



# Early Childhood All-Provider Meeting

Office of Child Care  
September 2023



# All-Provider Meeting Ground Rules

1. There are many providers on this call. To ensure we remain on schedule, please feel free to utilize the chat for questions and we will respond with the appropriate contact information.
2. Please refrain from presenting individualized questions/concerns that are not pertinent to the larger group. These can be handled offline by DHS Office of Child Care
3. Concerns and issues are critical for discussion but should be phrased as solution-focused/solution-seeking.
4. This is the first time we are convening this group in this format. Please feel free to provide feedback to Nicole directly at [Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov)

# Today's Agenda

As part of the first virtual all-provider meeting, today's agenda includes an overview of the DHS team as well as child care priorities and workstreams.

01

## Introduction to the team

OCC Organizational chart for each of the teams you might work with at DHS.

02

## Child Care Licensing Unit

Recent developments and accomplishments in the licensing unit.

03

## Child Care Assistance Program

Recent developments and accomplishments in the CCAP team.

04

## Head Start Collab

Head Start priorities as a part of the Office of Child Care

05

## Quality Initiatives

Quality contracts within the Department and priorities outside of CCAP and licensing

06

## Round-up

Next steps & open forum



# Introductions

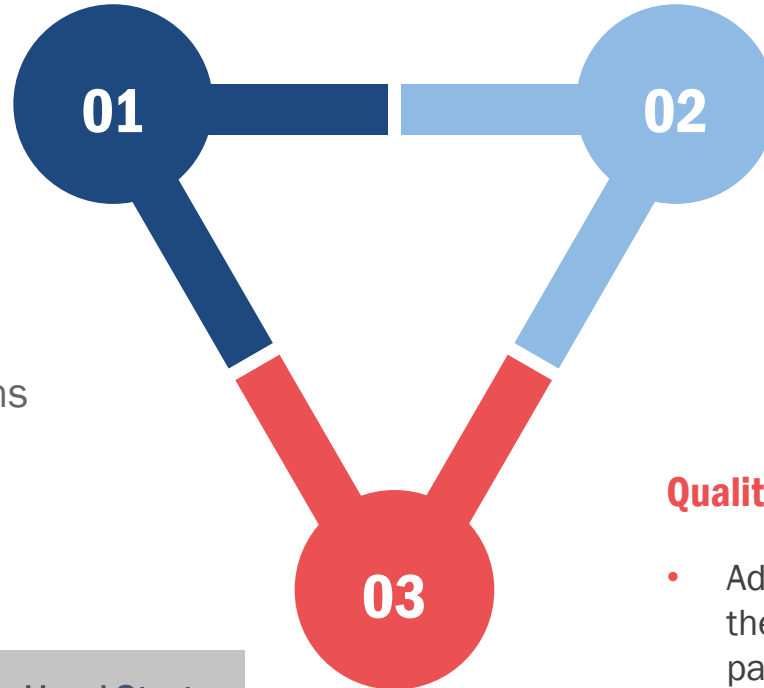


# Office of Child Care

The Office of Child Care consists of three main units: Child Care Licensing, Child Care Assistance Program, and Quality Contracts.

## Child Care Licensing

- Manage licensing and monitoring child care programs
- Manage all complaint investigations and non-compliances
- Manage all aspects of the regulations for child care licensure



## Child Care Assistance Program

- Administer the Child Care Assistance Program
- Manage all provider recruitment, application processing, onboarding and orientation for new centers and FCCs
- Partner with IT, FM, Policy, CCLU, Field Operations and Deloitte to ensure Bridges system accurately implements CCAP Policies and Requirements

## Quality Initiatives

- Administer and oversee the CCDBG Quality dollars to improve the quality of child care and other additional services to parents, such as resource and referral counseling.
- Implementation of additional dollars, such as the (ACF) Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth to Five activities

\*The Office of Child Care is also home to the Head Start Collaboration Office, which is an integral part of the Office and works collaboratively with the entire office.



**LICENSING**

**CCAP**

Ron Racine  
Senior Associate Director

Nicole Chiello  
Assistant Director, Child Care

Sarah Nardolillo  
Administrator, Licensing

Catherine Green  
Head Start Collaboration  
Director

Kara Rocha  
Interdepartmental Project  
Manager

Sharon Fitzgerald  
Administrator, CCAP

Emily Dickervitz  
CCAP  
Asst Administrator,

Teresa Castillo-Bakr  
Human Services Policy & Systems  
Specialist

Karla Roman  
Human Services Policy & Systems  
Specialist

Stephanie Lutrario  
Human Services Policy & Systems  
Specialist

Jessica Ullrich  
Human Services Policy & Systems  
Specialist

Brigitte Haywood  
Human Services Policy &  
Systems Specialist

Amy Henderson  
Programming Services  
Officer

Stephanie Poole  
Programming Services  
Officer

Elaine Larcher  
Chief Human Services Policy &  
Systems Specialist

Hilcia Quezada  
Licensing Implementation  
Aide

**QUALITY**

VACANT  
Human Services Policy & Systems  
Specialist

VACANT  
Programming Services  
Officer

Veda Bucko  
Eligibility Technician

Yesenia Mercado  
CCAP Implementation Aide

Pandora Jenkins  
Eligibility Technician



# Office of Child Care Leadership

---

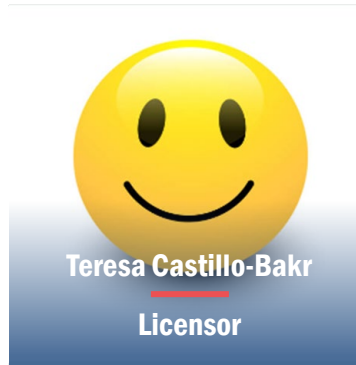
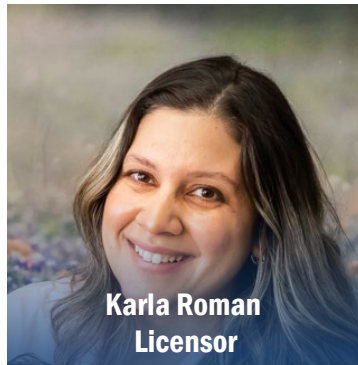
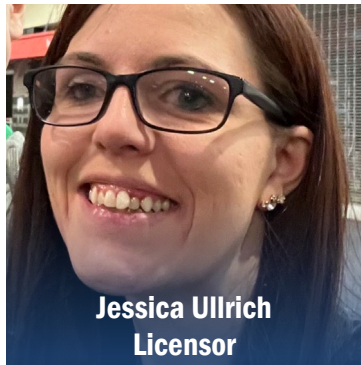
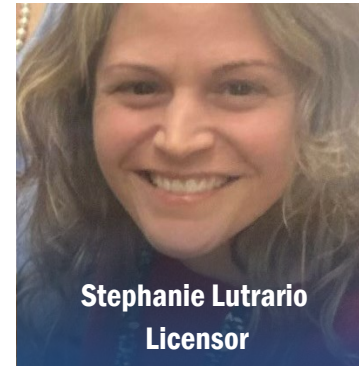
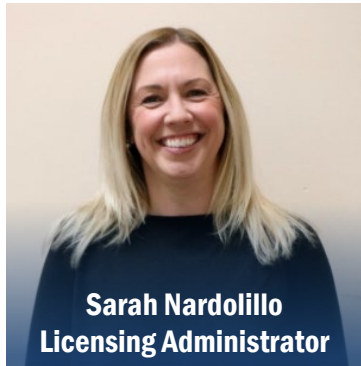
**Ron Racine** is an associate senior director at the RI Department of Human Services (DHS). He is responsible for the overall operations of the Office of Child Care, the Office of Child Support Services, and the Office of Rehabilitation Services.

**Nicole Chiello** is the assistant director for the Office of Child Care at DHS. She oversees the Office of Child Care, including licensing, CCAP, quality contracting and the Head Start Collaboration Office.



# The Child Care Licensing Team

The Child Care Licensing team consists of a total team of eight staff members, including one licensing administrator, six human services policy and system specialist positions (Licensors), and an implementation aide.



## Child Care Provider Fast Facts

Number of Licensed Providers: 815\*

Child Care Centers: 419

Family Child Care Providers: 386

Group Family Child Care Providers: 10

\*Subject to change on a month to month basis.

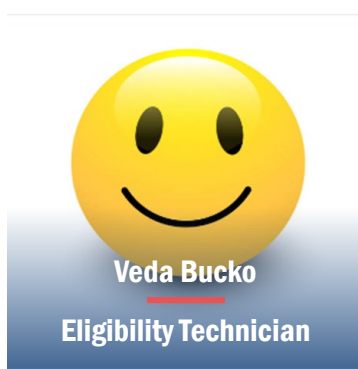
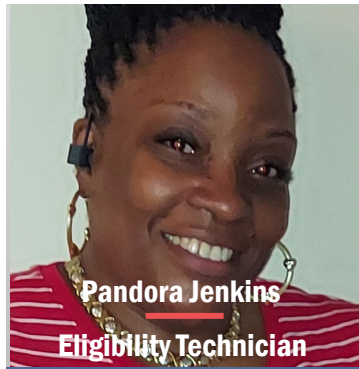
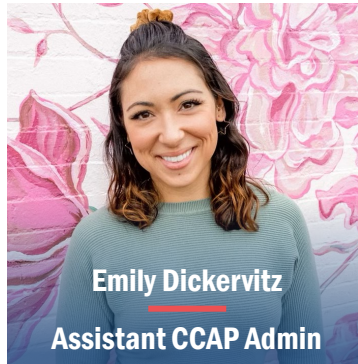
Contact Information for Licensing:  
[DHS.Childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.Childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov)  
Main line: 401-462-3009





# The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Team

The CCAP team consists of six staff members, including a CCAP administrator, an assistant CCAP administrator, a chief human services policy and system specialist, two eligibility technicians and an implementation aide.



### CCAP Fast Facts

CCAP Center Providers: 353

CCAP FCC Providers: 351

Total CCAP Providers: 704

CCAP Contact Information:

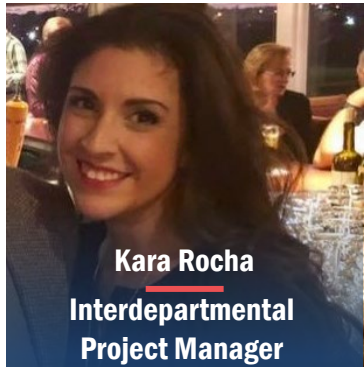
[DHS.Childcare@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.Childcare@dhs.ri.gov)

Main line: 401-462-6877



# The Child Care Quality Team

This group of individuals supports our Head Start Collaboration Office and Quality Contract work. This team has two programming services officers, an interdepartmental project manager, and a director for the Head Start Collaboration.



## DHS Quality Contracts:

- Quality Improvement Work
- BrightStars
  - Facility Fund Work (LISC)
- Technical Assistance/Professional Development
  - Center for Early Learning Professionals
  - SUCCESS-Mental Health Consultation-Bradley
  - Child Care Health Consultation
- Workforce Development
  - TEACH-RIAEYC:
    - Infant Toddler Registered Apprentice Career Pathways
    - ECE Higher-Education Scholarships
  - Education Support Fund
  - ECETP- CDA& 12/24 College Credit Program- CCRI
  - Infant Toddler 16c Certificate-Rhode Island College



# Child Care Licensing

—  
Updates

# Licensing Updates - Regulations

- Opening of Child Care Center and School Age Programs and Family Child Care Regulations
  - Administration of Children and Families (ACF) monitoring visit completed in September 2022.
    - Finding of visit yielded several recommendations to ensure compliance with federal requirements.
    - Resulted in opening of Child Care Center-School Age Programs regulations to add clarifying language and regulations related to Pediatric First Aid and CPR.
      - These proposed changes were posted for public comment on 8/8/2023. No comments were received. **Stay tuned for additional information coming soon regarding the promulgation of the regulations and next steps for programs.**
  - Family Child Care and Group Family Child Care regulations are in the process of being updated to include ACF recommendations as well as general updates to align with current national best practice for this provider type.
  - These proposed changes have not been released for public comment but are anticipated to enter this phase in the next month.
  - As a reminder, any suggestions or comments during the public comment period must be submitted to the email address included in the notice of public comment or in person at a public comment meeting.



# Licensing Updates – General Reminders

- **Child abuse and neglect reporting**

- Any calls to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Child Abuse Hotline should also result in a call to your assigned licensor or the general child care email.
- Any injury that occurs at your program resulting in either emergency services being called or the parent seeking medical attention that leads to the diagnosis of a serious injury (broken bones, stiches etc.) should be called in the Child Abuse Hotline and DHS.
  - This ensures that you, as the provider, are making the required agencies aware should the injury result in call to these same agencies by the family, doctor or other members of your staff.
- DHS should be notified of any DCYF involvement at your program, even if you were not the ones to make the report to DCYF.
  - For family child care providers, this includes reports regarding your household members.

- **Flu Vaccines**

- Flu vaccines for the fall of 2023 are now available. Please ensure you and your staff receive your yearly dose to comply with regulations. Please keep a record of vaccination status as evidence in your staff records.

- **Consumer Website**

- A place for families to find child care and for providers to market their program. Please contact DHS if you do not have access to this system as a provider. You can find this at [www.earlylearningprograms.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.earlylearningprograms.dhs.ri.gov)



# Licensing Updates – General Reminders

---

- **Comprehensive Background Checks**

- Must be completed prior to allowing staff to begin employment and **renewed every five years**
- Fingerprint affidavit must be used for all criminal checks to ensure that correct records are checked
- DCYF checks can be submitted online through the DCYF website for Child Care Center Staff
- It is the responsibility of the person receiving the checks to print down the clearances and include them in the staff's file.

- **The Center for Early Learning Professionals**

- Has developed self-paced webinars for regulations that we frequently find as noncompliance or that can be helpful for providers looking to improve systems. These include a general overview of licensing regulations, creating a family or employee handbook and developing systems for staff files. Please visit <https://center-elp.org/dhs-licensing-compliance-trainings-resources/> for a full list of topics.





# Child Care Assistance Program

---

Check-in

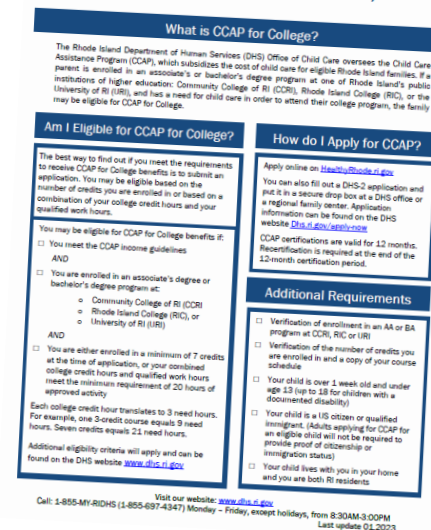
# CCAP Updates

## CCAP Awareness – Advocacy Solutions Campaign

- Social Media Ads
- Radio Ads
- Print Materials
- Press Conference – CCAP for College

## CCAP For College

- Parent students enrolled in degree program at CCRI, RIC or URI
- Combine school hours with part time work hours to meet required activity
- Meet other eligibility requirements
- One-pager is updated and available





# CCAP Updates

---

## CCAP for Child Care Pilot

CCAP benefits for eligible early childhood educators and staff working in DHS licensed child care programs.

You may be eligible for CCAP for Child Care Staff Pilot if:

- You are currently working in a DHS licensed Child Care Program at least 20 hours/week;
- Your household income is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Limit FPL;
- You and your child are RI residents and your child is a US citizen or qualified immigrant; and
- Your child is between ages 6 weeks and 13 years old and resides in your household.

***Applicants already receiving CCAP benefits are encouraged to apply for this pilot, as your copay can be waived with no other impact to your existing benefits***

---

**Apply Here:** <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care>.

**Questions? Contact:** [CCAPforChildCare@pcgus.com](mailto:CCAPforChildCare@pcgus.com) or 833-930-3540 for assistance in English and Spanish



# CCAP Updates

---

## CCAP for Child Care Staff Pilot Provider Responsibilities

- Be a CCAP Approved Provider
- Enroll eligible child in the Pilot through Jotform
- Submit bi-weekly attendance through Jotform
- Report disenrollments through Jotform
- Receive payment monthly

## CCAP for Child Care Pilot Applications as of last week:

- Applicants: **156**
- Families Approved: **93**
- Children Approved: **118**
- Children Enrolled: **86**
- Providers Enrolling Pilot Families: **37**

---

**Apply Here:** <https://pcgus.jotform.com/231984401165051>

**Questions? Contact:** [CCAPforChildCare@pcgus.com](mailto:CCAPforChildCare@pcgus.com) or 833-930-3540 for assistance in English and Spanish





# Head Start Collaboration Office Check-in

---

An overview of Head Start at the  
National & Local Level.



# Head Start Collaboration Office: Overview



HSCOs exist "to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies...and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children from birth to school entry, and their families." They provide a structure and a process through which the Office of Head Start (OHS) can work and partner with state agencies and local entities to **formulate, implement, and improve state and local policy and practices.** The methods by which HSCOs coordinate and lead efforts for diverse entities to work together include:

## Communication

Convene stakeholder groups for information sharing, planning and partnering and serve as a conduit of information between Regional Offices and state and local early childhood systems.

- ✓ Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start programs and other programs, services & initiatives

## Access

Facilitate Head Start agencies' access to and utilization for appropriate entities so Head Start children and families can secure needed services and critical partnerships are formalized.

- ✓ Provide access to comprehensive services & support for all children living in families with low income
- ✓ Augment the Head Start program's capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and their families

## Systems

Support policy, planning, partnerships and implementation of cross-agency state systems for early childhood, including the State Advisory Council that include and serve the Head Start community.

- ✓ Assist in building early childhood systems
- ✓ Facilitate the involvement of Head Start programs in state policies, plans, processes, and decisions affecting target populations



# Head Start Collaboration Offices: National Priorities

The Office of Head Start (OHS) established four priority areas to guide the work of the Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCOs).

Collaborate with state systems to align early care and education services and supports for children and families from pre-natal to age 5.

- Services and supports for children experiencing:
  - Homelessness
  - Children in foster care
  - Children w/ disabilities
  - Dual Language Learners
- Comprehensive service delivery
- Quality improvements
- School readiness initiatives
- State background check systems
- Child care
- Home visiting
- Health, mental health and social emotional well-being
- Child welfare
- Early Head Start child care partnerships
- Early childhood comprehensive systems health integration from prenatal to age three programs

Work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes.

Support appropriate access to and use of data to guide decision-making and to improve outcomes in areas such as coordinated eligibility and disparities in access to services.

Support the expansion of and access to high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff

Work with state professional development systems, including workforce registries and career pathways and with institutions of higher education to promote expansion and high-quality career development opportunities.

Coordinate with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs, as appropriate.

Promote continuity of services, program alignment, and support for successful transitions, particularly with state preschool, kindergarten, and with Title I, McKinney-Vento, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs.



# Head Start & Early Head Start in Rhode Island



Head Start is a federally funded program that **improves the school readiness** of children from low-income families. Head Start programs **engage families** in positive relationships, with a focus on family wellbeing. **Families participate in leadership roles**, including having a say in program operations. **Head Start programs support children's growth in a positive learning environment through a variety of services, including early learning and development, health and family well-being.**

Eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At or below FPL</li> <li>• Receiving Public Assistance                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNAP</li> <li>• SSI (child)</li> <li>• RI Works</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Foster Care</li> <li>• Experiencing Homelessness</li> </ul>

State Investments in HS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.4M for State funded Head Start Slots since 1987</li> <li>• FY24 \$3M to sustain program                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase state cost per child</li> <li>• Reopen closed classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fully integrated into child care licensing, quality and workforce development systems</li> </ul>

Grant Recipient	Fed Slots	State Slots
Child, Inc.	370	9
Children's Friend	843	81
Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)	194	8
East Bay Community Action (EBCAP)	340	10
Meeting Street	72	-
Tri-County Community Action Agency	284	14
Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association, Inc.	182	8
<b>Total: 2,415</b>	<b>2285</b>	<b>130</b>



# Quality Initiatives

—  
Check-in

# Approach to Child Care Relief and Recovery – FY21-FY24

**Promote Capacity Building**

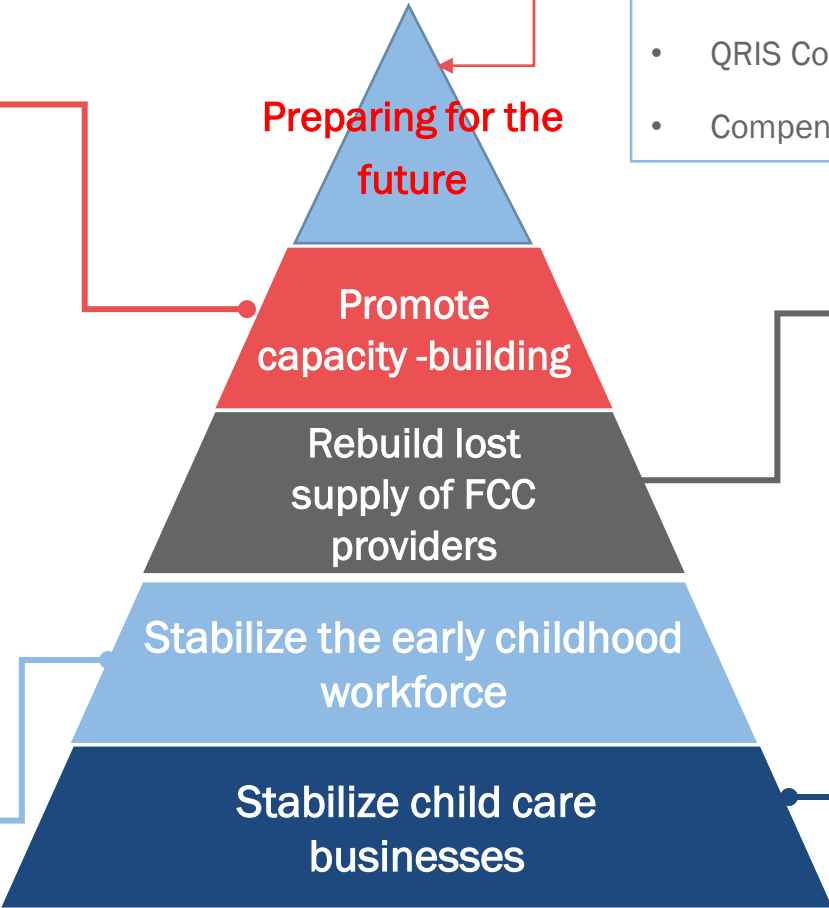
- \$1M Quality Improvement Grants
- \$.8M LearnERS + Quality Grants
- Mental Health Supports & Child Care Health Consultation
- Infant/Toddler Strategic Planning project

**Stabilize + Strengthen Workforce**

- \$37.4M Early Educator Pandemic Retention Bonuses
- \$2M TEACH scholarships
- CTE Pilot Program & Registered Apprenticeship Program
- \$2.5M WAGE\$ Pilot
- \$ 4M CCAP for Child Care Workers Pilot

**Preparing for the Future**

- Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES) Data Systems project
- \$15M Early Learning and Facilities Bond
- QRIS Consultant Work
- Compensation Study w/Market Rate and Cost of Care Study



**Rebuild FCC Supply**

- \$.6M FCC Start-Up Grants

**Stabilize Businesses**

- \$18.6M CRRSA Child Care Stabilization Fund (completed)
- \$57.25M ARPA Reinvigorate Child Care Stabilization Grants
- \$.5M ECCE Facilities Planning Grants





# Highlights – Key Initiatives & Contracts

## Key Successes

01

\$22.89M in **Pandemic Retention Bonuses** have been paid to 5819 unique educators through six application windows to date. This averages \$3,933 per applicant received in total.

02

In Round 2 of the **Early Learning Facilities Bond**, \$4.3 M additional funds have been awarded to 10 providers. These projects will create an additional 520 child care slots in RI once completed.

03

Since May 2023, RI's **Step Up to Child Care WAGE\$** pilot program has received 587 applications. The first round of awardees includes 54 educators, representing educators from 44 center-based programs and 10 Family Child Care programs.

## Current Priorities

01

Release 1 of the **Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES)** is slated to go live in early 2024, beginning with the Workforce Registry.

02

Partnering with the RIAEYC team to create and promote **additional TEACH pathways** with State Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars to support staff who want to move up the quality continuum.

03

DHS has received an additional \$500K as an earmark in the **FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act** to support providers in additional planning grants for spaces.



# Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES)

Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES) is our four-part Early Childhood Data System. Work is underway with Release 1 slated to go live in early 2024.

01 Workforce Registry

02 Licensing System of Record

03 Consumer Portal

04 Provider Portal

Will include integrations with:

- Center for Early Learning Professionals & its professional development offerings
- RIDE's e-cert teacher certification platform
- DCYF to manage child abuse and neglect cases within a licensed child care program
- Monitoring reports/OpenGov inspection system
- BrightStars (QRIS) and RIDE (Pre-K approvals)



# RISES Workforce Registry – Release 1

The Workforce Registry is where you can enter and maintain important information about yourself as a professional. The Workforce Registry will serve as a place to organize and store your professional credentials, professional development, education, and employment experience.

## Educators will be able to:

- Update all their information in one place
- List and view current and past employers and employment details
- View background check information and expirations
- View and add degrees and certifications
- View upcoming professional development
- View completed professional development and track hours completed

## Providers will be able to:

- View Educator Profiles associated with your program
- Track staff education requirements
- Track staff background checks
- Track staff Professional Development hours
- Post open positions

## State Agency Staff will be able to:

- Check licensing information from the workforce registry
- Track background checks
- Track center Professional Development hours
- Pull pertinent data for future decision making





Back to Dashboard

Workforce ID: **A21695**

[Download Profile](#)



**Ashlynn Curtis**

Director

Workforce ID: **A21678**

Last updated a month ago

Currently looking for jobs

### Total PD Hours



## Personal Information

### Contact Information [Edit](#)

First Name

Ashlynn

Middle Name

N/A

Last Name

Curtis

Maiden Name

N/A

Workforce ID

A21695

Email Address

ashlynn.curtis@gmail.com.

Primary Mobile Number

(910) 612-1234

Secondary Number

(910) 123-3456

Mailing Address

Volutpat morbi in nisl sed amet sit. Turpis pulvinar nisi nibh, pellentesque, Rhode Island, USA, 2345178

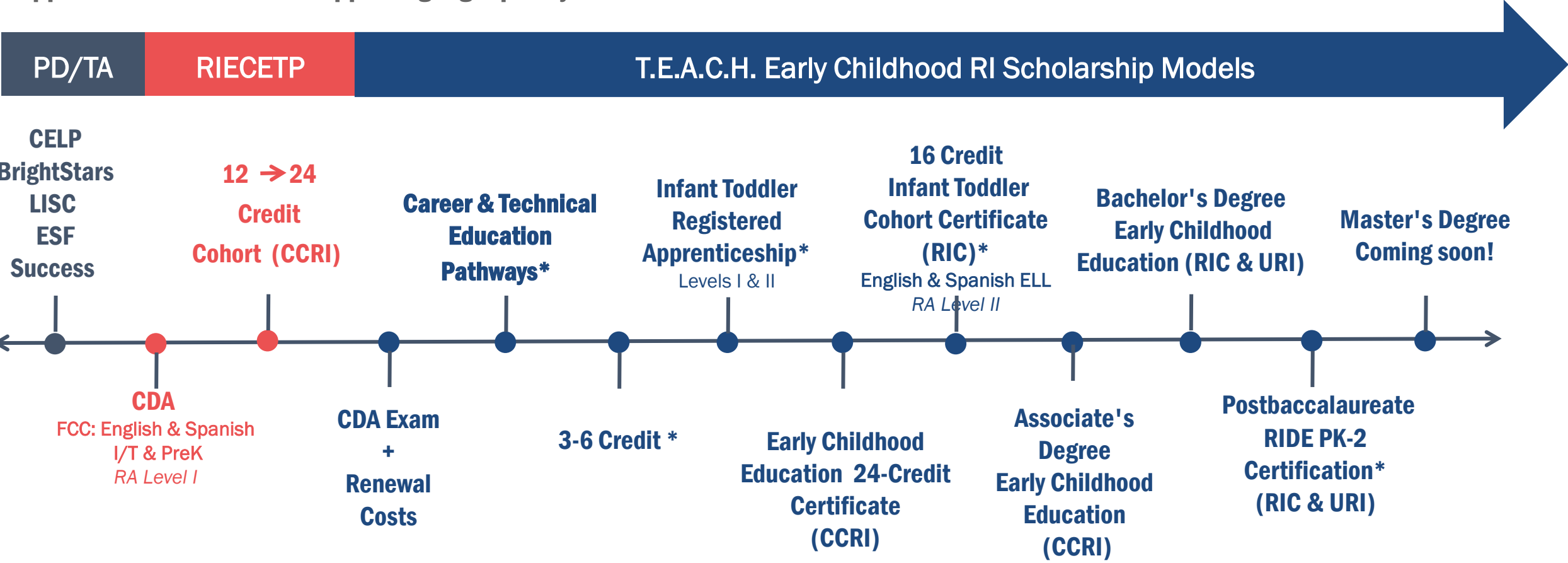
Do you currently live or have you lived outside of Rhode Island in last 5 years?

No



# Rhode Island Professional Development & Technical Assistance

RI PD & TA pathways provide early childhood programs and educators access to free, as well as low-cost, training and educational opportunities -- aimed at supporting high quality classrooms and career advancement.



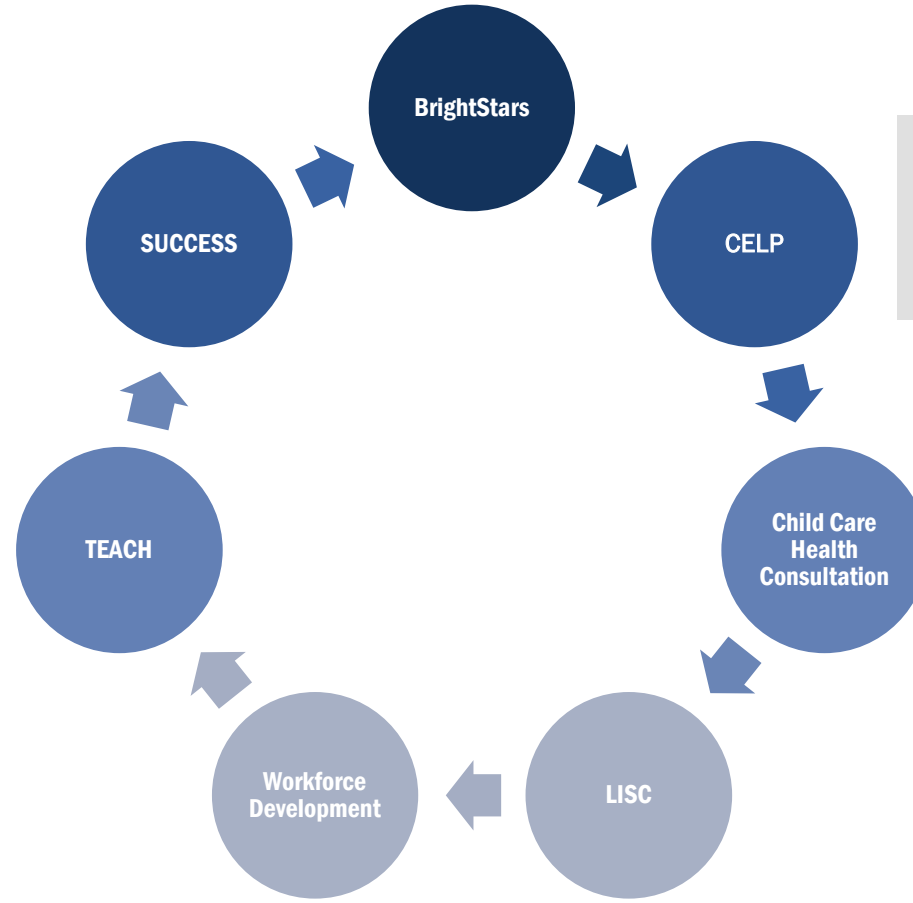
# Quality Initiative Work

The Office of Child Care funds and is expanding several quality initiatives to provide the necessary professional development, quality assessment and facilities support to ensure a high quality, early care and education system for Rhode Island. Highlights include:

✓ SUCCESS will be expanding to include mental health consultation for Family Child Care.

✓ TEACH is in the process of approving three new pathways to educational attainment.

✓ DHS funds CDA programs for all provider types, as well as 12, 16 and 24-credit certificates.



✓ 31 Programs increased their BrightStars ratings from March to August 2023.

✓ CELP currently has 19 classes running virtually and in-person with eight classes offered in Spanish.



# Round-up & next steps



# Next Steps

---

DHS is going to continue to have these all-provider meetings biannually or as needed. These powerpoints will be posted to the DHS website. A copy of the presentation will be disseminated to the group at the end of every meeting.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January  
24<sup>th</sup>

1:30pm-3:00pm

**Any feedback or recommendations?** Email **Nicole Chiello** at [Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov) any time.

