

Senate Bill 2012

Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chairman

Early Childhood | January 16, 2023

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.

| Health & Human Services

What happens during early childhood lays the foundation for school and life success.

WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE, LIFELONG IMPACT



95% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE*

DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF LIFE, EMOTIONALLY NOURISHING RELATIONSHIPS LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELL-BEING²



0 1 2 3 4 5

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF CENTER-BASED INFANT CHILD CARE IN ND IS MORE THAN THE AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES AT A PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY³



CENTER-BASED INFANT CARE **\$9,182**



PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY TUITION **\$8,660**

ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE IS A WORKFORCE ISSUE



60% OF THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE IS UNDER AGE 30*

44,000+ = THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN ND WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE

73% OF THESE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ALL PARENTS IN WORKFORCE²

MORE THAN HALF OF AMERICAN CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 SPEND MORE THAN



36 HOURS PER WEEK,

ON AVERAGE, IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS OUTSIDE THE HOME⁴



Who we serve

The Early Childhood section delivers programs and services so kids ages 0 – 5 from all backgrounds and circumstances, their families, and those who support them have the opportunity to realize their potential.

The Early Childhood Sections provides services to



Help families access early childhood services so they can go to school or participate in ND's workforce

- Child care referrals
- Navigating early intervention and early childhood special needs



Support early childhood experience providers in their day to day work with children

- Training and Professional Development
- Coaching on health, safety, inclusion
- Quality Improvement



Support children's optimal development and school readiness

- Developmental screening and referrals
- Supporting teachers in assessment and planning for child outcomes

Early Childhood Section Programs and Services



Licensing

Consumer protection that reduces the risk of children being cared for in an unsafe environment



Professional Development

Maintain workforce registry and vet trainers and training, offer technical assistance to potential and existing providers



Quality

Operate quality improvement system, maintain early childhood standards, support inclusive child care



Best in Class

Support to offer quality experiences in the year before kindergarten focused on child outcomes



Family Support and Education

Consumer ed, child care assistance and referrals, early intervention and special education, head start collaboration



EC Operations

CCDBG CCDF state plan, EC technology coordination and support

In ND early childhood is a mixed delivery system, involving both public and private partners using both federal and state funds

Human Services Division

Early Childhood

Children & Family Services

- Home Visitation
- Child Protection
- Abuse Prevention

Developmental Disabilities

- Early Intervention
- In home supports

Economic Assistance

- Child Care Assistance Program

Training and Early Childhood Supports

Trainers, coaches, mentors, consultants

- Health and wellness
- Business success
- Quality improvement
- Inclusive child care

Consumer education resource and referral

Early Childhood Experience Providers

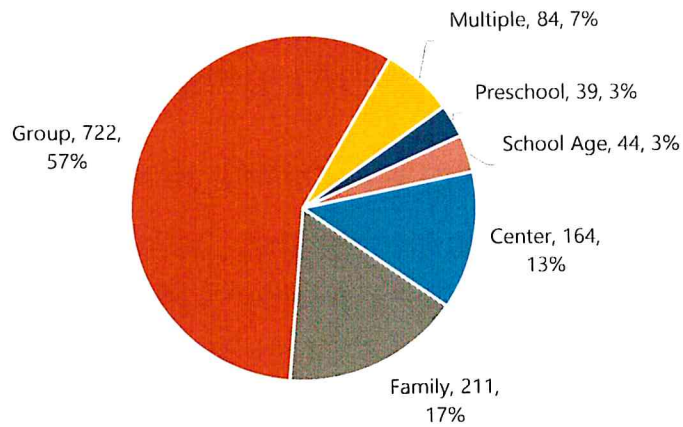
- Early childhood programs including center and home based programs
- Public School PreK
- Early Childhood Special Education services
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Home visiting providers
- Developmental Disabilities and Early Intervention providers

ND Department of Public Instruction

- Office of Specialized Services
- PK-12 Vision
- K-12 coordinating council
- Comprehensive State Literacy Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Family Engagement Council

Early Childhood by the Numbers

1,264 Licensed Early Childhood Programs



7,523

Growing Futures members

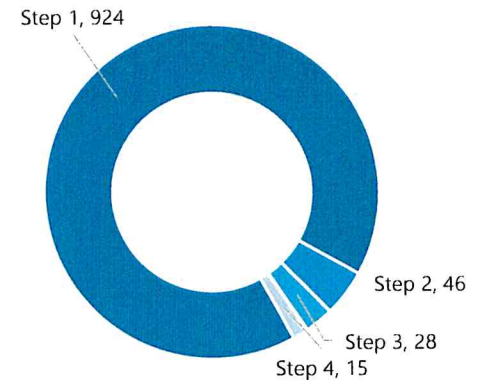
1,000+

Coaching hours delivered by our contracted partners

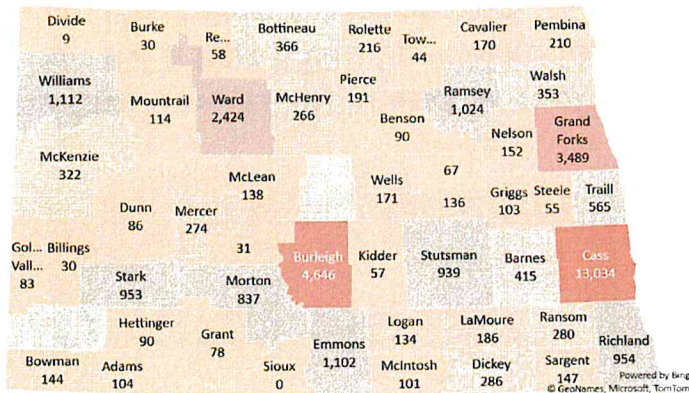
3,179

Children supported by IDEA Part C Early Intervention

1,013 Quality Rated Programs



Licensed Child Care Capacity – 36,866



1,653

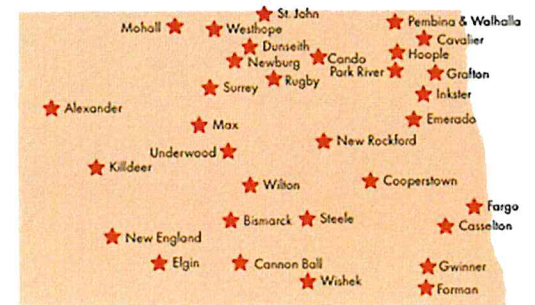
Children supported by IDEA Part B 619 services

1,117

Waterford Upstart households representing all but two counties

Data current as of December 2022

33 Best in Class Programs 2022-23



Working Better Together

Early Childhood Family and School Engagement Unit

- IDEA Part B 619 Special Ed for 3-5 year olds
- Head Start Collaboration

Developmental Disabilities

- IDEA Part C Early Intervention for Birth through 35 months

Healthy and Safe Communities

- Special Health Services Unit

DPI Office of Specialized Services

Benefits to North Dakotans

Strong collaboration and co-leadership of the Interagency Coordinating Council connect early intervention services and prevention awareness for children with disabilities and at-risk children ages 0 to five at more touchpoints.



On the Horizon: Working Better Together in 2023-25



**HHS-EC Family & School
Engagement Unit**

+

HHS-HSC Men's Health Unit

Working together to explore opportunities to bring fatherhood initiatives to families served by Head Start and early childhood services providers

21-23 Budget helped give ND children ages 0 to 5 an opportunity to realize their full potential



New early childhood section

- Coordinated Early Childhood supports and consistency in approach to serve the mixed delivery system



Best in Class program

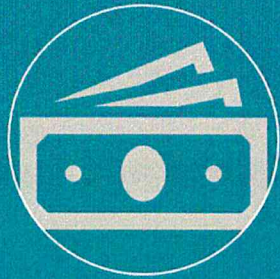
- Pilot year one: 23 grantees, 28 sections, 371 children
- Pilot year two: 33 grantees, 44 sections, 544 children



Support for EC providers

- Child Care Stabilization
- Workforce Incentives and Stipends
- Child Care Licensing system

Continued progress requires a bold and comprehensive strategy



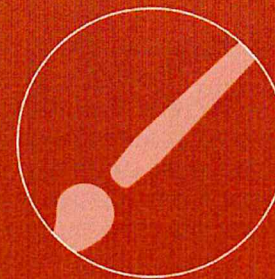
Affordability

Connect more working families to child care assistance to keep the cost of child care within 7% of household income



Availability

Make it easier for working families to find child care when and where they need it



Quality

Help kids realize their potential by supporting quality early childhood experiences



Infrastructure

Criminal Background Checks | Licensing Processes | Workforce Registry | Coaching & Professional Development | Child Care Assistance portal

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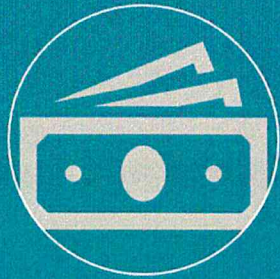
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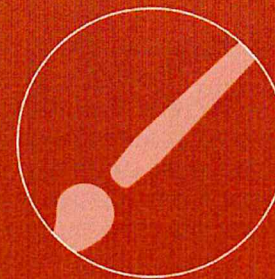
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Continued progress includes an enhanced focus on early childhood access, affordability and quality



Best in Class

Expanding opportunities in the year before kindergarten ensuring every child whose family is interested has access



Inclusive Child Care

Business solutions, facility grants and resources to create environments for children with special needs



Support for Sustainable Child Care

Grants, incentives, training, and shared service resources with focus on infant toddler care and meeting quality standards



Early Childhood Career Path

Partnerships with CTE, K-12, and Higher Education to offer on-the-job training and certification in early childhood careers



Support for Working Parents

Partnerships with employers to offer child care benefits and find creative solutions for parents working non-typical hours. Expanding Child Care Assistance Program to more families and increasing parental choice by creating quality-based payment tiers in the Child Care Assistance Program.

Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,824,550	\$5,905,524	\$9,730,074
Operating	585,522	93,701	679,223
Grants	10,152,967	35,950,000	46,102,967
Total	\$14,563,039	\$41,949,225	\$56,512,264

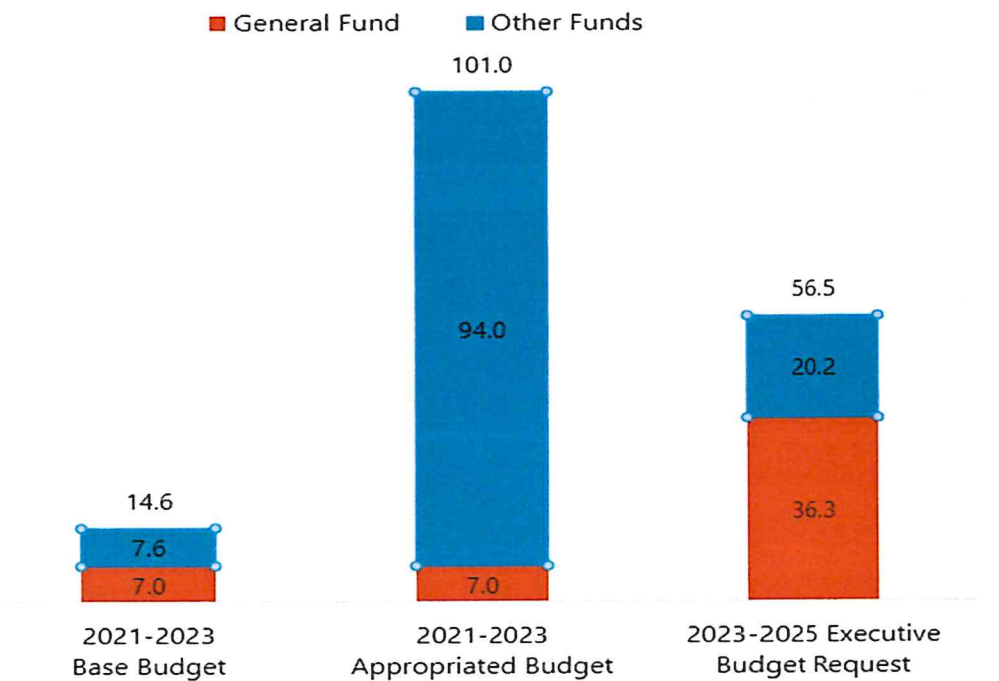
General Fund	\$6,960,072	\$29,333,422	\$36,293,494
Federal Funds	7,422,479	(203,709)	7,218,770
Other Funds	180,488	12,819,512	13,000,000
Total Funds	\$14,563,039	\$41,949,225	\$56,512,264

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	19.00	28.00	47.00
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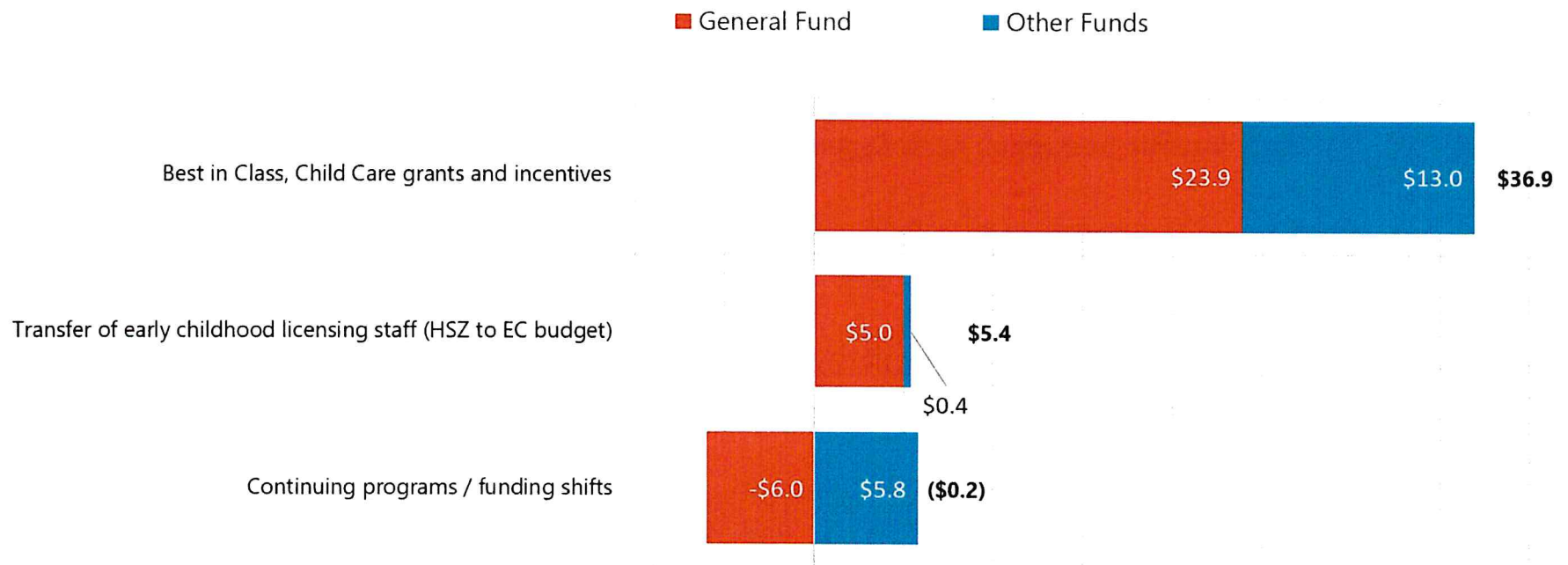
Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION **\$ 41.9 MILLION**

- 2021-2023 base budget reflects funding from CFS and DPI
- 2021- 2023 appropriated budget includes federal COVID funding designated for early childhood (appropriated during both regular and special session)
- 2023 – 2025 executive budget request includes increase in state funds to enhance impact and transfer of licensing staff budget from HSZ to EC



Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)



Key Takeaway



Making strategic investments in early childhood will make a difference for North Dakota families and businesses.

- ✓ **Bolster the supply and affordability** of child care
- ✓ **Support quality** early childhood experiences
- ✓ Make **non-standard hour care** available
- ✓ **Allow parents to work**
- ✓ Help local businesses **overcome workforce challenges**



Contact information

Kay Larson

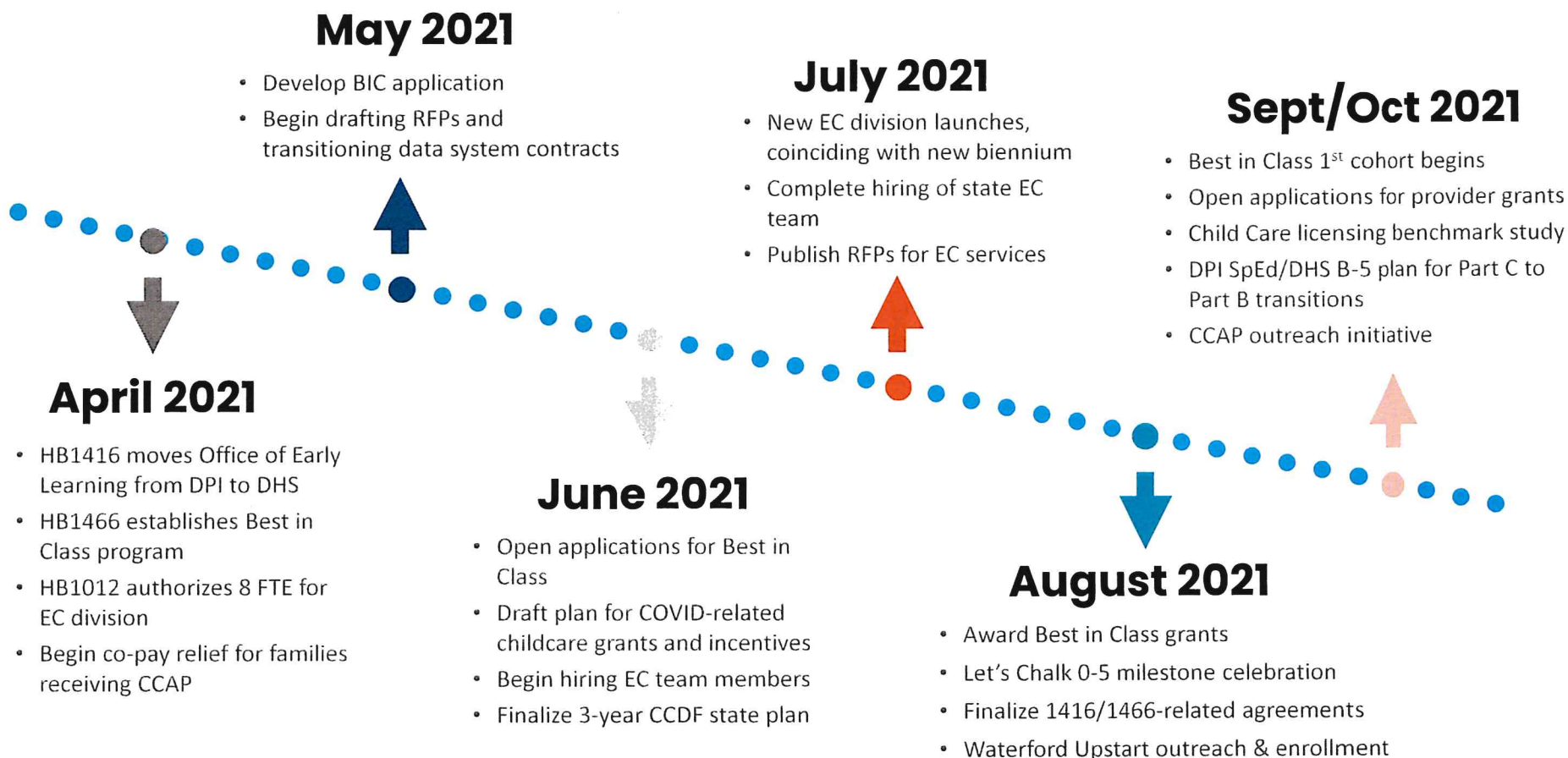
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<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/cfs/early-childhood-services>

APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

July 2021 to Oct 2021



APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

Nov 2021-June 2022



APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

July – Dec 2022

August 2022

- Prepare content for website conversion
- Launch Best in Class 2022-2023 cohort

October/November 2022

- CCL training for Licensing Specialists
- Promote new self service portal for child care assistance
- Author a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant application



July 2022

- 2022/23 Best in Class cohort begins
- Research partner assists Best in Class programs to market and recruit their community
- Open grant applications for workforce retention, training and career path incentives
- ECIDS Charter and Executive Steering Committee launch

September 2022

- Launch September QRIS Bright & Early ND Cohort
- Provide staff support to Lt. Governor and Early Childhood Council
- Convene Early Childhood Special Education Directors for training and networking around IDEA

December 2022

- Launch CCL
- CCL training for child care providers