

## FY25 QUALITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW AND ALLOWABLE USES

**Purpose:** The OEC shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide on a competitive basis supplemental quality enhancement (QE) grants to providers of School Readiness programs pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 10-16p and 10-16u to enhance the quality of early childhood education programs. School Readiness programs in Priority School Readiness districts, and Competitive School Readiness municipalities may apply for a quality enhancement grant. These applicants must use their local School Readiness Council to review and recommend projects for funding.

The purpose of the Quality Enhancement funding is to assist early care and education programs in addressing quality standards and/or expand comprehensive services for children and families. C.G.S. Section 17b-749c identifies the following as appropriate use of grant funds:

1. Help providers who are not accredited by the NAEYC to obtain such accreditation;
2. Help directors and administrators to obtain training;
3. Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition, family support services, parent education, literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to a speech and language therapist;
4. Purchase educational equipment;
5. Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early childhood education or child development;
6. Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions are defined in such federal regulations;
7. Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;
8. Create a supportive network with family day care homes and other providers of care for children;
9. Provide for educational consultation and staff development;
10. Provide for program quality assurance personnel;
11. Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to develop child care facilities pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h and 17b-749i;
12. Establish a single point of entry system; and
13. Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives to promote staff retention, pre-literacy development, parent involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

**Priorities for Funding:** This grant should not duplicate program accreditation or training activities that are generally available at the local or regional level. Additionally, funds cannot be used for increasing staff salaries or for administrative or planning functions. This section of funding is based upon availability of funds. The plan must align with the purpose of the funding (above).

**Funds Available:** The OEC anticipates that a total amount of \$892,955 will be available between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. All grants shall be funded within the limits of available appropriations. The table below details the proposed allocations for the Priority School Readiness municipalities.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
Andover	3,881	Milford	3,881
Ansonia	6,447	Naugatuck	3,881
Ashford	3,881	New Britain	39,928
Bloomfield	8,035	New Haven	81,386
Branford	3,881	New London (LEARN)	17,226
Bridgeport	101,074	North Canaan	3,881
Bristol	18,756	Norwalk	37,688
Brooklyn	3,881	Norwich	20,120
Canterbury	3,881	Plainfield	3,881
Chaplin	3,881	Plainville	3,881
Colchester	3,881	Plymouth	3,881
Coventry	3,881	Putnam	6,447
Danbury	24,889	Scotland	3,881
Derby	3,881	Seymour	3,881
Eastford	3,881	Shelton	3,881
East Hartford	21,242	Sprague	3,881
East Haven	3,881	Stafford	3,881
Ellington	3,881	Stamford	48,970
Enfield	3,881	Sterling	3,881
Greenwich	3,881	Stratford	3,881
Griswold	3,881	Thomaston	3,881
Groton	3,881	Thompson	3,881
Hamden	3,881	Torrington	3,881
Hampton	3,881	Vernon	3,881
Hartford	112,523	Voluntown	3,881
Hebron	3,881	Waterbury	75,641
Killingly	3,881	West Hartford	3,881
Lebanon	3,881	West Haven	24,973
Ledyard	3,881	Winchester	3,881
Lisbon	3,881	Windham	13,963
Manchester	3,881	Windsor	3,881
Mansfield	3,881	Windsor Locks	3,881
Meriden	28,337	Wolcott	3,881
Middletown	19,023	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$892,955</b>