

Connecticut's Early Childhood Investment Initiative: First Quarter Fiscal Update for the Early Childhood Education Cabinet¹

October 15, 2007

Executive Summary

The Early Childhood Education Cabinet is working with nearly 8 million dollars in public and private funds for SFY 08 and SFY 09 to advance Connecticut's Early Childhood Investment Initiative. This is in addition to over 50 million dollars in new biennial funding for early childhood agency-specific program expansions.

The Cabinet adopted a working budget for its SFY 08 and 09 funds² at its July 30, 2007 meeting. The working budget is available for public review online at – www.ecpolicycouncil.org/docs/2007-07-30/Cabinet_Budget_Presentation7-30.pdf. At the July meeting, the Cabinet allocated *all but* \$412,000 in SFY 08 funds, understanding that some funds would need to roll forward into SFY 09 and some funding categories and allocations would need to be adjusted as the year moves forward.

Cabinet members also requested receipt of quarterly updates on the use and results of the new Early Childhood Investment Initiative funding. This is the first of these regular reports.

To date, Cabinet and Council staff have taken action to put more than \$4.8 million of Cabinet and matching philanthropic funds "in the pipeline" for use for SFY 08 and 09. The work to date has involved the development of seven new memoranda of agreement/understanding across agencies, one public-private partnership agreement, three RFPs, and contract preparation and approval.

Two of three Cabinet staff members – Joyce Staples and Marcus Rivera – began work on August 23, 2007, and the final position will be filled by November 1, 2007. A contract to secure Cabinet assistance and support in the Cabinet's Year Three and Four Results-Based Accountability (RBA) work and development of the first Cabinet Accountability Plan is expected to be awarded by mid-October.

In addition, Dr. Carlota Schechter (on leave from St. Joseph College) has been hired by the CT Department of Higher Education to guide/support work of the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council in the areas of ECE workforce development and the establishment of an Early Childhood Research Network. A part time/part year person will be hired utilizing co-investment funds available from the CT Health and Education Finance Authority and additional staffing and logistics support will be secured for the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council through a 19-month contract, targeted to begin by January 1, 2008.

The Joint Chairs of the Cabinet and Council, meeting in monthly leadership sessions, and the work of Cabinet committees and interim working groups, continue to advance the Early Childhood Investment Initiative. In particular, the Cabinet expects to adopt a first-ever Goal One Infant-Toddler Systems Framework and a Goal Two K-3 Systems Framework in December. The work of

¹ This report was prepared by Early Childhood Education Cabinet/Council staff members. A first draft was shared in September 2007 with the Joint Chairs of the Cabinet and the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council, and the Office of Policy and Management. For more information, contact Dr. Janice Gruendel, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor and Co-Chair of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet (Janice.gruendel@aya.yale.edu).

² The Connecticut State Department of Education serves, under law, as the fiduciary and administrative agent of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet.

the Goal One Interim ECE Systems working group has already provided recommendations regarding minimum standards for the award of new preschool expansion funds, and four of five of these recommendations were adopted by the Cabinet in July. A Standing Committee of the Cabinet on Building Local Capacity was established, as was a first-ever joint public-private funding process, including a joint RFP and joint Cabinet-Graustein Memorial Fund Collective Management Team to oversee \$1.65 million in public-private local capacity investment over SFY 08 and 09.

Finally, nearly 200 individuals continue to be engaged in the work of the Cabinet, the Council and their various committees and working groups. These individuals represent state and local government, K-12 public education and public-private higher education, the workforce and economic development sectors, philanthropy, parent and provider organizations, and business.

Review of Revenue

Based on final appropriations from the 2007 session of the CT General Assembly, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet has access to \$3.90 million in state funds for SFY 08 and \$3.55 million in state funds for SFY 09. In addition in SFY 08, the Cabinet will roll forward with slightly more than \$450,000 from SFY 06-07 and will utilize just over \$400,000 in philanthropic matching funds.

○ State of Connecticut Biennial Budget	\$3,900,000
○ Cabinet Roll Forward from SFY 07	\$ 450,000
○ National Governors Association	\$ 10,000
○ Graustein Memorial Fund Local Capacity Match	\$ 300,000
○ Graustein Memorial Fund Parent Trust Match	\$ 100,000 ³

In addition to the fund sources outlined above, \$200,000 was allocated by the CHEFA Board of Directors in SFY 06 to support the work of the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. In SFY 07, the Council utilized about \$60,000 of these funds to engage interim Council staff, leaving approximately \$140,000 in CHEFA funds still available for Council use with CHEFA approval.

First Quarter Budget Implementation Update

The Cabinet's proposed SFY 08 budget plan was adopted at the July 30, 2007 Cabinet meeting, with approximately \$412,000 remaining to be allocated for SFY 08, and \$43,000 unallocated for SFY 09.

As of October 15, Cabinet staff -- working with SDE and other agency personnel -- have funding in the amount of \$4.8 million in process. Although we have made good progress in a short period of time, challenges continue to exist in obtaining timely governmental approvals within and across agencies for contracts and agreements. Finally, while there is no requirement for AG approval on MOU's, contracts continue to require review and approval by the AG's Office before funded work may begin.

The chart below summarizes work related to the \$4.8 million now in process.

³ This information is taken directly from the Budget Brief presented to the Cabinet at the July 2007 meeting.

Budget/Work Items (in Progress or Complete as of October 15, 2007)	Status	First Quarter Update and Target Dates
<p>Cabinet Staffing ((\$357,000 in each of SFY 08 and 09)</p>	<p>Hiring nearly complete</p>	<p>Joyce Staples and Marcus Rivera have been engaged as Cabinet staff since August 23, 2007. The contract for the Governor's Policy Advisor is signed and awaits AG approval. The CCT position was posted, and candidate screening is in process. Target hiring date for CTT is November 1, 2007.</p>
<p>Council Staffing & Support (Council funds of \$100,000 for each of SFY 08 and 09)</p> <p>Co-investment (Up to \$140,000 is available from CHEFA as part of original Council support commitment)</p>	<p>RFP in progress</p> <p>Staffing offer under consideration</p>	<p>Council Chairs have and are reviewing draft scope of work. SDE to schedule "Forms Review" upon Council Chairs adoption of final RFP scope of work language. Target to post and advertise is November 1. Applications back by November 15 (very short turnaround). Target AG approval and start date by December 1. Note: No control on AG review time.</p> <p>Cabinet and Council Joint Chairs have requested that CHEFA allocate a portion of these funds to support the Council Chairs through part-time/ part-year staffing from November 1 through June 30. Once the individual is identified, a PSA will be completed by CHEFA.</p>
<p>Parent Trust Fund (Cabinet funds of \$100,000 for SFY 08. Award of SFY 09 funds of \$100,000 will require a new public-private process)</p> <p>Co-investment (\$100,000 for SFY 08 and SFY 08 from Graustein Memorial Fund)</p>	<p>MOU in progress</p>	<p>SFY 08 MOU between SDE and Children's Trust Fund in process. Target final MOU completion date is October 31 with funds to follow upon signing.</p> <p>Note: Graustein Memorial Fund will match state funds dollar-for-dollar up to \$150,000. An additional match of up to \$50,000 is available for SFY 08 if Cabinet funds become available.</p>
<p>Bridgeport Leadership in Action Program (LAP) (Cabinet funds of \$100,000 for SFY 08)</p> <p>Co-investment (~\$200,000 to be provided by the Memorial Fund, Annie E. Casey, Children's Fund of CT, Eastern Fairfield United Way, Fairfield County Community Foundation)</p>	<p>Fund transfer in progress</p>	<p>Legislative authority to transfer Cabinet funds for LAP was received October 6, 2007. Transfer to the LAP fiduciary agent (United Way of Eastern Fairfield County) expected by November 1, 2007</p> <p>Note: Initiative completion date is the end of September 2008.</p>

Budget/Work Items (in Progress or Complete as of October 15, 2007)	Status	First Quarter Update and Target Dates
<p>PreK-K Facilities Plan and TA (Cabinet funds of \$270,000 for SFY 08 and \$335,000 for SFY 09)</p> <p>Co-investment (Slightly in excess of \$1 million has been committed by a number of foundations as part of the Early Childhood Funders Affinity Group)</p>	MOU in progress	<p>Work on CHEFA – SDE agreement began early September. Executive agreement on September 13th. MOU in process with target completion date before the end of October. Funds transfer target date is early November.</p> <p>Note: Plan is due to CGA by December 31, 2007.</p>
<p>Governor’s Early Childhood Summit (\$25,000 for SFY 08)</p> <p>Co-investment (\$10,000 from the National Governors Association)</p>	MOU signed	<p>MOU between SDE and OWC was signed September 14. Awaiting release from DAS. Transfer of funds to follow immediately thereafter.</p> <p>Note: The Summit now tentatively scheduled for early January 15, 2008. Local Listening Forums to be held on or about the first week of December.</p>
<p>Building Local Capacity (Cabinet funds of \$525,000 for each SFY 08 and SFY 09)</p> <p>Co-investment (GMF funds of \$300,000 for each of SFY 08 and SFY 09)</p>	Joint RFP issued	<p>Cabinet approved concept of public-private partnership with both state and philanthropic funds at the July 30, 2007 meeting. Proposed budget and grantee selection criteria approved by Cabinet on September 10. RFP complete and posted. Bidders’ conference October 11. Funding begins January 1, 2008 and runs through June 30, 2009.</p>
<p>ECE Workforce Plan (Cabinet funds of \$50,000 for SFY 07)</p> <p>Co-investment (New state funds for workforce development were appropriated to DHE, OWC and Chats A Course in SFY 08 and 09)</p>	MOU complete	<p>MOU between SDE and OWC was signed on September 14. Awaiting release from DAS. Funds transfer to occur immediately upon MOU return.</p> <p>Note: The ECE Workforce Plan is due at the legislature by December 31, 2007.</p> <p>Status update required for other funds.</p>

Budget/Work Items (in Progress or Complete as of October 15, 2007)	Status	First Quarter Update and Target Dates
<p>Accountability/RBA (Cabinet funds of \$100,000 for each SFY 08 and SFY 09)</p> <p>Co-investment (To assure continuity of Cabinet agency work on RBA, OWC has continued to employ RBA consultants on behalf of Cabinet work.</p>	Review of applicants in progress	<p>RFP issued and advertised in daily papers. Submittal being reviewed. Target start date November 1, 2007.</p> <p>Note: Legislative – agency SFY 08 RBA meetings being scheduled now. Third year Cabinet RBA package to be presented to the Appropriations Committee in February-March 2008. Cabinet work plan calls for adoption of required <i>Accountability Plan</i> at June 2008 meeting, with first annual progress report due to CGA by December 2008. Fourth year RBA to be presented to the 2009 CGA in February or March 2009.</p>
<p>Accountability: ECERS Assessment (Cabinet funds of \$400,000 in SFY 08 and \$300,000 in SFY 09)</p>	Draft MOU prepared	<p>The Goal One ECE Systems Working Group recommendation for the <i>interim</i> use of ECERS for new SFY 08 slots was accepted at July 30th Cabinet meeting. Programs that do not reach required level will be eligible to receive Quality Improvement ECE Program Funding (See below).</p> <p>A draft MOU has been prepared for Charter Oak State College to receive funds and serve as project manager. Target start date: November 1, 2007.</p> <p>Note: Cabinet action requires ECERS to be administered within six months of new slot start date(s). Some slots are already open.</p>
<p>Quality Improvement: Program Funds (Cabinet funds of \$500,000 in each of SFY 08 and SFY 09)</p>	Draft MOU prepared	<p>Discussion underway with Charter Oak State College to administer the SFY 08 and SFY 09 Quality Improvement ECE Program Funds, as per above. Target start date: November 1, 2007</p> <p>Note: Expect funds use in SFY 09 to be guided by the Cabinet's <i>Quality Improvement Systems Plan</i>, due for development AND adoption by the end of June 2008.</p>

The following budget items await second quarter (October through December 2007) action:

- **Strategic Communications Plan:** RFP to be drafted by mid-November
- **Accountability: Data Work:** November Cabinet report
- **Accountability: ECE Data Registry:** Review recommendation at Nov 19th Cabinet mtg.
- **Accountability: Research Funds:** MOU with Higher Education in development
- **Quality Improvement Systems Plan** RFP to be drafted by mid-November for Council
- **Quality Rating Scale** To be included within QIS RFP above
- **Quality Funds to Communities** Awaiting Cabinet discussion