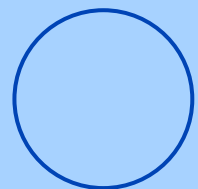


SECT Childcare Collective

Increasing Access, Affordability, and
Capacity for Childcare.

Scott Umbel & Kathleen Hollister, UWSECT





The State of Childcare in Southeastern CT



Issues Impacting Childcare

New London County

There are 84 Family Childcare and 108 Center-based licensed programs in NL County to total capacity of 4,571 seats.



41%

Gap between family **demand** and childcare **capacity**

900+

High childcare **workforce gap**

\$600

Gap between **state reimbursement** and cost of care each month

27%

Affordability / Access to childcare.
% of ALICE family income to childcare

Impact on Our Community

- Parents opt out of the workforce, **impacting local businesses.**
- Businesses have difficulty hiring new employees, **impacting local economy.**
- Young children miss out on an early learning environment preparing them for success in school, **affecting the future workforce.**

Framework

Vision: Every family has access to affordable, high-quality childcare.

Outcome: Increase the number of childcare slots by 500 to help reduce the 41% gap between childcare demand and availability by 2030.

Workforce

Increase the childcare educator workforce by 50 educators by 2030.

Innovation

Pilot new innovations that increase childcare capacity by 2030.

Accessibility

Quality childcare is available and affordable for all.

Data

Collect regional data that informs decision making.

Innovation

- New CT legislation allowing up to 20 family childcare incubator sites across the state.
- Maine Health's repurposing unused facility space for new childcare center business development. Portion of seats reserved for Maine Health employees.
- Missoula, Montana's shared services and childcare microsites with employer engagement.



Workforce

- CDA Childcare Pathway Pilot through Norwich Free Academy.
- One-Stop Career Fairs in Southern ME.
- UW Coastal & Western CT Business Support Model.
- Registered Apprenticeships with CT-OEC



Accessibility

Address childcare deserts by increasing the number of home-based **family childcare providers**.

These family childcare homes are often more **accessible and affordable** than center-based childcare..

Barriers to starting a new family childcare business → Complex, local regulations



SECT Childcare Collective’s Membership

Active Membership as of Feb. 2025

Bright Beginnings Childcare	CTAEYC	Norwich Human Services	SEIU Education and Support Fund
CBIA	EASTCONN, Northeast CT Childcare Needs	Norwich Public Schools	Social Ventures Partners CT
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut	EWIB	Norwich Public Utilities	Thames River Community Services
Chelsea Groton Bank	Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce	Office of US Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02)	The Arc of Eastern Connecticut
Child & Family Agency (CFA)	Hartford HealthCare	Office of US Senator Chris Murphy	The Connecticut Project
Child Care for Connecticut’s Future	LEARN	Office of US Senator Chris Murphy	Three Rivers Community College
Children First Groton	Little Learners Children's Center	OIC of New London County, INC	TVCCA
Community Foundation of Eastern CT	Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	Riverfront Children's Center	UCFS Healthcare
Connecticut College Child Development Lab School	New London Public Schools	Sacred Heart School	United Way of Southeastern Connecticut
CT Early Childhood Alliance	North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters	SCADD	Women's Business Development Council
CT Office of Early Childhood	Norwich Free Academy	seCTer	General Dynamics Electric Boat
Habitat for Humanity			

Workgroups

Accessibility – Monthly on the 1st Friday, 9-10 am

Workforce – Monthly on the 2nd Friday, 9-10 am

Innovation – Monthly on the 4th Friday, 9-10 am

→ 283 Stoddards Wharf Rd. Gales Ferry

To get involved contact
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What are you hearing?

What are you seeing as challenges, barriers, and other impacts surrounding childcare?

What opportunities do you see?