



DC's Early Learning Quality Improvement Network

Key facts

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

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

400

During FY2022 (as of January 2023), the Quality Improvement Network served 400 DC children.

The Early Learning Quality Improvement Network (QIN) is a citywide effort to build capacity for, 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 15 child development centers and 17 child development homes, which all together serve more than 400 children.¹ Using the Early Head Start performance standards and research-based best practices, these hubs employ professionals who provide support to directors and educators who work in these child development centers and homes, the children who are enrolled in them, and their families. This support includes coaching and technical assistance for staff 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 facilities are connected with resources, expertise, and opportunities, then parents, children, and teachers all benefit. For example:

- 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 feel comfortable being decision-makers and leaders in the program.

Who it helps

Children who are categorically eligible (based on Early / Head Start standards) for classrooms participating in this program are those whose families participate in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are experiencing homelessness or who are in foster care. 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.

In FY22, the Early Learning Quality Improvement Network received \$4,648,412 across all funding sources (including a federal expansion grant), of which \$2,136,745 were local dollars.²



DC's Early Learning Quality Improvement Network

Learn more

Let's make the District of Columbia a city where equitable opportunities begin at birth. Find out how to take action for our youngest residents and their families.

Under3DC.org

Join the conversation

  Under3DC

What's Next

The Birth-to-Three Act calls for an expansion of the existing Quality Improvement Network. The law directs OSSE to lead an initiative to ensure the availability of infant and toddler child care that meets Early Head Start standards, first prioritizing families living in wards 7 and 8, as well as dual language learners living in concentrated poverty³.

¹ DC Council Committee of the Whole, OSSE. (FY2022). [Performance Oversight Pre-Hearing Questions](#).

² Ibid.

³ [D.C. Law 22-179, Birth-to-Three for All DC Amendment Act of 2018](#).

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.