



Early Childhood All-Provider Meeting

Office of Child Care
November 2024



All-Provider Meeting Ground Rules

1. There are many providers on this call. To ensure we remain on schedule, please feel free to utilize the chat for questions and we will respond with the appropriate contact information.
2. Please refrain from presenting individualized questions/concerns that are not pertinent to the larger group. These can be handled offline by DHS Office of Child Care
3. Concerns and issues are critical for discussion but should be phrased as solution-focused/solution-seeking.

Today's Agenda

Today, the Office of Child Care will be focusing on specific agenda items.

01

RISES– Updates to the Field

04

PDG Grant Information/Head Start Update

02

Child Care Licensing – Updates to the Field

05

RIDOH Updates

03

Child Care Assistance Program – Updates to the Field

06

Next Steps



RISES – Updates



Get Excited for Release 2!

- Online Licensing Applications
- Online CCAP Applications
- Online Licensing and CCAP Renewals
- Online Change Requests
- Online Payments
- Enhanced Licensing Visits
- Enhanced Licensing Visit Reporting and Communications
- Integration with Workforce Registry
- Integration with BrightStars



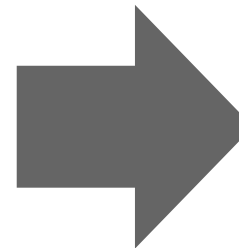
RISES Updates – Release 2 Potential Timeline

October 2024

- All Providers completed registration, profile completion and association to their program.
- Licensors began checking program accounts before visits.

December 2024

- All Educators completed registration, profile completion and association to their program.
- Licensors continue checking program accounts before visits.

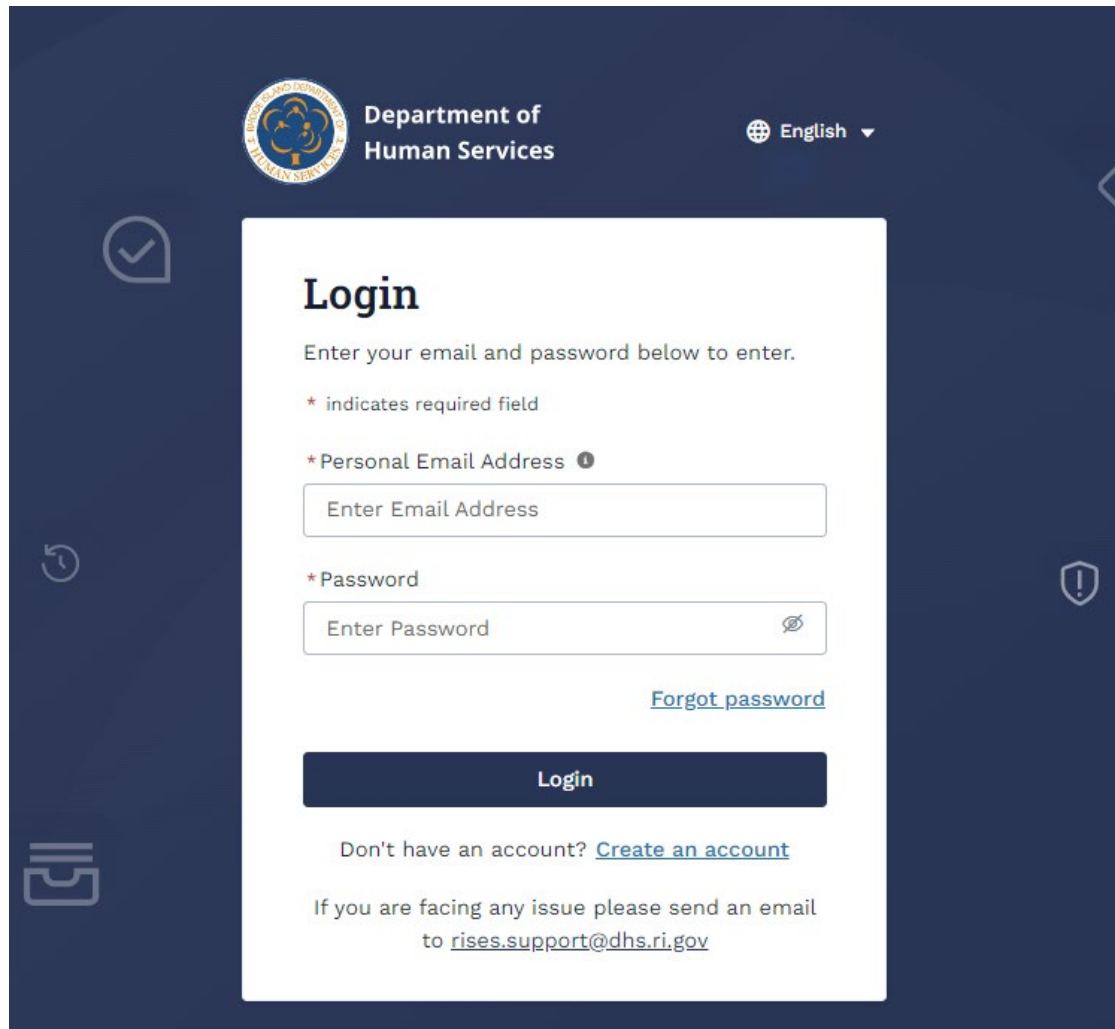


February 2025

- Licensing System of Record will Launch!
- All Providers and educators will have complete profiles in the system and will be associated to their programs.
- All applications, payments and change requests will be completed online.
- Licensing visits will be completed on the new RISES app.



RISES Updates – How to prepare for Release 2



The screenshot shows the RISES Login page. At the top left is the Department of Human Services logo. To its right is the text "Department of Human Services" and a language dropdown menu set to "English". The main heading is "Login". Below it, the instruction reads "Enter your email and password below to enter." A note states "* indicates required field". There are two input fields: "*Personal Email Address" with a placeholder "Enter Email Address" and "*Password" with a placeholder "Enter Password" and an eye icon. A "Forgot password" link is located below the password field. A dark blue "Login" button is at the bottom of the form. Below the button, it says "Don't have an account? [Create an account](#)". At the very bottom, it says "If you are facing any issue please send an email to ris.es.support@dhs.ri.gov".

Complete Program Profile

- Ensure you have registered, associated properly with your program.
- Link program account to Center for Early Learning Professionals (CELP) account.

Ensure Staff Profiles Updated

- Complete all staff profile reviews and approve all association requests.
- Refer employees who need additional assistance to office hours or the help desk.



New Resources – Coming Soon!

- New Tutorials!
 - How to Create an Account in RISES
 - How to Associate to my Current Employer - Centers
 - How to Associate to my Current Employer – FCCs

All in English and Spanish!

<https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/workforce-registry>



Child Care Licensing



Licensing - RISES

New licensing system of record set to launch in February 2025

- This new system will replace the current system in which all licensing data, including the creation and updating of licenses, is currently housed (currently known as the RICHIST system)
 - It will also eventually take the place of regular paper files for DHS, ensuring all of the information that we have on file for you is also accessible by you.
- This new system will replace the currently used OpenGov (for monitoring of programs)
 - This will not require a lot of changes for you as providers, but streamlines the monitoring system directly into the licensing system of record.
- This system will integrate with the current workforce registry, so all of the information that is provided by your staff members will be included and accessible to you as a provider.
 - Staff background checks, First Aid/CPR, vaccines can be checked without licensors entering the program.



Licensing - RISES

What does this mean for you as a provider?

- You will be able to submit your renewals through this new system (and will be expected to eventually)
 - Your program's information will automatically populate, reducing the need to re-enter everything again every year.
 - You will be able to do everything renewal-related, including pay your renewal fee, online.
- Your license will be available for you to print down immediately upon approval, including when changes are made to your license (change classrooms, change regulatory staff, etc)
- Change requests such as change of address or change of capacity will be available in the system for you to complete when needed.
 - Pre-populated information will make it easier to submit these change requests.



Licensing - RISES (continued)

How can providers prepare for this transition?

- Ensure that all your regulatory staff (Administrator/Director, Education Coordinator, Site Coordinator, any multi-site program managers, or yourself if you are an FCC) have created a workforce registry account in RISES
 - Ensure that all of your staff are associated with your program
- If your license expires in January or February, 2025 please prioritize getting your renewal packet to DHS as early as possible (no later than December 31st) This will ensure that there is no disruption to your license during the transition.
- Plan to have some time set aside in February to review your programs information in RISES for accuracy
 - You will have the ability to edit some aspects of your program, but some changes may require a help desk ticket. DHS is committed to having all hands-on deck during this transition to ensure you have support in any issues that may arise.



Licensing - RISES (continued)

Make sure that you are receiving DHS Office of Child Care emails!!!

All information about this transition will be sent out via email. If you are not receiving emails, please email Nicole Chiello at Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov



Child Care Assistance Program



CCAP Updates

CCAP Eligibility Threshold Increased to 261%

- As of January 1, 2025, the CCAP income eligibility entry point will change from 200% to 261% - the highest in state history!
- Please encourage your families to apply or reapply

Provider Monitoring

- Thank you to all providers who responded to their monitoring letters!
- Five (5) rounds have been reviewed, and providers will be receiving feedback on a rolling basis.
- Please remember:
 - Parent-Provider Agreements must be in place for every CCAP-eligible child in your care. The agreement must match the enrollment in the provider portal and must reasonably match the child's actual attendance.
 - Sign in/out sheets must be completed daily and retained for 3 years. There must be a time in, time out, and signature for each time. School age children must be signed in and out each time.

CCAP Allowable Fees

- As a reminder, CCAP families must not be charged enrollment/registration and waitlist fees, and enrichment and field trip fees must be waived if the family cannot afford it.
- Late tuition fees are allowable so long as the fee is reasonable and is used in a way that does not overburden families.
- Late pick-up fees are allowable if (a) the child is picked up past published business hours or (b) there is a program-wide policy for all enrolled children stating a child cannot be in your care for longer than a certain number of hours and the family has exceeded this limit.
- Please refer to the 7/17/24 All Provider email with information on allowable fees. More information on this can be found on the DHS website under [Handbook & Forms](#).



CCAP Policy & Procedure Updates

Completed

- Family child care providers are now eligible for CCAP (cannot enroll your own child in your own home)
- Accommodations added for parents with medical verification of a disability that prevents working and routine child care

In Progress 2025

- New CCAP provider orientations in English and Spanish for new centers, family child cares, and license exempt providers
- Extending families' 12-month certification period to 24 months
- Newly added children to receive a full certification period when added to a family already participating in CCAP
- 90 days of CCAP for active job seekers
- Improvements to Business Decision Notices (BDNs) for ease of use and clarity
- Family Advisory Council

In Progress 2026

- Paying providers prospectively (ahead of time)
- Payment based on enrollment not attendance
- Providing child care services through grants or contracts



CCAP for Child Care Pilot

CCAP for Child Care Pilot Renewed for Year 2 – Applications accepted through July 31, 2025

Year 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 596 Applications• 434 Families/634 Children Approved• 91 Denials (90% over income)• Ages - 40% I/T, 36% PS, 24% SA• 20% are on CCAP – CoPay Only• 80% are Pilot only• 90% have enrolled with a CCAP Provider• Parents work at 172 Licensed CCAP Providers (87% Center, 13% FCC)• Most common titles: Toddler Assistant, Toddler Lead, Infant Assistant and Preschool Lead

Current Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently approved: 398 families/577 children• Parents working in 191 Licensed CCAP Providers (87% Center, 13% FCC) (Y1 & 2)• Renewals are on a rolling basis at the end of the 12-month cert period• 87 New Applications since August

Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• has significantly improved retention” and is extremely important in attracting new employees• has widened the applicant pool for their program to include employees whose children could attend their program and are highly qualified educators• has helped the providers financially because we can take our children to another place so we can continue working





Office of Child Care Updates

Preschool Development Renewal Grant 2024-2027

DHS was awarded a second PDG Renewal Grant to build on activities completed during our 2023 PDG Planning Grant for the next three years. DHS will lead with cross-departmental collaboration at EOHHS, RIDE and RIDOH.

RI Funding Band Award Ceiling

\$5M annually X 3 years= \$15M

PDG Grant Priorities

- **Strengthen early care and education programs in a mixed delivery system**
- **Support ECE workforce**
- **Increase equity and family involvement in ECE programs**
- **Improve ECE program quality**
- **Expand access to early childhood services.**
- **Create seamless learning experiences from birth to elementary school**

PDG Required Grant Activities

- **Activity 1:** Update comprehensive statewide B-5 needs assessment
- **Activity 2:** Update comprehensive statewide B-5 strategic plan
- **Activity 3:** Maximize family participation and engagement in the B-5 system
- **Activity 4:** Support the B-5 workforce
- **Activity 5:** Support program quality improvements
- **Activity 6:** Subaward to enhance quality and expand access to programs & services
- **Bonus 1:** Increase workforce pay and benefits
- **Bonus 2:** Support social-emotional development and mental health



PDG Renewal 2024-2027 Activities Overview

PDG Requires states to conduct activities aligned to specific ECCE focus areas. RI proposed several activities to build upon work completed during our previous PDG Renewal Grant and our current PDG Planning Grant.

Activity 1: Update Needs Assessment

- 1.1 ECCE Spending Analysis (DHS)
- 1.2 Developmental Supports Needs Assessment (DHS)

Activity 2: Update ECCE Strategic Plan

- 2.1 Update Strategic Plan (DHS)

Activity 3: Maximize Family Participation & Engagement

- 3.1 RI Pre-K Lottery Enhancements (RIDE)
- 3.2 Healthy Tomorrows (RIDOH)
- 3.3 Parent Training Leadership Institute (RIDOH)



PDG Renewal 2024-2027 Activities Overview

PDG Requires states to conduct activities aligned to specific ECCE focus areas. RI proposed several activities to build upon work completed during our previous PDG Renewal Grant and our current PDG Planning Grant.

Activity 4: Support the Workforce

- 4.1 Family Child Care Quality Supports & Contracted Slots Grants

Activity 5: Support Quality Improvement

- 4.1 Infant Toddler Strategic Plan Recommendations (DHS)
- 4.2 RI Pre-K Monitoring & Continuous Quality Improvement (RIDE)
- 4.3 RISES Enhancements (DHS)
- 4.4 RIDE FTE for Monitoring & CQI (RIDE)

Activity 6: Subaward to Enhance Quality & Expand Access

- Establishing a Strong Child Care Resource and Referral (DHS)



PDG Renewal 2024-2027 Activities Overview

PDG Requires states to conduct activities aligned to specific ECCE focus areas. RI proposed several activities to build upon work completed during our previous PDG Renewal Grant and our current PDG Planning Grant.

Bonus Activity 1: Increase Workforce Pay & Benefits

- B1 WAGE\$ Continuation

Bonus Activity 2: Support Social Emotional Development & Mental Health

- B2 Kids Connect Recommendations

Program Performance Evaluation

- Partial Data Analyst FTE for Program Performance Evaluation



Updated Head Start Program Performance Standards

The Office of Head Start updated the Program Performance Standards effective August 2024. The updated standards are available online. Resources are in the process of being updated so please aware some may be out of date.

- The Early Childhood Knowledge and Resource Center (ECLKC) will be phasing out and a new website will be phasing in: HeadStart.Gov
- In the meantime, info can be found here: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/article/performance-standards-information-center>
- The key focus area updates include:
 - Workforce
 - Mental Health
 - Quality Improvements
- Some standards are effective immediately while others have phased in timelines





State Physical Activity and Nutrition Grant

Early Childcare and Education

Sarah Blau, MPH

State Nutrition Coordinator, Healthy Eating, Active Living Program



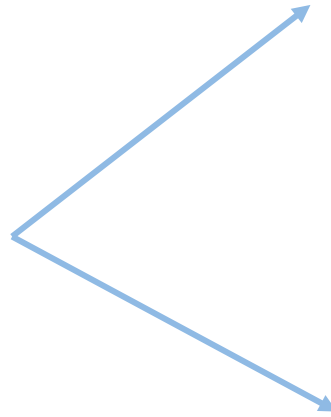


Agenda

- What is SPAN
- RI Early Childcare and Education
 - Survey
 - Farm to ECE
 - CACFP
 - Collaboration

What is SPAN?

- Centers of Disease Control and Prevention – State Physical Activity and Nutrition grant (2023-2028)
- 17 state awardees
- Promotion of healthy eating and active living



Five Primary Strategies:

1. Promotion of Food Service Guidelines
2. Expansion of Fruit and Vegetable Voucher Incentive Program and Produce PRx
3. Safe and Accessible Physical Activity
4. Continuity of care in breastfeeding support
5. **Early childcare and education**

Early Childcare and Education

CDC Spectrum of Opportunities

1. Partnerships
2. Equity
3. Activities



RI ECE Activities: Our Approach

Establish Initial Partnerships

Brown University URI Snap-Ed Farm Fresh
Child care educators DHS RIDE

Disseminate Early Child Care and Education Survey

Building and implementing programs with early child care educators

Implement Activities

QRIS Farm to ECE CACFP
Licensing Building TA models

RI ECE Activities

What do we know about ECE in Rhode Island?

Providers



864
Providers



457 **396**
Centers FCC Homes

Licensing Capacity



35.6k

Licensing Capacity

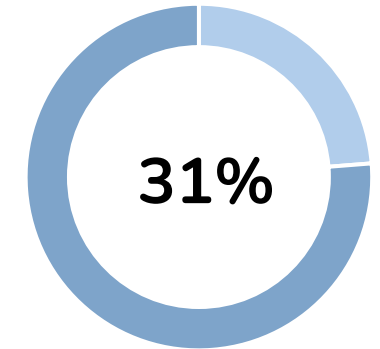


32.8k
Centers

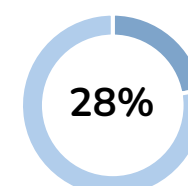


2.7k
FCC Homes

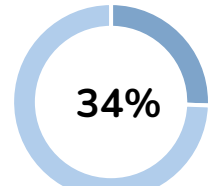
CACFP Participation



CACFP Participation



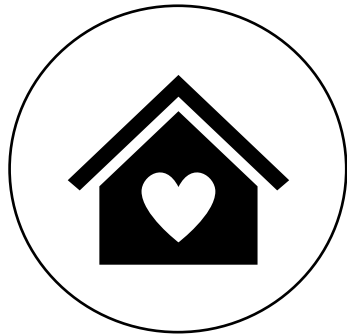
Centers



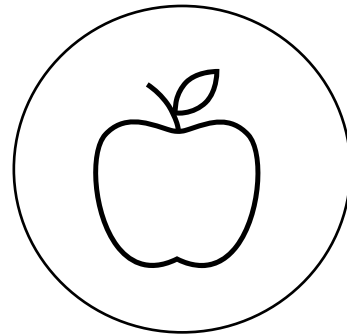
FCC Homes

RI ECE Activities: Survey

- 🍏 Caring for our Children Standards
- 🍏 Four primary focus areas



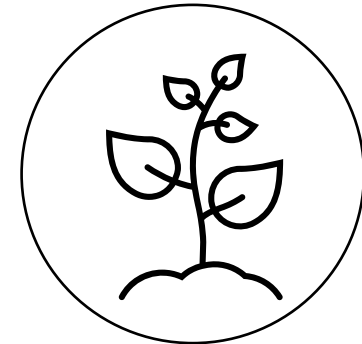
CACFP
Participation



Nutrition

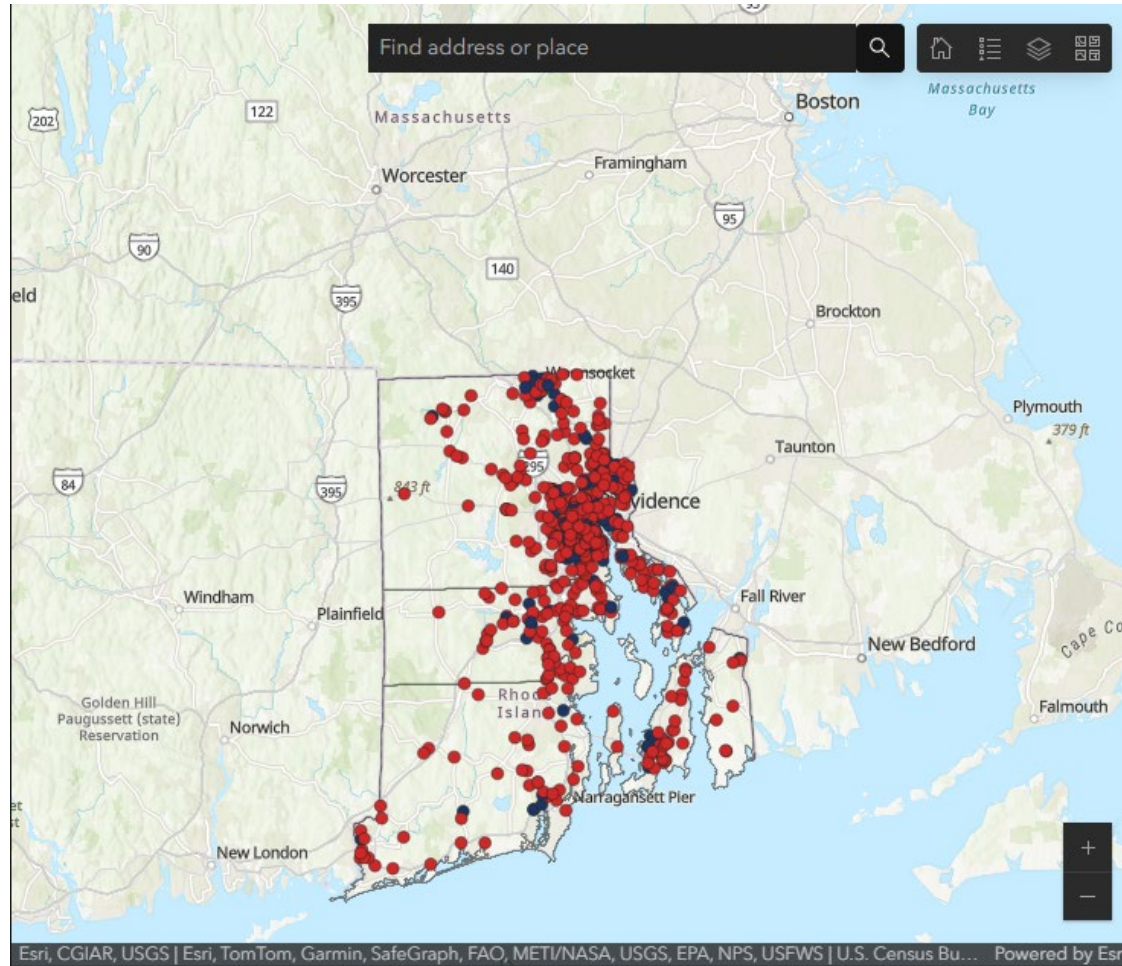


Physical
Activity



Farm to ECE

RI ECE Activities: CACFP Participation



[CACFP Participation in Rhode Island](#)

HEAL ECE Activities: Engagement

- 🍏 Participating in Farm 2 Early Child Care Community of Practice, Harvest of the Month Box Program
- 🍏 Identifying potential partnerships with existing organizations and networks
- 🍏 Interested in collaborating? Contact: sarah.blau@health.ri.gov

Please take the HEAL ECE survey:

- They survey will take ~ 20 minutes to complete.
- The 1st 166 respondents will receive either a \$25 amazon card or up to \$30 worth of school supplies.
- Link:
https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ZiPlhvTB3SMOTs



Next Steps

DHS is going to continue to have these all-provider meetings approximately 3x per year. A copy of the presentation will be disseminated to the group at the end of every meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Monday, February 10th, 2025-

1-230pm (ENG), 530-7pm (SPA)

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 –

1-230pm (ENG), 530-7pm (SPA)

Any feedback or recommendations? Email **Nicole Chiello** at Nicole.Chiello@dhs.ri.gov any time.

Couldn't attend? Copies of the meetings are always available at the following link:
<https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-providers-staff-resources/handbooks-forms>

