



# NEW HAVEN SCHOOL READINESS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What is the CT School Readiness and Child Day Care Initiative?***

In 1997 the CT Legislature passed PA 99-257 An Act Concerning School Readiness which expanded the State’s role in providing a preschool experience for children age 3-5 years. In FY 2016, over \$93 million was appropriated to the 19 Priority School Districts and school districts with severe needs schools. The legislation requires a local school readiness council, appointed by the Mayor and Superintendent to assess the community’s early childhood care and education needs, review school readiness grant applications and to advise the Mayor and Superintendent on early care and education issues. In New Haven the New Haven Early Childhood Council oversees the School Readiness program.

### ***Who is eligible to apply?***

Any public, nonprofit, or for-profit center-based program serving children ages 3-5 years which is licensed by the State of Connecticut or is exempt from licensing, may apply to the Council for funding if it meets certain criteria.

### ***How much can my program apply for?***

Funding is based on the number of children served and the type of service offered:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| \$8,924 per child | Full day/full year (program must operate 10hrs/day, 50 weeks/year)                                  |
| \$6,000           | School day/school year (program must operate min. 6hrs/day, 180 days/year)                          |
| \$4,500           | Part day/part year (program must operate a minimum of 2.5hrs/day, 180 days/yrs)                     |
| \$2,772           | Extended day (for existing part-day programs to extend hours & create a full day/full year program) |

### ***What are the criteria for consideration for a grant award?***

By State law, grant applications are reviewed by the local Council. The Council makes funding recommendations to the Mayor and Superintendent. State requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Classroom size is no larger than 20 children or meets DPH licensing regulations.
- By 2017, 50% of the classrooms must have a teacher with a BA in early childhood or related field and 50% of the classrooms must have a teacher with an Associates Degree in early childhood or related. By 2020 100% of the classrooms must have a teacher must have a BA in early childhood or related field.
- Program staff has a minimum of 15 hours of training annually in child development and early childhood curriculum.
- Within three years of the initial funding date\*, the program must become accredited by either the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); or, Head Start
- \*In the first year of funding the program must apply for accreditation.
- Preschool curriculum must align with the State Office of Early Childhood’s Early Learning Development Standards.
- Programs must comply with the *Program Quality Components* outlined in the grant application, as well as other local and state guidelines.

Additionally, the New Haven Early Childhood Council requires programs exempt from licensing to meet the minimum licensing requirements of the State Department of Public Health’s Day Care Licensing Regulations. Programs are responsible for recruiting and enrolling eligible children. Eligibility requirements include-- New Haven residency and family income eligibility.

For more information contact:

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