Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Board of Early Education & Care – October Meeting

October 9, 2024

Agenda

Routine Business

- Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2024 Meeting – **VOTE**

Items for Discussion and Action

- FY25 Support for Career Pathways Program & ECE Scholarships **– VOTE**

- Agency Research Agenda and Key Performance Indicators

- Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) Updates
  - Current Caseload and Trends
  - Contracted Provider Procurement

① FY25 Support for Career Pathways Program & ECE Scholarships

FY25 Budget Included $7.5M New Investment for Early Educator Scholarships

Budget Line-Item Language:

- Subject to appropriation, the board shall, in consultation with the board of early education and care, establish an early education and care educator scholarship program for current and prospective early education and care sector educators.

- To be eligible for the scholarship program, recipients shall demonstrate that they are either: a current early education and care educator employed or seeking employment with an early education and care provider in the commonwealth; or a prospective early education and care educator who is enrolled in or has agreed to enroll in a certificate program or an associate, bachelor or graduate-level degree program in the early education and care field in the commonwealth.

- Preference for scholarships shall be given to applicants identified as educators who have displayed a proven commitment to early childhood education or who are members of a socially or economically disadvantaged community.

- The board, in consultation with the board of early education and care, shall promulgate regulations or guidelines necessary to implement this section, which shall include procedures for default of the loan forgiveness program for a recipient who participates in the program but fails to complete the commitment or other requirements.

Career Pathways Program

Massachusetts Community Colleges & Urban College have dedicated supports for early childhood staff to take college courses.

A dedicated person to provide guidance and supports

Assistance with class and program selection, and enrollment

Access to college level courses towards EEC certification and college level certificate or degree, particularly for those new to higher ed

Support accessing textbooks, tutoring, mentoring, the library and other vital resources such as a food pantry and counseling services

Assistance and support applying for the ECE Scholarship for further coursework

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Early Childhood Educator Scholarship Program

Jointly offered by EEC and the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to help educators increase their qualifications through a college degree.

Based on a per credit rate, depending on the type of institution.

Provides funding to assist with the cost of a maximum of three courses per semester during the traditional fall, spring and summer.

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

FY25 Support for Career Pathways & ECE Scholarships

The Career Pathways Program, through 15 public community colleges and Urban College, provides academic services to educators, including coursework, textbooks, tutoring, mentoring, technology, and other student support services. In FY25, the program was funded at $5 million, down from $10 million in the previous fiscal year. To ensure continuity of services for current and prospective students, EEC proposes using $5 million of the new scholarship funds provided in the FY25 budget to fully fund the existing Career Pathways Program for FY25, with modifications to the eligibility requirements to comply with Section 19F.

Additionally, the existing ECE Scholarship Program provides financial assistance towards a college degree for individuals in the early education and care field. In FY25, the program was funded at $5 million. EEC proposes using the remaining $2.5 million of the new scholarship funds in the FY25 budget to expand the existing ECE Scholarship Program, with modifications to the eligibility requirements, including to comply with Section 19F.

MOVED: That the Board of Early Education and Care, subject to revision by the Commissioner, approves the Department's proposal to submit to the Board of Higher Education for its approval, the use of:
- $5 million from the new scholarship funds towards the existing Career Pathways Program, and $2.5 million towards the existing ECE Scholarship Program, both as modified to meet the eligibility requirements of G.L. c. 15A, § 19.

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Proposal for Use of New Scholarship Funding

In collaboration with DHE, EEC is proposing to focus new funding on addressing gaps in current scholarship opportunities by allocating funding across Career Pathways and the existing ECE Scholarship:

Career Pathways - $5M

- Restore Career Pathways funding for spring and summer 2025 (January 1- June 30)
  - Fund early educators taking their first course before certificate or degree matriculation and prior to 6-months work experience (Not currently covered by MassReconnect and MassEducate)
  - Maintain this important bridge to higher education for the early education workforce

Addition to ECE Scholarship - $2.5M

- Make adjustments to better support new educators:
  - Eligibility for scholarship award prior to the 6-month work experience requirement
  - Add priority for educators working in socially or economically disadvantaged community.

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

② **Agency Research Agenda and KPIs**

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

Data Driven Decision Making

To support a culture of data driven decision making, EEC has been focused on developing:

- **Agency Research Agenda** or a roadmap to guide inquiry that outlines EEC's research goals and priorities

- **Key Performance Indicators** (KPIs) or quantifiable metrics that assess progress toward strategic objectives, provide a focus for strategic and operational improvement, and help measure organizational performance

"Data will talk to you if you're willing to listen."

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

EEC Strategic Objectives

In partnership with families, educators, programs and other stakeholders, EEC will use data driven decision-making to inform work around the following objectives:

FAMILY ACCESS

Families have equitable access to quality and affordable early education and care in the communities in which they live, learn, and work.

PROGRAM QUALITY

Programs licensed or funded by EEC support children's health and safety and provide high quality environments that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and support children's learning and development in partnership with families.

PROGRAM STABILITY

Programs licensed or funded by EEC are operationally stable and financially sustainable.

WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

A diverse field of educators, leaders, and program staff is competitively compensated and supported by clear professional pathways that promote quality, retention, and advancement.

AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

EEC has sufficient internal capacity, organizational structures, and diverse perspectives and expertise to carry out its mission and strategic objectives.

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

EEC Research Agenda Goals

EEC has been building research capacity with the goal of promoting continuous learning and research and data informed policy decisions.

Designed to compliment our KPIs, the research agenda is a forward-looking document that articulates areas in which additional research and evidence is needed to examine key questions of interest.

As a part of this work, EEC has developed its first agency-wide research agenda.

EEC is already engaged in a handful of research partnerships focused on some of the questions on the research agenda and looks forward to supporting and learning from additional partnerships.

The research questions were developed based on conversations with EEC staff and external stakeholders about priorities, gaps in knowledge, and ongoing work.

The research agenda is intended to be a living document that is responsive to the agency's priorities and adapts to the evolving needs of the field and policy context.

Development of EEC Research Agenda

01

Winter 2023/ 2024

- Continuously engaged EEC staff and external stakeholders to support the development of research priorities and questions

Spring/ Summer 2024

02

- Shared draft research agenda with EEC's Executive Team and EEC's Advisory Council
- Integrated feedback and refined research priorities and questions

03

Fall 2024

- Shared research agenda with Education-to-Career (E2C) Research and Data Hub's Research Advisory Council
- Publish the research agenda

Ongoing

04

- Develop partnerships to help address key questions on the research agenda
- Continue to refine the research agenda based on evolving policy priorities

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Family Access Research Priorities

Research Focus Areas

❖ Reforming the Child Care Financial Assistance System

❖ Family Access to Early Education and Out of School Time Care

Sample Research Questions

- To what extent have EEC's recent Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) system reforms (including technology and policy changes) altered and improved family experiences with the system?

- To what extent have EEC's recent reimbursement rate increases increased provider participation in the CCFA system? How are private tuition rates changing over time and what is the nature of the relationship between CCFA rates and tuition rates?**

- How has the supply and demand of child care changed over time? Where are the biggest gaps in access to care across Massachusetts by age group and geography? What are characteristics of communities where there are access gaps?**

**These questions are currently the focus of at least one existing research partnership.

Program Stability Research Priorities

Research Focus Areas

❖ Supporting Broader System Financing

❖ Further Assessing the Effects of Operational Funding

Sample Research Questions

- What investments do operational funding allow programs to make? To what extent is operational funding stabilizing programs, building program capacity, improving recruitment and retention of the workforce, and bolstering program quality?

- How does the cost of operating an early education program vary by region, program characteristics, and compensation levels? How can our understanding of program costs inform CCFA rates, preschool expansion efforts, and operational funding?**

- What promising strategies exist to provide business support (shared services, tax support, etc.) to early education programs in Massachusetts and to what extent are they having an impact on program's financial stability? What lessons can we learn from innovative approaches in other states?

**These questions are currently the focus of at least one existing research partnership.

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

Program Quality Research Priorities

Research Focus Areas

❖ Measuring and Improving Program Quality

❖ Tracking Early Learning Outcomes

Sample Research Questions

- To what extent are EEC-funded quality supports leading to changes in program quality and leader and educator skill development?**

- To what extent is the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program (ECMHC) supporting the social-emotional development and behavioral health of children? What are the effects of this program on suspensions and/or expulsions?

- What are elementary school outcomes for children who received child care financial assistance?**

**These questions are currently the focus of at least one existing research partnership.

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

Building EEC Research Capacity

EEC Research Team

Ashley White
Director of Research

Caroline Connolly
Research Analyst

EEC Research and Data Fellows

Virginia Spinks

Harvard Strategic Data Project Fellow focused on understanding preschool access and educational outcomes for children participating in CPPI

Caitlin Dermody

Harvard PIER (Partnering in Education Research) Fellow focused on using longitudinal data to understand elementary school outcomes for children who received CCFA

Existing Research Partnerships

Abt Global
- Supporting CPPI communities in conducting needs assessments
- Providing data collection and analysis support to the Career Pathways Program
- Conducting a multi-year evaluation of Early Childhood Support Organizations (ECSO's) in partnership with New Profit

American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Updating and refining EEC's cost estimation models to inform financial assistance rates and other EEC strategic financing mechanisms

Boston University School of Social Work & Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management
- Studying the effectiveness of child care financial assistance rates on family access to quality care
- Measuring the effectiveness of quality improvement mechanisms in the child care contracts on equitable access to high-quality care

Federal Grant

Boston University Wheelock Educational Policy Center (WEPC)
- Building data and research capacity to support our understanding of the early education workforce

Federal Grant

MEF Associates & Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research (TIER)
- Conducting family needs assessment, including a statewide family survey, focus groups, and case studies of select child care access deserts
- Gathering additional data about the experiences of participants in the early education and care staff pilot program

Federal Grant

Research Agenda Next Steps

- Publicly share the research agenda to spread awareness and inspire engagement from researchers, funders, and other stakeholders

- Build intentional and meaningful partnerships with external research organizations to help answer specific research questions on the agenda

- Over time, continuously seek feedback and make adjustments to the Research Agenda to ensure that it is responsive to agency priorities and the evolving external policy context

If you are interested in learning more about our research priorities, please contact Ashley White at Ashley.A.White@Mass.gov

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Goals

1 Identify key performance metrics aligned to EEC's strategic objectives and priorities

2 Develop data dashboards to support using these metrics to track progress on EEC's strategic priorities

3 Increase transparency and public access to KPIs and other data metrics of importance

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Development of KPIs: Where We've Been

Summer 2023	August 2023	October 2023	Fall/Winter 2023	Spring/ Summer 2024	Fall 2024
Created Board working group to support agency in developing set of key performance indicators (KPIs**)**	Shared initial KPIs with EEC Board at annual retreat for feedback	Used new EEC Steering Committee structure as primary mechanism for moving KPI work forward	Continued to refine KPIs and determine how best to measure each metric, in collaboration with EEC steering committees	Added technical capacity to EEC data analytics team to build KPI dashboards	Share KPI dashboards with Board, in anticipation of public release

KPIs by Strategic Objective

Key Performance Indicator

Family Access
- Percent of children enrolled in formal early education and care (overall) over time
- Percent of children in households with incomes under 50% SMI participating in CCFA over time
- Number of children active on waitlist by month
- Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) caseload over time

Program Stability
- Licensed/funded capacity over time
- Number of licensed/funded programs over time
- Number of programs opening/closing by month

Workforce Supports
- Number of educators statewide
- Educator wages by role over time

Development of KPIs: Key Criteria

Criteria	Questions to Ask
1) Within our control	If this indicator is not on track, can we do something about it?
2) Quantifiable	Do we have access to the data to know whether we are making the anticipated progress on this indicator?
3) Easily digestible and meaningful to the field	Is this indicator important to folks outside of EEC? Is it easy to communicate externally about why this indicator is important?
4) Realistic	Can we have a direct impact on the time horizon that we are measuring it (monthly, annually, etc.)?
5) Manageable in Number	Can we identify a small number of indicators per strategic objective? We can still track additional metrics internally and externally.

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Dashboard Sample: Program Stability

Early Education and Care Systemwide Capacity

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) licenses and monitors center-based programs and family child care programs. EEC also funds programs that are not subject to EEC licensure and provide EEC child care financial assistance to eligible children. Data on the number and capacity of EEC licensed and funded programs are included below.

Filter All Graphs On This Page: Program Type
All

Filter All Graphs On This Page: Region
Multiple selections

Licensed and Funded Capacity

Currently EEC licensed and funded programs have the capacity to serve 250,084 children. This is a change of +9,323 from last year.

Aggregate Licensed Capacity by Date and Program Type
Program Type ● Center Based Care ● Family Child Care ● Funded Private S... ● Funded Publi...
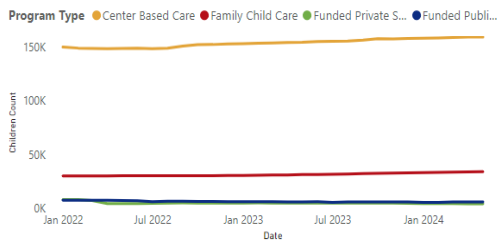
Source: LEAD via ECISDWH

Number of Programs

There are currently 8,547 EEC licensed and funded programs. This is a change of +562 programs from last year.

Number of Licensed and Funded Programs Open
Program Type ● Center Based Care ● Family Child Care ● Funded Privat... ● Funded Publi...
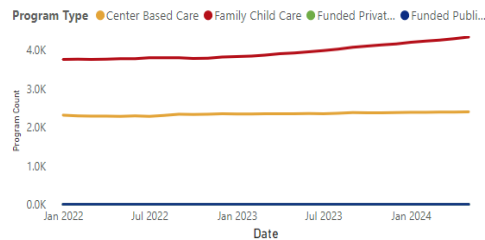
Source: LEAD via ECISDWH

Program Openings and Closings

The data below reflect the number of new licensed and funded programs that have opened and closed by month.

Over the past year, there were an average of 72 openings and 32 closings per month.

Number of Newly Opened and Closed Licensed and Funded Programs
● Closed ● Opened
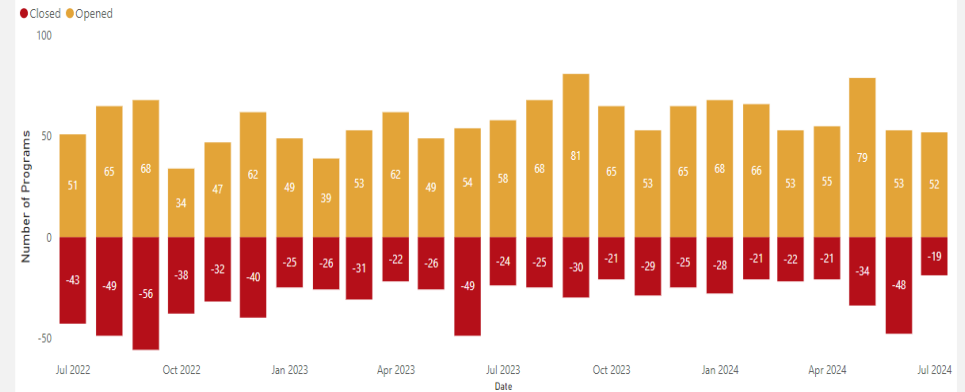
Source: LEAD via ECISDWH. Data through July 2024. Refreshed daily.

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Dashboard Sample: Workforce Support

Estimated Number of Educators Systemwide

Each month, programs that apply for Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) funding report on the number of educators employed. Data on the number of educators by role are included below.

Across Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) applications, EEC licensed and funded programs report employing 38,935 educators.

Number of Educators Statewide

Job Title ● Lead Teacher ● Assistant Teacher ● Center Director ● Group Leader ● Assistant Leader ● Site Coordinator ● Program Administrator ● FCC Licensee ● FCC Assistant
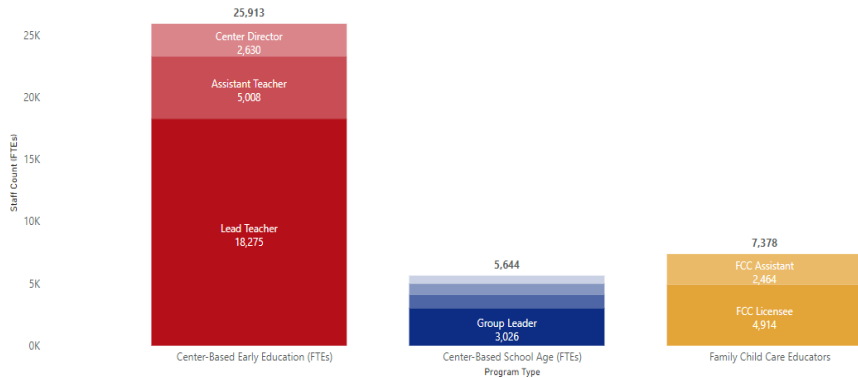

Source: C3 application data. This graph includes educators reported by programs applying for C3 funds in the last year. Over the past year, this represents 7,689 programs or approximately 90% of all licensed and funded programs across the Commonwealth. See data notes below for more details.
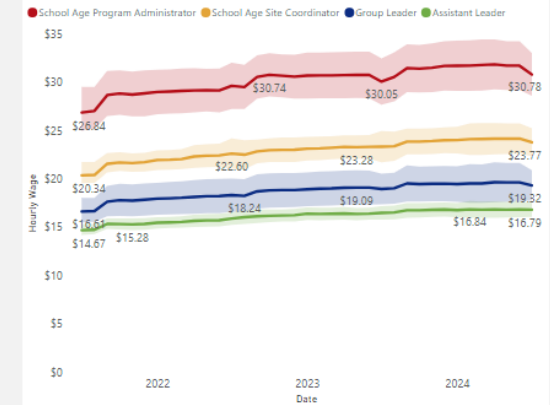
Educator Wages

Each month, center-based programs that apply for Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) funding report the hourly wage of their highest and lowest paid educator by role. Data on the hourly wages reported by programs are included below.

Average Hourly Wages - Center-Based Early Education
● Center Director ● Lead Teacher ● Assistant Teacher
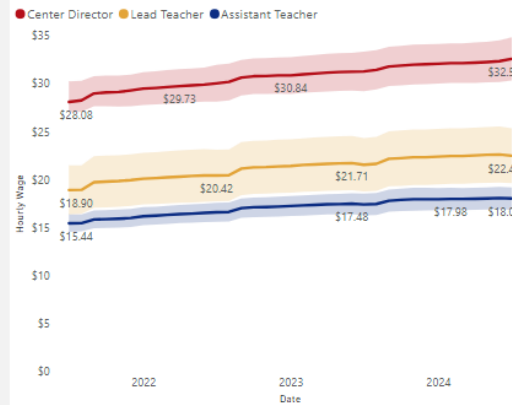
Average Hourly Wages - Center-Based School Age
● School Age Program Administrator ● School Age Site Coordinator ● Group Leader ● Assistant Leader

Source: C3 application data. See data notes below for more details.

Year-Over-Year Change in Wages as of July 2024

|	
Center Director Wage	+$1.3 (4.15%)
Lead Teacher Wage	+$0.95 (4.41%)
Assistant Teacher Wage	+$0.62 (61.76%)

School Age Program Administrator Wage	+$0.74 (2.45%)
School Age Site Coordinator Wage	+$0.45 (1.95%)
Group Leader Wage	+$0.37 (1.96%)
Assistant Leader Wage	+$0.32 (1.95%)

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care

Dashboard Sample: Family Access

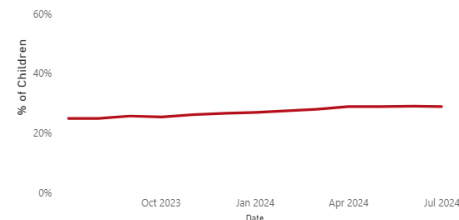### Children Enrolled in Formal Early Education and Care Statewide

% of Children Participating in Formal Early Education and Care by Date
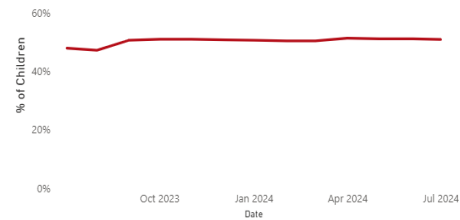
Source: EEC's Child Universal Success Platform (CUSP). See data notes below for more details.

Eligible Children Receiving EEC Child Care Financial Assistance Statewide

% of Children Under 50% SMI Receiving CCFA by Date

Source: EEC's Child Universal Success Platform (CUSP). See data notes below for more details. More info on state median income (SMI) can be found here.

Children on EEC Centralized Waitlist for Child Care Financial Assistance

The data below reflect the total number of children on EEC's centralized waitlist for child care financial assistance currently and over the past 6 months statewide and by region.
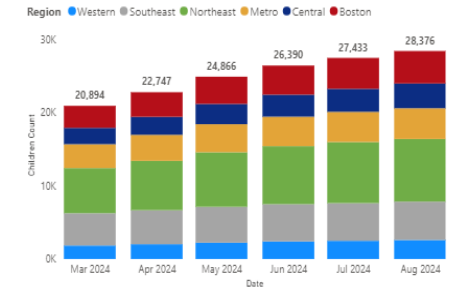
Filter Graph Below: Date
August 2024

CCFA Waitlist by Region and Age
Age Group: ■Infant ■Toddler ■Preschool ■School Age
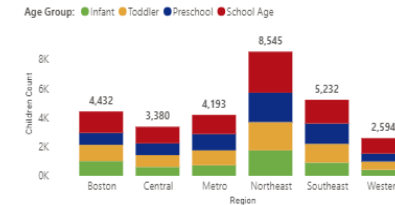
Source: Kinderwait via ECISDWH

CCFA Waitlist Last 6 Months
Region ■Western ■Southeast ■Northeast ■Metro ■Central ■Boston

Source: Kinderwait via ECISDWH

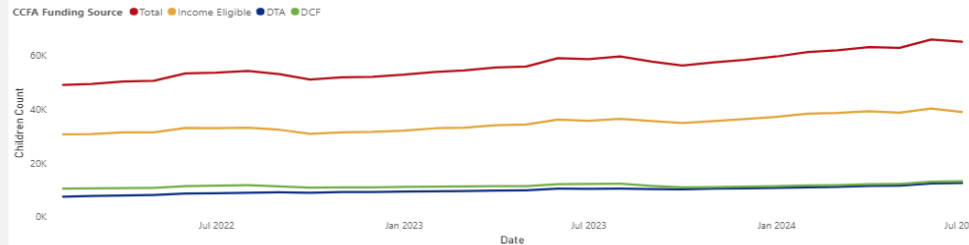### Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) Caseload

The data below indicate the number of children receiving CCFA by month overall and by age group, funding source, and whether children are receiving a voucher or are enrolled in a contracted seat.

Filter Graph Below: Service Date
2/1/2022   7/1/2024

Filter Graph Below: Contract or Voucher
All

Filter Graph Below: Age Group
All

CCFA Caseload Over Time by Program Type/Funding Source
CCFA Funding Source ■Total ■Income Eligible ■DTA ■DCF

Source: CCFA via ECISDWH

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

KPI Next Steps

1 — Post dashboards publicly
- Post dashboards on EEC website in mid-October

2 — Further refine existing metrics
- Build in additional disaggregation and other user-focused enhancements to existing dashboards
- Continue to maintain and update dashboards, as needed
- Gather additional internal and external input on dashboards

3 — Add metrics to dashboard
- Continue to build additional KPIs and key metrics into dashboards, as data become available

4 — Implement & refine process for using dashboards & monitoring KPIs
- Use EEC steering committee structure to review progress on each KPI, discuss any barriers to progress, and problem solve
- Refine structure for using dashboards to drive conversation about progress on each strategic objective, as needed
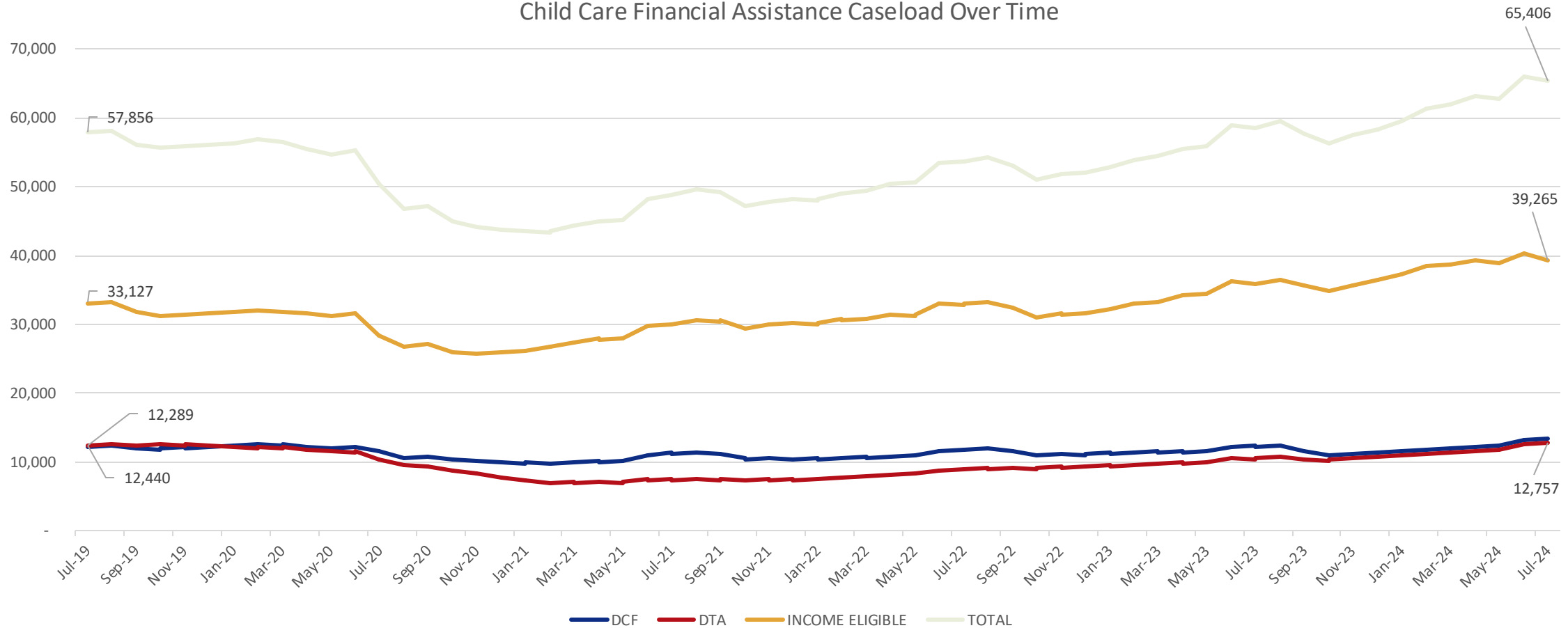
MASSACHUSETTS **Department of Early Education and Care**

③ **Child Care Financial Assistance Updates**

Current Caseload & Trends
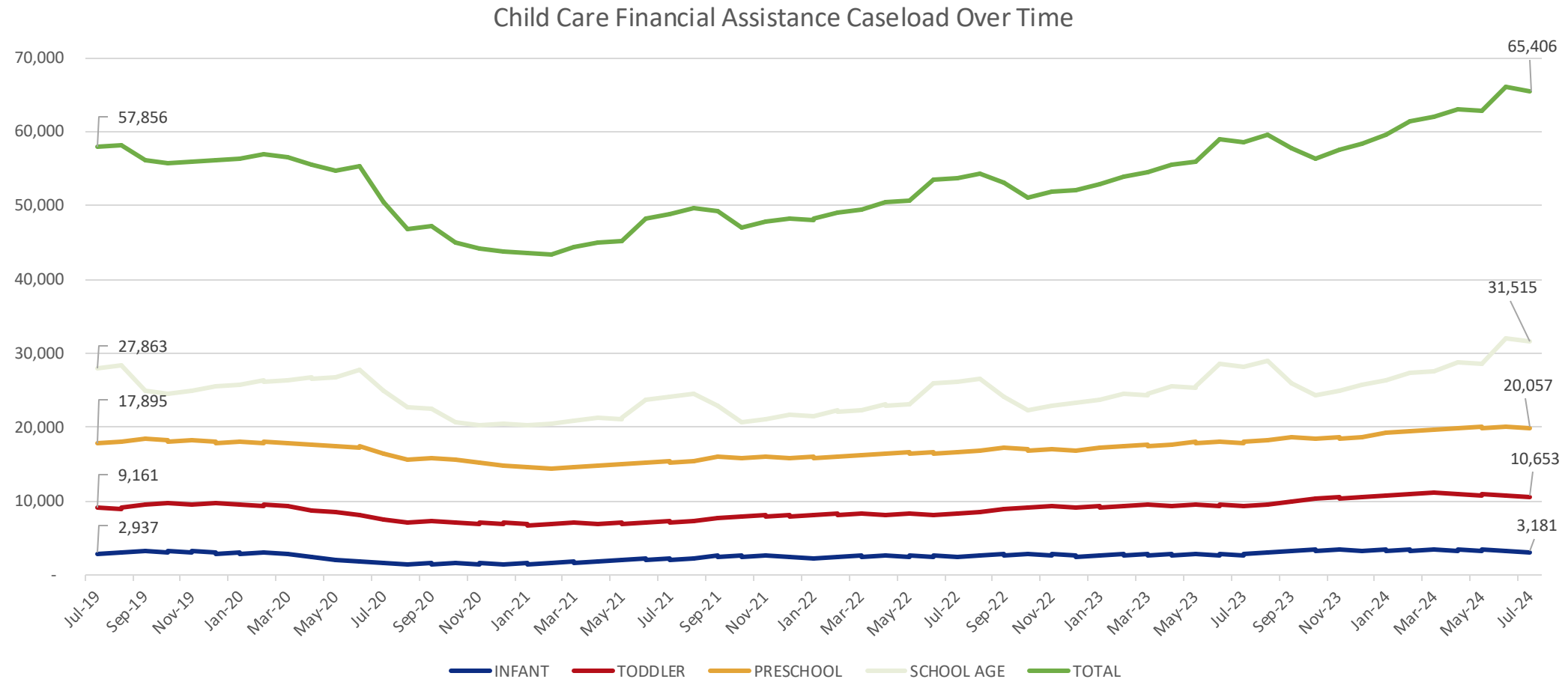
MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time by Program

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time

Legend: DCF, DTA, INCOME ELIGIBLE, TOTAL

Data labels shown: 57,856; 65,406; 33,127; 39,265; 12,289; 12,440; 12,757

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time by Age Group

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time

Legend: INFANT, TODDLER, PRESCHOOL, SCHOOL AGE, TOTAL

Data labels (start values): TOTAL 57,856; SCHOOL AGE 27,863; PRESCHOOL 17,895; TODDLER 9,161; INFANT 2,937

Data labels (end values): TOTAL 65,406; SCHOOL AGE 31,515; PRESCHOOL 20,057; TODDLER 10,653; INFANT 3,181

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time by Form of Assistance(Voucher/Contract)

Child Care Financial Assistance Caseload Over Time

Data labels on chart:
- 57,856 → 65,406 (TOTAL)
- 37,458 → 44,685 (VOUCHERS)
- 20,398 → 20,721 (CONTRACTS)

Legend: CONTRACTS • VOUCHERS • TOTAL

Child Care Financial Assistance: Total Caseload

Caseload - July 2023 to July 2024

58,623 · 59,617 · 57,749 · 56,277 · 57,453 · 58,387 · 59,612 · 61,291 · 61,908 · 63,094 · 62,866 · 65,992 · 65,406

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Child Care Financial Assistance: Monthly Caseload

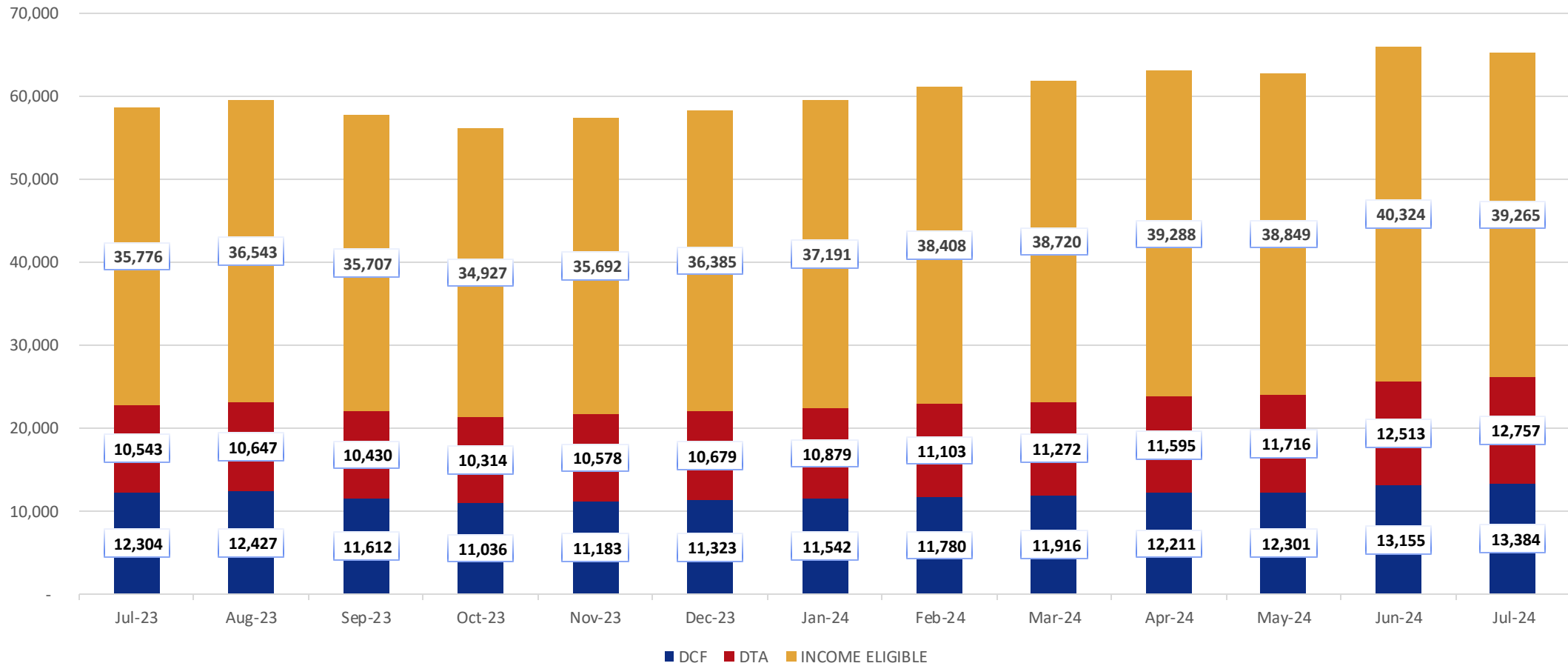| Month	DCF Voucher	DCF Contract	DTA Voucher	IE Voucher	IE Contract	TOTAL
Jul-23	6,148	6,156	10,543	21,852	13,924	58,623
Aug-23	6,233	6,194	10,647	22,348	14,195	59,617
Sep-23	5,673	5,939	10,430	21,863	13,844	57,749
Oct-23	5,413	5,623	10,314	21,648	13,279	56,277
Nov-23	5,505	5,678	10,578	22,140	13,552	57,453
Dec-23	5,621	5,702	10,679	22,533	13,852	58,387
Jan-24	5,717	5,825	10,879	23,012	14,179	59,612
Feb-24	5,846	5,934	11,103	23,818	14,590	61,291
Mar-24	5,894	6,022	11,272	23,999	14,721	61,908
Apr-24	6,061	6,150	11,595	24,520	14,768	63,094
May-24	6,063	6,238	11,716	24,211	14,638	62,866
Jun-24	6,738	6,417	12,513	25,552	14,772	65,992
Jul-24	6,966	6,418	12,757	24,962	14,303	65,406
MONTHLY AVERAGE	5,991	6,023	11,156	23,266	14,201	60,637

Source: CCFA data as of September 25, 2024

Child Care Financial Assistance: Monthly Caseload
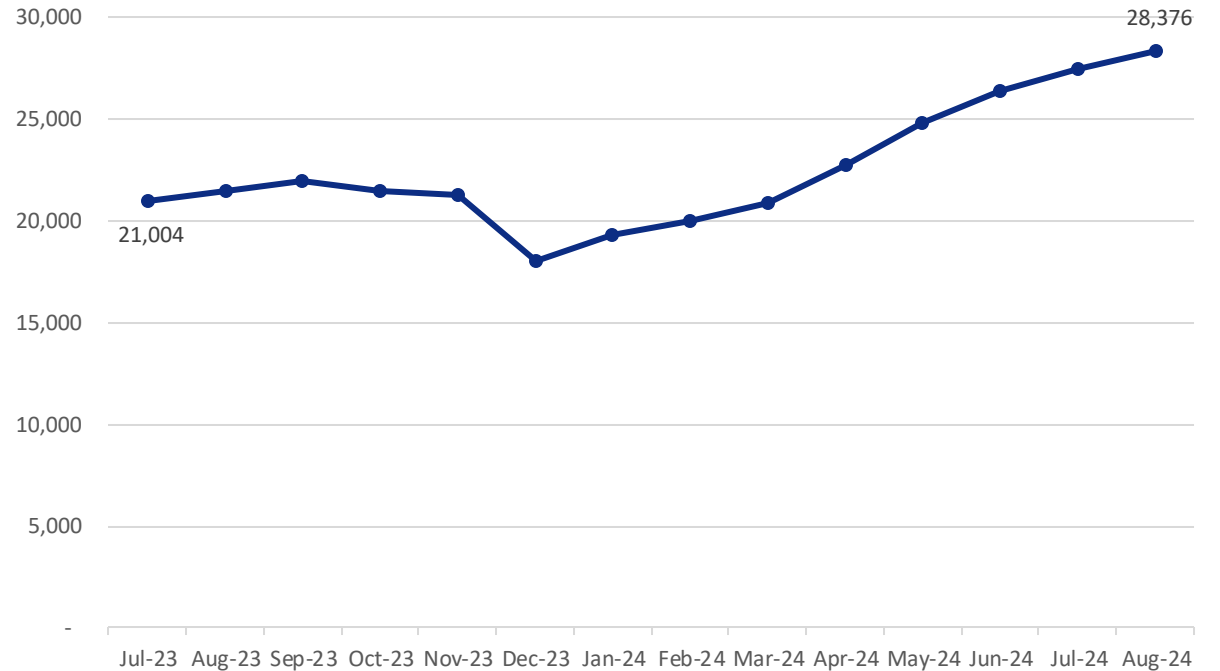
Caseload by Program- July 2023 to July 2024

Legend: ■ DCF ■ DTA ■ INCOME ELIGIBLE

Month	DCF	DTA	INCOME ELIGIBLE
Jul-23	12,304	10,543	35,776
Aug-23	12,427	10,647	36,543
Sep-23	11,612	10,430	35,707
Oct-23	11,036	10,314	34,927
Nov-23	11,183	10,578	35,692
Dec-23	11,323	10,679	36,385
Jan-24	11,542	10,879	37,191
Feb-24	11,780	11,103	38,408
Mar-24	11,916	11,272	38,720
Apr-24	12,211	11,595	39,288
May-24	12,301	11,716	38,849
Jun-24	13,155	12,513	40,324
Jul-24	13,384	12,757	39,265

Child Care Financial Assistance: Waitlist

August 2024 Waitlist by Region

Legend: Infant, Toddler, Preschool, School Age

Region	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Western	420			1,067
Central	613			1,146
Northeast	1,755		2,828	
Metro	730			1,315
Metro Boston	1,017			1,476
Southeast	917			1,634
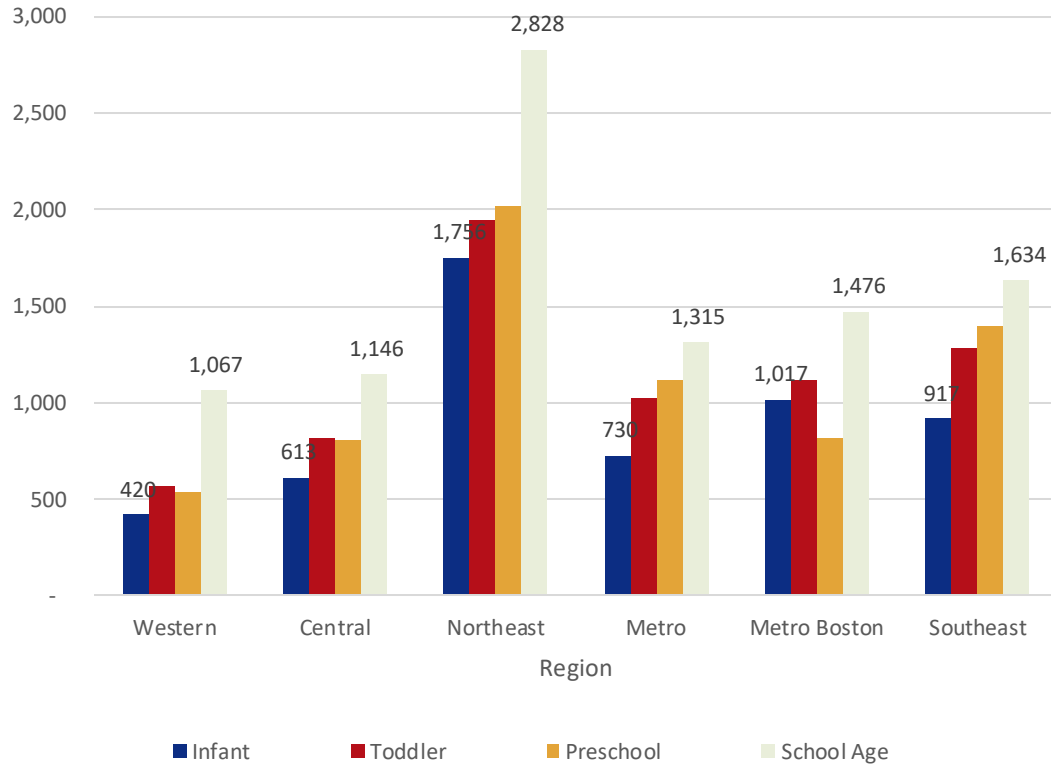
Child Care Financial Assistance Waitlist July 2023 - August 2024

21,004 (Jul-23) ... 28,376 (Aug-24)

Contracted Provider and FCC Systems Procurement

MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

Procurement Overview & Goals

EEC re-procured its Contracted Provider services to purchase high-quality early education and out-of-school time care through two Request for Responses (RFRs):

- **Income Eligible Services** for families who meet income eligibility requirements and are working or participating in education or training.
- **Priority Population Services** for families who are working with the Department of Children and Families, young parents (under twenty-four years of age) and families experiencing homelessness (who meet the definition of homeless in accordance with Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act).

Core service components: eligibility determination, high-quality subsidized child care, family engagement, and coordination with other needed services. If offered by a provider, families may also access transportation for their children. Priority population contracts also include funding for social/behavioral health supports and service coordination.

Goals

Improve the customer service experience for families

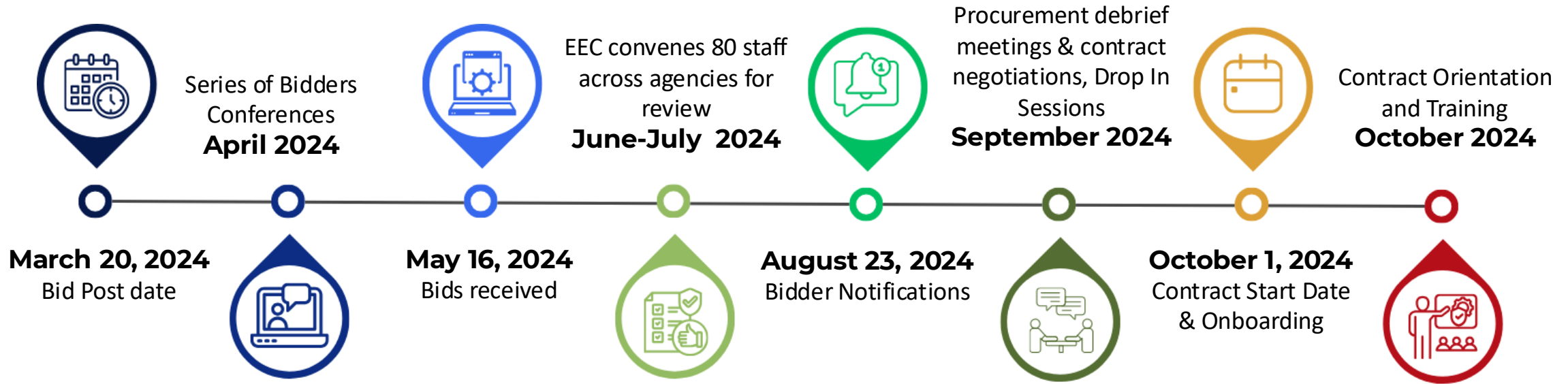Strengthen and align educator staffing and training requirements across programs

Improve performance monitoring and effectiveness

Continue efforts to address actual cost of care for providers

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Contracted Provider Re-Procurement Timeline

Series of Bidders Conferences
April 2024

EEC convenes 80 staff across agencies for review
June-July 2024

Procurement debrief meetings & contract negotiations, Drop In Sessions
September 2024

Contract Orientation and Training
October 2024

March 20, 2024
Bid Post date

May 16, 2024
Bids received

August 23, 2024
Bidder Notifications

October 1, 2024
Contract Start Date & Onboarding

This re-procurement is part of a comprehensive effort to improve and modernize the state's CCFA system, which has included:

- End-to-end review of the current system, studying and updating regulations, policies, and procedures
- Stakeholder interviews
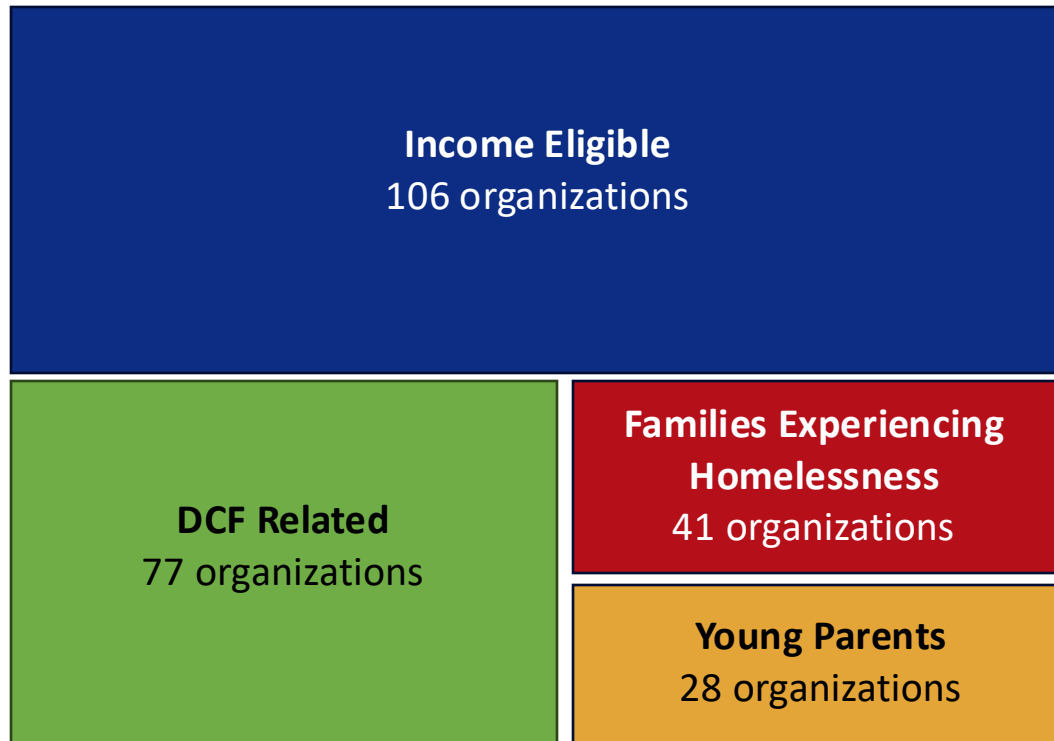- Multiple visioning and listening sessions.

This is the first time these services have been re-procured since 2009.
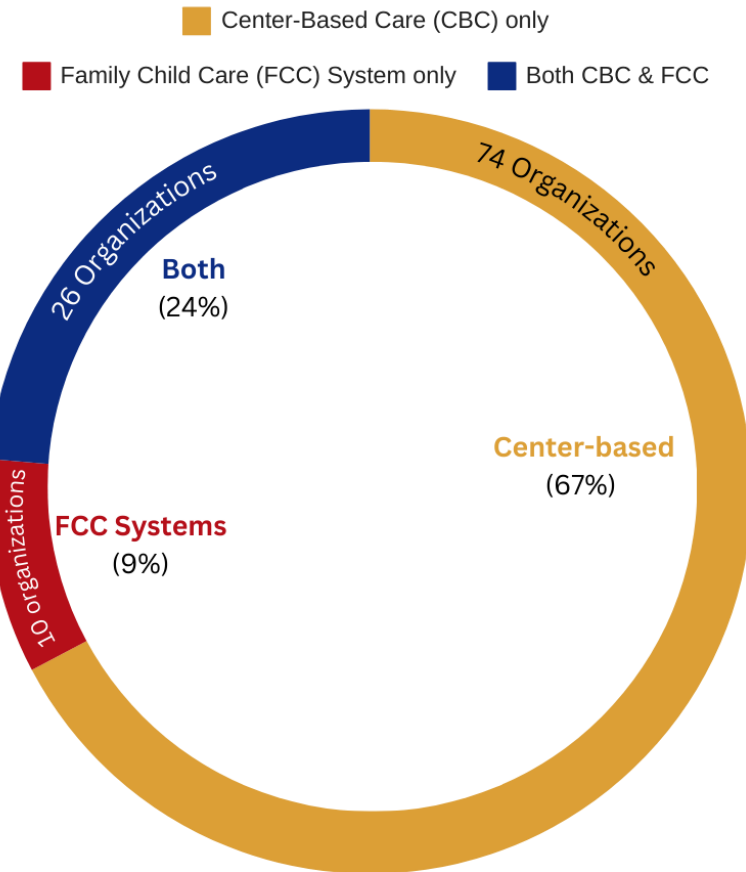
Procurement Response & Awards

116 organizations submitted a total of 194 bids across both contracts

- 112 bids for Income Eligible (IE) contracts
- 82 bids for Priority Populations (PP) contracts
- 78 organizations (67%) submitted bids for **both** the Income Eligible and Priority Population RFR's

- 110 organizations (93%) submitted **successful bids** and were awarded seats
- 8 organizations are new to EEC
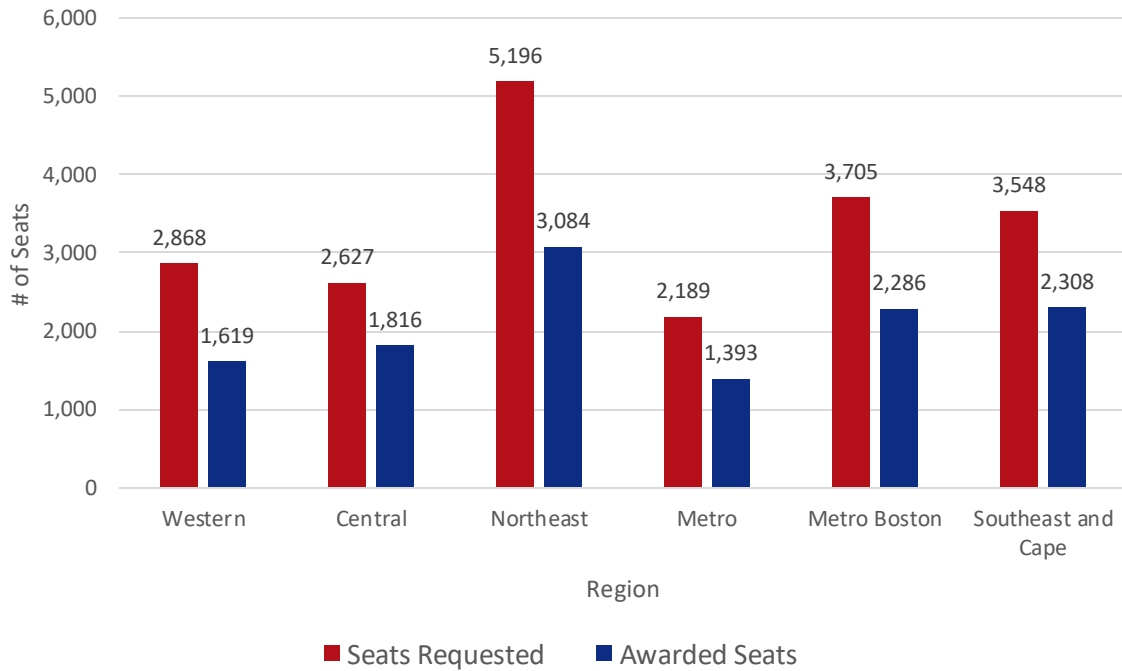
Program Breakdown by Population Served

Income Eligible
106 organizations

DCF Related
77 organizations

Families Experiencing Homelessness
41 organizations

Young Parents
28 organizations

70% of organizations serve 2+ populations

Legend:
- Center-Based Care (CBC) only
- Family Child Care (FCC) System only
- Both CBC & FCC

26 Organizations — **Both** (24%)

74 Organizations — **Center-based** (67%)

10 organizations — **FCC Systems** (9%)

Income Eligible Awards

FY25 Income Eligible Awarded Seats by Region

Bar chart, # of Seats by Region (Seats Requested in red, Awarded Seats in blue):

- Western: Seats Requested 2,868; Awarded Seats 1,619
- Central: Seats Requested 2,627; Awarded Seats 1,816
- Northeast: Seats Requested 5,196; Awarded Seats 3,084
- Metro: Seats Requested 2,189; Awarded Seats 1,393
- Metro Boston: Seats Requested 3,705; Awarded Seats 2,286
- Southeast and Cape: Seats Requested 3,548; Awarded Seats 2,308

Legend: ■ Seats Requested   ■ Awarded Seats

FY25 Income Eligible Awarded Seats by Age Group

Bar chart, # of Seats by Age Group (Total):

- Center-Based Infant: 323
- Center-Based Toddler: 975
- Center-Based Preschool: 3,299
- Center-Based School Age: 3,432
- Family Child Care System - Under 2 Years Old: 1,496
- Family Child Care System - 2 Years and Over: 2,981

Legend: ■ Total

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care
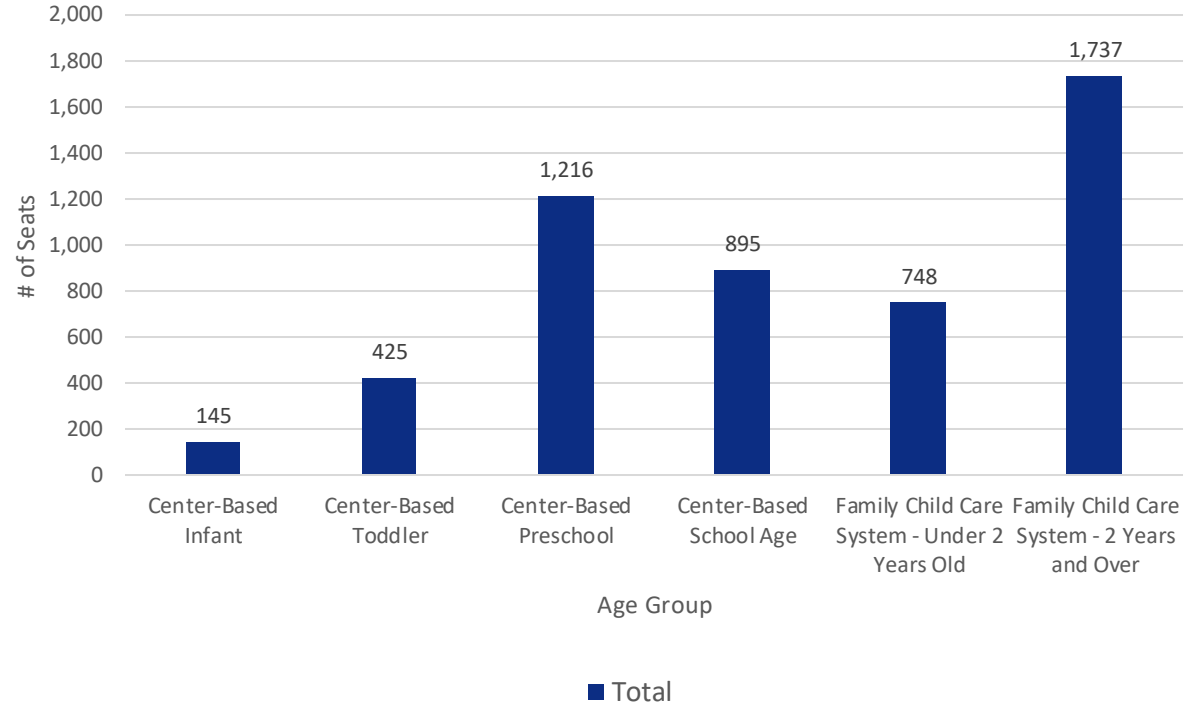
DCF-Related Child Care Awards

FY25 DCF Awarded Seats by Region
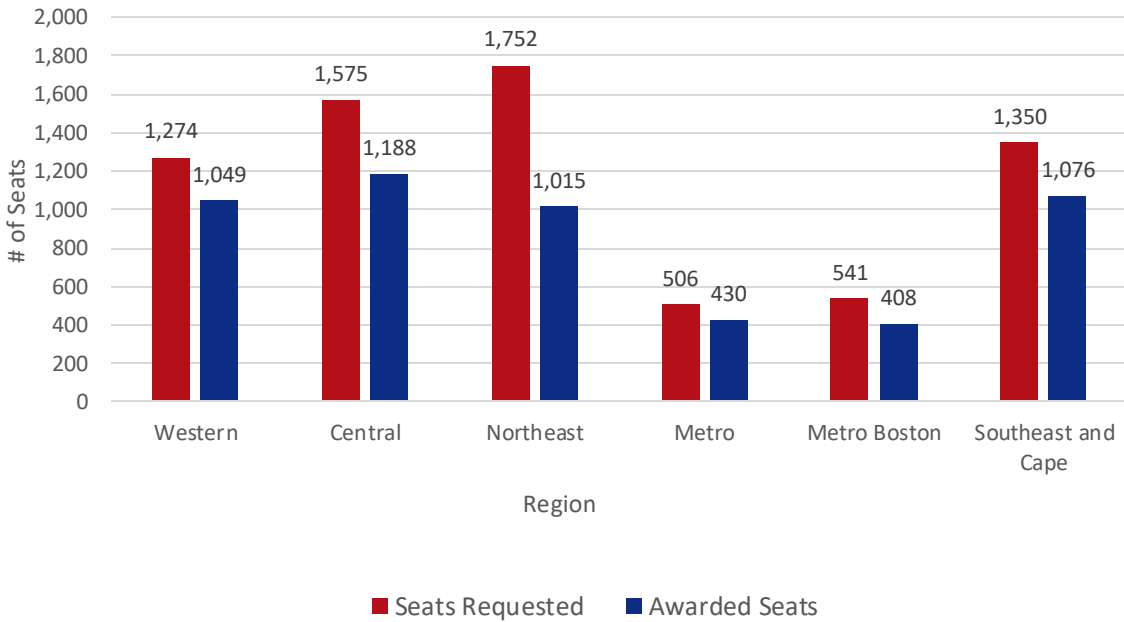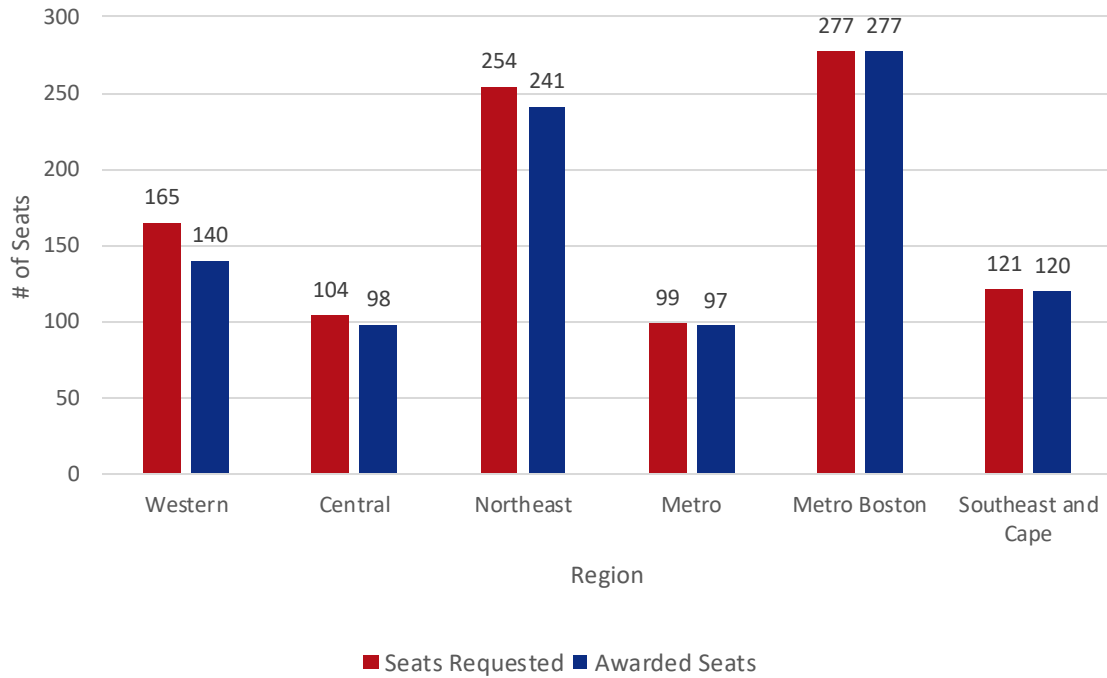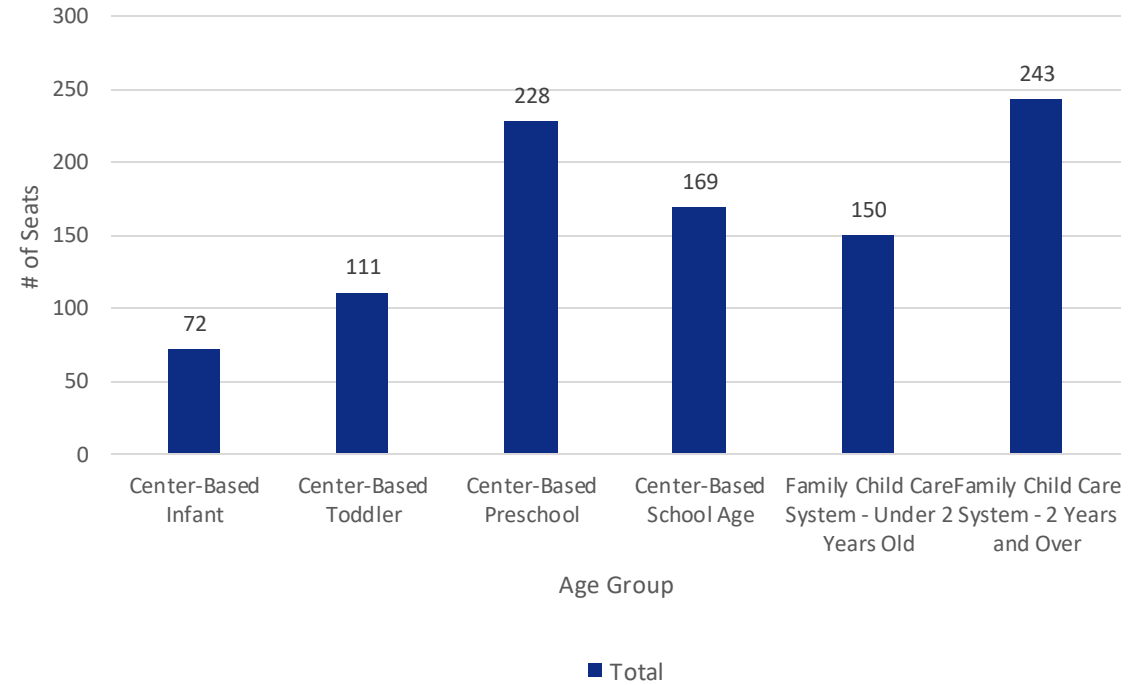
FY25 DCF Awarded Seats by Age Group

Families Experiencing Homelessness Awards

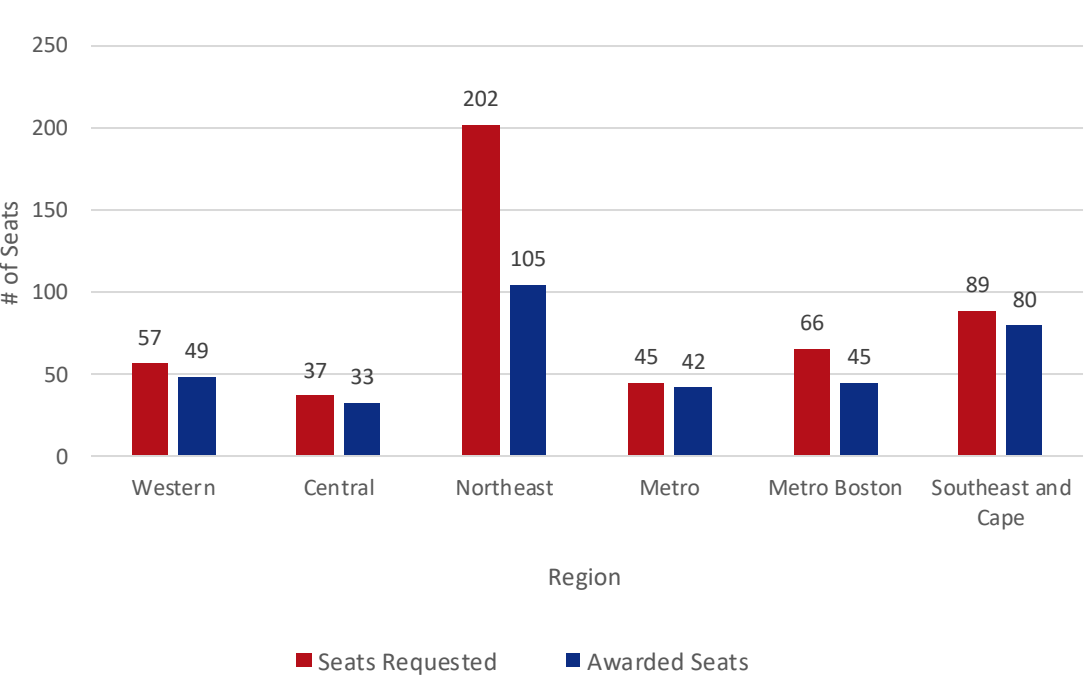**FY25 Families Experiencing Homelessness Awarded Seats by Region**

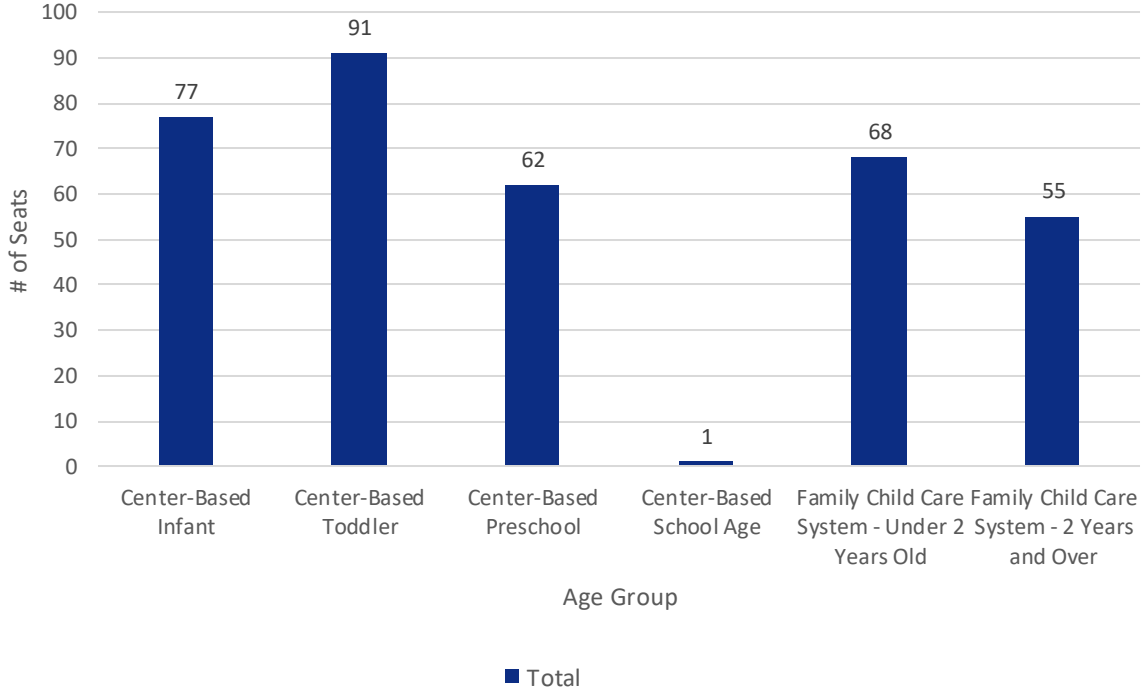**FY25 Families Experiencing Homelessness Awarded Seats by Age Group**

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Young Parent Program Awarded Seats

FY25 Young Parents Total Awarded Seats by Region

FY25 Young Parents Awarded Seats by Age Group

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Early Education and Care

Procurement Summary: The Numbers

Programs/Populations	2009 Awarded Seats	2024 Awarded Seats
Income Eligible	14,215	12,506
DCF-Related Child Care	5,032	5,166
Young Parents Program	600	354
Families Experiencing Homelessness	600	973
Total Seats Awarded	**20,447**	**18,999***
Total Funding Awarded	**$200,040,000**	**$402,300,000**

* Does not include children who will be served through contract flex pool funding, which enables providers to go above their contracted seats.

Procurement Summary: Services

- Clearly defined customer service and communication expectations to ensure all families have a respectful and consistent experience.
- Consistent staffing expectations for early education and care programs and umbrella agency staff.
- Training and professional development criteria for programs and staff to ensure that all programs are equipped with the experience necessary to serve and meet the needs of children and their families.
- Includes training and support for effective Continuous Quality Improvement planning
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and a collaborative approach to monitor performance, program effectiveness, and compliance with core service components.
- Transportation services as a separate critical supportive service for priority population contracts, decoupled from funding for other support services.
- Flexibility to reopen the procurement on an annual basis if additional funding becomes available or for any open seat allocations or reallocation of seats by region. Enables new organizations to compete to join the provider pool.
- Proactive partnership between EEC and contracted providers on implementation of new contracts including training and technical assistance.
- EEC offers contracted providers access to funding through a "flex pool." which allows providers to go over the contract seat award for enrolled children to support continuity of care or other priorities as determined by EEC.