



## Appendix B

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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# Child Care Pandemic Relief + Recovery

Overview + Summary Data

Updated October 2022

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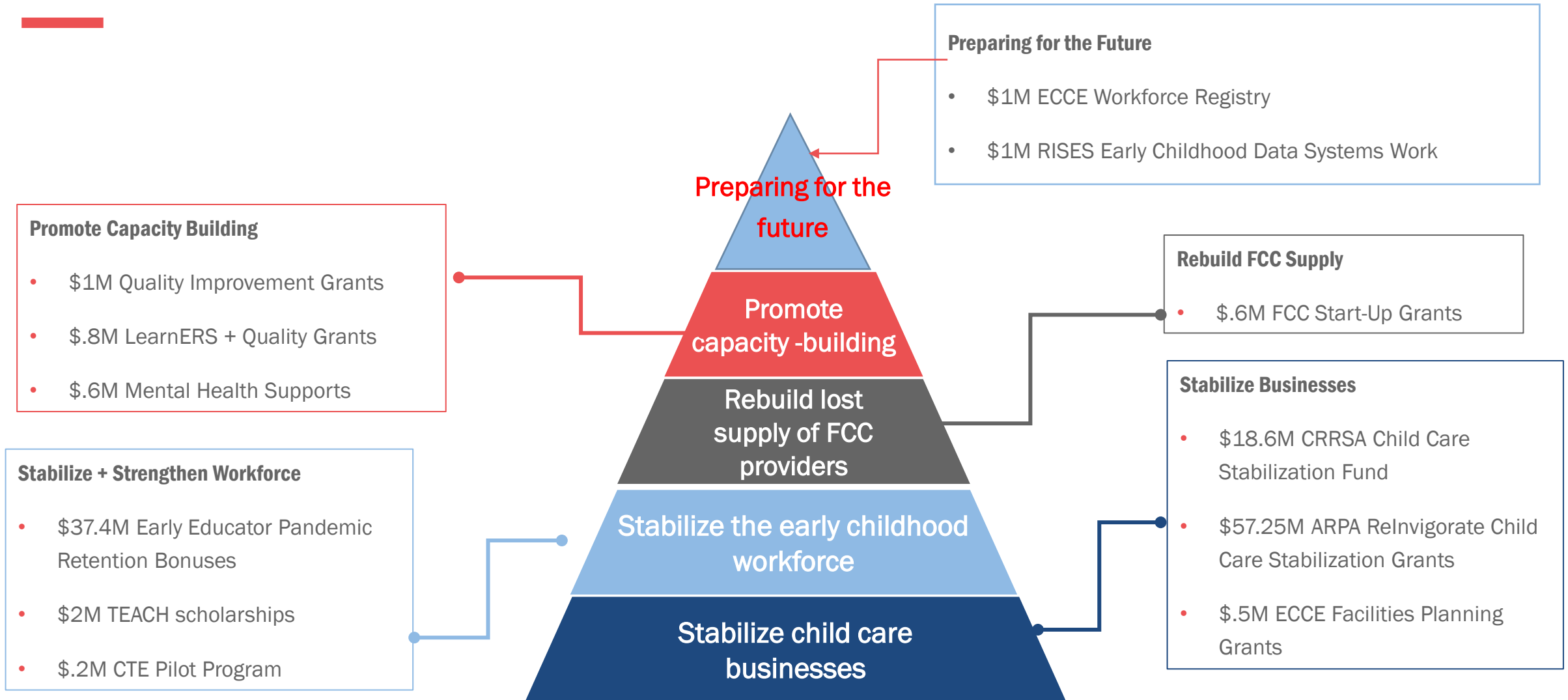
# Approach to Child Care Pandemic Relief and Recovery

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The Office of Child Care (OCC) has taken a tiered approach to pandemic relief and recovery.

- Initially, the fundamental concern was stabilizing child care business models to ensure sector stability and continuity of care.
- The second critical objective was to stabilize a destabilized early childhood workforce characterized by acutely high rates of attrition.
- Simultaneously, OCC is working to rebuild the supply of Family Child Care providers following closures during the pandemic.
- Moving forward, the Office is focused on promoting further capacity-building and quality improvement. In total, this amounts to more than \$98 million obligated to go directly to the child care sector.

# Approach to Child Care Pandemic Relief and Recovery



# Stabilize Child Care Businesses

Program Element	Child Care Stabilization Fund	ReInvigorate Child Care Stabilization Grants
<i>Total Budget (Funding Source)</i>	\$18,615,600 directly to recipients (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act- Child Care Development Fund Discretionary)	\$56,081,163 directly to recipients (American Rescue Plan Act- Stabilization Grants)
<i>Timeline (Program Status)</i>	Spring – Summer 2021 (Complete)	Fall 2021 – Summer 2022 (Complete)
<i>Target Population(s)</i>	Licensed Child Care Centers, Licensed Family Child Care providers, and License-Exempt providers	Licensed Child Care Centers, Licensed Family Child Care providers, and License-Exempt providers
<i>Program Objective</i>	To provide 2 monthly Stabilization Grants to support increased operating costs and stabilize businesses in the face of the pandemic	To provide 6 monthly Stabilization Grants to support increased operating costs and stabilize businesses as the pandemic persists
<i>Outcomes + Impact Data</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94% of eligible providers statewide received an award</li> <li>• 97% of eligible Centers received an award; 96% of eligible FCCs received an award</li> <li>• 95% of Center grant recipients elected to dedicate at least 20% of their first stipend to staff bonuses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$55.1M has been distributed to grant recipients to-date</li> <li>• 95% of eligible providers statewide received an award</li> <li>• 96% of eligible Centers received an award; 93% of eligible home-based providers received an award</li> <li>• 96% of Center grant recipients have elected to dedicate at least 10% of their first lump sum payment to staff bonuses</li> </ul>

# Stabilize the Early Childhood Workforce

## Early Educator Pandemic Retention Bonus - *Past Application Windows*

	Application Window #1	Application Window #2
<i>Timeline</i>	3/18/22 - 4/22/22	6/1/22 - 6/30/22
<i>Eligibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer for at least 6 months as of 12/1/21</li><li>Awarded applicants receive \$1,500</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer for at least 6 months as of 6/1/22</li><li>Awarded applicants receive \$1,500</li></ul>
<i>Distribution Data</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>\$4.861 M has been distributed to 3,241 educators</li><li>89% of licensed programs had at least 1 employee apply</li><li>94% of applicants responded neutrally or positively about how easy the application process was</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>\$5.64 M has been distributed to 3,760 educators</li><li>89% of licensed programs had at least 1 employee apply</li><li>97% of applicants responded neutrally or positively about how easy the application process was.</li></ul>

# Early Educator Pandemic Retention Bonuses

The application process is a simple 2-step process to allow for efficient verification and review: 1) Applicant completes a 5-minute Eligibility Form; 2) Once an applicant's employee/DHS Licensing confirms their eligibility/employment status, the applicant receives a link to a quick online application.

	Application Window #3	Application Window #4	Application Window #5	Application Window #6	Application Window #7	Application Window #8*	Application Window #9*	Application #10*
<i>Timeline</i>	October 1 - 31, 2022	January 1 - 31, 2023	April 1 - 30, 2023	July 1 - 31, 2023	October 1 - 31, 2023	January 1 - 31, 2024	April 1 - 30, 2024	July 1 - 31, 2023
<i>Eligibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of June 1, 2022</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of Sept. 1, 2022</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of Dec. 1, 2022</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of March 1, 2023</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of June 1, 2023</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of Sept. 1, 2023</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of Dec. 1, 2023</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any educator who works directly with children during the average day that was employed by their current employer as of March 1, 2024</li> <li>Awarded applicants receive \$750</li> </ul>

# Rebuild Family Child Care Supply

## Family Child Care Start-Up Grants - *Past Application Windows*

	FCC Start-Up Grants
<i>Timeline</i>	Accepted applications on a rolling basis from 3/30/22 - 6/30/22
<i>Eligibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A recently DHS-licensed Family Child Care provider, (licensed a maximum 30 days prior to submitting this grant application); or in the process of becoming a DHS-licensed Family Child Care provider.</li><li>• Awarded applicants receive a one-time \$2,000 bonus and technical assistance</li></ul>
<i>Distribution Data</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$72,000 has been distributed to 36 educators</li><li>• 96% of applicants responded that the application process was "easy" or "very easy"</li></ul>



# Family Child Care Start-Up Grants

Applicants must complete the online orientation with CELP and sign-up for First Steps before submitting an application. Applicants complete a simple online application and receive technical assistance if they have not yet completed the prerequisite steps.

	FCC Start-Up Grants
<i>Timeline</i>	Accepting applications on a rolling basis from 10/3/22 - 6/30/23
<i>Eligibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A recently DHS-licensed Family Child Care provider, (licensed a maximum 30 days prior to submitting this grant application); or in the process of becoming a DHS-licensed Family Child Care provider.</li><li>• Awarded applicants receive a one-time \$2,000 bonus and technical assistance</li></ul>
<i>Distribution Data</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 approved applications within the first day of the program</li></ul>

# Promote Capacity-Building and Improve Quality

Program Element	LearnERS + Quality Grants	SUCCESS Mental Health Contract
<i>Total Budget + Funding Source</i>	\$841,600 total (American Rescue Plan Act- Child Care Development Fund Discretionary)	\$636,301 total (American Rescue Plan Act- Child Care Development Fund Discretionary)
<i>Timeline (Program Status)</i>	Fall 2021 (Ongoing)	Fall 2021 (Ongoing)
<i>Target Population(s)</i>	Licensed child care programs with interest in increasing their quality rating	Licensed child care programs in service of children and family mental health outcomes
<i>Program Objective</i>	To increase program quality by conducting low-stakes observations, establishing a job-embedded professional development model, and supporting programs in making strategic investments using grant funds	To support the mental health needs of children and families in child care by expanding the scope of the existing Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation contract to serve more programs and children
<i>Outcomes + Impact Data</i>	A total of fifty-three (53) currently employed child care staff have enrolled in one of six cohorts, This includes forty-two (42) lead teachers, four (4) teacher assistants and seven (7) family child care providers. A total of three-hundred and thirty-five (335) CCAP children are enrolled across these programs.	25 ECE Supervisors attended at least one training session for Reflective practice and supervision, and 8 enrolled in Enhanced Skill Development. 15 FCCP's enrolled in an Early Childhood Mental Health Workshop. Coordination of Care teams are underway in 10 center-based programs which provide monthly mental health supports as a preventative model for children presenting with challenges.

# Next Steps in Child Care Recovery

While the Department has accomplished so much on our road to recovery, we still have work to do. We are working on the following steps in our tiered approach to supporting the child care sector.

Investment	Funding Source	Dollar Amount	Objective
Workforce Registry	SFRF	<i>\$1M through 2025</i>	Allow RI to engage directly with the ECE workforce to (1) understand whether RI has the workforce needed to deliver quality early learning (2) drive investments in higher education and workforce pipeline activities aligned directly with employer demand (3) communicate directly with the workforce to deliver initiatives such as benefits or further wage enhancements.
TEACH initiatives	SFRF	<i>\$2M through 2024</i>	This investment will support the early childhood sector and RI more broadly by advancing the educational attainment of the sector which is an indicator of increased program quality.
Quality Improvements	SFRF	<i>\$1M through 2025</i>	Targeted quality improvement dollars to move programs along the quality continuum across all domains, supporting providers on their path to high quality. Also inclusive of tailored technical assistance designed to increase Brightstars rating.



# Thank You!

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Please reach out with questions or  
feedback at

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