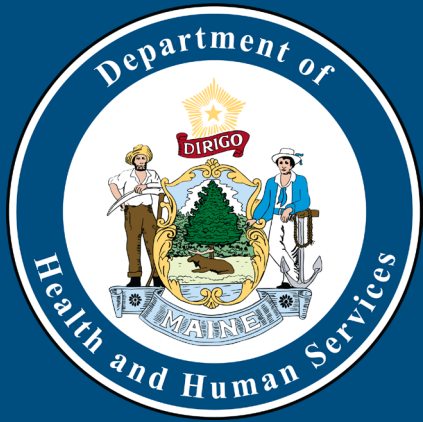


WELCOME

The Early Childhood webinar will begin shortly.



Agenda

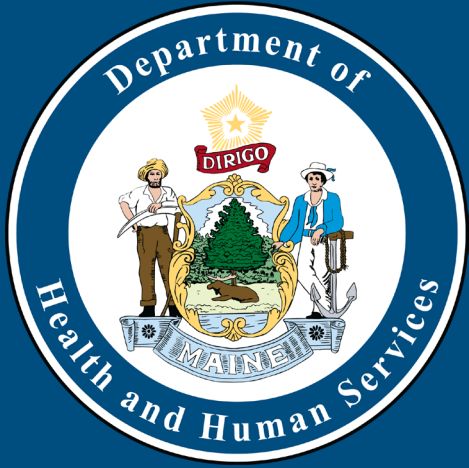
- Welcome
- Early Care and Education as a priority of Administration
- Office of Child and Family Service Early Care and Education
- Help Me Grow Maine Launch
- Child Care Services
- Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®)
- Child Care Infrastructure Grant (CCIG)
- First4ME
- Wrap Up



Commissioner Lambrew
Department of Health and Human Services



Director Landry
Office of Child and Family Services



Early Childhood Systems Implementation Update

Help Me Grow and 211 Maine

Melinda Corey, Help Me Grow Outreach Specialist

Nikki Williams, MPH, Program Manager

Angie Bellefleur, Help Me Grow Program Manager

A Solution to Help Young Children Shine

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a central access point designed to connect families to information and services. In partnership with 211 Maine, caregivers and providers can contact Help Me Grow for additional support.

Help Me Grow will listen, link families to information about child development and community resources and provide follow-up to both caregivers and referral sources.



How it works



Centralized Access Point

We assist caregivers and child health providers in connecting children to the grid of existing resources, through a “warm hand-off” process.

Resources

We help support a network of connected service providers that can effectively serve families in Maine with a variety of needs.

Developmental Screening

We promote working with families to recognize developmental milestones and utilize the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)[®] to assess development.

Eligibility

We are available at no cost to children birth to eight and their caregivers, as well as during pregnancy.



Addressing Some Frequently Asked Questions

- Callers to Help Me Grow (HMG) may share as little or as much information as they feel comfortable with.
- HMG Resource Specialists may initiate calls to families based on referral from other providers.
- Two pathways of inquiry: HMG Resource Specialists may directly help families in need; and may also support other providers who reach out seeking resources on behalf of a family.
- With family's permission, HMG Resource Specialists will follow up at 5, 25, and 60 days following initial contact.



Implementation Update

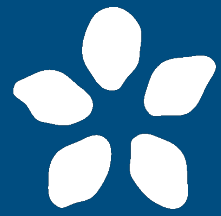
- Central Access Point fully live and accepting referrals statewide
- Online referral portal has been added to website for ease of referrals
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)® online portal has received 45 screenings from Early Care and Education (ECE) providers and two from the general public
- Over 1,000 child health, ECE, and community providers reached since July 2022 through presentations, webinars, and conferences



Help Me Grow and 211 Collaboration

- 211 Maine is a free, confidential Maine-based program that helps individuals across Maine find local resources.
- 211 is accessible 24/7 with access to a statewide database of services.
- 211 will serve as the Centralized Access Point for HMG.
- To connect to an HMG Specialist:
 - **Call 211 and press 5.** This will directly connect a caller to HMG
 - If calling outside of business hours (8 AM-5 PM) there will be an option to leave a message.
 - Call 211 and speak with a 211 Specialist:
 - Directly ask for HMG. The specialist will provide a warm hand-off to an HMG Specialist.
 - Ask for an HMG-related service. The specialist will offer a warm hand-off to an HMG Specialist.
- If caller connects with HMG and needs resources outside of HMG, HMG Specialists are trained to provide warm hand-offs to 211 Specialists.





Help Me Grow
Maine



www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-development

Toll-Free: 1-833-714-7969

Tel: 207-624-7969

Fax: 207-624-7994

TTY: Dial 711

E-mail: HelpMeGrow@maine.gov



Child Care Services

Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP), Early Childhood Educator Workforce Salary Supplement Program, and Child Care Transition Grants

Crystal Arbour

Child Care Services Program Manager

Child Care Services

Child Care Subsidy helps eligible families to pay for child care so parents can work, go to school, or participate in a job training program. CCSP is also available for eligible families where the adult(s) are retired and are the legal guardian of a child.

Child Care Licensing and Investigation Services- licenses and oversees all children's residential facilities (including shelters), child placing agencies, and child care providers.

Background Check Unit- The Office of Child and Family Services' Background Check Unit (BCU) is involved in a number of different background check processes including those for [child care providers and children's residential providers](#). The BCU also conducts employment-related child protective history checks at the request of employers

How to Apply for Child Care Subsidy

There are 3 ways to apply:

- Print, complete, and return the application by mail, email, or fax
 - Address: 2 Anthony Avenue Augusta, ME 04330
 - Email: CCSP.DHHS@maine.gov
- Call OFCS 1-877-680-5866 or (207) 624-7999 Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm
- Visit your local DHHS office to receive a printed application. Find your local DHHS office or call 1-877-680-5866 or (207) 624-7999.

Child Care Subsidy Income Guidelines

Effective 10/01/2022 until further notice

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME (ANNUAL/12)	WEEKLY INCOME (ANNUAL/52)
1	\$43,719.98	\$3,643.33	\$840.76
2	\$57,172.29	\$4,764.35	\$1099.46
3	\$70,624.59	\$5,885.38	\$1358.16
4	\$84,076.90	\$7,006.40	\$1616.86
5	\$97,529.20	\$8,127.43	\$1875.56
6	\$110,981.50	\$9,248.45	\$2134.25
7	\$113,503.81	\$9,458.65	\$2182.76
8	\$116,026.12	\$9,668.84	\$2231.27
9	\$118,548.42	\$9,879.03	\$2279.77
10	\$121,070.73	\$10,089.22	\$2328.28

For More Information

- Financial Resources Specialists who work for CCSP have caseloads broken up by counties. A contact list can be found at:
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/provider-resources/child-care-subsidy-information-for-providers>
- Information for Families <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/paying-for-child-care>
- Information for Providers <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/provider-resources/child-care-subsidy-information-for-providers>

Workforce Salary Supplements

ARPA Funded: 81,925 - \$200 Staff Bonuses awarded totaling \$16,385,000

Now transitioning to state-funded grants. The registration portal opened 9/26/22 with the first month's payment in October.

Program Eligibility:

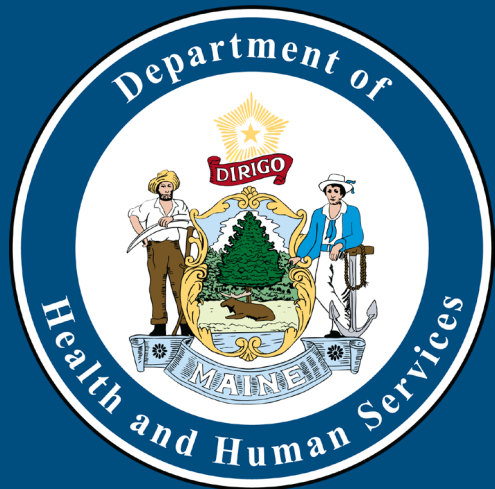
- Hold either Facility or Family Child Care license in the State of Maine
- Must be open and providing direct care to children
- Must have valid vendor code with OCFS
- Must be active in the *Quality for ME* Rating Improvement System

Workforce Eligibility:

- Employed by an eligible program
- Registered and “active” in the *Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ)* Registry
- Must provide direct care to children
- All eligible staff includes family child care providers, owners and directors

Child Care Transition Grants

- Licensed child care providers will receive eight months of payments based on licensed capacity.
 - For the months of October 2022 through January 2023, programs will be eligible to receive \$50 per slot based on licensed capacity.
 - From February 2023 through May 2023, programs will be eligible to receive \$25 per slot based on licensed capacity.
- \$13,600,000 allocated to help further stabilize and support child care providers.



Maine Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®)

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
for Early Childhood Educators & Caregivers

Amy Beaulieu, LCSW
ECCP® Program Manager

What is ECCP®?

- ECCP® is an **evidence-based, time-limited & intensive consultation** service that helps **child care providers, educators, and caregivers** of young children build understanding and skills to respond to the social-emotional needs of children.
- Mental health consultants work directly with caregivers and educators to **identify and implement strategies** to support children's emotional wellbeing and effectively manage challenging behavior that may jeopardize a child's ability to attend an early childhood program or educational setting.
- **Core Classroom, Family Child Care Program, & Child-Specific Services** offered
- Services are available at **no cost** to programs, schools, or families.



Reasons to Request Mental Health Consultation

- Social/behavioral challenges
- Family engagement
- Teacher stress & isolation
- Staff communication & teamwork
- Improving emotional literacy in the classroom
- Community stressors
- Normal developmental concerns



Who Can Request ECCP®?

Child Specific Service

- Supports an **individual child** with social-emotional concerns
- Up to **nine hours** of consultation
- Classroom and home observations
- Available in centers, family child cares, public Pre-Ks, public schools, and afterschool programs.
- Family involvement and consent required.

Core Classroom Service

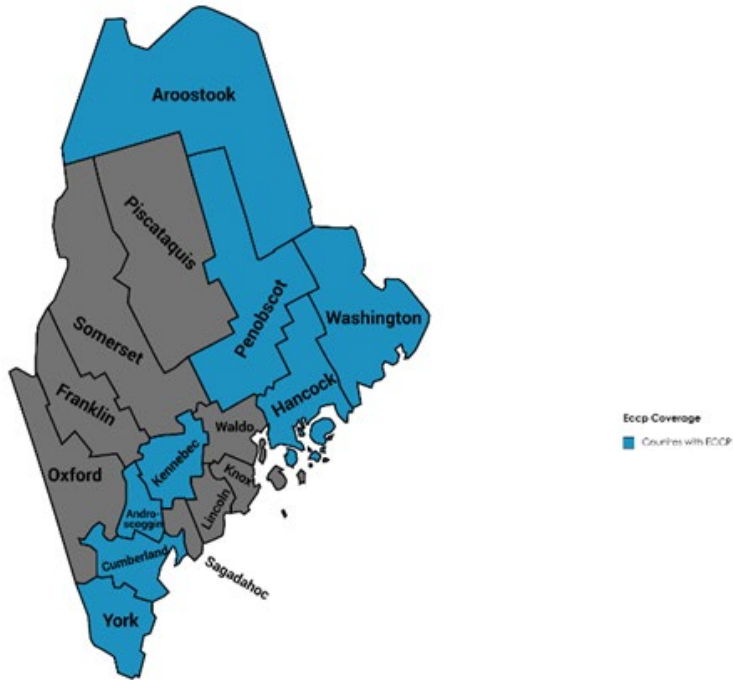
- Supports the social-emotional **environment of the classroom**
- Up to **three hours** of consultation per week for 12 weeks
- Available in centers and public pre-K's
- Includes one-hour all staff training
- Up to **8 hours of PD credit** available
- **\$5,000 stipend** for completed services (one-time award)

Family Child Care Provider Service

- Supports the social-emotional **climate of the program**
- Up to **two hours** of consultation per week for nine weeks
- Classroom/program observations
- Available to licensed Family Child Care Providers
- **PD credit** available



Maine ECCP® Sites



Counties served:

- Androscoggin
- Aroostook
- Cumberland
- Hancock
- Kennebec
- Penobscot
- Washington
- York

Expanding statewide in early 2023



Additional ECCCP® Offerings

- Quarterly community trainings open to all providers in each county.
- Monthly mental health consultation groups
- Providers can receive up to 8 hours of PD credit in the PDN's Registry for teachers for Core Classroom consultation.
- Participation in local community collaboratives or workgroups.
- \$5,000 stipends will be available per classroom per **completed** Core Classroom service. *More information will be provided by OCFS.*



Making a Referral

Referrals can be made through:

Contacting your local consultant:

[Maine Early Childhood Consultation Partnership \(ECCP\) | Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Requesting through MRTQ-PDN (ECE providers):

[On-Site Consultation | Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network \(mrtq.org\)](#)

***Please specify ECCP® in your request.*



Maine ECCP® Consultants

COUNTY	NAME	PHONE/EMAIL	AGENCY
Androscoggin	Laura Ingalls	(207) 814-0115 lingalls@comcareme.org	Community Care
Aroostook	Vacant	(207) 624-7900 amy.beaulieu@maine.gov	Community Health & Counseling Services
Cumberland	Jenna Goldstein-Walsh	(207) 814-0551 JGoldsteinWalsh@comcareme.org	Community Care
Hancock	Vacant	(207) 624-7900 amy.beaulieu@maine.gov	Sunrise Opportunities
Kennebec	Susan Brousseau	(207) 922-4600 x 6010 sbrousseau@chcs-me.org	Community Health & Counseling Services
Penobscot	Katelyn Giroux	(207) 852-9288 kgiroux@comcareme.org	Community Care
Washington	Vacant	(207) 624-7900 amy.beaulieu@maine.gov	Sunrise Opportunities
York	Kate Sullivan and Emily Smolin	(207) 852-0257 ksullivan@comcareme.org	Community Care
		(207) 852-9745 esmolin@comcareme.org	



For More Information

General inquires:

eccpprogram.dhhs@maine.gov

Ph: 207.624.7991

Amy Beaulieu, LCSW
Maine ECCP® Program Manager
Office of Child & Family Services

Amy.Beaulieu@maine.gov

Ph: 207.441.8583

Website:

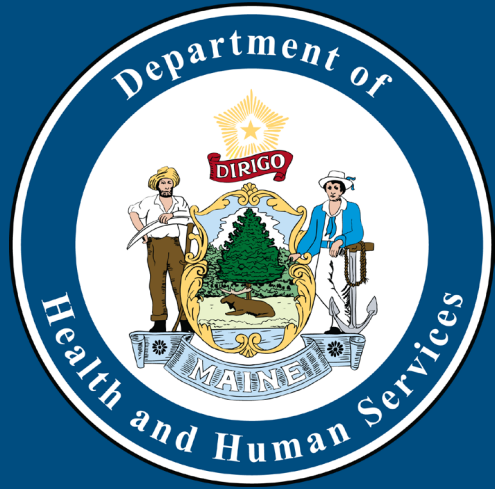
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/early-childhood-consultation-partnership>



All Maine Children & Families

**SAFE, STABLE,
HAPPY, HEALTHY**

Maine Department of Health and Human Services



Child Care Infrastructure Grant (CCIG)

Jessica Gerrish

Child Care Infrastructure Grant Manager

Phone: (207) 624-7938

jessica.gerrish@maine.gov

Child Care Infrastructure Grant (CCIG)

\$15 million dollars in federal funding has been allocated for the Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program through Governor Mills' Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan

Funds are intended to support providers to open, renovate, expand, and/or construct Family Child Care or Child Care Facilities

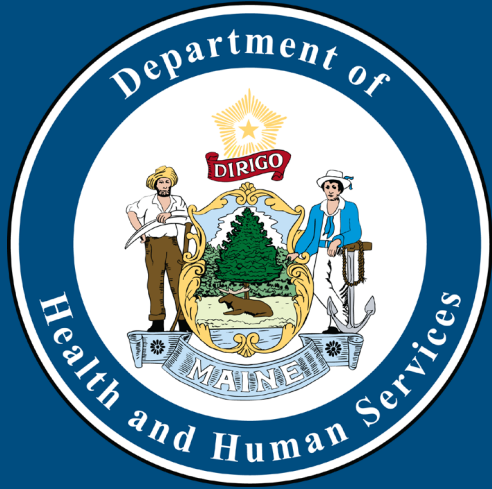
Funds are expected to add more than 3,500 new child care slots within the State

OCFS is administering the Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program through a partnership with CEI

As of this week there were 126 Family Child Care Providers and 191 Facilities with applications in process or submitted

For More Information Visit:

<https://www.ceimaine.org/maine-grants/child-care-infrastructure-grant-program/>



First4ME Early Care & Education Program

Megan Swanson

First4ME Early Care and Education Program Manager

Phone: (207) 446-2437

What is First4ME?

- Was included in LD 1712 **“An Act to Support Children’s Healthy Development and School Success.”** enacted July 2021.
- Looks to improve social, emotional, educational and health outcomes for children under six years of age through high quality early child care and education.
- A two-generation, community-based approach for a coordinated birth to kindergarten-entry program that integrates comprehensive resources and services into child care settings.
- Priority Focus:
 - ✓ Early education and care settings,
 - ✓ Family supports and stabilization
 - ✓ Kindergarten readiness and transition from a high quality, mixed delivery system of early care and education

First4ME Early Care & Education Program

- Consultation with Kennebec Valley Community Action Program/Educare of Central Maine on key learnings from the five-year demonstration model **Elevate Maine/Somerset**. Additional partners: Head Start and First10 Initiative
- **Up to five pilot sites** will be chosen through the competitive bid process for a three-year pilot project commencing **January 2023** with annual funding of \$2.9M
- First4ME supports a collaborative relationship between **community, families, child care providers, and local school administrative units**
- Non-profit organizations will facilitate partnerships through a coalition of key roles within each community and community coaches

Thank you

The slides of this webinar will be available for download by visiting the Office of Child and Family Services: Early Childhood Education Improvement website or by scanning the QR Code below.

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/data-reports-initiatives/system-improvements-initiatives/early-childhood-education-improvement>

