



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Advisory Council – March Meeting

March 9, 2023

Agenda

Welcome

Items for Discussion

- FY24 Governor's Budget Proposal
- Child Care Financial Assistance
 - Proposed Regulation Revisions
 - Review Public Comment and Related Changes
 - Early Childhood Educator Pilot Update



Child Care Financial Assistance: Regulation Reform

Overall Priorities of Regulatory Reform

1. Increase Overall System Efficiency



2. Prioritize family needs and experience



3. Modernize and update system



Streamline and clarify roles and responsibilities

Reduce documentation burdens

Use more inclusive and accessible language

Create more supports for families and alleviate burdens

Extend timelines to ensure stability of care

Reduce rigidity and increase flexibility for families

Improve alignment across various regulatory frameworks

Strengthen partnerships with childcare-involved agencies

Evaluate and retain or modify COVID flexibilities

Public Comment Overview

Timeline



Participants



218 People
195 public forum
23 written



40 Comments
24 public forum
16 written



Offered in
English, Spanish,
ASL and Subtitles

Common Recommendations from Public Comment



- Further reducing reporting requirements for families
- Broadening scope of acceptable eligibility documentation



- Enabling payment by enrollment for providers



- Expanding review and appeal rights for parents



- Including eligibility for some SNAP recipients
- Clarify educational service need eligibility



- Defining domestic violence as new service need



Early Childhood Educator Pilot

Early Childhood Educator Pilot: Overview

Background

- On January 11, 2023 EEC launched the pilot through the existing child care financial assistance program to provide priority access to vouchers and contracted slots to income eligible staff working in programs licensed or funded by EEC.

Goals

- To support access to affordable child care
- Assist with cost associated with personal child care
- Assist with recruitment and retention workforce challenges

Who is Eligible?

- Current or newly employed staff at a licensed or funded early education or school age program and Massachusetts including out of school time program, family child care providers and assistants
- Residing in Massachusetts
- **Have an income at or below 85% State Median Income (SMI)**

ECE Pilot: Preliminary Data (Staff Access)

1325 Children reached with the ECE priority so far!



130 Children active on the waitlist



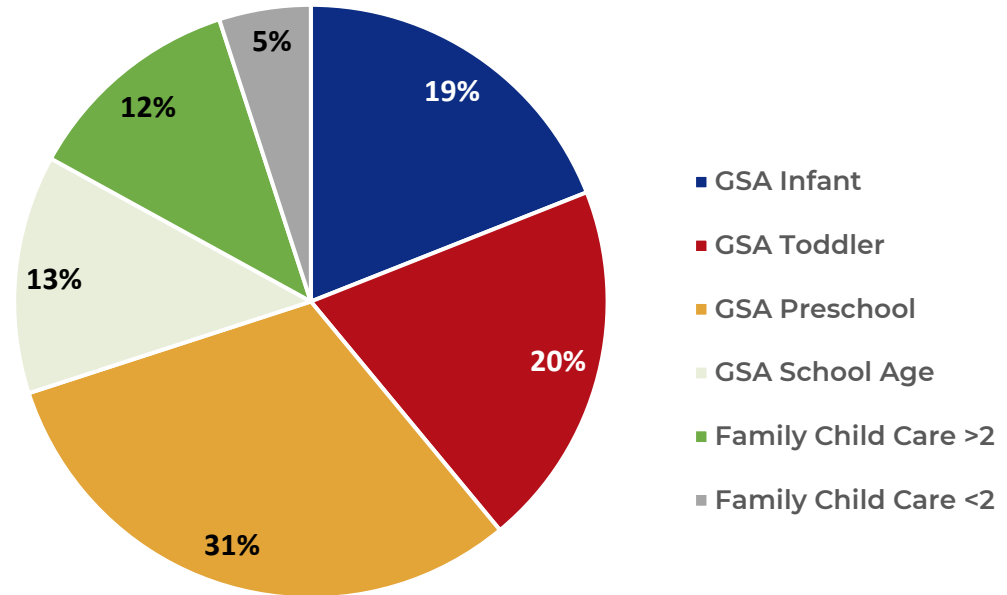
697 Children in pre-enrollment
Determining and awaiting placement



277 Children enrolled in care

77 Early Childhood Educators receiving supports through the pilot who are between 50 and 85% SMI

Enrollment by Age Group



ECE staff are accessing:

- 279 Child care vouchers
- 4 Care through a contracted slot

ECE Pilot: Preliminary Data (Program Data)



78

FCC Programs
Systems

119 Total New
Voucher
Agreements



30

Center-based
programs

11

FCC Programs
Independent