The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) received a $26.8 million federal Preschool Development Birth Through Five Renewal Grant. Connecticut’s three-year grant award will build on the 2019 Grant toward the following goal:

**Families help their child develop and learn with positive parenting practices.**
- Children and their parents have excellent health outcomes.
- The home environment is safe and healthy.

**Professionals support the development and education of young children.**
- Children meet age-specific developmental goals.
- Children have positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) and problem-solving skills.

**Children speak well about their child’s strengths, abilities and special needs.**
- Families help their child develop and learn with positive parenting practices.
- Families speak well about their child’s strengths, abilities and special needs.
- Professionals support the development and education of young children.

**Professionals support the development and education of young children.**
- Children are able to be successful members of their home, child care, school and community.
  - Children meet age-specific developmental goals.
  - Children have positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) and problem-solving skills.

**Children are supported by healthy relationships with adults.**
- Families help their child develop and learn with positive parenting practices.
- Families speak well about their child’s strengths, abilities and special needs.
- Professionals support the development and education of young children.

**Children are able to be successful members of their home, child care, school and community.**
- Children meet age-specific developmental goals.
- Children have positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) and problem-solving skills.

**Families access services, programs and activities in their community that help them lead and support themselves.**
- Families have connections to friends, family and community for support.

**Families are financially secure.**
- Families are supported.
- Families are financially secure.

**Families are safe and healthy.**
- Children and their parents have excellent health outcomes.
- The home environment is safe and healthy.

**Families are supported.**
- Families access services, programs and activities in their community that help them lead and support themselves.
- Families have connections to friends, family and community for support.

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**THE GRANT OF $26.8 million STARTS: JAN 1, 2020 FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD.**

For more information, please contact Cathy Lenihan at Catherine.Lenihan@ct.gov.
**Major Grant Activities**

The grant strengthens the Birth to Five system by working with eight state agencies to streamline services; focus on customer service; develop strategies to serve struggling populations; and grow public-private partnerships.

**Support Early Childhood Workforce and Program Quality**

- Provide funds to support and reward child care providers who get advanced degrees, including family child care providers, as OEC works to refine workforce requirements.
- Grow the Quality Improvement professional development and coaching system with more training in Spanish, for family child care providers, on trauma practices, and infant/toddler best practices.
- Support and expand family child care networks.
- Expand support to early care and education programs:
  - Support the transition from preschool to kindergarten through the Parent Teacher Home Visiting Project and the Pre-K to Grade 3 Leadership Program.
  - Support providers who work with infants/toddlers with challenging behaviors through the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP).
  - Increase training for specialists through the Association of Infant Mental Health (AIMH) program and the Program for Infant Toddler Care Train the Trainer program.

**Invest in Family and Community Leadership**

- Establish an Office of Family and Community Partnerships to be more responsive to family and community feedback:
  - Train more parent leaders through PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute).
  - Develop a Parent Cabinet to advise the agency.
  - Gain feedback in multiple languages to understand community needs and share plans through webinars, meetings and publications.
- Fund local Birth to Five system partnerships through community grants.

**Improve Family Outcomes to Support Family Resilience**

- Fund projects to improve gaps and problem areas:
  - Build a network of bilingual doulas for families in home visiting.
  - Add child care where there are shortages in the state.
  - Add financial rewards to early care and education contracts for a focus on family outcomes.
  - Expand the OEC project to serve families with young children who are homeless.
  - Expand the use of screening for developmental delays and autism.
- Develop a process to track progress and report on goals, such as the Early Childhood Information System (ECIS) and data connection across state agencies.
- Increase funding for early care and education, and home visiting.