



## EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP STATE GRANTEE PROFILE

# PENNSYLVANIA

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services
<b>EHS Grantee Status</b>	Existing EHS Grantee
<b>Annual Award Amount (additional TA funds)</b>	\$5,535,000 (\$135,000)
<b>Proposed Funded Enrollment</b>	368
<b>% of Subsidy Proposed</b>	100% of participating children

### ***Partnership Snapshot***

Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services' Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (Partnership) is administrated by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The state agency contracts with six existing Head Start/Early Head Start (EHS) centers and one private child care center that serve as regional hubs. Hubs may provide direct services or partner with other child care centers to support the delivery of comprehensive services. Currently, the state's Partnership involves only center providers. Hubs also host a Community of Practice among their child care partners to support professional learning.

After applying to be a part of the Partnership, each partner participated in an initial evaluation of four focus areas: 1) ratios; 2) provider qualifications; 3) learning program design; and 4) access to comprehensive services. In addition to addressing program capacity in these implementation areas, each hub partner works with OCDEL to ensure that staffing patterns are in place to allow for a third teacher in order meet required EHS ratios.

### ***Subsidy Administration***

OCDEL manages the state's CCDF subsidy program, Child Care Works. Subsidy reimbursement constitutes the funding base for the Partnership, layered with federal EHS funds. For this grant, OCDEL also set requirements that participating children must receive Child Care Works funding, meet a poverty eligibility threshold of 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), meet a categorical eligibility status, or be eligible for Early Intervention Part C. OCDEL passes Partnership funds to the [PA Keys to Quality](#) program, who then contracts with the provider programs. This relationship allows for expediency and flexibility in continuing the continuity of services for families within the state fiscal system's constraints.

### ***Subsidy Policy Alignment***

PA's Partnership program is aligned with the statewide QRIS system, [Keystone STARS](#). Although the state's current child care subsidy policy requires redetermination for eligibility every six months, children who receive subsidized child care and who are enrolled in EHS do not receive a redetermination until the child is no longer enrolled in EHS. In addition, children of families receiving TANF are guaranteed Partnership participation based on an OCDEL reserve fund of \$400,000 to cover payment to providers in the event that a child loses subsidy funding.

### ***Leveraged Funding Strategies***

The Partnership also relies on additional funding resources and partnership strategies, including:

- A partnership with the state child care resource and referral entity, Child Care Information Services, provides families seeking child care an accessible portal for identifying services and verifying eligibility;
- PA Keys to Quality offers professional development;
- PA's QRIS, [Keystone STARS](#) supports professional development by providing tuition assistance;
- OCDEL coordinates with the state's higher education system to increase the availability of the Infant Toddler CDA and to develop the state's Infant Toddler Credential;
- Child Care Health Consultation provides targeted local technical assistance related to best practices;
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation provides targeted technical assistance; 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.



- ✓ **Regional Hub Model:** Partners support a child care provider network by ensuring delivery of comprehensive services, building provider capacity, and participating in a Community of Practice.
- ✓ **Focus on Meeting EHS Staffing Standards:** OCDEL prioritizes support to ensure ratios are met within all partnership programs.
- ✓ **Comprehensive Partnership Selection:** After applying to be a part of the Partnership, each partner participated in an initial evaluation of four focus areas, including 1) ratios; 2) provider qualifications; 3) learning program design; and 4) access to comprehensive services.

**PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILD CARE POLICY CONTEXT**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>State Child Care</b>	<b>EHS-CC Partnership</b>
<b>Eligibility Period</b>	6 months	Children remain eligible for child care assistance throughout their participation in a Partnership program.
<b>Licensing Standards: Ratios</b>	<b>Centers:</b> Infants 1:4 Toddlers 1:6 <b>Homes:</b> No more than 6 unrelated children; Limit to 2 infants at any one time. No more than five infants and toddlers at any one time.	<b>Centers:</b> Infants 1:4 Toddlers: 1:4, 2:8 <b>Homes:</b> B-5 1:6 with no more than 2 children under 2 years old B-5 1 teacher/1 assistant
<b>Licensing Standards: Group Size</b>	<b>Centers:</b> Infants 8, Toddlers 12 <b>Homes:</b> If no infants, 5 toddlers If 1 infant, 4 toddlers If 2 infants, 3 toddlers	<b>Centers:</b> 8 children with 2 teachers <b>Homes:</b> 4 infants and toddlers with no more than 2 children under 18 months
<b>Infant/Toddler Teacher Qualifications</b>	<b>Centers:</b> AA or BA plus 6 hours of annual training <b>Homes:</b> 12 hours of training every two years	<b>Centers:</b> I/T CDA; or equivalent <b>Homes:</b> I/T CDA; or equivalent