

DC's Early Learning Quality Improvement Network

The Early Learning Quality Improvement Network (QIN) is a citywide effort to build capacity of, increase access to, and enhance the quality of infant and toddler care in the District of Columbia.

How it works

OSSE provides funding to two agencies: United Planning Organization (UPO) and Easter Seals to serve as hubs for 17 child development centers and 19 child development homes, which together serve more than 500 children. Using the Early Head Start performance standards and research-based best practices, these hubs employ professionals who provide support to directors, teachers, children, and families enrolled in these child development centers and homes. This support includes coaching and comprehensive services for children and families, such as family engagement and support, health and nutrition, mental health, and early intervention.

Why it matters

When child development centers and child development homes are connected with resources, expertise, and opportunities, parents, children and teachers all benefit.

- Children receive nurturing and responsive caregiving.
- Families have access to specialists who support them in achieving their personal, family, and career goals.
- Teachers receive coaching and support to advance their learning and improve their teaching practices.
- Parents are decision-makers and leaders in the program.

Who it helps

Children who are categorically eligible for this program are those who are on TANF, in foster care, receive SSI, or are homeless. The remainder of the enrollees are living at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines, have been diagnosed with a disability, or are deemed to need additional support or resources.

The original base QIN grant was funded to serve 400 children in 19 child development homes with approximately \$3 million dollars in federal, private, and local monies. In 2019 OSSE was awarded an Early Head Start-CCP expansion grant to serve an additional 166 children for \$448,000.

Key facts

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), as the lead agency collaborates with other agencies to ensure effective service coordination and support for children and families enrolled in service providers participating in QIN.

The District child and family service agencies include DC Health, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Health Care Finance, and Child and Family Services Agency.

500

DC children are being served today via OSSE funding to two agencies



DC's Early Learning Quality Improvement Network (cont'd)

Learn more

Let's make sure DC is a city where equity starts at birth for every family. There are lots of great ways you can take action for DC's littlest residents.

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What's Next

The Birth-to-Three Act calls for an expansion of the existing Quality Improvement Network. The new law directs OSSE to lead an initiative to ensure the availability of infant and toddler child care that meets Early Head Start standards for families living in Wards 7 and 8, as well as dual language learners living in concentrated poverty, by 2023 and all Early Head Start eligible infants and toddlers by 2025.

About Under 3 DC

Under 3 DC, a broad based coalition in the District of Columbia, harnesses the voices and power of parents with young children, early educators, advocates, and health professionals to create transformative social change. The Coalition's efforts center on the people experiencing racial and economic injustice every day. It shines a spotlight on the need for more public investments to support families with infants and toddlers. Together, we can set the city on a path to creating and sustaining a high quality, equitable early childhood system.