



Rhode Island's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

YEAR FOUR Update

In December 2011, Rhode Island was one of nine states awarded a grant from the \$500 million Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Fund, a competitive grant program jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. Rhode Island was awarded **\$50 million over four years** to improve the quality of early learning and development programs for Rhode Island's youngest children.



Exceed is the name for Rhode Island's cross departmental initiative to implement the work of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant. The name conveys the commitment of all of those in our state's early learning community who are working to help ensure that all of our young children have the opportunity to soar.

Rhode Island's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge State Plan is administered by the Lead Agency, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), in partnership with four Participating State Agencies: the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children Youth and Families, the Department of Health, and the Office of Health and Human Services. The administration of this grant demonstrates an extraordinary amount of collaboration across these agencies.

During **Year Four** of the RTT-ELC grant, Rhode Island expended a total of \$17,011,072 on the following accomplishments:

Improving the Quality of Early Childhood Education Programs



76



5

- Awarded **76 early learning centers** and **5 public schools** \$1,706,012 in facilities grants to improve health and safety and improve the program's learning environment;

AWARDED
\$4,550,706



- Awarded **\$4,550,706** in program improvement grants to support continuous quality improvement in 256 early care and education programs;



54



14

- Awarded **54 centers** and **14 family child-care providers** \$1,302,569 in Quality Awards to help programs maintain their high-quality star rating;



- Worked to ensure that **83%** of all Rhode Island early care and education programs have been rated in BrightStars, the state's tiered quality rating system.

247
SUPPORTED
PROGRAMS



- Supported **247 programs** in technical assistance to support an increase in program quality;

Workforce Development

11
FAMILY CHILD
CARE PROVIDERS



- Supported **11 family child care providers** to obtain a GED and 20 in an English As a Second Language program to support college readiness;

174
STUDENTS SUPPORTED
IN ENROLLMENT



- Supported the enrollment of **174 students** at CCRI Early Childhood Education Training Program;

101
CANDIDATES PROVIDED
WITH SCHOLARSHIPS



- Provided **101 A.A and B.A. candidates with scholarships** to attend postsecondary schools, including 42 Bachelor's degree candidates at Rhode Island College's Institute for Teaching and Learning;



- Provided professional development, aligned to the state's workforce knowledge and competencies, to 3,111 members of the early care and education workforce through the RTT-ELC created Center for Early Learning Professionals.

Supports to Children

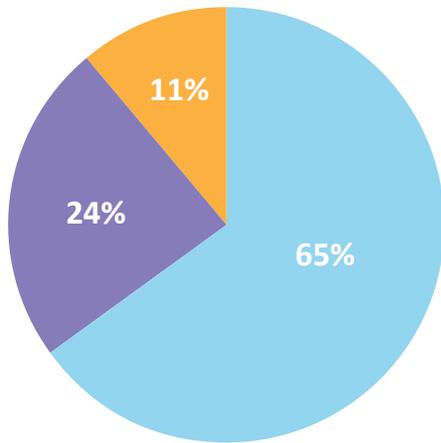
- Continued to coordinate Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education services to build a single birth to age five system that supports children with developmental delays and disabilities;
- Implemented **continuous quality improvement in 21 pediatric health care centers** to increase developmental screening rates; More than 6,000 children received a developmental screen and more than 650 children were referred for evidence-based resources to support their learning and development.

Systems Development

- Released the Early Learning Program Search and Workforce Registry; and
- Released *Funding to Exceed: Sustaining a World-Class Early Childhood System that Supports the Well-being and School Readiness of Rhode Island's Youngest Children*.

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (ELC)

How is the \$50M being spent?



65% – ELC Grant funds will be used to support Early Learning Programs, the Early Learning Workforce, and Primary Care Practices for Early Intervention: **\$32,543,750**

35% – ELC Grant funds will be used for infrastructure, systems building, and to support State staff in the design and implementation the RTTT – ELC Early Learning initiatives: **\$17,456,250**

(Percentages are based on the currently US ED/HHS approved RTT-ELC budget)

65%: Supports to Early Learning Programs, the Early Learning Workforce, Primary Care Practices

- One-time incentive payments for all programs participating in BrightStars;
- Quality Awards for Early Learning Programs to off-set the costs associated with maintaining high-quality standards for licensed early learning centers and family child care homes serving children participating in CCAP with a BrightStars quality rating of 3, 4 or 5. Additional bonus to programs for providing high quality care to infants and toddlers within the CCAP program;
- Grants for licensed Early Learning Programs seeking to make quality improvements to move up one or

more levels within BrightStars or seeking RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education approval;

- Supports for the Early Learning Workforce including expanded Professional Development opportunities, Early Learning and Development Standards Training, Technical Assistance, Child Assessment;
- Access to Early Childhood college credits at CCRI, and T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships in teacher preparation programs;
- Supports for Early Intervention to improve formative assessment practices;
- Technical Assistance and supports to Primary Care Practices to conduct developmental screening using standardized tools and implement evidence-based interventions.

11%: Consultants

- National experts, researchers, meeting facilitators/ recorders, and translation to support Early Learning Standards, Kindergarten Entry Profile, and Workforce Knowledge and Competencies Frameworks;
- Communications consultants;
- Graphic Design;
- Developmental Screening Campaign; EI Consultants;
- KIDSNET;
- Data System consultants.

24%: State Support (RIDE, DHS, DOH, DCYF, EOHHS)

- For planning, development, and implementation of the state's RTT-ELC plan including salary, fringe benefits, computers, office supplies, printing/ copying, and travel for 25.75 FTEs; and
- 10% indirect costs.



For more information on these accomplishments please visit exceed.ri.gov.