



EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP STATE GRANTEE PROFILE

DELAWARE

Grantee Name	Delaware Department of Education
EHS Grantee Status	New EHS Grantee
Annual Award Amount (additional TA funds)	1,113,439 (\$27,836)
Proposed Funded Enrollment	72
% of Subsidy Proposed	50% of participating children

Partnership Snapshot

Delaware's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (Partnership) grant is housed within the Office of Early Learning, which administers DE's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), [Delaware Stars](#), CCDF licensing and Head Start Collaboration. Both family and center based partners participate. All of the center and family provider partners operate at a 3, 4 or 5 QRIS rating. Each partner identifies county-level service priorities, which include dual-language children, homeless children, children in foster care, and children in military families.

The state's quality improvement model operates via technical assistance contracts with two EHS centers, [Delaware Early Childhood Center](#) and the University of Delaware's Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. The state has also created a new state-level department focused on improving the quality of infant and toddler care throughout Delaware, First State Delaware (FSD).

Subsidy Administration

CCDF is administered through the state's Division of Social Services. DSS is partnering with the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to pilot the Purchase of Care (POC) project, a new approach in which DSS will buy annual child care slots for the 4 and 5 Star programs, enabling them to offer child care to eligible families through a contract directly between DSS and the provider, as well as vouchers. This initiative is designed to stabilize the provider workforce and as an incentive for more providers to offer infant and toddler care.

Subsidy Policy Alignment

Current subsidy policy in DE already requires the minimum 12 months of eligibility. In addition, the POC program allows for 24 months of subsidy eligibility. Partnership programs benefit from the tiered reimbursement framework of [Delaware Stars](#), which can provide rate reimbursements up to the 102nd percentile of the market rate at the Star 5 level.

Leveraged Funding Strategies

August, 2016

DE's Partnership also relies on additional funding resources, including:

- First State Delaware (FSD) draws upon state resources generated by the Early Success initiative, a public-private funding collaboration, CCDF quality investments, and the federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Fund grant that have also supported programs including [T.E.A.C.H.](#) and [Delaware Stars](#); and
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) resources support family nutrition.



- ✓ **New State-Level Department to improve the quality of infant and toddler care:** First State Delaware (FSD) will house the Partnership's quality improvement model, which operates via technical assistance contracts with two EHS centers, Delaware Early Childhood Center and the University of Delaware's Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood.
- ✓ **Alignment with the statewide QRIS:** All of the center and family provider partners operate at a 3, 4 or 5 QRIS rating. Partnership programs also benefit from the tiered reimbursement framework of [Delaware Stars](#), which can provide rate reimbursements up to 102% of the market rate at the Star 5 level.

DELAWARE'S CHILD CARE POLICY CONTEXT

Policy	State Child Care Policy	EHS-CC Partnership
Eligibility Period	12 months	
Licensing Standards: Ratios	Centers: Infants 1:4 Toddlers 1:6 (1-2 years old; 1:10 (2-3 years old) Homes: Depends on ages of children and staff qualifications	Centers: Infants 1:4 Toddlers: 1:4, 2:8 Homes: B-5 1:6 with no more than 2 children under 2 years old B-5 1 teacher/1 assistant
Licensing Standards: Group Size	Centers: Infants 8 Toddlers 12 (1-2 years old) 16 (2-3 years old) Homes: 6	Centers: 8 children with 2 teachers Homes: 4 infants and toddlers with no more than 2 children under 18 months
Infant/Toddler Teacher Qualifications	Centers: High school/GED plus 18 hours of training Homes: 12 hours annual training	Centers: I/T CDA; or equivalent Homes: I/T CDA; or equivalent