

## Home Based Child Care Providers in Greater Hartford

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### Introduction

The earliest years of a child's life are a crucial time for cognitive and social emotional development. We know that the gains achieved for children in terms of school readiness hinge on a child's involvement in a "high quality" care setting to sustain that child's readiness for school and ensure higher academic achievement into their elementary school years. As a state, it is crucial to understand the landscape of child care providers, especially the way that home-based providers fit into the network of center-based facilities to ensure all children have access to high quality care as early as possible. We also need to understand the home-based provider landscape so we can ensure these providers have access to the available network of early care and education resources.

The science and the policy are converging nicely. Now more than ever, advocates are focused on improving the landscape of child care providers to give all children, and especially children living in concentrated poverty, the opportunity to grow and thrive. As a state, we have invested in an early childhood system in earnest in the last three years. **Though in the past child care policy has been oriented towards how best to provide workforce support for needy families, the federal government, in reauthorizing the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), has openly recognized child care policy should be about child development as well as workforce support.** New provisions in CCDBG mandate that all subsidized child care must be of high quality, so that it can promote school readiness as well as support working families.

The purpose of this project is to understand one substantial piece of the child care landscape: home-based providers, that is, licensed family child care providers and kith and kin providers in greater Hartford. Home-based child care providers are part of the larger network of providers across the state of Connecticut but they are often considered separate and in ways stand apart from center-based facilities. We use four questions to explain and analyze the home-based provider landscape and to situate this group of providers in the larger early childhood system. While this discussion is focused on 29 towns in the greater Hartford region, we use this report as an opportunity to contextualize the state of home-based child care in Hartford and compare with the rest of the state when applicable.

1. In the greater Hartford region, how many licensed family child care providers exist and whom do they serve?
2. In the greater Hartford region, how many licensed family child care providers are receiving Care4Kids and who are the families receiving these subsidies?
3. What are the technical needs of family child care providers?
4. In the greater Hartford region, how many kith and kin providers are receiving Care4Kids subsidies and who are the families they serve?

## Background

In Connecticut, families and parents have considerable choice when arranging care for their children. As they decide on the type of care they need, families must navigate several pragmatic concerns. Chief among their concerns is typically the cost of child care, the convenience of scheduled care hours, location and the availability of transportation to the provider, their level of familiarity with the setting and provider, and the perceived quality of the setting. All of these factors are at play when families decide on the type of provider – that is, center-based, family child care, or kith and kin – as well as the specific provider. It is also possible that the familiarity of a family member and their home presents as a desirable child care arrangement for families who work outside of traditional business hours. In the report that follows, we explore the role that home-based providers play in the landscape of child care providers.

In this section, we define terms used throughout this report to establish a common understanding of the child care providers and families.

### *Age categories*

**Infant/toddler:** For purposes of its annual Child Care Availability Survey, the United Way defines infant/toddlers in home-based care as children ages 0-23 months.<sup>1</sup> Care4Kids defines infants/toddlers as children under the age of 3.<sup>2</sup>

**Preschool:** For purposes of its annual Child Care Availability Survey, the United Way defines preschoolers as children between the ages of 2 and 5. Care4Kids defines preschoolers as children between the ages of 3 and 5.

**School-age:** For purposes of its annual Child Care Availability Survey, the United Way defines school-age children as children ages 5 through 12. Care4Kids defines school age children as over the age of 6.

### *Care settings*

**Center-based providers:** Center-based programs are private programs operating in institutional spaces. Center-based programs must have a license to operate their program and many centers also seek accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or accreditation from another source.

**Home-based providers:** Home-based providers operate out of private family homes. There are two types of home-based providers: family child care providers and kith/kin providers, also known as family, friend and neighbor care.

**Family child care:** Family child care providers are home-based providers that operate a licensed program for infant/toddlers, preschoolers or school aged children. Licensing guidelines limit the number of children cared for in a family child care setting. Family child care providers can receive accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

**Kith/kin providers:** Kith/kin providers are home-based providers that care for infant/toddlers, preschoolers, or school-age children. These providers may be a family member or close family friend. Kith/kin providers exist largely informally; however, in order to receive a Care4Kids subsidy, these providers must register with the Care4Kids program. The state will reimburse these kith/kin providers for care during the hours parents are working.

### *Licensing*

**Licensed:** Programs that have obtained a license from the Office of Early Childhood's Division of Licensing have met a series of standards to operate their program. The regulations specify the qualifications for staff members, professional development expectations, health and safety regulations, facilities standards and services provided by the child care center. There are separate licensing requirements for center-based programs and for family child care providers. Once a program obtains a license, that license is valid for

multiple years. Programs are also subject to an inspection annually and this inspection is not associated with their license.

Kith/kin providers are not required to have a license. However, the newly reauthorized Child Care Development Fund (the program that funds the Care4Kids subsidy program) requires that all kith/kin providers receiving a state subsidy must now meet minimum pre-professional health and safety standards and also pass a background check. Additionally, to receive Care4Kids subsidies, kith/kin providers must register with the Office of Early Childhood.

**License-exempt programs:** There are some child care programs that are not subject to the same requirements as licensed programs. Examples of license-exempt programs includes preschool programs operating in public school buildings and child care programs operating in religious institutions.

#### *Care 4 Kids*

Care4Kids is a program sponsored by the Office of Early Childhood that is designed as work support for low income families. Care4Kids is funded by a combination of federal funds (the Child Care Development Fund) and state funds. Connecticut is bound by federal regulations governing the use of the Child Care Development Fund. In order to access Care4Kids funds, parents and families must submit an application and met certain qualifications regarding their family income and their employment status. If their application is approved, in order to use Care4Kids funds, families/parents must find providers that will accept the Care4Kids subsidy. Center-based programs, family child care providers, and kith/kin providers may all accept Care4Kids subsidies, though they are not required to. Center-based programs and family child care providers accepting Care4Kids must meet specific requirements including licensure from the Office of Early Childhood. Kith/kin providers must register with the Care4Kids program to receive a subsidy.

## Family Child Care

### *Overview*

The purpose of the section that follows is to present data on the licensed family child care providers in greater Hartford.<sup>3</sup> In Table 1, we present the total enrollment by age and by town for children in licensed family child care settings.<sup>4</sup> We include the total number of programs and we report the number of providers who speak languages other than English as well as the number of providers who request materials in Spanish, by town.

Table 1 refers to the universe of children enrolled in licensed family child care providers across all age categories in greater Hartford. According to our estimates, currently, 619 licensed family child care providers are caring for 1,868 children across all age categories in the greater Hartford region. Almost half of the children in licensed family child care settings are in the preschool age category. Twenty-nine percent (549) of children in family child care settings are infants or toddlers and 24% (441) are school age children. According to United Way 211 Child Care, approximately 7,658 children are enrolled statewide in family child care settings, which means that providers in greater Hartford are serving one quarter of those children.<sup>5</sup>

These providers are serving children from diverse backgrounds. Table 1 details providers' requests for materials in Spanish as well as which providers communicate in languages other than English. **Approximately 21% of family child care providers request materials in Spanish (some request materials only in Spanish).** Roughly 9% of providers speak a language other than English or Spanish, including (in order of frequency) French, Portuguese, American Sign Language, Italian, Polish and Hindi.

While the greater Hartford region currently enrolls 1,868 children in licensed family child care settings, according to data collected, providers have additional space to serve children in their communities. The column in Table 1 indicating "Enr. + Vac." shows the enrollment plus the vacant spaces as indicated by each provider. This is a closer indication of the provider capacity because this number indicates how many children providers are willing to take in their program. Across greater Hartford, our data indicates that there are 3,569 spaces across age categories. **That is, there is 50 percent more capacity in the existing provider landscape. Vacancies are concentrated in programs serving preschool and school-age children while available capacity for infant/toddlers is smaller.**

Table 1: Family Child Care Enrollment by age and by town, Greater Hartford region<sup>1</sup>

TOWN	Infant Day Care Homes <sup>1</sup>			Preschool Day Care Homes			School Age Day Care Homes <sup>1</sup>			All Programs		Family Child Care Providers who speak English (Only)		Family Child Care Providers who speak Spanish (Only)		Family Child Care Providers who speak other Language		Other languages		
	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr	Vac	# of Providers	Enr
Andover	4	3	7	4	8	15	3	7	10	4		3	0	0	0	0	0	1		American Sign Language
Avon	4	2	6	5	8	18	4	0	9	5		4	0	0	0	0	0	1		Persian
Bloomfield	24	25	39	27	37	89	20	22	48	26		19	5	1	1	1	1	1		French
Bolton	4	4	4	6	6	6	5	1	9	7		7	0	0	0	0	0	0		French
Canton	4	4	5	5	9	15	4	4	8	5		4	0	0	0	0	0	1		French
East Granby	1	2	2	1	2	4	1	3	3	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
East Hartford	66	48	91	66	70	164	57	40	118	69		41	16	5	5	7	7	0		American Sign Language, French, Ghana, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu
East Windsor	8	7	9	8	13	19	9	9	21	8		7	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Ellington	16	14	23	16	28	45	11	8	21	15		13	0	0	0	0	2	2		American Sign Language
Enfield	44	34	47	44	53	97	42	29	69	37		33	1	0	0	0	3	3		French, Italian, Spanish
Farmington	5	4	6	5	6	13	3	6	7	5		4	0	0	0	0	1	1		Portuguese
Glastonbury	20	23	28	20	33	47	17	11	27	20		17	1	0	0	0	2	2		Hindi, Polish
Granby	7	7	7	7	16	21	5	6	10	6		5	0	0	0	0	0	0		American Sign Language, Indian
Hartford	128	106	185	129	158	348	119	89	273	126		49	32	42	42	3	3	3		American Sign Language, Indian
Hebron	10	12	19	10	13	38	9	12	26	11		11	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Manchester	44	52	66	49	76	134	35	29	65	46		38	3	1	4	4	4	4		American Sign Language, French, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish
Marlborough	3	2	4	4	6	8	4	4	6	4		2	0	0	0	0	2	2		French, Italian
Newington	20	16	18	22	33	48	15	7	24	25		19	1	1	4	4	4	4		Polish, French, Portuguese
Rocky Hill	20	15	30	20	21	52	16	13	38	19		14	0	0	0	0	5	5		French, Italian, Tamil, Hindi
Simsbury	7	5	6	8	4	11	4	0	3	8		6	0	0	0	0	2	2		Hindi, Portuguese
Somers	3	0	6	3	2	12	3	2	9	3		3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
South Windsor	24	27	30	24	48	64	21	14	35	24		21	1	0	0	0	2	2		Portuguese
Suffield	8	7	10	8	12	23	8	9	18	7		7	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Tolland	20	24	27	20	48	62	19	29	37	20		18	0	0	0	0	2	2		American Sign Language, Portuguese
Vernon	24	25	30	24	36	59	21	16	28	24		18	3	0	0	0	3	3		Polish, French, German
West Hartford	26	22	36	28	42	76	24	12	48	30		17	6	2	5	5	2	2		French, Hebrew, Hindi, Portuguese
Wethersfield	16	17	26	16	23	38	13	18	27	18		15	1	1	1	1	1	1		Italian
Windsor	27	26	40	28	37	73	24	18	51	29		22	5	1	1	1	1	1		Polish
Windsor Locks	15	16	25	15	30	50	14	23	35	17		17	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1652</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>619</b>		<b>435</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>		
<b>Total children</b>			<b>1,868</b>																	

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> This data was collected from two sources. Columns B through G are drawn from United Way 211's Childcare Capacity/Availability/Enrollment Report, Fall 2014. The "#P" represents the number of licensed family day care providers and the "Enr." column represents enrollment at the time of the report. According to 2-1-1 Child Care, in collecting this data, the response rate for providers was 91%. Columns H-M were supplied by Sherri Sutra and the United Way.

<sup>2</sup> Infant homes can accommodate children ages 0-23 months and Toddler homes can accommodate children ages 18-23 months. As of Fall 2014 when this report was generated, there were no identified Toddler Day Care Homes (and as such, no children enrolled in these settings).

<sup>3</sup> School Aged Day Care Homes may be providing wrap around services (including before care and after care) to three- and four-year-olds attending preschool during the school day.

### Highest utilization

Children served by licensed family child care providers in the greater Hartford region are concentrated in four towns. In Table 2, Panels A-C, we present the enrollment data by town, looking at the towns with greatest enrollment in family child care settings. Over 40% of all children in greater Hartford family child care settings are located in four towns: Hartford, Manchester, East Hartford, and Enfield.

Table 2: Highest Family Child Care Utilization by age and by town, Greater Hartford region<sup>1</sup>

Panel A	Infant Day Care Homes <sup>2</sup>				Panel B	Preschool Day Care Homes				Panel C	School Age Day Care Homes			
TOWN	# of Providers	Enr	Enr. + Vac.	Rate <sup>3</sup>	TOWN	# of Providers	Enr	Enr. + Vac.	Rate <sup>4</sup>	TOWN	# of Providers	Enr	Enr. + Vac.	Rate <sup>5</sup>
Hartford	128	106	185	2%	Hartford	129	158	348	5%	Hartford	119	89	273	1%
Manchester	44	52	66	2%	Manchester	49	76	134	5%	East Hartford	57	40	118	1%
East Hartford	66	48	91	3%	East Hartford	66	70	164	6%	Manchester	35	29	65	1%
Enfield	44	34	47	3%	Enfield	44	53	97	6%	Enfield	42	29	69	1%
Total	282	240	389	2%	Total	288	357	743	5%	Total	253	187	525	1%

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Source: This data was collected from United Way 211's Childcare Capacity/Availability/Enrollment Report, Fall 2014. The "#" represents the number of licensed family day care providers and the "Enr." column represents enrollment at the time of the report. According to 2-1-1 Child Care, in collecting this data, the response rate for providers was 91%.

<sup>2</sup> Infant homes can accommodate children ages 0-23 months and Toddler homes can accommodate children ages 18-23 months. As of Fall 2014 when this report was generated, there were no identified Toddler Day Care Homes (and as such, no children enrolled in these settings).

<sup>3</sup> We calculated enrollment rates using the total number of children under three found in the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B09001.

<sup>4</sup> We calculated enrollment rates using the total number of children ages three and four found in the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B09001.

<sup>5</sup> We calculated enrollment rates using the total number of children ages 5 through 11 found in the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B09001.

In Panel A, we provide detail on Infant Enrollment. Providers in Hartford, Manchester, East Hartford and Enfield are caring for between 2 and 3 percent of the total infant population in these towns. In Panel B, we list enrollment data for preschool age providers. These providers care for 5-6 percent of the preschool-age population in these towns. While providers caring for preschoolers in these towns currently enroll 357 children, if we consider enrollment and capacity (as detailed above), there is available space for 743 preschool-age children across these four towns. As for school-age children (detailed in Panel C), currently family child care providers are caring for 1% of the school-aged population though there is ample capacity in these programs for more children.

### Care4Kids Recipients

Demographic data on the children/families enrolled in family child care settings is not easy to obtain, but it is necessary in order to understand who tends to utilize a family child care arrangement. When we discussed utilization (in Tables 1 and 2), we considered the universe of children in the greater Hartford region. In this section, we focus specifically on a subset of children enrolled in family child care settings: children whose families receive Care4Kids subsidies.<sup>6</sup> Because these families must meet several requirements in order to qualify for the Care4Kids program, including earning below 50% of the state median income and maintaining stable employment, they are not necessarily representative of the family child care population as a whole. Nevertheless, these data provide useful information on one segment of the family child care population.

The Care4Kids subsidy covers a portion of the cost of child care; families are required, on a sliding scale, to contribute a portion of the program fee as well. The revised Child Care Development Fund plan, the federal program that funds the Care4Kids program, holds all providers to certain standards of quality. Providers accepting Care4Kids subsidies are subject to requirements including completion of pre-service orientation within first three months of operation, compliance with health and safety standards, submission of background check for providers, and completion of 18 hours of professional development annually.

In Table 3, we present data on licensed family child care providers receiving Care4Kids subsidies. In this table, we provide total enrollment by town, and break down enrollment by age of children. According to this table, 717

children in family child care settings in the greater Hartford region receive Care4Kids subsidies. This means that 38% of children in the Greater Hartford region in family child care settings receive Care4Kids. There are approximately 3,391 families receiving Care4Kids subsidies statewide, so with 717 Care4Kids recipients in greater Hartford, this means that 21% of Care4Kids recipients statewide are concentrated in greater Hartford licensed family child care settings. Of the greater Hartford families receiving Care4Kids subsidies, slightly more than half of the children are infants or toddlers, approximately 22% are preschool-age and 23% are school-age.

We also present the number of providers receiving Care4Kids who request materials in Spanish as the United Way does not collect additional demographic data on providers. The Care4Kids data is collected at the child/family level, so we are able to report how many subsidies are dispensed, but we are not able to present provider level data beyond the requests for materials in Spanish. There are 101 requests for materials in Spanish statewide from family child care providers receiving Care4Kids and one third of those requests come from greater Hartford, and more specifically, the city of Hartford.

**Table 3: Number of Children by Age and Town Receiving Care 4 Kids (C4K) in Family Child Care (FCC)<sup>1</sup>**

Town	Subtown (s)	# children FCC <sup>2</sup>	Infant/Toddler FCC	Preschool FCC	School Age FCC	C4K FCC <sup>3</sup> All Spanish
Andover		3	1	0	2	
Avon		0	0	0	0	
Bloomfield		26	12	7	7	*
Bolton		0	0	0	0	
Canton	Canton Center, Collinsville	0	0	0	0	
East Granby		0	0	0	0	
East Hartford		104	52	21	31	*
East Windsor	Broad Brook	9	7	1	1	
Ellington		7	3	2	2	
Enfield		14	6	4	4	
Farmington	Unionville	0	0	0	0	
Glastonbury	East Glastonbury, South Glastonbury	5	4	0	1	
Granby	North Granby	2	2	0	0	
Hartford		362	192	79	91	24
Hebron	Amston	6	3	16	2	
Manchester		55	31	0	8	*
Marlborough		1	1	3	0	
Newington		9	3	2	3	
Rocky Hill		4	2	0	0	
Simsbury	Tarriffville, Weatogue, West Simsbury	0	0	0	0	
Somers		0	0	1	0	
South Windsor		3	1	1	1	
Suffield	West Suffield	5	2	0	2	
Tolland		0	0	11	0	
Vernon	Rockville	28	15	1	2	
West Hartford		13	9	0	3	*
Wethersfield		13	10	8	3	*
Windsor	Wilson	37	19	3	10	
Windsor Locks		11	5		3	
Totals		717	380	160	176	30

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>This data is drawn from the Care 4 Kids report: Number of Children Paid by Age Category and Service Setting published December 2014. See <http://www.care4kids.com/files/2012/07/December-2014.pdf>. The data listed in Column G comes from the Office of Early Childhood.

<sup>2</sup>This column combines the total number of children receiving Care 4 Kids in either a group day care home or a family day care home. According to Sec. 19-77a of CT General Statute, a "group day care home" is a program that "meets the definition of a family day care home except that it operates in a facility other than a private family home." The "group day care home" programs are programmatically similar to family day care homes and as such, we count enrollment of Care 4 Kids recipients among them.

<sup>3</sup>This data has been supplied by Julie Bisi and the Office of Early Childhood. Single asterisk in this column denotes totals less than 5. A double asterisk denotes totals less than 10. Because it is not possible to report some individual town totals, we include a total for this catchment area at the bottom of the table as well as a statewide total for comparison. There are 101 programs statewide that request all Care 4 Kids Materials in Spanish.

### *Technical support*

With the new CCDF requirements, family child care providers will have to meet the same requirements with regard to program quality as center-based providers. They will also have to meet new and, in some cases, stricter standards regarding pre-service professional development and maintenance of their license. Family child care home licenses are effective for four years, and providers may renew their licenses by completing a renewal application and paying a fee. Each year the programs are inspected to ensure the quality of care.

In order to maintain the requisite high level of quality in terms of both staffing and facilities, licensed family child care providers may need technical support for capital improvements as well as opportunities for professional development. 211 Child Care, which is administered by the United Way, employs Early Childhood Specialists who provide technical support to licensed family child care providers. These Early Childhood Specialists hold a Master's degree in child development, education or a related field. Early Childhood Specialists research and create professional development support for child care providers and community groups and they also provide assistance to newly licensed family child providers. In Table 4, we present information gathered from the United Way to understand how frequent family child care providers engage Early Childhood Specialists and how frequently they schedule professional development opportunities.

Technical visits are arranged between United Way 211 and providers. During technical visits, Early Childhood Specialists survey a provider's needs and discuss suggestions for training or equipment based on the children currently in care. Specialists conduct 40-70 technical visits each year and follow-up within a month with each provider. After one month, no further follow-up occurs unless initiated by the provider. Some recent requests for resources include agency brochures, marketing strategies, and sample contract/policy documentation. Some recent requests for equipment include nap accommodations, arts and crafts materials, and dramatic play materials.

In addition to on-site technical visits, Early Childhood Specialists also prepare provider trainings around the state and we include some data on these provider trainings in Table 4. Provider trainings take place as requested by individual providers or through local child care collaborative organizations. According to United Way 211, approximately 270 providers statewide received training in 2014. Four of these trainings took place in the greater Hartford region.

**Table 4: Family Child Care Technical and Training Needs**

Town	Subtown (s)	Technical Visits (#) <sup>1</sup>	Provider trainings (#)	Provider training: Hosts	Provider Training : Topics
Andover					
Avon					
Bloomfield		1			
Bolton					
Canton	Canton Center, Collinsville				
East Granby					
East Hartford			1	East Hartford Child Care Center	Diversity
East Windsor	Broad Brook	3			
Ellington					
Enfield					
Farmington	Unionville				
Glastonbury	East Glastonbury, South Glastonbury				
Granby	North Granby				
Hartford		4	1	Hartford Child Care Center	Diversity
Hebron	Amston				
Manchester					
Marlborough					
Newington					
Rocky Hill					
Simsbury	Tarriffville, Weatogue, West Simsbury				
Somers		1			
South Windsor					
Suffield	West Suffield				
Tolland					
Vernon	Rockville		2	Vernon School Readiness	Math with young children; Guiding behavior
West Hartford		1			
Wethersfield					
Windsor	Wilson				
Windsor Locks					
Totals		10	4		

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Data on Technical Visits and Provider Training was provided by United Way 211.

## **Kith/kin Care**

### *Overview*

As much as we know about family child care providers and families utilizing their programs, the data on both kith/kin providers and families utilizing kith/kin care is scarce. We consulted the United Way 211 Child Care and the Office of Early Childhood to collect available data, but data on kith/kin providers and families is considerably more difficult to aggregate.

Unlike licensed child care centers or licensed family child care providers, kith and kin providers may be family members, neighbors or friends in the community. These caregivers must register themselves to receive Care4Kids subsidies to support family members in need of child care; however, outside of the Care4Kids program, kith/kin providers are considered unregulated. So while United Way 211 maintains a count of the family child care programs, we are unable to provide a firm number of providers in this report. We are able to provide a count of children receiving Care4Kids in kith/kin settings in the greater Hartford region, but caution this is only a subset of the total number of children in kith/kin settings in greater Hartford overall. Additionally, there is no data available on the total number of kith/kin providers. The United Way does not provide technical assistance or professional development for these providers, so we are unable to assess their needs nor consider the professional development they have undertaken.

In Table 5, we present the data on children receiving Care4Kids subsidies in kith/kin settings by age group and by town. We also include information about kith/kin providers who request Care4Kids materials in Spanish. In the Greater Hartford region, 1,693 children receiving Care4Kids subsidies are in kith/kin settings. The greater Hartford Care4Kids recipients in kith/kin settings represent 28% of the kith/kin recipients statewide. One third (563) of these children are infants or toddlers, 25% (424) are preschool-age and 40% (706) are school-age children. 52 kith/kin providers received Care4Kids materials exclusively in Spanish—this is one third of all requests statewide. The majority of these requests came from kith/kin providers in the city of Hartford.

**Table 5: Number of Children by Age and Town Receiving Care 4 Kids (C4K) in Kith/Kin (KK) settings<sup>1</sup>**

Town	Subtown (s)	# children KK	Infant/Toddler KK	Preschool KK	School Age KK	C4 KK <sup>2</sup> All Spanish
Andover		0	0	0	0	
Avon		1	1	0	0	
Bloomfield		42	13	10	19	
Bolton		0	0	0	0	
Canton	Canton Center, Collinsville	1	1	0	0	
East Granby		0	0	0	0	
East Hartford		237	82	54	101	**
East Windsor	Broad Brook	17	6	4	7	
Ellington		2	0	0	2	
Enfield		45	18	10	17	
Farmington	Unionville	2	2	0	0	
Glastonbury	East Glastonbury, South Glastonbury	15	6	4	5	
Granby	North Granby	1	0	1	0	
Hartford		977	324	244	409	40
Hebron	Amston	0	0	31	0	
Manchester		131	38	0	62	*
Marlborough		3	0	9	3	
Newington		29	9	1	11	*
Rocky Hill		4	1	1	2	
Simsbury	Tarriffville, Weatogue, West Simsbury	4	1	0	2	
Somers		3	3	1	0	
South Windsor		2	1	3	0	
Suffield	West Suffield	6	1	1	2	
Tolland		4	2	14	1	
Vernon	Rockville	41	14	15	13	*
West Hartford		44	11	5	18	*
Wethersfield		21	8	14	8	*
Windsor	Wilson	56	19	2	23	
Windsor Locks		5	2		1	
Totals		1,693	563	424	706	52

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> This data is drawn from the Care 4 Kids report: Number of Children Paid by Age Category and Service Setting published December 2014. See <http://www.care4kids.com/files/2012/07/December-2014.pdf>. The data listed in Column G comes from the Office of Early Childhood.

<sup>2</sup> This data has been supplied by Julie Bisi and the Office of Early Childhood. Single asterisk in this column denotes totals less than 5. A double asterisk denotes totals less than 10. Because it is not possible to report some individual town totals, we include a total for this catchment area at the bottom of the table as well as a statewide total for comparison. There are 157 kith and kin providers who request Care 4 Kids materials only in Spanish.

## Next steps

High quality early care and education is a necessary piece of ensuring equitable opportunity in school and in life for our youngest citizens. The home-based provider landscape is complex and warrants further attention. This discussion was designed to serve as a starting point of a longer conversation about high quality care, school readiness, and the role home-based providers play in child care strategies statewide, especially as it relates to infants and toddlers and those with greater need. This exploration represents an important first step in situating the home-based providers of greater Hartford in the larger network of early care and education providers.

Given the number of home-based providers and the significant portion of Care4Kids recipients receiving care from these providers in the greater Hartford region, we identify several important considerations to guarantee a high quality standard of child care:

- Establishing closer associations between home-based providers and community resources, including existing early intervention programs and family resource centers.
- Identifying opportunities for efficiency for professional development and technical support. That is, identify high utilization towns that are geographically close to one another and arrange for centrally located professional development, provider orientation sessions, and pre-service training to ease the burden to meet these standards for small home-based providers.
- Creating opportunities for professional development by leveraging and strengthening existing child care collaboratives and networks, and connecting home based providers to regional training/professional development opportunities available in multiple languages
- Connecting licensed family child care providers and kith/kin providers to resources available through the Office of Early Childhood including scholarships, technical support, and connections to the child care registry.
- Supporting home-based providers' pursuit of technical assistance and quality assurance. This is already happening with Renovate to Educate, a jointly funded project of the Hartford Foundation and the OEC, where home-based providers may apply for mini-grants to make home improvements that enhance the quality of their program.
- Using the establishments of new quality standards in the CCDF plan to advocate for more funding to support current home-based providers.

Additional considerations for future research, data collection and analysis:

- We see an opportunity to collect demographic data on family child care and kith/kin providers, specifically the race/ethnicity of Care4Kids recipients in both family child care and kith/kin settings disaggregated by age for each town. Having race/ethnicity data would help us understand more about the families utilizing family child care and kith/kin settings.
- In greater Hartford, half of the Care4Kids subsidies going to family child care settings are for infant and toddler care. Over one third of subsidies going to kith/kin settings are for infant and toddler care. The reliance on home-based care could indicate a limited number of center-based options or it could indicate family/parental preference for “home-like” child care arrangements. There is a clear need to evaluate the cost of licensed infant/toddler care and the availability of spaces in this region.
- There is an opportunity to evaluate the spoken language needs and potential barriers to resources for family child care and kith/kin providers in greater Hartford. One third of statewide requests for materials in Spanish from recipients in both family child care and kith/kin settings are in greater Hartford. There is an opportunity to redouble outreach efforts to providers and to families in communities where Spanish is the predominant language and ensure availability of professional development and resources in multiple languages.

Ensuring equitable opportunities in school and in life begins in the earliest years of a child's life with the care they receive. With a large number of home-based providers located in the greater Hartford region, we recognize an opportunity to think creatively about the professional development and technical support providers need to guarantee high quality child care for children while granting peace of mind to their families. Local advocates have been pushing for high quality child care regardless of the type of provider and the changes we have seen at the federal level ensure that child care is seen as a necessary part of cognitive development as well as crucial to workforce development. The recent reauthorization of the Child Care Development Fund indicates a shift in the way we consider child care and the need for high-quality child care regardless of whether the setting is an institutional center or a private family home. Extending research on home-based providers will help legislators, advocates and stakeholders to understand these providers and to situate them in the larger child care landscape and ultimately in our early childhood system of programs.

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<sup>1</sup> See 211 Child Care “United Way Child Care Availability Survey Summary” available here:

<http://www.211childcare.org/files/2013/12/2014Statewide.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See “Care 4 Kids Regulations” here: <http://www.ct.gov/oec/cwp/view.asp?a=4541&q=545048>

<sup>3</sup> In this study, we focus on 29 towns in the greater Hartford: Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

<sup>4</sup> The data on family child care providers comes from two sources. Data on the number of providers and programs was provided by the United Way 211 Child Care Registry. Data on the licensed family child care providers and kith and kin providers receiving Care4Kids was provided by the Office of Early Childhood.

<sup>5</sup> See 211 Child Care “Family Day Care Home Summary” Fall 2014 here:

<http://www.211childcare.org/files/2013/12/FamilyDaycareHomeSummary2014.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Care4Kids is Connecticut's administration of the federal Child Care Development Fund. The funding for these subsidies is a combination of federal Child Care Development Block Grant appropriations and state appropriations.