



MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**



June EEC Board Meeting

June 10, 2026

Agenda

Routine Business:

- Approval of minutes from May 13, 2026 Meeting – VOTE
- FY27 Human Resources Division Management Salary Adjustments – VOTE
- Approval of Board Meeting Dates for FY27 – VOTE

Items for Discussion and Action:

- FY27 Budget Updates
- Informal Child Care (ICC) Rate Increase – VOTE
- IT Modernization: Professional Portal
- FY26 Year in Review

FY27 Meeting Schedule

For state Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), the Board proposes the following meeting schedule:

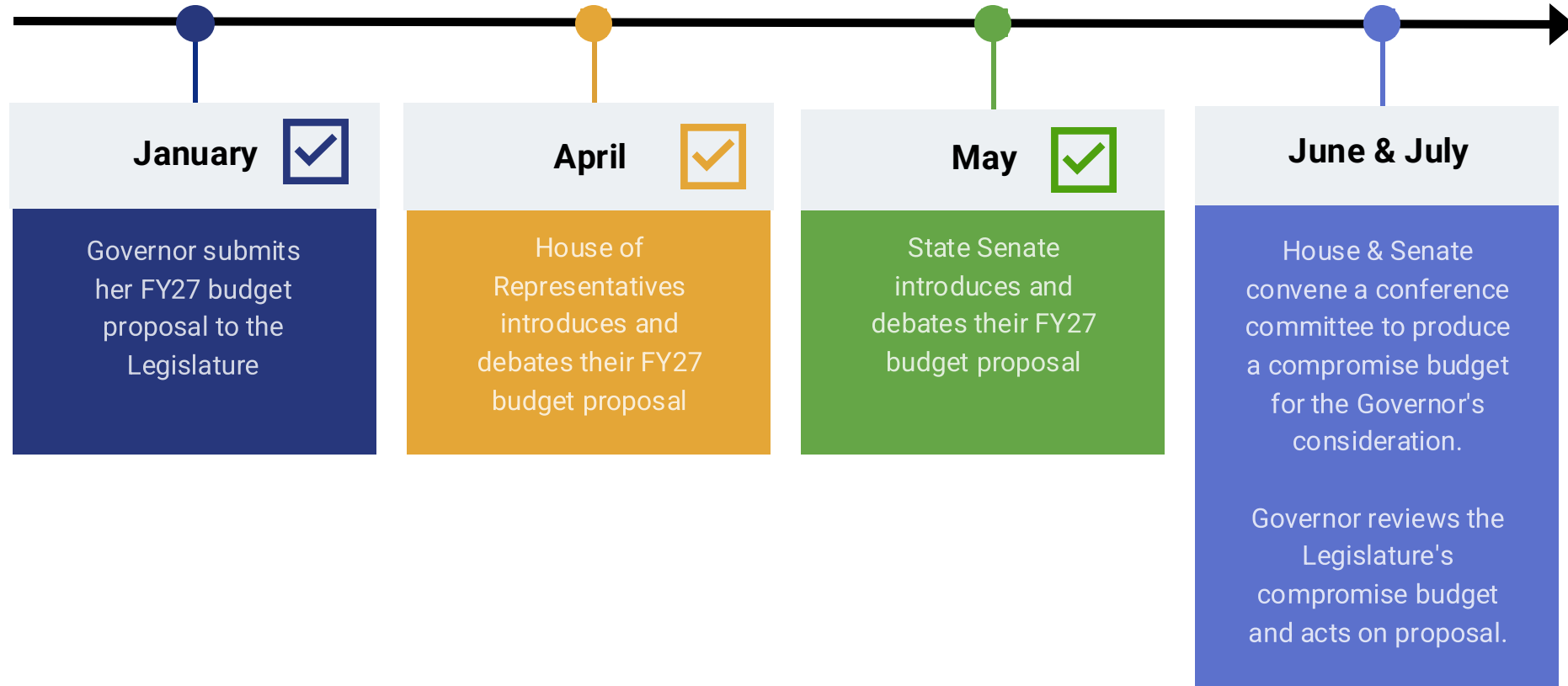
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (1:00-4:00pm)	Wednesday, February 10, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 (1:00-4:00pm)	Wednesday, March 10, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)
<i>Thursday</i> , November 12, 2026 (1:00-4:00pm)	Wednesday, April 14, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)
Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (1:00-4:00pm)	Wednesday, May 12, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)
Wednesday, January 13, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)	Wednesday, June 9, 2027 (1:00-4:00pm)

MOVED: That the Board of Early Education and Care, in accordance with G.L. c. 15D, § 3(b), shall meet in accordance with the schedule set forth above, and that all meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will be held at 50 Milk Street, Boston MA, unless otherwise announced and duly posted.



FY27 Budget Updates

State Budget Process



Highlights from Senate Budget Proposal

Senate proposal funds EEC at \$1.847 for FY27, which is \$14.2M (-0.8%) below the Governor's FY27 Budget Proposal (H.2)

Aligned with H.2

- **C3** funded at **\$475M**
- **CCFA** funded at **\$1.2B**
- **Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE)** funded at **\$11.7M**

Funded Above H.2

- **CCR&R** funded at **\$20.5M**, increase by \$500K
- **Head Start** funded a **\$21.5M**, increase by \$1.5M
- **Early Childhood Mental Health** funded at **\$5M**, increase by \$50K
- **Parent Child+** funded at **\$4.75M**, increase by \$500K
- **Neighborhood Villages** funded at **\$1M**, increase by \$10K

Funded Below H.2

- **EEC's Administrative** line item funded at **\$9.67M**, \$4M below H.2
 - Includes \$500K in earmarks
- **CPPI** funded at **\$28.5M**, \$8.5M below H.2
 - Level funds at FY26
 - No funding for expansion within existing or for new communities
 - Includes Summer Step Up at~ \$5M
- Line-Items/programs not included in Senate Budget Proposal
 - **Career Pathways**, **\$2.97M** below H.2
 - **Reach Out and Read**, **\$1.75M** below H.2

Review the Senate's full FY27 budget proposal on the [Massachusetts Legislature's website](#).

EEC FY27 Senate Budget Overview

\$1.847 billion in Senate Budget

Line Item & Fair Share	Description of Purpose and Investment	FY27 Senate
Administration	Funds staff positions and six offices across the Commonwealth	9,670,519
Quality Supports	Funds monitoring and licensing activities, quality supports, coaching and technical assistance for programs and educators in the child care system	48,165,758
Access Management	Funds child care resource and referral activities, as well as a statewide parent hotline	20,500,000
Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA)	Supports financial assistance for eligible children enrolled in child care, including a rate reserve and child care financial assistance waitlist remediation effort, and Early Education and Care Staff Program	1,220,827,822
Grants to Head Start	Supports grants to all Head Start programs in MA to help meet their non-federal match	21,500,000
Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI)	Funds CPPI communities across the state in an innovative funding partnership between the LEA and local child care providers, as well as funding for Summer Step Up program	28,450,000
Mental Health Consultation	Funds access to mental and behavioral health consultants for coaching and technical assistance to child care providers	5,000,000
Community and Family Engagement	Supports a network of 81 community collaboratives designed to provide parenting resources and supports to all families in every community, inclusive of Parent Child Plus programs	16,490,598
Neighborhood Villages	Funds a pilot program to provide high-quality economically-integrated infant and toddler classrooms	1,000,000
Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3)	Ongoing monthly payments to support operating costs for all EEC-licensed child care providers	475,000,000

FY27 Budget Summary

GENERAL LINE ITEMS (\$ in millions)

Line Item	Appropriation Name	FY27 H.2	FY27 House	FY27 Senate	Senate vs. H.2	Senate vs. House	Notes
3000-1000	Administration	\$ 13.17	\$ 20.28	\$ 9.67	\$ (3.50)	\$ (10.61)	Reduction of \$3.5M EEC Operational Spending from H.2; \$7.5M Loan Forgiveness eliminated from House
3000-1020	Quality Improvement	\$ 48.17	\$ 48.18	\$ 48.17	\$ -	\$ (0.01)	Reduction in legislative earmark
3000-1045	C3 Grants	\$ 115.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 365.00	Fully funds program at \$475M with 1596-2410
3000-2000	Access Management	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$500K Increase
3000-3060	DCF/DTA Related Child Care	\$ 597.23	\$ 598.63	\$ 597.23	\$ -	\$ (1.40)	Reduction in DTA/DCF access by \$1.4M from House
3000-4060	Income-Eligible Child Care	\$ 623.59	\$ 623.59	\$ 623.59	\$ -	\$ -	
3000-5000	Grants to Head Start Programs	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.50	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50	\$1.5M increase
3000-6025	CPPI Pre-K Initiative	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.00	\$ 28.45	\$ 23.50	\$ 23.45	Level funds CPPI Grantees and includes Summer Step Up language; reduction in funding for CPPI Expansion
3000-6075	Mental Health Grants	\$ 4.95	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.00	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05	\$50K increase
3000-7040	Title IV-E	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.52	\$ -	\$ -	
3000-7050	CFCE	\$ 11.74	\$ 11.74	\$ 11.74	\$ -	\$ -	
3000-7052	Parent-Child Plus Program	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.75	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$500K increase
3000-7055	Neighborhood Villages	\$ 0.99	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.01	\$ -	
3000-7066	Career Pathways	\$ 2.97	\$ 2.97	\$ -	\$ (2.97)	\$ (2.97)	Elimination of program from H.2 and House
3000-7070	Reach Out and Read	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75	\$ -	\$ (1.75)	\$ (1.75)	Elimination of program from H.2 and House
1596-2410	C3 Expansion	\$ 360.00	\$ 365.00	\$ -	\$ (360.00)	\$ (365.00)	Fully funds program at \$475M with 3000-1045
1596-2412	CPPI Pre-K Initiative	\$ 32.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (32.00)	\$ -	Consolidated in 3000-6025
	TOTAL	\$ 1,861.28	\$ 1,837.86	\$ 1,844.32	\$ (16.96)	\$ 6.46	

Conference Committee Priorities

EEC will be monitoring several line items as the budget moves into Conference Committee, items include:

- **3000-1000 Administration (\$13.2M)**
Funds EEC's administrative items and includes earmarks for particular programs, Senate budget has a decrease of \$4 M which would significantly impact existing EEC staffing and administrative operations.
- **1596-2412 CPPI Pre-K Initiative**
Any budget below H.2 proposal will not allow for growth of the program for existing grantees or opening up to new communities.
- **Programs that were not included in the Senate budget**
 - Career Pathways (\$3 M)
 - Reach Out and Read (\$2 M)

FY26 Fair Share Supplemental Budget

In January, Governor Healey filed an **FY26 Fair Share Supplemental Budget** to complement her FY27 budget proposal. It included an outside section for a **\$150 million transfer** to EEC's CCFA Programs.

On June 2, the House and Senate conference committee released a [compromise version of the Supplemental budget](#) that includes the following investments:

To be expended by end of FY27 (June 30, 2027)

- **\$10.7 million** for CCFA contracted seats
- **\$150 million transfer** to EEC's CCFA Programs

To be expended by end of FY29 (June 30, 2029)

- **\$7.5 million** for loan repayment for staff working in early education & care
- **\$8 million** for CCFA access for staff working in early education & care
- **\$12.5 million** to reduce the waitlist for the income eligible Child Care Financial Assistance program
- **\$20 million** for Literacy Launch (at DESE)

In addition to these investments in EEC's programs, the compromise supplemental budget also includes \$975K direct investments (earmarks) for individual early education and care programs.



Informal Child Care (ICC) Rate Increase

FFN Care Within The EEC System

EEC refers to Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care as Informal Child Care (ICC). ICC is defined as license-exempt care provided by a relative or non-relative for a child receiving Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA).

ICC caregivers and families must be approved by EEC in order to receive CCFA reimbursement payments.

Qualifying for FFN Care with EEC



Caregivers must

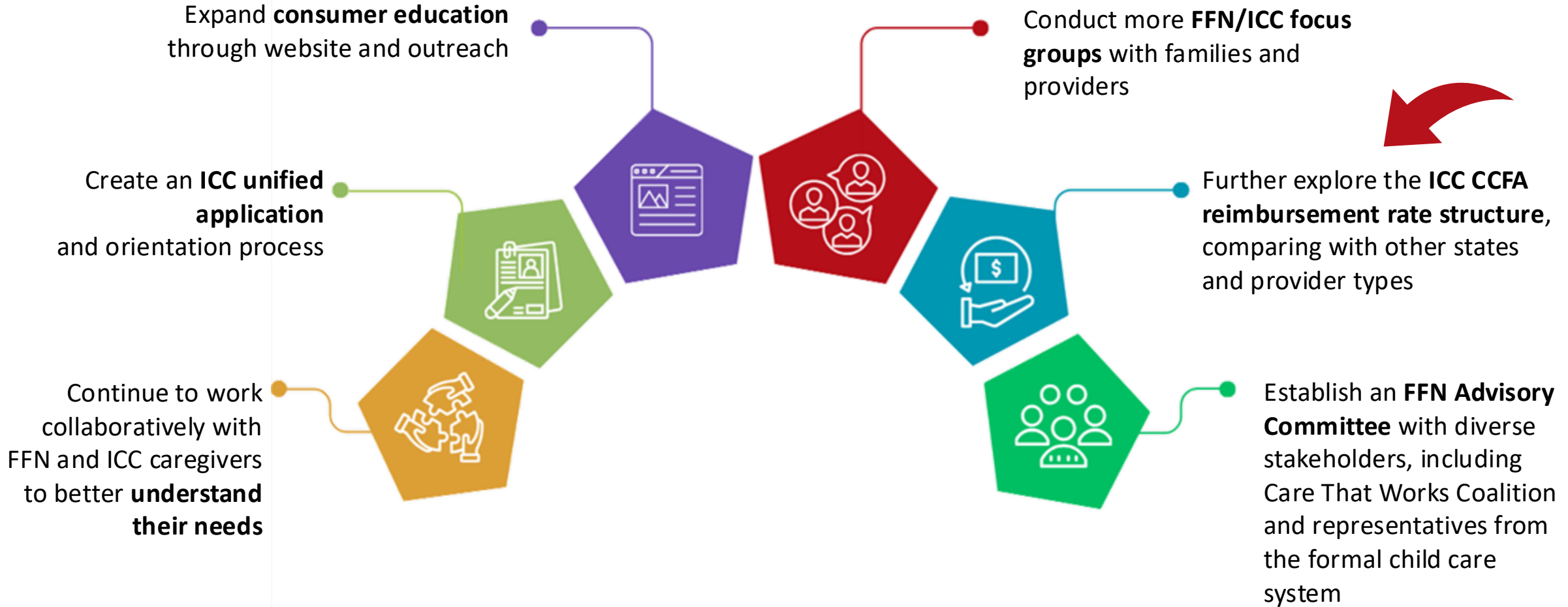
- Be identified as a potential provider by a family approved for CCFA
- Complete the application and approval process through the regional CCR&R, including required background checks and health and safety training (e.g., EEC Essentials, First Aid/CPR)
- Comply with applicable licensing monitoring and safety requirements



Families must

- Be approved for CCFA
- Identify that they are seeking care from a relative or non-relative
- Provide information about the potential caregiver including contact information, relationship to the child and location of care (in the child's home/caregiver home)
- Acknowledge that the caregiver must complete EEC required ICC requirements before care begins

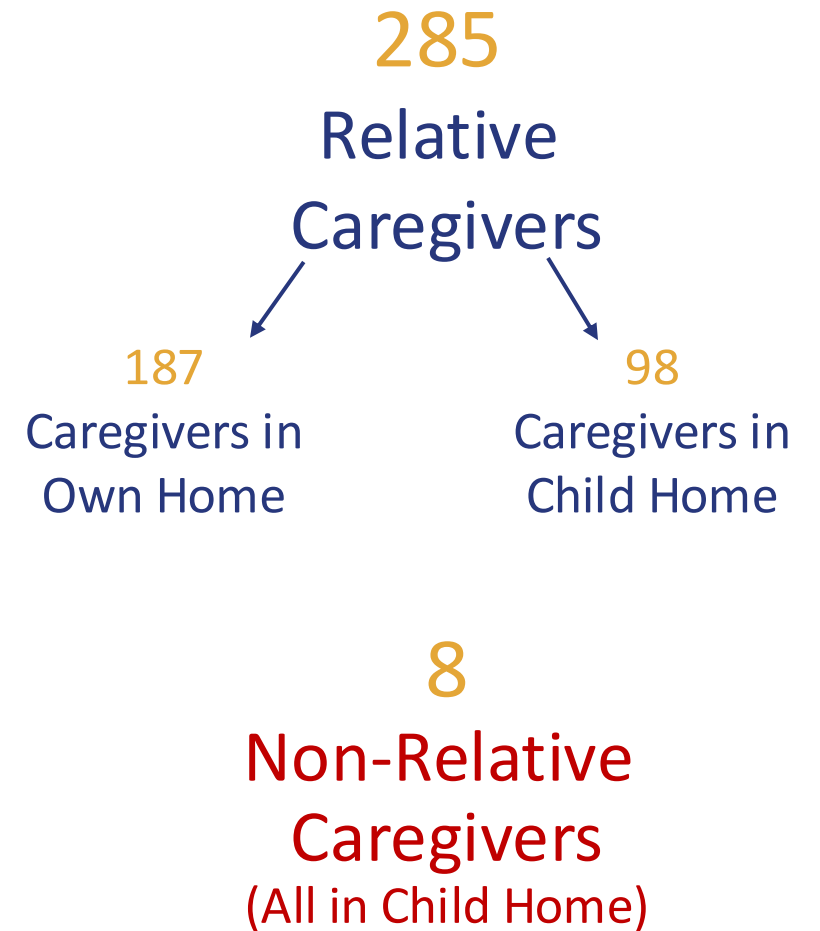
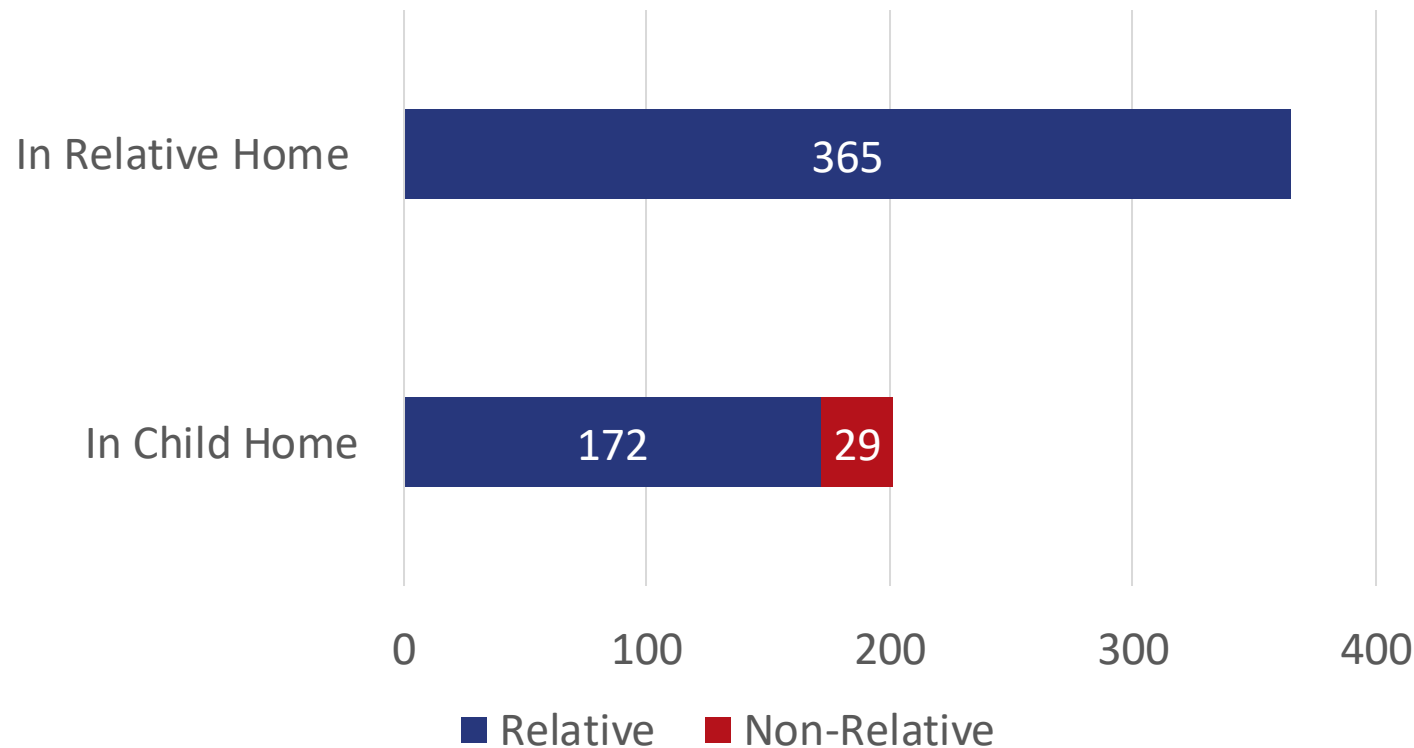
Proposed FFN and Informal Child Care Next Steps



Informal Child Care (ICC) by Caregiver Type and Location

Fiscal Year 2026 through April 16, 2026

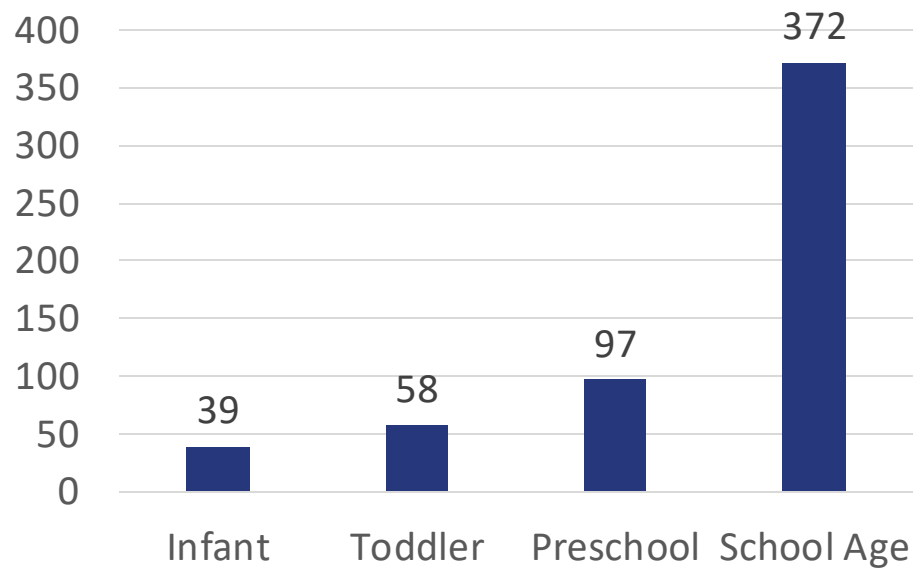
Child Count by Caregiver Type and Location



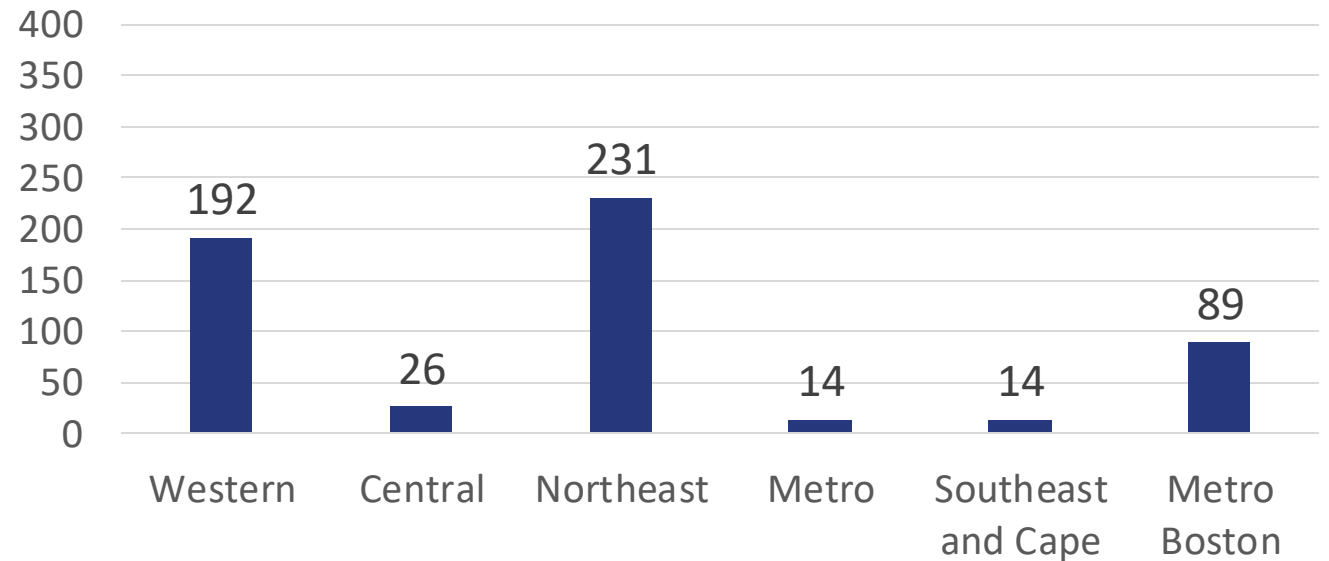
Informal Child Care (ICC) by Age and Region

Fiscal Year 2026 through April 16, 2026

Child Count by Age Group

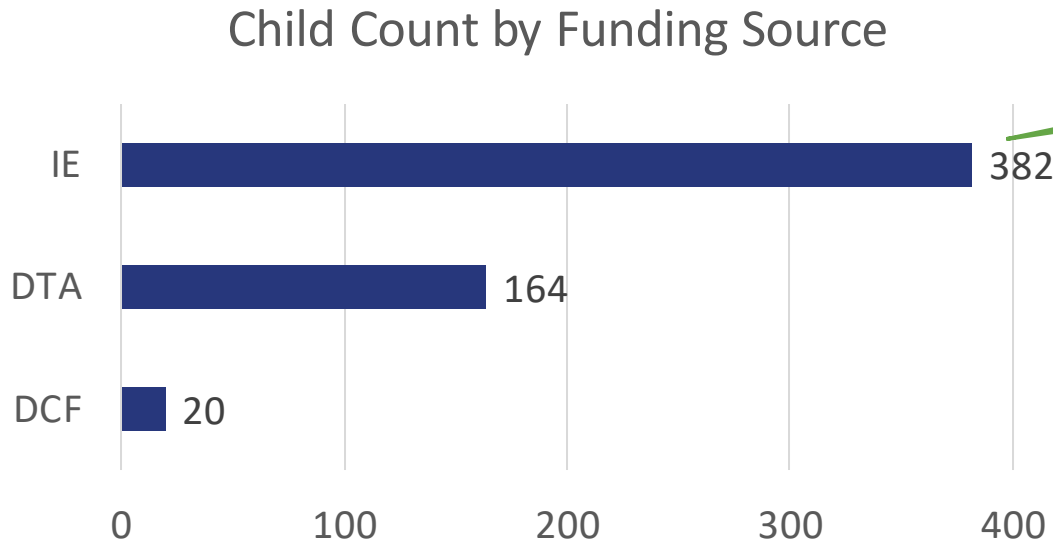


Child Count by Region

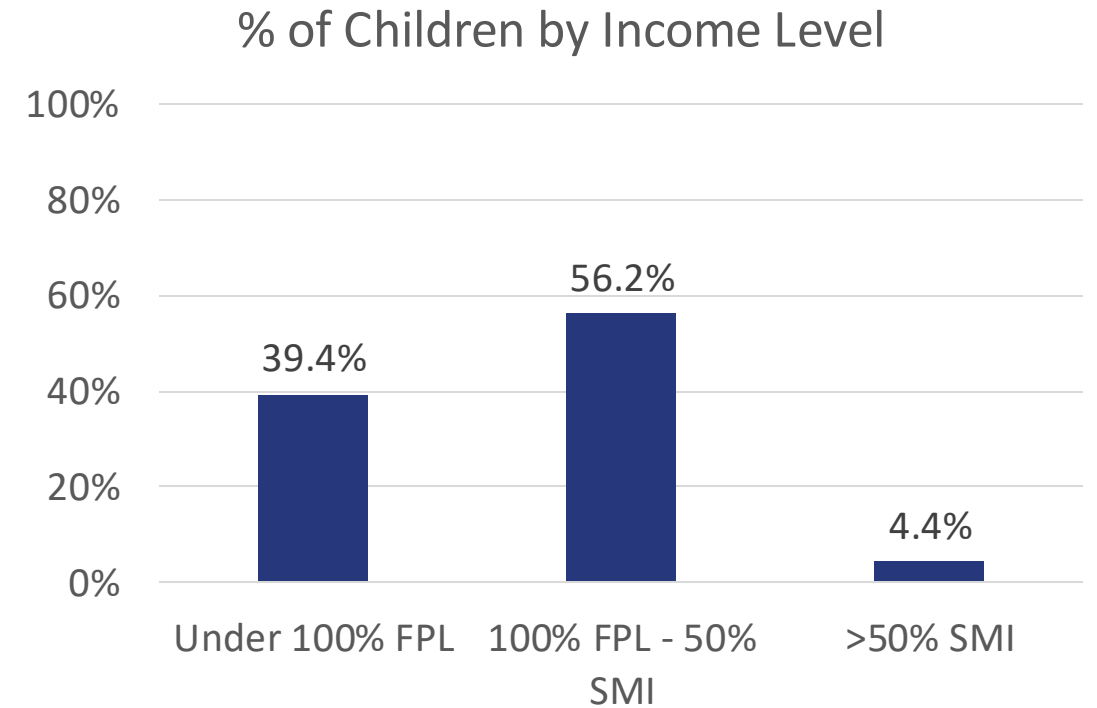


Informal Child Care (ICC) by Funding Source and Income

Fiscal Year 2026 through April 16, 2026



95% of Income Eligible families have a Primary Service Need of "Employed"



Current ICC Caregiver Rates

ICC CCFA daily reimbursement rates are standardized statewide based on part-time and full-time care and where the care is provided (not based on age or region).

Provider Type	Part-Time	Full-Time
RIRH-Relative In Relatives Home	\$14.74	\$24.57
IHR- Relative in the Child's Home	\$10.40	\$17.33
IHNR- Non-Relative in the Child's Home	\$10.40	\$17.33

Rates vary based on where care is provided:

- Lower rates apply when care is provided in the child's home by the relative or non-relative.
- Higher rates apply when care is provided in the relative's home. Care may not be provided in the non-relative's home.

ICC rates are significantly lower than those for licensed programs and total spending represented less than 1% of the total CCFA budget or approximately **\$2 million** in FY25.

FY27 Informal Child Care Rate Increase

Proposal Considerations



Recognize that **current rates are low** and **costs are increasing**



Promote **family access and affordability**



Move towards consistent rates regardless of where the care is taking place (in relative's home vs. child's home) to promote greater equity for parents choosing this type of care

Proposal: Simplify and align rates to increase equity across informal care settings

- **Rate Adjustment:** Raise informal rate for care in child’s home to match rate for care in relative’s home and apply across-the-board increase to all rates.
- **Rate Increase Range:** \$3.00 (care in relative’s home) to \$10.00 (care in child’s home) per day
- **Annual Cost Estimate:** \$990K; to be effective for FY27 (starting July 1)

	Part-Time FFN Daily Rates			Full-Time FFN Daily Rates		
	Current	Proposed	\$ Increase	Current	Proposed	\$ Increase
Relative in Relative's Home	\$14.74	\$16.68	+\$1.94	\$24.57	\$27.80	+\$3.23
Relative or Non-Relative in Child's Home	\$10.40	\$16.68	+\$6.28	\$17.33	\$27.80	+\$10.47

Note: In FY26 to date, 365 children (64%) received care in a relative’s home, and 201 children (36%) received care in their own home. This care was delivered by 187 caregivers in their own homes and 106 providers in the child’s home.

Informal Child Care (ICC) Rate Increase Proposal - VOTE

To continue much needed support and financial stability to Informal Child Care (ICC) caregivers and families across the state, the Board of Early Education and Care hereby directs the Department to implement the FY27 rate increase for providers of subsidized early education and care as follows:

- Increasing the informal rate for part-time care in relative's home from \$14.47 to \$16.68.
- Increasing the informal rate for part-time care by relative or non-relative in child's home from \$10.40 to \$16.68.
- Increasing the informal rate for full-time care in relative's home from \$24.57 to \$27.80.
- Increasing the informal rate for full-time care by relative or non-relative in child's home from \$17.33 to \$27.80.
- All rate increases will be in effect as of July 1, 2026.

Vote: The Board of Early Education and Care hereby approves the Department's recommendations for implementing FY27 child care financial assistance Informal Child Care rate increases.



IT Modernization: Professional Portal

IT Modernization

Current Problems

Hard for users to navigate -
Users go to different places
to get what they need



Hard for EEC to access reliable data -
Data from different systems
does not always match up



Limited user scenarios -
Both users and EEC want to
support more workflows



Future Goals



Meet people where they are -
Recognize different levels of
comfort and access to technology



Reduce siloed workflows -
Users shouldn't have to think
about which system to use



Keep up with program needs -
Tech debt shouldn't slow down
implementation

Professional Portal

EEC is consolidating and modernizing the tools that the ECE workforce use for their professional development to create a "one-stop shop" for educators, with a modern and user-friendly interface and to streamline EEC operations through improved administrative experiences.



PQR

Integrate professional registration process



StrongStart (LMS)

Integrate access to required trainings



Teacher Certification

Build improved process for applying for certifications



Program Admin Access

Build program-level view into educator qualifications



Educator Credential

Develop application process for new credential

Professional Portal – Key Workflows

The first stage of Professional Portal development involves updating and bringing existing workflows into one system. These include:

- Supporting the application, review, and issuance of educator certifications;
- Allowing educators to participate in and track ongoing professional learning;
- Being the primary interface for current and aspiring professionals to register with the Commonwealth.

In the future: Once the new credentialing system rolls out, the portal will house key data on aspiring and credentialed educators across the Commonwealth.

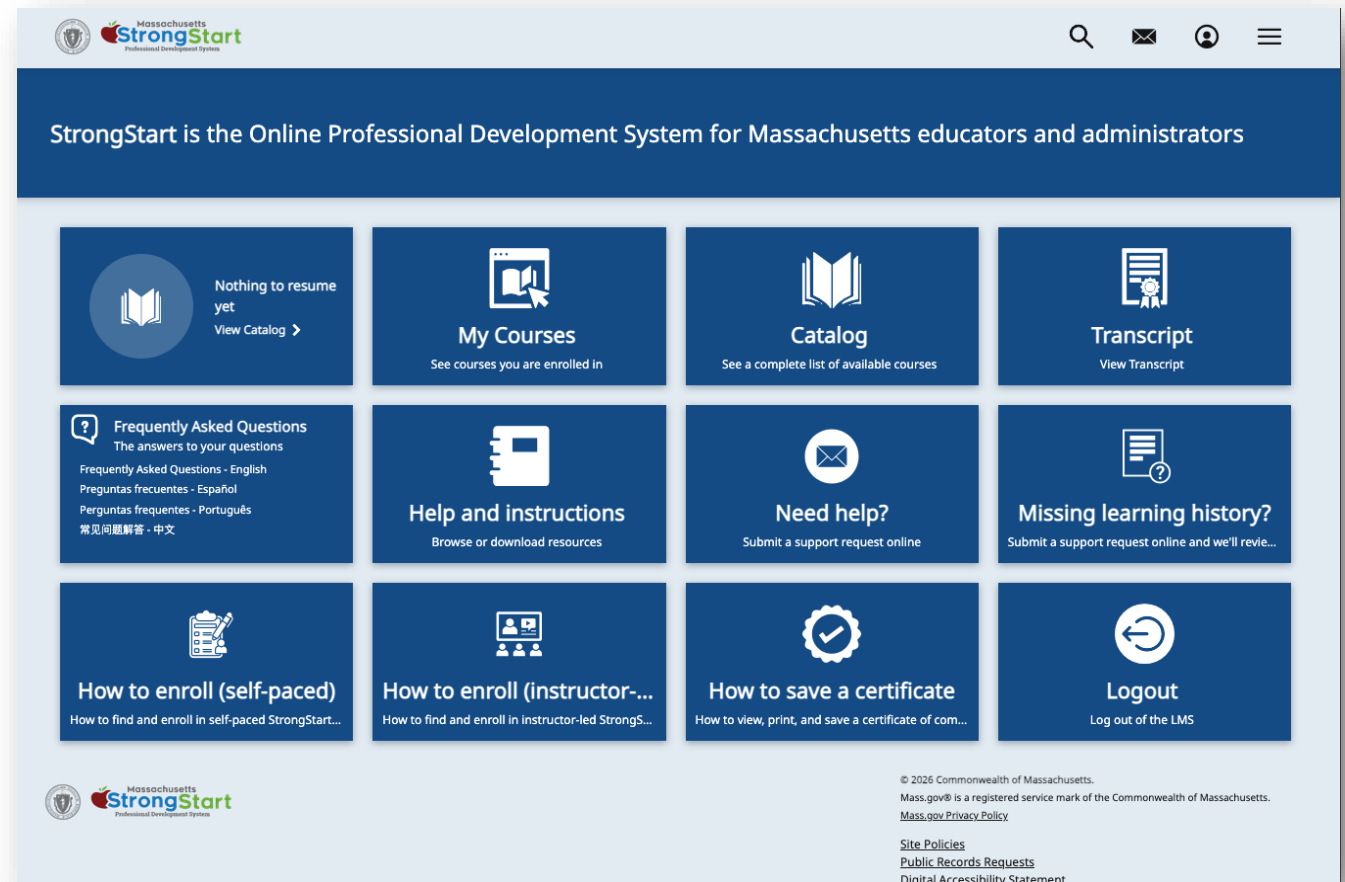
Professional Portal - Progress

EEC's progress to date:

- Supporting the application, review, and issuance of educator certifications
 - ✓ Educators can apply for certifications
 - ✓ Supervisors can review work experience
 - **[IN PROGRESS]** EEC team members will soon be able to fully process applications within the administrative interface
- Allowing educators to participate in and track ongoing professional learning
 - ✓ **[NEW]** Educators can access new StrongStart system through Professional Portal

Professional Portal - StrongStart Integration

- Educators can access new StrongStart system through Professional Portal
- Course completion data from old version of StrongStart is associated with new accounts upon initial login (automatically where possible)
- StrongStart is updated with new EEC Essentials Refresher Course for educators who previously completed EEC Essentials



Professional Portal - Next Up

Phase 2 and additional phases to include releases of additional improvements and enhanced functionality and workflows:



Things to Come for Phase 2 and beyond:

- Updates for EEC Certification to speed up the process for supervisors to sign off on employee work, allow educators to see certification history and to speed up the EEC review time
- Program level dashboard where program leaders can check and document educator qualifications
- Integrate professional registry into the new professional portal and eliminate PQR, streamlining the process



FY26 Year in Review

Agency and Board Key Areas of Focus in FY26

Child Care Financial Assistance

Background Record Checks

Regulation Revisions

Workforce

Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3)

FY26 Priority Projects by Key Areas of Focus

CCFA

- Implement Family Advisory Council
- Update EEC's cost of care and revenue models to improve modeling for OST, administrative costs, and additional revenue sources (e.g., CPPI)
- Implement \$20M increase for CCFA reimbursement rates
- Modernize CCCFA IT, including re-platforming and launching Family Portal for CCFA applications and waitlist management
- Develop monitoring and support program for CCFA Contract Providers (targeting implementation in fall 2026)
- Update CCFA policies and procedures to fully implement recent regulatory changes (e.g., 85% SMI, codify priority populations, exclude public benefit income)

BRC

- Implement updated policies, procedures, and trainings to better support EEC-licensed programs and staff to have a transparent and efficient background records check experience

REGULATION REVISIONS

- Promulgate updated Residential Licensing Regulations (for fall 2026 implementation)
- Draft updated FCC Licensing Regulations

C3

- Implement updated C3 formula
- Promulgate C3 regulations

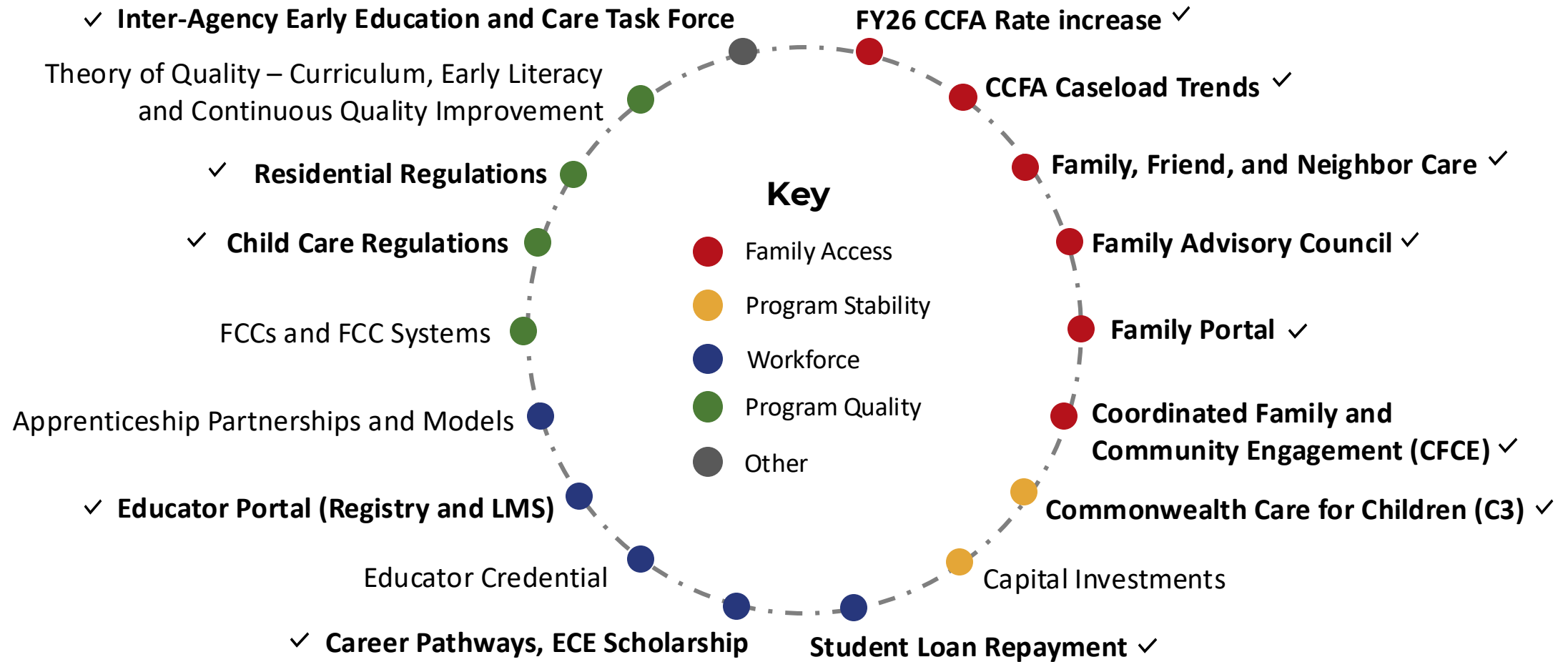
WORKFORCE

- Develop child care salary scale model to inform future conversations around compensation
- Implement student loan repayment program
- Begin offering new community college courses that will satisfy future credential requirements
- Launch Educator Portal to support teacher certification and credential tracking, including the migration of PQR certification information
- Launch new Learning Management System (LMS) with integration to Educator Portal
- Promulgate updated regulations recognizing the new Educator Credential

FY26 goal met

In process towards FY26 goal

Major Topics: Board Input and Action in FY26



Bolded topics have been covered in FY26



Thank you!

View Agency KPI Dashboards (updated monthly) [here](#).