



# MAYOR'S CABINET FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## *Co-Chairs*

Luke Bronin, Mayor  
Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent

## *Staff Liaisons*

Kimberly Oliver, Director  
Nancy Ortiz, Interim Liaison

**April 30, 2021 at 3:00 pm**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Meeting ID: 858 5594 0815  
Passcode: 362801

Join Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855940815?pwd=RXJLaWR4TFZWNkhtRVBpR09KbFBObDZ09>

To call-in only:  
1 (646) 876-9923

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **Meeting Objectives:**

- Receive updates
- Approve School Readiness and Quality Enhancement grant awards

### **Meeting Materials:**

- Minutes from September 11, 2020
- Staff report
- Meeting presentation

### **Agenda:**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of minutes for September 11, 2020**
- 4. Administrative Updates**
  - 4.1. Co-Chair Reports
  - 4.2. Staff Report (Written report provided in lieu of verbal report out.)
- 5. Business Agenda**
  - 5.1. Recommended Action: Approve staff's recommendation to award slots to early learning providers for a total of \$10,373,308
  - 5.2. Recommended Action: Approve staff's recommended quality enhancement plan for the Quality Enhancement grant for a total of \$112,523
- 6. Announcements**
- 7. Adjournment**

**Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children  
Regular Meeting on September 11, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

- 1 Call to order:** A meeting of the Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children was virtually on September 11, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.
- 2 Roll Call**
  - 2.1 Cabinet Attendees**
    - Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent and Co-Chair
    - Thea Montanez, Chief Operating Officer, City of Hartford (on behalf of Mayor Bronin, Co-Chair)
    - Liany Arroyo, City of Hartford Health & Human Services
    - Leslie Carrillo, HPS McKinney-Vento Liaison
    - Paul Dworkin, CCMC Office of Community Child Health
    - Marie Jarry, Hartford Public Library
    - Jennifer Gifford, United Way of Central and Northeastern CT (on behalf of Paula Gilberto)
  - 2.2 Members Not in Attendance:** Minal Kulkarni, Parent; Barbara Jo Warner, Director, Capitol Child Development Center
- 3 Approval of Minutes:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes for August 22 and November 12, 2019.
- 4 Administrative Updates:** The updates were provided in written form.
- 5 Business Agenda**
  - 5.1.1 It was moved and seconded to approve staff's recommendation to award slots to early learning providers for a total of \$9,009,362. It passed unanimously.
  - 5.1.2 It was moved and seconded to approve staff's recommendation to award funding to vendors for a total of \$112,523. It passed unanimously.
  - 5.1.3 It was moved and seconded to approve the waiver for variance in hours of service such that programs have the option to operate for a reduced number of hours per day for each space type. It passed unanimously.
  - 5.1.4 It was moved and seconded to approve Catholic Charities' change in program site location from the Therapeutic Learning Center to St. Cyril and Methodius. It passed unanimously.
  - 5.1.5 It was moved and seconded to approve a change in the Bylaws of the Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children such that there is an addition to the section titled "Decision Making" that states the co-chairs are able to approve a resolution or action with the purpose of sustaining the operations of the Cabinet, partner providers, or programs to support the children and families of Hartford on behalf of the Cabinet during times of emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of Connecticut. It passed unanimously.
  - 5.1.6 The Kindergarten-eligible children policy was reviewed.
  - 5.1.7 The Hartford resident 50/50 policy was reviewed.
  - 5.1.8 School Readiness providers shared re-opening plans and challenges.
- 6 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.



# MAYOR'S CABINET FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## *Co-Chairs*

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## *Staff Liaisons*

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## **STAFF REPORT**

1. **Co-chair Approvals on Behalf of the Cabinet.** On September 11, 2020, the Cabinet approved an addition to the bylaws such that the co-chairs are able to approve a resolution or action with the purpose of sustaining the operations of the Cabinet, partner providers, or programs to support the children and families of Hartford on behalf of the Cabinet during times of emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

The following were approved by the co-chairs to date:

- Approve the program site locations for Catholic Charities Child Development Center such that the approved locations include Paraiso Infantil, St. Cyril and Methodius, and the Therapeutic Learning Center.
- Approve the Part Day spaces and remote learning for all Hartford providers that were previously approved for School Readiness funding on September 11, 2020.
- Approve the new location for Pequenin Children Multicultural Readiness Academy at 37 Grace Street, Hartford, CT.

## **2. Office of Early Childhood Grants**

- 2.1. **School Readiness.** Due to the pandemic, OEC is considering FY22 as a second renewal year. Consequently, a renewal RFP was released (as opposed to a comprehensive RFP). The current Hartford grantees are eligible and have submitted their proposals to City of Hartford – DFCYR. The total award is \$10,373,308 for providers plus \$100,000 for administrative support.
- 2.2. **School Readiness Quality Enhancement.** OEC has released the RFP. Hartford will continue to receive \$112,523 for FY22.
- 2.3. **Child Day Care.** The City of Hartford received a letter of intent for \$3,156,268.10 for September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022. Kim Oliver and Nancy Ortiz met with OEC to share a strategy to increase the number of infant-toddler slots. OEC agreed with the strategy.
- 2.4. **CT CARES for Child Care.** The City of Hartford was awarded an additional \$43,000 grant for Family Child Care Network for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. (This is addition to the

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initial \$35,000 grant for July 1 to September 30, 2020.) To date, there are 72 family child care providers in the Hartford network.

3. **Staffing.** The School Readiness Liaison position is expected to post in May 2021. Nancy Ortiz continues in the role of Interim Liaison.

#### 4. **Initiatives**

- 4.1. **Hartford Talks.** Hartford continues to participate in year two of the replication project for Providence Talks as one of five cities in the country receiving a grand award from Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities. The Village for Families and Children's Words Count leads the project's home visitation component, and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, led by United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, acts the advisory group for Hartford Talks. Hartford has expanded its work to family child care providers, parents, and Hartford Public Library and is expected to exceed its targeted outcomes.
- 4.2. **Lectio.** Phase 2 of Harvard's Lectio Institute will conclude this month. Participants include City of Hartford – DFCYR, Community Renewal Team, CREC, Fund for Greater Hartford, Hartford Public Library, Hartford Public Schools, and United Way of Central and Northeastern CT. The goal is to improve literacy outcomes and strengthen collaboration on citywide literacy efforts.
- 4.3. **National League of Cities' Cities Supporting the Early Childhood Workforce Initiative.** In 2018, Hartford continues to participate as one of the project cities. Recent webinars and network resources are focused on advocacy and alignment of local government strategies, federal funding, and sustainability of early learning/childcare workforce.
- 4.4. **Health Enhancement Community (HEC)/North Hartford Triple Aim Collaborative.** The North Hartford Triple Aim Collaborative, a place-based collaboration among health-focused leaders, residents, and organizations to improve wellbeing in North Hartford and led by United Way of Central and Northeastern CT is advancing a set of interrelated policy, system and environment interventions including HEC to increase wellbeing for North Hartford families and create a healthier Hartford. Current focus areas of Hartford HEC – early care and childhood education, family supports, and clinical care – are viewed through an equity lens with community engagement and leadership as key strategies.
- 4.5. **Population Change.** Supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Pop Change aims to unify multi-sector, place-based efforts and sustain efforts towards population level outcomes as indicated by child wellbeing. Through shared learning and engagement with government and philanthropy, the goal is to build the collective capacity of individuals,

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organizations, networks, and communities for improved outcomes. By participating in this space, Hartford is able to move faster collectively to solve our most pressing challenges at scale. Pop Change held a launch event to create a practice space for place-based population change initiatives to strengthen their capacity, networks, and the field. At the event, we were able to meet other people in the network, discuss ways to collaborate and learn from each other, and hear about ways to connect with the Institute.

**4.6. Learning Hubs.** The City of Hartford partnered with Hartford Public Schools and community organizations to offer learning hub locations across the city. This program was designed for families that selected in-person learning for their children and may be adversely impacted by COVID-19-related facility closures.

**4.7. Promise Neighborhoods.** Connecticut Children's Medical Center submitted an application to the U. S. Department of Education in partnership with the City of Hartford, United Way of Central and Northeastern CT, the Village for Families and Children, and other partners to design, implement, and evaluate the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (NHAP). A multi-sector, comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated prenatal through career pipeline, NHAP helps children reach their full potential by improving academic and developmental outcomes and long-term well-being and quality of life. Leveraging existing assets, infrastructure, and resources, Connecticut Children's will create a network that includes the community, public, private, and philanthropic sectors and ensures universal access to community-based programs and services.

A few stats about the proposal development process and grant application that demonstrate our collective commitment to and investment in the North Hartford Promise Zone:

**Proposal Development Process -**

- 8 stakeholder update meetings
- About 40 1:1 meetings with partners
- 15 (scheduled) meetings with the Connecticut Children's Office of Sponsored programs

**Proposal –**

- Total Grant Request: \$29,737,423
- Total Match: \$36,895,603 (state, philanthropic, and organizational/institutional funds)
- 15 subcontracts to partner organizations
- Budget justification: 158 pages
- Budget narrative: 76 pages (attached)
- Letters of support: CREC, Capital Workforce Partners, Help Me Grow National Center, and Larson, Blumenthal, and Murphy

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- Submission packet (including all DOE required documents, MOUs, consortium letters, narrative, attachments, budget narrative, etc.): 632 pages

**5. Advocacy.****5.1. Early Childhood Advocacy Day.** The statewide advocacy day was held on April 14, 2020.

Both the Governor and OEC Commissioner attended. The Hartford cohort met in a breakout room, but, unfortunately, none of the Hartford delegation were in attendance. Consequently, the Hartford group asked that DFCYR invite Speaker Ritter, Senator McCrory, and Representative Hall to our Hartford network meeting on Thursday, April 22nd between 9 and 10:30 am.

**5.2. Meeting with State Senator Doug McCrory.** Senator McCrory accepted our invitation to discuss [H.B. No. 6558](#), which, at that time, was voted out of the Education Committee and subsequently in Appropriations. The group requested a graduated increase over the next two years of \$1,500 per year for full time spaces, per child, to cover the increase in minimum wage and other costs of maintaining quality programs for the children and families we serve.



# Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children

## Today's Agenda

### Administrative Updates

- Co-chair reports
- Staff report

### Business Agenda

- Approval of FY22 School Readiness grant awards
- Approval of FY22 Quality Enhancement plan





## Administrative Updates

- Mayor Bronin
- Superintendent Torres-Rodriguez
- Staff report  
(Please see written report.)

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## FY22 School Readiness Grant

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children, in its role as the local School Readiness Council for Hartford, Connecticut, approve the staff's recommendation to award slots to early learning providers as follows:

Program	FD/FY	SD/SY	Amount
Boys & Girls	30		\$267,720
Catholic Charities	117		\$1,044,108
Capitol Child Development Center	22		\$196,328
CREC - River Street	5		\$44,620
Community Renewal Team	125		\$1,115,500
DFCYR – City of Hartford	122		\$1,088,728
Hartford Neighborhood Centers	32		\$285,568
Hartford Public Schools	0	365	\$2,190,000
King's Chapel	20		\$178,480
Pequenin	72		\$642,528
Pride & Joy	30		\$267,720
Salvation Army	118		\$1,053,032
Trinity	28		\$249,872
Village	20		\$178,480
Women's League	145		\$1,293,980
YWCA	31		\$276,644
	<b>917</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>\$10,373,308</b>

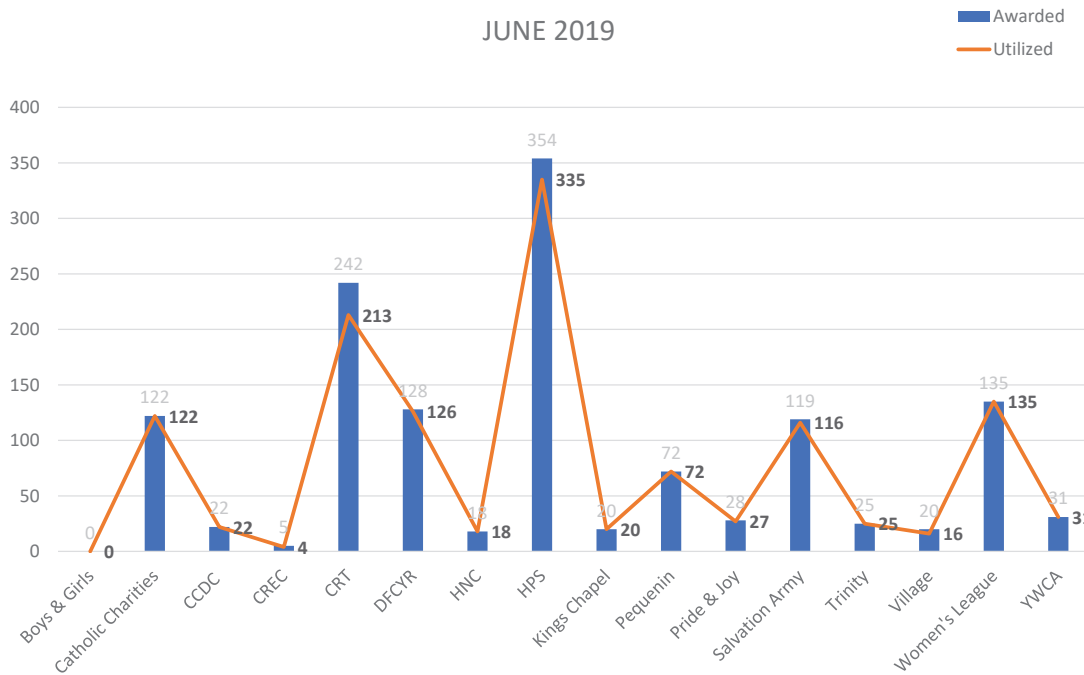
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# Utilization

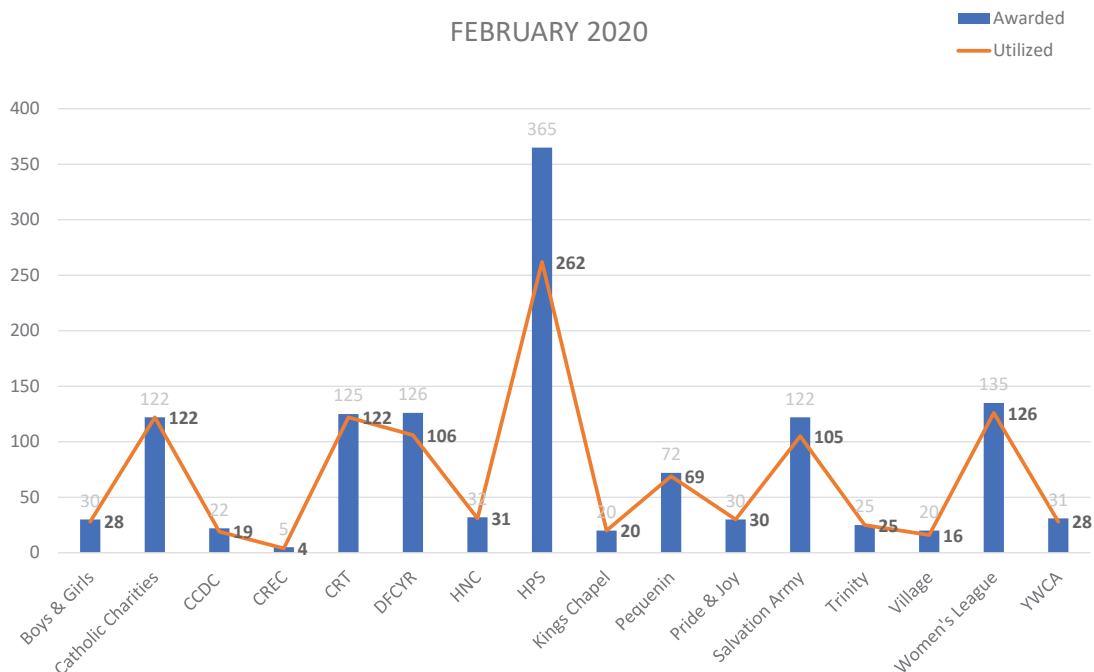


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# Utilization

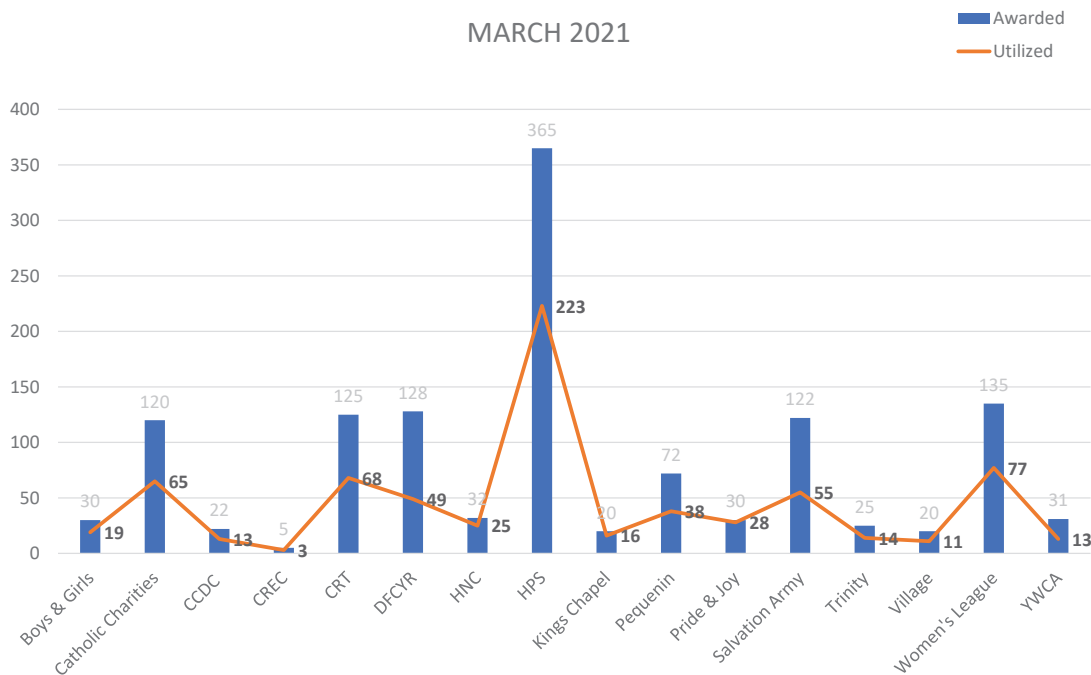


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# Utilization



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## COVID-19 and Other Considerations

- There is no substantiated data for children entering kindergarten in 2020.
- Class size was lowered such that, in most instances, providers were not able to achieve 100% utilization.
- While onsite visits did not take place, our coaches and monitors supported providers throughout.
  - Individual coaching goals were developed and tracked.
  - Peer Learning Communities were held for Administrators and Curriculum Specialists.
  - Providers participated in Hartford Talks.
  - Various communications took place via Zoom, phone, and email.
- Moving forward, the City of Hartford's Child Day Care grant will be used to increase infant-toddlers spaces in Hartford.

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Salvation Army	-4 slots 118		\$1,053,032
Trinity	+3 slots 28		\$249,872
Village	20		\$178,480
Women's League	+10 slots 145		\$1,293,980
YWCA	31		\$276,644
	<b>917</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>\$10,373,308</b>

## FY22 School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant – Priority

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children, in its role as the local School Readiness Council for Hartford, Connecticut, approve the staff's recommended quality enhancement plan as follows:

Description of activity	Goals	Vendors
Coaching/Monitoring Team Meetings	To build common language of early childhood practices and support for Instructional Leaders and Administrators that align with City and State priorities.	Donna Rooney Richard Sussman Sue Vivian
Peer Learning Groups and Coaching for Administrators and Instructional Leaders	To increase skills of center/school administrators and instructional leaders for the purposes of improving child outcomes.	
Coaching for Infant/Toddler Programs on early literacy	To improve the learning environments and teacher practices that promote early literacy skills in infants and toddlers.	
Technical assistance and Coaching for Community Leaders and Champions	To increase skills of early childhood education leaders, champions, and advocates for the purposes of improving child outcomes.	

# Announcements

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# Thank you!