



OEC

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

SMART START

Bidder's Conference

August 20, 2015



A Unified Mission and Vision



Vision

All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, & thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life & have the skills, knowledge, support and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.



Mission

To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding, & services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators, & communities play in a child's life.



C.G.S. Sec. 10-506

Provides 10 years of funding for:

- **Capital Improvements**

- not to exceed \$75,000 per classroom
- renovation of an existing public school space
- one-time funding
- available in year 1 or 2

- **Operations**

- \$5,000 per child (up to 15 children funded)
- up to \$75,000 per classroom / \$300,000 annually



Fiscal Year	Capital Expenses for Renovations	Operations
2015	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	Not Available
2016	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2017	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2018	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2019	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2020	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2021	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2022	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2023	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2024	Up to \$75,000 per classroom	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)
2025	Not Available	\$5,000/child = \$75,000/classroom (maximum of \$300,000)



Current Smart Start Grantees

Board of Education	# of Classrooms	# of Children	Operations	Capital Improvements
Ansonia	1	15	75,000	0
Bridgeport	4	60	300,000	164,000
Clinton	1	15	75,000	75,000
Coventry	2	30	150,000	150,000
East Hartford	2	30	150,000	150,000
East Haven	2	30	150,000	148,055
Enfield	2	26	130,000	150,000
Killingly	1	15	75,000	75,000
Norwich	1	15	75,000	75,000
Plainfield	1	15	75,000	75,000
Stamford	1	15	75,000	75,000
Wallingford	2	30	150,000	150,000
West Hartford *	4	60	293,350	0
Windsor+	2	30	300,000	300,000
Total funded	26	386	2,073,350	1,587,055

*classrooms opening FY 2017
 +2 additional classrooms FY 2017



Conditions for Funding

- Unmet need for preK for 3 and 4 year olds
- Local or regional board of education must serve as grantee
- Renovations in public schools only -- NO new construction
- Classrooms may be located in a public school or with an *early childhood provider (*eligible for operations funds only)
- Program must be Head Start, NAEYC accredited or able to become accredited within 3 years (unaccredited programs subject to interim quality measures)
- Proportion of children with an IEP per class = K-12



Conditions for Funding

- Class size 18
- Collaborative efforts to provide services for children when school not in session
- Prioritize children with special needs and DLL
- Certified teacher (112, 113, 001, 002, 003, 008, 065) employed by the BOE
- Renovated space to be used for Smart Start
- Must serve **additional** children beyond current preK enrollment
- Letter of support from SR Council



NAEYC Accreditation

Support for the accreditation process will be available through the Accreditation Facilitation Project



Deb Flis, Director
Accreditation Facilitation Project
Office of Early Childhood

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**Note: Accreditation requirements may apply to ALL preK programs in the district depending on program structure and administration*



Opportunities for Collaboration

- Partner with community early childhood programs to provide alternative care when school is not in session
- Share professional learning
- Access to comprehensive services
- Transportation
- Increase awareness of community resources
- Increase resource and referral for needed services
- Partner with community early childhood programs for space



Priorities

Points will be awarded for districts that

- Offer full-day kindergarten for all eligible children
- Allocate 60% of spaces to children 75% of state median income or 50% of the spaces to children who qualify for free and reduced price lunches
- Demonstrate the greatest need for preK services
- Have (or develop a plan to create) a cohesive preK-3rd grade continuum



Unmet Need

Determined by CHEFA assessment

or

Documented by the LEA with
extensive evidence



Tuition

- Tuition MAY be charged according to OEC Sliding Fee Scale (Appendix F)
- If tuition is charged families are able to apply for Care4Kids childcare subsidies
- If tuition is not charged then the child will be counted for ECS

ECS Questions

Kevin Chamber

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Care4Kids

- Provides low to moderate income families a subsidy to pay for child care costs.
- Parents must be working or in an approved Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) education or training activity.
- Parents apply through Care4Kids at the United Way of Connecticut.
- Families must complete an Application Form and Parent Provider Agreement Form (PPA)
- Providers receive reimbursement according to regional reimbursement amount available at <http://www.ctcare4kids.com/>
- Electronic monthly invoice & payment



Awarding of Funds

Example

The Land of Make Believe Board of Education
Application approved for two Smart Start classrooms one
in need of renovation

Funds awarded

*April 2016 \$ 75K capital improvements

July 2016 \$150K operations

July 2017 \$150K operations

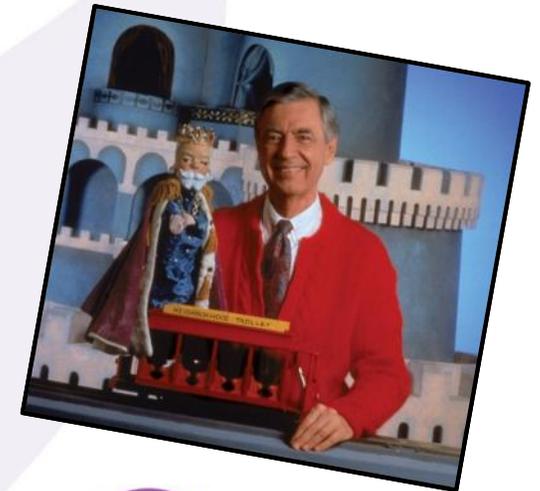
Continuation applications

July 2018 \$150K operations

July 2019 \$150K operations

July 2020 \$150K operations

**approximate month*



Application

All items below MUST be received
By 4:30 pm on October 30
(regardless of postmark)

- Electronic copy to oec@ct.gov
- Copy of application on CD
- Hardcopy of original signature pages



Timeline

October 30 – Applications due

December – Applications scored

January – Successful applicants for funds notified

March* – Request for capital improvements to Bond Commission

*dependent on Bond Commission meeting schedule



Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the OEC website

<http://www.ct.gov/oec/smartstart>



Smart Start Contact

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