

## Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Fiscal Year 2017 Operational Plan

### Goal 1: Place Children and Families First

#### Objective 1.1: ACHIEVE A FAMILY-CENTERED AGENCY CULTURE

Strategies	FY 17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Ensure OEC policies are family-friendly</i>	The OEC will oversee redesign of the Care4Kids and ChildCare 211 websites to promote family engagement and consumer outreach in accordance with the state's Child Care Development Fund plan.	
2. <i>Communicate with families</i>	<p>OEC websites will be redesigned to be more consumer-friendly.</p> <p>OEC will develop a family survey to measure families' sense of self-efficacy regarding the OEC's programs and services.</p> <p>Find a mechanism for collecting the data beginning in FY18.</p>	

#### Objective 1.2: REDUCE DISPARITIES IN CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES

Strategies	FY 17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Increase focus on equity</i>	100% of OEC staff will complete implicit bias training.	
2. <i>Balance investments across children of different ages</i>	<p>OEC will develop a pre-k to Kindergarten transition toolkit and post on the OEC website.</p> <p>OEC will develop a plan to support staffed Family Child Care networks.</p>	

## Goal 2: Increase Access to High-Quality Programs

Objective 2.1: INVEST ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO IMPROVE PROGRAM QUALITY		
Strategies	FY 17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Secure additional revenue</i>	OEC will secure at least one additional funding source for home visiting.	
2. <i>Increase funding levels to increase program quality</i>	OEC will develop a plan, secure buy-in, and pass legislation for pre-k strategic financing.	

Objective 2.2: INCREASE ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES		
Strategies	FY17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Increase access to early care and education</i>	OEC will submit a cross-agency policy and fiscal plan focused on infants and toddlers.	
2. <i>Increase access to family support services</i>	OEC will increase use of Child Development Infoline at United Way of CT as the main portal for OEC family support services by 25%.	

Objective 2.3: PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO IMPROVE PROGRAM QUALITY		
Strategies	FY17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Set standards and monitor quality</i>	OEC will create the framework to be used for a Quality Improvement System.  OEC will conduct initial health and safety inspections for all license-exempt programs accepting Care4Kids subsidies.	
2. <i>Support program improvement</i>	OEC will ensure that assistance in obtaining NAEYC accreditation is available to at least 59 license exempt preschool programs in public schools, charter schools, and magnet schools.	

### Goal 3: Cultivate a Skilled Early Childhood Workforce

#### Objective 3.1: DEVELOP A PIPELINE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Strategies	FY 17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Increase appeal of early childhood careers</i>	<p>OEC will establish a list of approved college programs located in contiguous states that meet Connecticut's 2020 BA requirement.</p> <p>OEC and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities' schools of education will create a plan to increase the early childhood degree attainment required for OEC-funded programs.</p> <p>OEC will increase attainment of the Early Childhood Teaching Credential (by increasing enrollment and retention) by 30%.</p>	
2. <i>Provide guidance and support to improve workforce quality</i>	<p>OEC will ensure that all child care and preschool providers accepting C4K funding will receive training in all of the 10 basic health and safety topics included in the CCDF plan.</p> <p>The Home Visiting Consortium will establish Core Knowledge and Competencies specific to home visiting personnel.</p>	

### Goal 4: Strengthen Partnerships

#### Objective 4.1: DEVELOP STRONGER COMMUNITY, STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

Strategies:	FY17 Outcomes	Status
1. <i>Strengthen relationships with local stakeholders</i>	<p>OEC will partner with Head Start to meet the unique needs of our priority groups through shared resources, joint trainings, and meetings.</p> <p>OEC will establish and convene an early childhood state – local structure advisory group.</p>	
2. <i>Strengthen partnerships with state and national partners</i>	<p>OEC will partner with the Connecticut State Department of Education on the early childhood sections of the Every Student Succeeds Act plan, due in the spring of 2017.</p> <p>OEC will re-convene the Early Childhood Cabinet with a focus on infants and toddlers and conduct at least four meetings in FY17, beginning September 2016.</p>	

**Goal 5: Increase Agency Effectiveness**

**Objective 5.1: INTEGRATE AND STRENGTHEN ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Strategies	FY 17 Outcomes	Status
<p>1. <i>Improve OEC operations</i></p>	<p>OEC will move all of its offices to 450 Columbus Blvd in February 2017.</p> <p>OEC will fully implement the three LEAN projects to the level of “good”.</p> <p>OEC will complete four sets of revised regulations for licensing (3) and Care4Kids (1).</p> <p>OEC will obtain a fully-approved Affirmative Action plan.</p> <p>OEC will deploy convertible, lightweight, laptop computers to licensing specialists for inspections.</p> <p>OEC will establish and implement a new financing structure for Birth to Three providers.</p> <p>OEC will make an online licensing renewal process available to child care providers.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Use data and public input to drive continuous improvement</i></p>	<p>100% of all children in state-funded Early Care and Education programs will be enrolled in the Early Childhood Information System.</p> <p>Development of the remaining Early Childhood Information System modules (Home Visiting, Registry, C4K) will be on-target.</p>	
<p>3. <i>Strengthen agency foundation</i></p>	<p>Through the Department of Administrative Services, the OEC will establish an approved OEC job series.</p>	