Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

The table below reports the number of early childhood personnel who have enrolled in the Early Childhood Professional Registry.



The Early Childhood Registry is an information system that collects data in the demographic, educational and qualification of the individuals who work in the early care and education field.

CCAC manages the Early Childhood Professional Registry, a web-enabled data system that collects information on the demographics, education and qualifications of early care and education professionals. It currently has over 10,000 enrolled and is mandated for all staff who work in publically funded programs.

The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) supported 325 sites engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process: 212 achieved accreditation or re-accreditation in the new NAEYC system; 73 are sites continuing in the process. In addition, through IDEA funding from the Department of Education, AFP also supported 60 pre-school programs serving 3, 4 or 5 year-olds with identified disabilities. In addition, Program Administrator coursework was delivered to 1023 individuals.

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

Quality Enhancement (QE) Grants

During SFY 11-12 SDE made $918,678 available to the 19 priority school districts to improve the quality of existing early care and education programs. School Readiness Councils (SRCs) used funds to support teacher professional development; direct services to children and families; consultation services (including classroom assessment and evaluation) to licensed providers; staff training; and support to centers seeking NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) re-accreditation.

Services geared to kith & kin (K&K) care providers (also known as family, friends, and neighbors or FFN) included: home visits; mentoring; collaboration with museums and local libraries with staff who modeled teaching practices; children's health screenings; literacy and/or health care events at housing projects.

Child and Adult Care Food Program Kith and Kin Project

Since 2006, DSS in collaboration with the Department of Education (SDE), the state agency administering the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program-CACFP for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been operating this project. It allows Kith & Kin (also referred to as Family, Friend and Neighbors or FFN) providers enrolled in the Care 4 Kids (C4K) program to claim reimbursement for food provided to children in their care. The project's purpose is to ensure that the nutritional needs of low-income children are met. Under DSS and SDE supervision, CACFP-sponsoring agencies verify C4K enrollment for participating K&K providers. They are also responsible for program
monitoring, training, support and technical assistance to K&K caregivers on child nutrition, health and food safety, and child development topics. During SFY 11-12 an average of 41 providers and 146 children were enrolled for an average yearly 98,243 meals claimed.

The project has expanded statewide in January 2012 in an effort to allow all K&K providers enrolled in the C4K program the opportunity to participate in CACFP.

Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

The Early Childhood Education Cabinet was reconstituted in 2010 to fulfill the role of the Governor's State Advisory Council. With representation from state agencies that work directly with young children, the Office of Policy and Management that holds fiscal oversight of such agencies, the Head Start Collaboration Office, local early care and education programs and parents, the Cabinet has focused on statewide strategies to improve Connecticut's data systems, the development of new birth to five early learning standards, the capacity of the workforce to meet the mandates of early childhood teacher qualifications, and more effective engagement of families in the early learning experiences of young children. Through the commitment of stakeholders with expertise in the aforementioned areas, the Cabinet established workgroups that accomplished the following during the time period of 2011-2012.

Data Systems

The workgroup planned and executed a round table event of researchers, those involved in policy work, and those involved in general early childhood data use in a data roundtable event, guided by the expertise of the National Center for Educational Statistics and facilitated by Elliot Regenstein, that resulted in the development of essential questions, that when answered, will lead to policy and practice changes that improve outcomes for young children.

The workgroup is also working toward the development of data sharing agreements across agencies to facilitate increase access and use of data, while adhering to the mandates of privacy of Connecticut children and families.

Early Learning Standards

In June of 2012 the workgroup hosted an Early Learning and Development Institute that resulted in the initial draft of Connecticut's new Birth to Fiver Early Learning Standards. The draft standards were informed by multiple alignment studies of existing standards, including one conducted by an independent consulting agency, SRI International. The draft standards will be reviewed and edited by state experts prior to the next step of content and age validation. Informational sessions are planned for the spring related to the new learning standards, with more comprehensive technical assistance and professional development in Fall 2013. Finally, work continues on exploring the possible age validation of the early learning and development standards.

Professional Development/Workforce

The workgroup oversaw a gap analysis of the core competencies of early care and education teachers that was conducted by Charts-A-Course and an external consultant. The core competencies framework provided in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge served as a reference framework of core competencies that should be possessed by those delivering early care and education services. The gap analysis of existing competency sets was an initial step toward the development of Connecticut's framework of core knowledge competencies.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation

Through an interdisciplinary membership, the workgroup has identified opportunities to embed family—including fatherhood-- engagement practices into statewide and local service delivery systems. In addition, the workgroup was successful in partnering with the Department of Public Health to acquire a national training and technical award from Zero to Three on how to more effectively connect home visiting to the overall early childhood education system.

As a direct outcome of the Race to the Top early Learning Challenge application process in the fall of 2011, the Leadership Team of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet made the decision to expand the number of workgroups to address Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, Health Promotions, and Public-Private Partnerships in Connecticut.

For more detailed updates and full summaries of workgroup meetings, membership and future schedule of meetings visit, http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/

Directory of Related Child Care Services

Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-800-811-6141
http://www.dss.state.ct.us/ccare/index.htm

Child Care Licensing
Department of Public Health (DPH)
1-800-282-6063
http://www.dph.state.ct.us/Licensure/licensure

Bureau of Early Childhood Education/
State Department of Education (SDE)
1-860-713-6744
http://www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/readiness/index

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education
State Department of Education (SDE)
1-860-713-6528
http://www.ecpolicycouncil.org

2-1-1 Child Care
United Way of Connecticut
1-800-505-1000
www.childcareinfoline.org

Care 4 Kids
United Way of Connecticut
1-888-214-5437
http://www.ctcare4kids.com/

Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784
1-203-407-6648
http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org

Scholarship Assistance Program & Career Advisement
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784
1-203-407-6646
http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org

Child Care Registry
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784

Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF)
Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority-CHEFA
1-800-750-1862
860-520-4700
http://www.chefa.com

Child Care Tax Credits
Department of Revenue Services (DRS)
(Information)
1-860-297-5698
1-860-297-4932
http://ct.gov/drs

HUSKY Plan (Health Care for Un-insured Kids and Youth)/
Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-877-Connecticut-HUSKY
(1-877-284-8759)
http://www.huskyhealth.com

Child Support Information Hotline
Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-800-228-5437
http://www.dss.state.ct.us/csrc/csrc.htm

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
Department of Children and Families (DCF)
1-800-842-2288

State Department of Education
Early Childhood Education Cabinet
860-713-6713
http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/

Notes

The Department of Social Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and offers its programs regardless of race, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, or marital status.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for the establishment of child care policies that support the mission of DSS as well as federal and state goals and objectives. The implementation of these policies is embodied in a coherent and coordinated system of program operations and service delivery for child care customers and providers.

For information regarding this report, please call:
The Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press 6).

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