



Early Childhood All-Provider Meeting

Office of Child Care
June 2024



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 only the second time we are convening this group in this format. Please feel free to provide feedback to Nicole directly at Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov

Today's Agenda

Today, the Office of Child Care will be focusing on specific agenda items.

01

FY2025 – Child Care Updates

04

RISES Updates

02

Child Care Licensing - Updates

05

**Quality Initiatives/Preschool Development
Grant Updates**

03

Child Care Assistance Program – Updates

06

Next Steps/Feedback





FY2025
Child Care Specific
Updates

DHS Related Fiscal Year 25 Budget Wins

CCAP

- **CCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase:** Rates paid to child care centers serving children in the **Child Care Assistance Program will be raised by 5% in July 2024**, the first increase since 2022. This rate increase is comparable to rate increases family child care providers have received through collective bargaining.
- **CCAP Income Limit Increase:** The Child Care Assistance Program will be expanded to help more families starting in January 2025, **raising the household income limit to 261% of the federal poverty level** (\$67,390 for a family of three in 2024), the highest level in state history. This policy will enable a two-parent family with one child where both parents are working full-time and earning **\$16/hour to qualify for child care assistance**.

ECE Workforce

- **CCAP for ECE Educators Pilot Continuation:** continued through July 2025. This program is designed to help recruit and retain child care educators by covering the cost of child care for the children of staff with household incomes under 300% of the federal poverty level (\$77,460 for a family of three in 2024).

ECE Workforce Data

- The **RI Early Care and Education Workforce Data Act passed both the House and the Senate** and will establish a state early care and education workforce registry that meets the guidelines of the National Workforce Registry Alliance and will **require an annual state report** on the status of educators who work directly with children in licensed child care and early learning centers and family child care homes including demographics, education levels, and turnover.

RI Works

- **RI Works Cash Assistance Increase:** Cash assistance payments to families participating in the RI Works program will be raised by 20% effective July 2024. Children will no longer be subject to losing benefits due to full family sanction and the earned income disregard for families will be raised from \$300 to \$525.

Child Care Licensing



Licensing - New Staff

New Licensor - Giselle Bautista

Giselle joins our team with over twenty years experience working within the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. Over that long career she has worked with CCAP, Rhode Island Works and various other sectors. She is currently training and shadowing licensors. She will be assigned to programs over the next few months.

New Programming Services Officer - Karla Roman

Karla has been with the Department for almost three years, working as a licensor for both center based and family child care based programs. Karla's new role will involve reviewing and approving new providers, supporting changes of capacity requests, handling complaint and probationary visits as well as managing a small caseload of providers



Family Child Care Regulations Updates

FCC Regulations go live in July 2024- Stay tuned for timeline & transition plan!

- Provisional License and Visit
- Household Members to include visitors staying more than 30 consecutive days
- Physician's Reference to be replaced by evidence of medical exam and in good health to work with children (original not required)
- Use of DHS Emergency Preparedness Plan for all providers
- Requirement that the department be notified of changes to operating hours including closure for vacation or extended travel
- Licensed Providers: must be able to demonstrate a plan for supervision of children who are using a bathroom located on another floor
- New Providers: bathroom used during hours of care must be on the same floor as where care is provided



Family Child Care Regulations Updates Continued

FCC Regulations go live in July 2024- Stay tuned for timeline & transition plan!

- Removal of Emergency Assistants (only one assistant or substitute required to care for 6 children).
- Alert DHS of DCYF involvement
- List of items required in first aid kits
- Clarification of feeding plans for infants and toddlers
- Requirement regarding professional development topics
- Limitation on how long children can be placed in swings, stationary activity centers, infant seats (15 minutes)
- A provider may be out of the home more than three days with an approved written plan submitted and approved by DHS (not to exceed 14 days per calendar year)
- Allowing any school age child under 12 who resides in the home to be added to the program during summer months without impacting the program if an additional assistant or substitute is present



Licensing Updates – Common Noncompliances in the field

Safe Sleep

- While sleeping providers should always maintain sight and sound supervision (this includes other children)
- Ratios do not change for infants at nap time
- Infants must always be placed on their backs to sleep
- Weighted sleep sacks are not allowed
- Mattresses must be firm and have a fitted sheet
- Infants cannot sleep in anything other than a crib, even if they arrive asleep in a carrier or fall asleep in a swing

Allergies & Medication


- Children's medication must be clearly always labeled and remain out of reach of children (including meds transported daily)
- Medication Administration Plans must be accessible and understood by all staff
- Any child with an allergy (food related or otherwise) should have a documented care plan
- Children's Food Allergy Information should be clearly posted (unless permission is not given by family and in that case staff must be notified by alternate means)



Licensing Updates – Background Checks

Comprehensive Background Checks

- Continue to be completed at RI Attorney General's Office free of charge for Child Care Employees
- DHS will continue to pay for comprehensive background checks through June 30, 2025
- Priority is given for those entering the workforce or those expiring
- Please remind staff to ensure they keep copies of their completed checks
- DHS is working on a comprehensive list of the local police departments that will complete the checks (for a small fee)


 State of Rhode Island
 Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families and Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Fingerprint Affidavit for Individuals Required to be Licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families and/or the Department of Human Services

Individual obtaining fingerprints from a Law Enforcement Agency

Foster Care or Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster parent, resource parent, preadoptive parent, kinship parent, adoptive parent, household member of any of the above
Congregate Care or Residential Facilities for Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> Owners, operators, administrator, house manager, clinician, staff, program coordinator, volunteers, interns, members of the board, custodians, clerical, chef, maintenance crew, etc.
Child Placing Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Owners, operators, directors, clinicians, case managers, child caring staff members (must have access to children without the supervision of others who have completed/cleared background checks.)
Child Care Centers	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Caring Employee, Owner, Operator, Administrator, Education Coordinator, Site Coordinator, Parent Coop Employee, Substitutes, etc. (must have access to children without the supervisor of others who have completed/cleared background checks)
Family Child Care Homes	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider, Emergency Assistant, Assistant, staff, adult household member

Applicant Information	
Name	
Date of Birth	
Street Address	
City/Town, State, Zip Code	
List all states the applicant has lived in (besides Rhode Island) the previous 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Provider Type	Where Results Should be Sent
Family Child Care Homes	DHS childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov
Foster Care or Adoption	DCYF.Licensing@dcyf.ri.gov
Please send results of comprehensive background checks for Congregate Care or Residential Facilities for Youth, Child Placing Agencies, and Child Care Centers to the Applicant's Organization below:	
Name/Facility/Agency/Organization	
Attention	
Street Address	
City/Town, State, Zip Code	
Email	

I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury that the above information is complete, true and correct:

Applicant Signature	Date
Employer Signature	Date

Agency Completing Check: Attorney General's Office DCYF
 Local Police Department (please specify):
 State Police Department (please specify):



Child Care Assistance Program



CCAP Updates

Summer Flip

- As of May 27, 2024, you may enroll school age children for their authorized hours. Authorized hours have been updated to reflect need hours to facilitate summer hours.
- In the provider portal, the **Change Effective Date, must be the Sunday of the week the child will start attending additional summer hours.**

Provider Monitoring

- Thank you to all providers who responded to their monitoring letters!
- The first two (2) rounds have been reviewed, and **providers will be receiving feedback correspondence soon.**
- Please remember:
 - **Parent-Provider Agreements must be in place for every CCAP-eligible child in your care.** The agreement must match the enrollment in the provider portal and **must reasonably match the child's actual attendance.**
 - **Sign In/Out sheets must be completed daily** and retained for 3 years.

CCAP for Child Care Educators & Staff Pilot

- Families have until July 31, 2024 to apply for the pilot to receive a twelve (12) month certificate
 - Stay tuned for updated information on the pilot as it has been extended for an additional year.
- For families not participating in the traditional CCAP model, **there is no copay if approved for the pilot.** For families participating in the traditional CCAP model who have a copay, the **copay will be covered by the pilot.**
- **Please encourage all families to apply for the pilot or traditional CCAP model!**



CCAP Regulations Proposed Updates

Overview of proposed updates and clarification made to CCAP Regulations – which are currently at the end of the public comment process.

- Family Child Care Providers may be eligible for CCAP (cannot enroll your own child or other children living in your home in your own FCC program)
- Exception to the policy prohibiting additional fees charged to families: reasonable transportation fees
- Align existing certification period for a family to the 12-month certification period for a newly added child
- Accommodations added for parents with medical verification of disability that prevents working and provision of routine care of child
- Non-cooperation with the Office of Child Support Services does not impact eligibility during the certification period.
- 12-month certification period begins at eligibility determination instead of at application
- Provide 90 days of CCAP for active job seekers
- Short Term Special Approval Child Care (SSACC) can extend to a 12-month certification period if needed



RISES – Updates



RISES Updates

We heard you loud and clear 😊

We want to ensure that providers have a place where they can go to get any of their questions and/or comments answered about the RISES workforce registry!

These office hours are a place for you to log-in and ask away! Share your screen, get one-on-one technical assistance about anything you might need support with.

Every Monday 1-2:30pm: [CLICK HERE](#)

Every Tuesday 8-10am: [CLICK HERE](#)

Every Wednesday 6pm-8pm: [CLICK HERE](#)

RISES OFFICE HOURS

JOIN US LIVE TO GET ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

**STARTING MONDAY, JUNE 24
ENDING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**

EVERY MONDAY 1PM-2:30PM
[Click here to join](#)

EVERY TUESDAY 8AM-10AM
[Click here to join](#)

EVERY WEDNESDAY 6PM-8PM
[Click here to join](#)



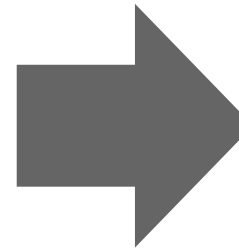
RISES Updates – Release 2 Potential Timeline

October 2024

- All Providers completed registration, profile completion and association to their program.
- Licensors began checking program accounts before visits.

December 2024

- All Educators completed registration, profile completion and association to their program.
- Licensors continue checking program accounts before visits.

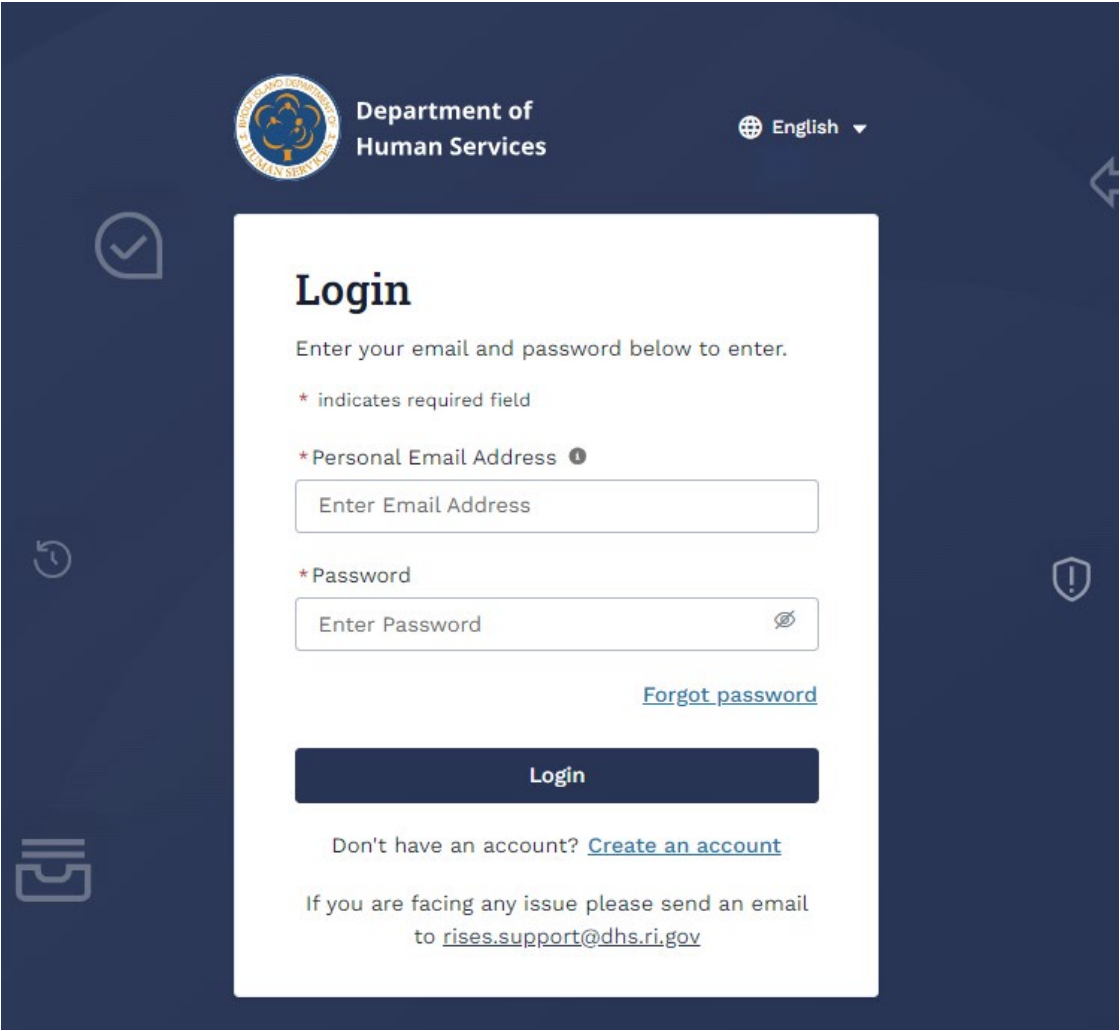


February 2025

- Licensing System of Record will Launch!
- All Providers and educators will have complete profiles in the system and will be associated to their programs.
- All applications, payments and change requests will be completed online.
- Licensing visits will be completed on the new RISES app.



RISES Updates – How to prepare for Release 2



Complete Program Profile

- Ensure you have registered, associated properly with your program.
- Link program account to Center for Early Learning Professionals (CELP) account.

Ensure Staff Profiles Updated

- Complete all staff profile reviews and approve all association requests.
- Refer employees who need additional assistance to office hours or the help desk.



ECE System Quality Updates



Preschool Development Renewal Grant 2024-2027

Rhode Island is eligible to apply for another round of PDG funding. DHS will be the lead agency applying with cross-departmental partnerships at EOHHS, RIDE and RIDOH. Application due 7/31. Notification expected 9/30.

RI Funding Band Award Ceiling

\$5M annually X 3 years= \$15M

PDG Grant Priorities

- **Strengthen early care and education programs in a mixed delivery system**
- **Support ECE workforce**
- **Increase equity and family involvement in ECE programs**
- **Improve ECE program quality**
- **Expand access to early childhood services.**
- **Create seamless learning experiences from birth to elementary school**

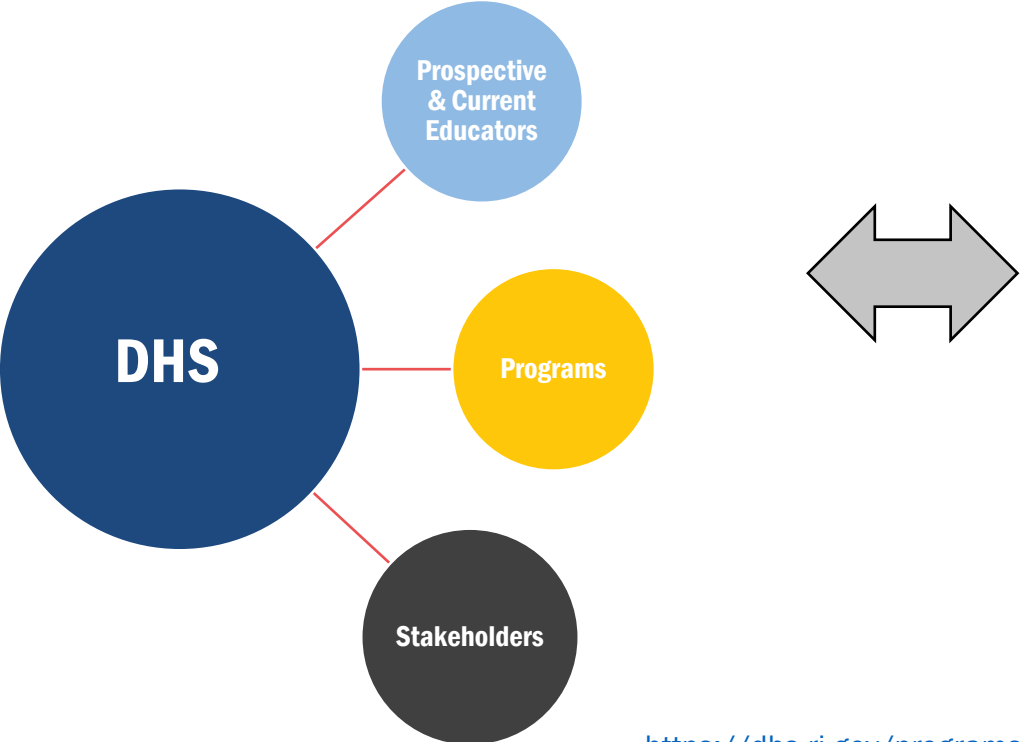
PDG Required Grant Activities

- **Activity 1:** Update comprehensive statewide B-5 needs assessment
- **Activity 2:** Update comprehensive statewide B-5 strategic plan
- **Activity 3:** Maximize family participation and engagement in the B-5 system
- **Activity 4:** Support the B-5 workforce
- **Activity 5:** Support program quality improvements
- **Activity 6:** Subaward to enhance quality and expand access to programs & services
- **Bonus 1:** Increase workforce pay and benefits
- **Bonus 2:** Support social-emotional development and mental health



DHS Sponsored Workforce Development

To support providers with attracting, retaining and supporting staff to increase qualifications and support overall program quality, DHS has developed a Workforce Pathways Resource Guide and Inquiry Form.



RI DHS Office of Child Care Workforce Development Pathways Inquiry Form

Please use this form to contact the RI Department of Human Services Office of Child Care to learn more about DHS funded workforce development opportunities for early childhood educators.

* Required

1. Full name *

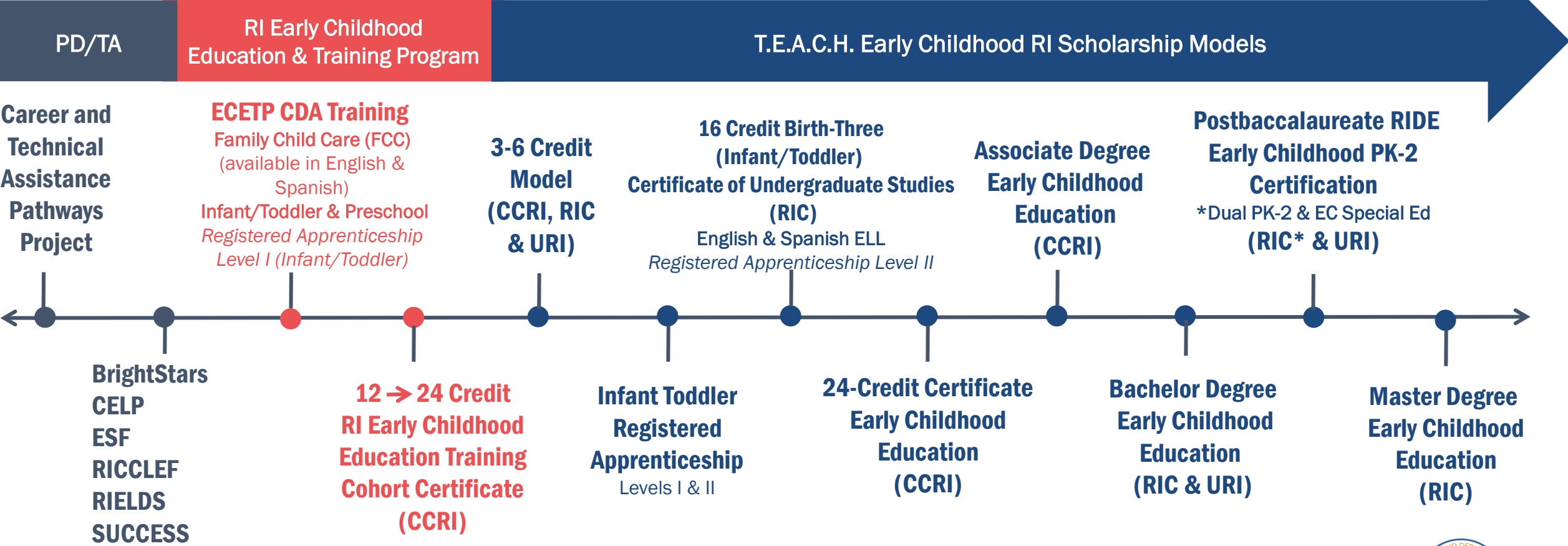
2. Email *

<https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-providers-staff-resources/workforce-development>



DHS Sponsored Professional Development & Technical Assistance (PD/TA)

DHS pathways provide early childhood educators and programs access to free or low-cost training and higher education opportunities designed for the working professional and aimed at supporting high quality classrooms and career advancement starting with PD/TA through Master's level.



Workforce Development Updates

New Pathways Spotlight

- RIECETP now goes up to 24 credits
- RIC Infant Toddler Certificate of Undergraduate Studies
- Post-Baccalaureate RIDE Early Childhood PK-2 Certification (RIC & URI)
 - Dual PK-2 & Early Childhood Special Education (RIC)

Programming Updates

- Credit for Prior Learning increased from 3 to 6 credits for CCRI CDA program
- RI State Institutes of Higher Education (CCRI, RIC, & URI) have developed an articulation agreement with the Office of the Post Secondary Commissioner (OPC) to ensure transferability of all ECE related courses amongst RI IHE's

Recruitment

- RIC 16 Credit Infant Toddler Certificate of Undergraduate Studies
 - Available in English & Spanish ELL
- CCRI RIECETP CDA
 - Infant/Toddler
 - Preschool
 - FCC (English & Spanish)
- CCRI RIECETP Credit Pathways
 - 12 credit
 - 24 credit
- Infant Toddler Registered Apprenticeship
- All TEACH Scholarship Models



Quality Updates

BrightStars

- **Renewals have resumed and we are seeing many programs increasing their Star Ratings!**
- In April there were 35 feedback visits for new, renewal and star increase applications. **10 programs increased overall.**
- In May, there were 27 feedback visits for new, renewal and increase applications. **16 Programs showed an overall increase.**

SUCCESS

- Accepting referrals for child-focused infant early childhood mental health consultation
- Offering classroom and program infant early childhood mental health consultation via Coordination of Care Teams
- FCC Early Childhood Mental Health Workshop Series available with CELP PD Approval
- Reflective Practice and Supervision Series available with CELP PD Approval
- New Website underdevelopment. In the meantime, refer to <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/quality-initiatives> or email success@lifespan.org.

CELP

- **New CCAP orientation coming soon!**
- **Technical Assistance Infoline** is continuing to support providers. In May there were a total of 319 inquiries by phone or email.
- Working to **realign PD courses from the WKC's to the NAEYC standards**

SEIU Education and Support Fund (ESF)

- WEPA was a success – we had over 150 participants!
- **Accepting applications for the Pre-Apprentice Program.**

Interest form here: <https://bit.ly/esfpap2024> [bit.ly]



Next Steps

DHS is going to continue to have these all-provider meetings approximately 3x per year. A copy of the presentation will be disseminated to the group at the end of every meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024–

1-230pm (ENG), 530-7pm (SPA)

Monday, February 10th, 2025–

1-230pm (ENG), 530-7pm (SPA)

Any feedback or recommendations? Email **Nicole Chiello** at Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov any time.

Couldn't attend? Copies of the meetings are always available at the following link:
<https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-providers-staff-resources/handbooks-forms>

