



All New Haven children, birth through 8, have access to a quality, affordable early care education, are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.

Who We Are

The New Haven Early Childhood Council (NHECC) was created in 1997 under state statute to increase local community involvement in decisions about early care and education. In 2002, the Council expanded its focus to ensuring that all children from birth to age eight have the opportunities, supports, and experiences they need to reach their full potential.

The Mayor and School Superintendent appoint the Council's members, who include parents, representatives from community organizations invested in the well-being of young children, and the Mayor and Superintendent or their designees. The Council's monthly meetings are open to the public.

What We Do

Identify the community's need for affordable, high-quality early childhood programs and physical and mental health services for young children and their families.

Educate the community and local and state policy makers of existing capacity to meet the health and early care and education needs of families with young children.

Inform families about available services, existing supports, and upcoming events.

Convene community stakeholders so that they may coordinate their efforts to strengthen existing child-family serving systems and create new supports where needed.

Oversee the distribution of state School Readiness funds, which subsidize the preschool experience of over 1,000 New Haven children across 30+ programs.

Enhance the quality of programs for young children via Council-funded professional development of early childhood staff and pilot projects to develop best practices.

Partner with the New Haven Public Schools to improve access to preschool, simplify kindergarten enrollment, and implement best practices for the transition to kindergarten.

Advocate at the state and local level for resources to expand access to and improve the quality of early childhood learning experiences and health services.

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NEW HAVEN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
2013-14

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United Way of Greater New Haven

Cyd Oppenheimer – Co-Chair
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Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

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