Department of Children & Youth

October 24, 2023
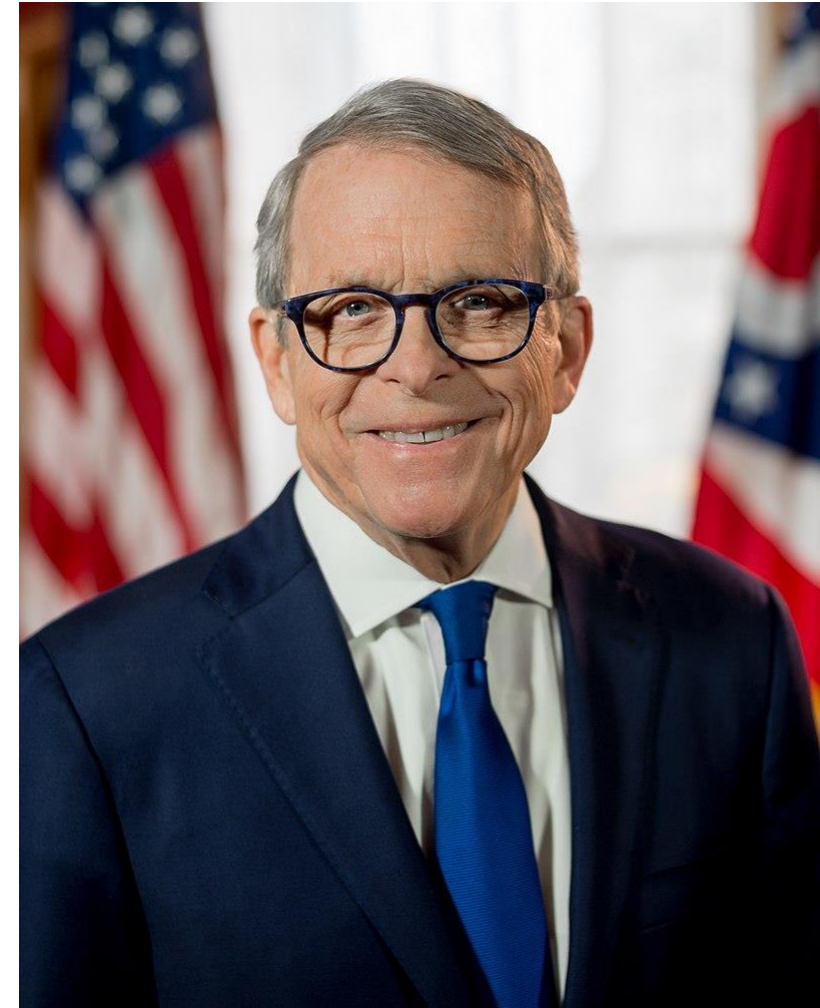*Early Care and Education Stakeholder Update*

GOALS FOR THE DAY

- Purpose and Schedule
  - o E-mail notifications
  - o Add appointment to your calendar
  - o Monthly
- Provide an overview of the Department of Children and Youth.

- Hear feedback on the draft goals, 90-day Building Blocks, Strategic Pillars.

- Review feedback from families.

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"Our goal for each Ohioan is for them to be able to live up to their full potential and for each one to have the opportunity to live up to their version of the American dream."

- *Governor Mike DeWine*

Department of Children and Youth

INTRODUCING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

WHAT

The Department will promote the efficient and effective delivery of services to Ohio's more than 2.5 million children and their families by:

- combining functions and programs from six different state agencies
- reducing duplicative programs from across state government
- increasing administrative efficiency
- improving the delivery of services to families depending on these essential state programs

WHY

- Expanded investments; strengthened focus; falling rankings
- Must do something different:
  - #1: **Public Awareness:** Ensure that parents, caregivers, helping agencies know about and can access child and youth services.
  - #2: **Ease of access:** by integrating and individualizing services to fit the family.

WHEN

- The Department was established on **July 3, 2023**. Over the next several months the Directors of the respective agencies, or their designees, will develop a detailed plan to implement the transfer of duties, functions, programs, and staff.
- Full transition of all programs to occur no later than **January 1, 2025.**

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PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

DCY has established the following **<u>DRAFT</u> principles** that will serve as the foundation for its approach and operations.

Transparency

Create transparency across programs utilizing cross-program data

Accountability

Create accountability to ensure children are receiving services when needed with the intended outcomes

Focus & Prioritization

Continue to prioritize children from birth to age 21, both in policy and funding

Local Structure

Foster collaboration to ensure strong child and family outcomes but local structure remains a local decision

GOALS

Reduce Infant Mortality. *Help more children thrive and reach their first birthday.*
Reduce Learning Gaps. *Ensure continuity of care across the spectrum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth succeed.*
Reduce Involvement with Child Welfare. *Help provide families with needed resources and supports proactively, before a crisis within the family occurs.*

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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

Identification:

- Children Services
- Home Visiting
- Ohio Children's Trust Fund
- Maternal and Infant Vitality Programming

Early Education:

- Early Intervention
- Publicly Funded Child Care
- Early Childhood Education
- Preschool Special Education
- Licensing
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Support:

- Ohio Fatherhood Commission
- Ohio Family Children First Council
- Healthy Beginnings at Home
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Strong Families, Safe Communities

The Department will place children at the core of its mission to promote positive, lifelong outcomes for all Ohio youth.

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AGENCY LAUNCH FOCUS AREAS

As the Agency Launches, the following topics have been prioritized and escalated as central efforts to standing up the new agency.

90-Day Building Blocks
- Central Intake Infrastructure
- Licensing Alignment
- Early Childhood Education Expansion
- Step Up To Quality – Equal Access
- Home Visiting Expansion

Strategic Pillars
- Continuum of Care
- Workforce
- Service Coordination

Data Driven Focus

Stakeholder/Community Engagement
- Regional Forums
- Stakeholder Plan – 90 days

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DCY OVERVIEW: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE NEW AGENCY

It is important that we take time to understand the building blocks of DCY as the foundation of our work.

Central Intake Infrastructure

Licensing Alignment

Early Childhood Education Expansion
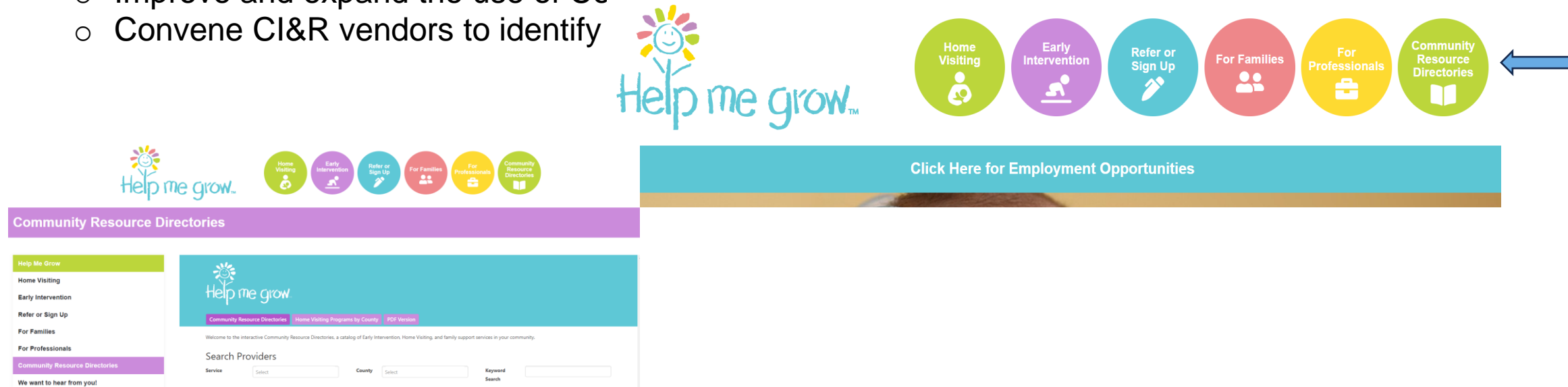
Step Up to Quality- Equal Access

Home Visiting Expansion

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Central Intake and Referral
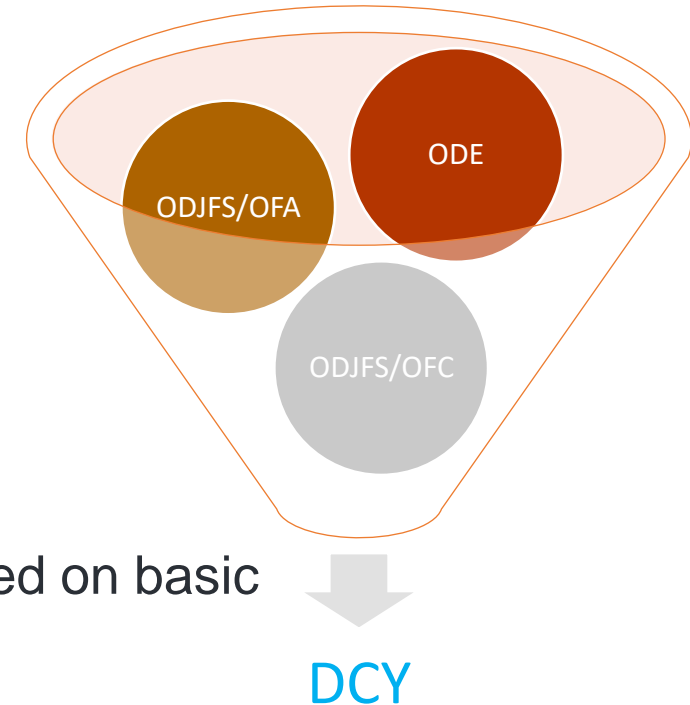
GOAL AND ACTIVITIES FOR CENTRAL INTAKE AND REFERRAL

- Develop a seamless system for families to access information about services and supports, *WHEN THEY NEED THEM*, that are available across the children and youth service continuum.

- Key Activities
  - Expand FREE *Ages and Stages Questionnaire* to 3-5 year olds on the helpmegrow.org website.
  - Improve and expand the use of Community Directories.
  - Convene CI&R vendors to identify

Licensing Alignment
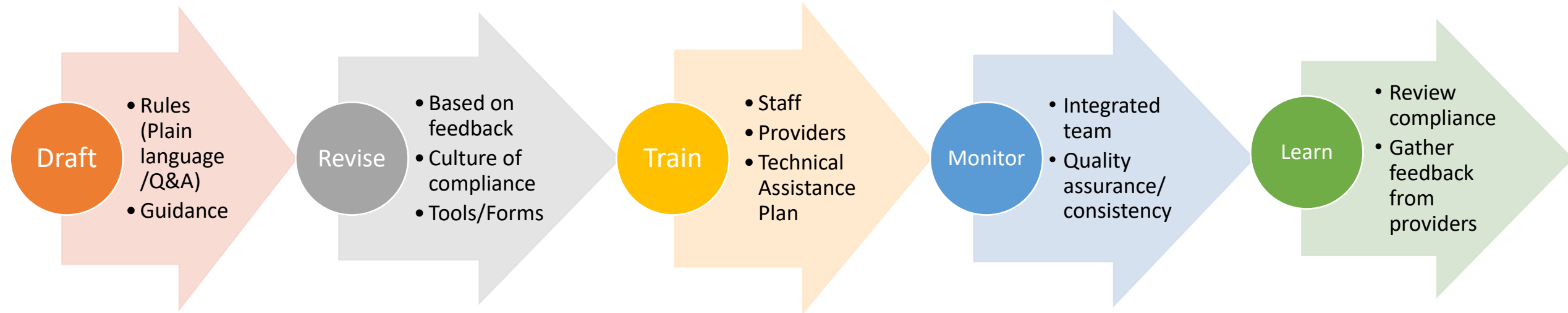
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Goal: Develop a plan for the full alignment/integration of all aspects of licensing for early care and education, school-age and foster care that includes:

  o Policy (statute/rules)

  o Monitoring

  o Communications

  o Training

- Objectives:

  o Develop a core set of rules that are accessible and focused on basic health and safety

  o Engage internal and external stakeholders throughout the process

  o Create a culture that blends regulatory responsibilities with continuous quality improvement and support

ODE

ODJFS/OFA

ODJFS/OFC

DCY

CONSIDERATIONS

- Each section of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) may have corresponding federal requirements and/or Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requirements that must be considered.

- ORC requirements that are identified as needing amended will be tracked.

- OAC five-year review deadlines will be addressed with extensions where needed.

- House Bill 33 regulatory reduction and restriction requirements will be incorporated.

- Current rules may take into consideration model standards and best practices recommendations.

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THE APPROACH

Draft
- Rules (Plain language /Q&A)
- Guidance

Revise
- Based on feedback
- Culture of compliance
- Tools/Forms

Train
- Staff
- Providers
- Technical Assistance Plan

Monitor
- Integrated team
- Quality assurance/ consistency

Learn
- Review compliance
- Gather feedback from providers

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Early Childhood Education – Expansion

WHERE WE ARE NOW - SFY 24

- Increased per slot amount from $4,000 to $4,250
- Eligibility includes children:
  - who are experiencing homelessness
  - who are in foster/kinship care; or
  - with a disability who exceed income eligibility
- All others at or below 200% FPL
- Age 3 or 4 and not yet age eligible for Kindergarten
- All grantees at 3 stars or higher in SUTQ
- Minimum of 12.5 hours/week or 455 hours/ year

WHAT WE WANT TO EXPLORE TODAY

Pilot: Innovations to program requirements

- Full-day slot considerations
- Innovation Exploration: Use of TAP, Equity Focus, Fund Classroom instead of slots

Pilot: Early Intervention Exiters

- Children leaving EI could have a spot in an ECE grantee

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EI EXITERS PILOT DATA

- 2,378 children in Early Intervention (EI) exit without PSE eligibility (FY23)

- Only 19% of exiters (452 children) who are not eligible for Preschool Special Education attend an early childhood program; leaving 1,926 or 81% potentially needing services/ supports to be K ready

- 14.4% CWD score demonstrating readiness at K entry compared to 37.8% of C w/o D (state percent for all is 35.4%)
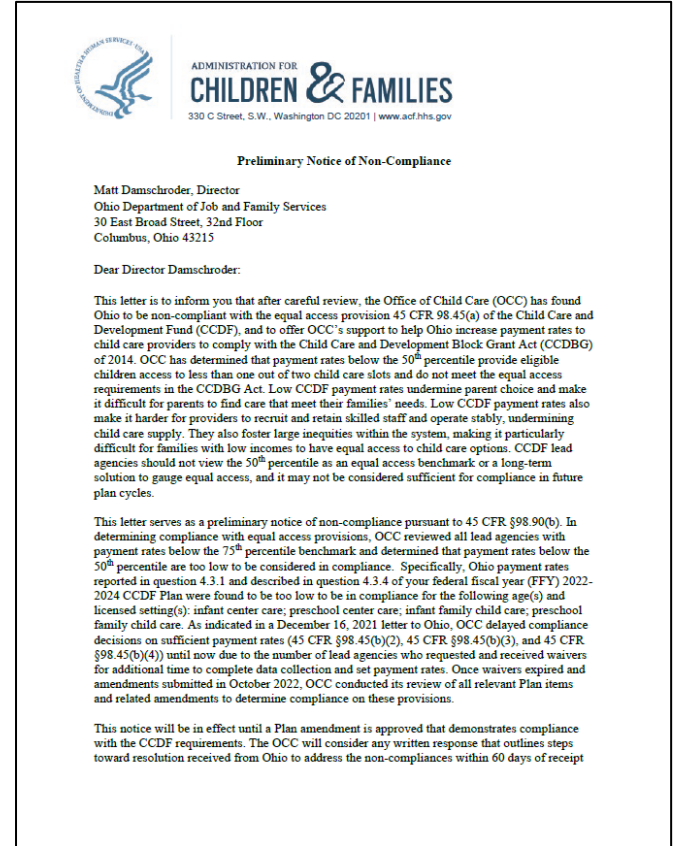
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Step Up To Quality – Equal Access

BACKGROUND: FEDERAL LETTER OF NON-COMPLIANCE

On April 20, 2023, the State of Ohio was issued a **Federal Letter of Non-compliance** relating to the **equal access of child care** for children in Ohio.

Key Takeaways

1 Ohio Payment **rates were found to be below the 50th percentile**

2 Ohio will remain out of compliance **until a Plan Amendment is approved**

3 Ohio will be **subject to a penalty** from the Administration for Children and Families

4 ODJFS has committed to having a **solution in place by December 2024**

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STEP UP TO QUALITY STANDARD REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

Today (as of July 2, 2023):
   Rates: 25th Percentile
                (2022 Market

Rate)
   Eligibility: 142% FPL

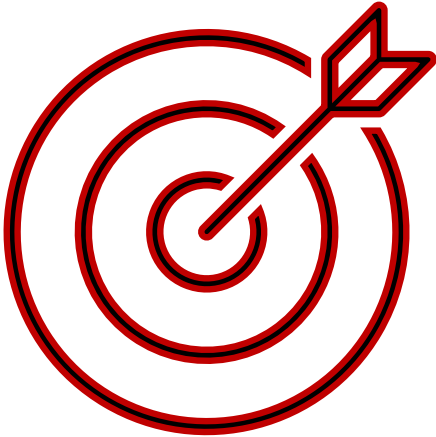**Requirement: 50th Percentile**

Next Steps
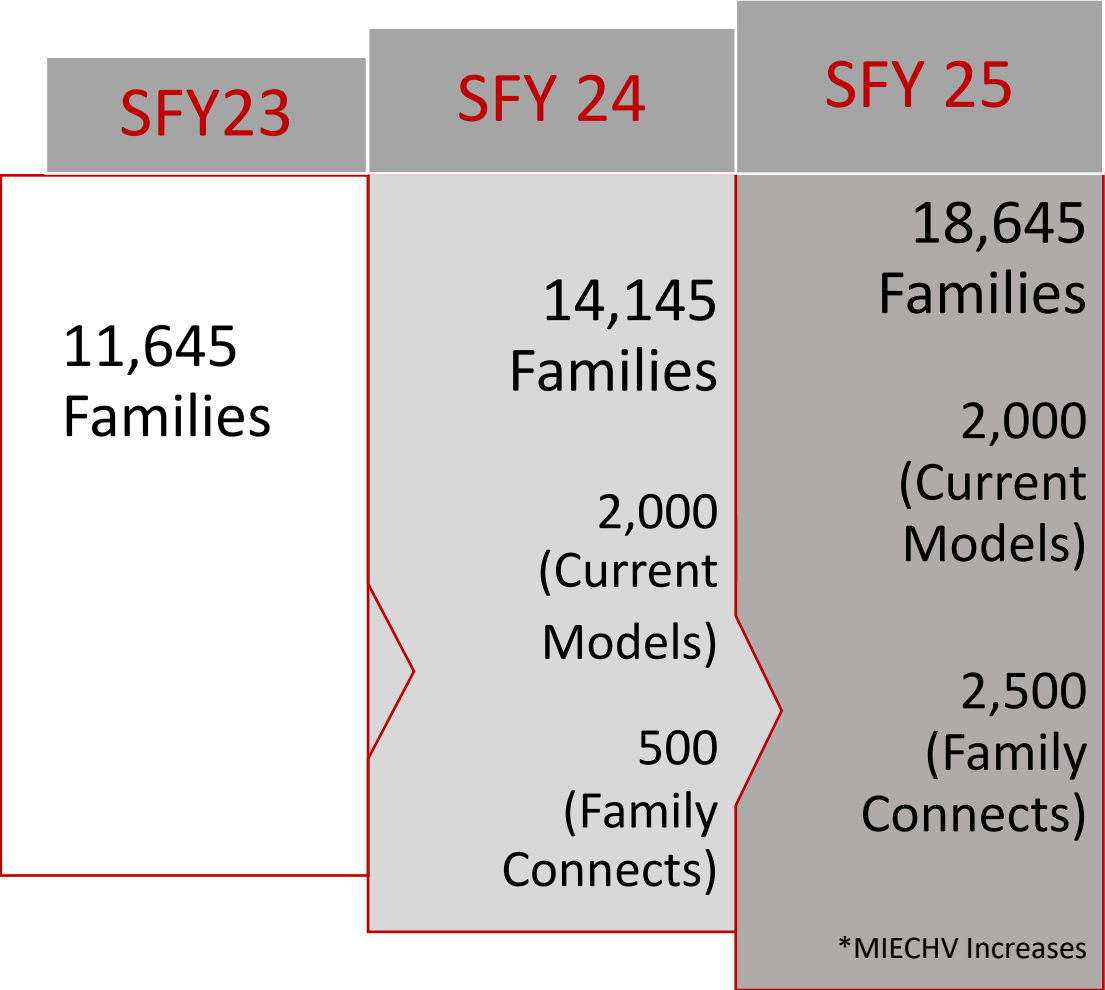
1. **New Step Up To Quality Standards Determined** (Now – October 2023)
2. **Implementation Plan Drafted** (November – December 2023)
3. **Move Toward Compliance – 35th Percentile 2022 Market Rate** (January 2024)
4. **Development & Training** (January 1 – June 30)
5. **Implementation of new SUTQ standards and 50th percentile compliance** (July 1, 2024)

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EQUAL ACCESS – STEP UP TO QUALITY

Cluster 3 – Centers Full-Time Enrollment						
	2022 Market Rate Survey				Calculated PFCC Rate for 5-Star Rated Program	
Age	25th Percentile Today	35th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	95th Percentile	(Non-rated base Rate is at the 35th %tile)	(Non-rated base Rate is at the 50th %tile)
Infant	245.00	265.00	295.00	329.00	385.00	372.06	414.18
Toddler	218.00	235.00	265.00	300.00	358.20	329.94	372.06
Preschool	194.00	210.00	232.00	270.00	324.05	294.84	325.73
School Age	120.00	131.00	150.00	195.00	286.00	183.92	210.60
School Age Summer	178.00	187.00	208.79	241.00	296.36	262.55	293.14

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Home Visiting – Expansion

HOME VISITING ENROLLMENT GOALS

SFY23	SFY 24	SFY 25
11,645 Families	14,145 Families 2,000 (Current Models) 500 (Family Connects)	18,645 Families 2,000 (Current Models) 2,500 (Family Connects) *MIECHV Increases

Tripling in HMGHV 19,323

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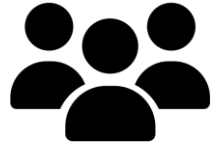80.1% increase in the number of families being served between 2018-2023.

PRIORITY COUNTIES FOR EXPANSION

Expansion Goals:

➢ 650 slots
➢ Applications and selections by November 1.
➢ Flexibility for grants with up to amounts.

PRIORITY #1	PRIORITY #2a	PRIORITY #2b
Waitlist Counties with 50+ families	**Infant Mortality** 8.30 and higher for 5-year average 2017-2021	**K Readiness** (25% and under of students demonstrating overall readiness)
Butler	Brown	Adams
Cuyahoga	Clinton	Clinton
Lorain	Erie	Defiance
Lucas	Guernsey	Fayette
Montgomery	Highland	Pike
Stark	Lucas	Preble
Summit	Pickaway	Vinton
Trumbull	Scioto	

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25

FAMILY CONNECTS MODEL

FOR ALL

Helping all families regardless of income or background

THREE WEEKS

Visits are scheduled around 3 weeks after a baby's birth

NO COST TO RECIPIENTS

As an eligible recipient, you will not be charged

REGISTERED NURSE

All visits are made by highly trained nurses

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FAMILY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT RECAP

DCY EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT FAST FACTS

640+
Stakeholders Engaged

146
Family Stories Heard

60
Hours of Stakeholder Meetings Held

10+
Hours of Family Listening Sessions

5
Key Regions of the State Represented

Key Themes from our Stakeholders
Along with families sharing their stories and challenges, stakeholders shared a variety of recommendations:

Program Navigation
➢ Stand Up Parent Concierge/Navigator Program
➢ Coordinate Data/Information Across Programs
➢ Create Transition Supports for Youth Aging Out of Programs

Workforce Supports
➢ Increase Training and Education Across Programs
➢ Focus on Retention of Providers
➢ Expand Professional Development Opportunities

Awareness Campaign
➢ Launch a Multi-Channel Marketing Effort
➢ Stand Up a One-Stop Website for All Programs
➢ Standardize Messaging/Program Information

Community Building
➢ Launch Peer-Peer and Provider-Provider Support Lines
➢ Build Trust in Communities/Counties Through Events, Information Sharing, and Coordinated Programming

Accessible Child Care
➢ Increase the Number of Programs Statewide
➢ Focus on Making Child Care More Affordable
➢ Encourage Programs to Serve Non-Standard Working Caregivers (3rd shift, sleep coverage, transportation, etc.)

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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT - THEMES FROM LISTENING SESSIONS

General Lack of Awareness

Trust Among Families

Backlogged Evaluation / Diagnosis – Treatment Pipeline

Insufficient Supports for Children with Special Needs

Preventative Support for Parents

Child Care Accessibility

Streamlining Services

Workforce Training and Education

Program Eligibility

Lack of Cohesion Between Local Government and K-12 System

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AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Team Members/Notification

- Emails
(firstname.lastname@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)

- Website
www.childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

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THANK YOU!