



**State of New Hampshire**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

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**Division of Economic & Housing Stability**  
**Bureau of Child Development & Head Start**  
**Collaboration**

**Presented to House Finance Division III**

**February 23, 2021**

**Chris Santaniello**

# Agenda

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- **Overview of Division/Bureau**
- **Key Programs / Services**
- **Population Served**
- **Delivery System**
- **Accomplishments and Key Challenges**
- **Workload Benchmarks**
- **Financial Summary**



# Contact Information

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# Bureau of Child Development & Head Start Collaboration – Mission Statement

*To “partner with Child Care Licensing, the Head Start Community, Department of Education & others to ensure that all children enrolled in early childhood/out of school programs experience continuity in a high quality setting.”*



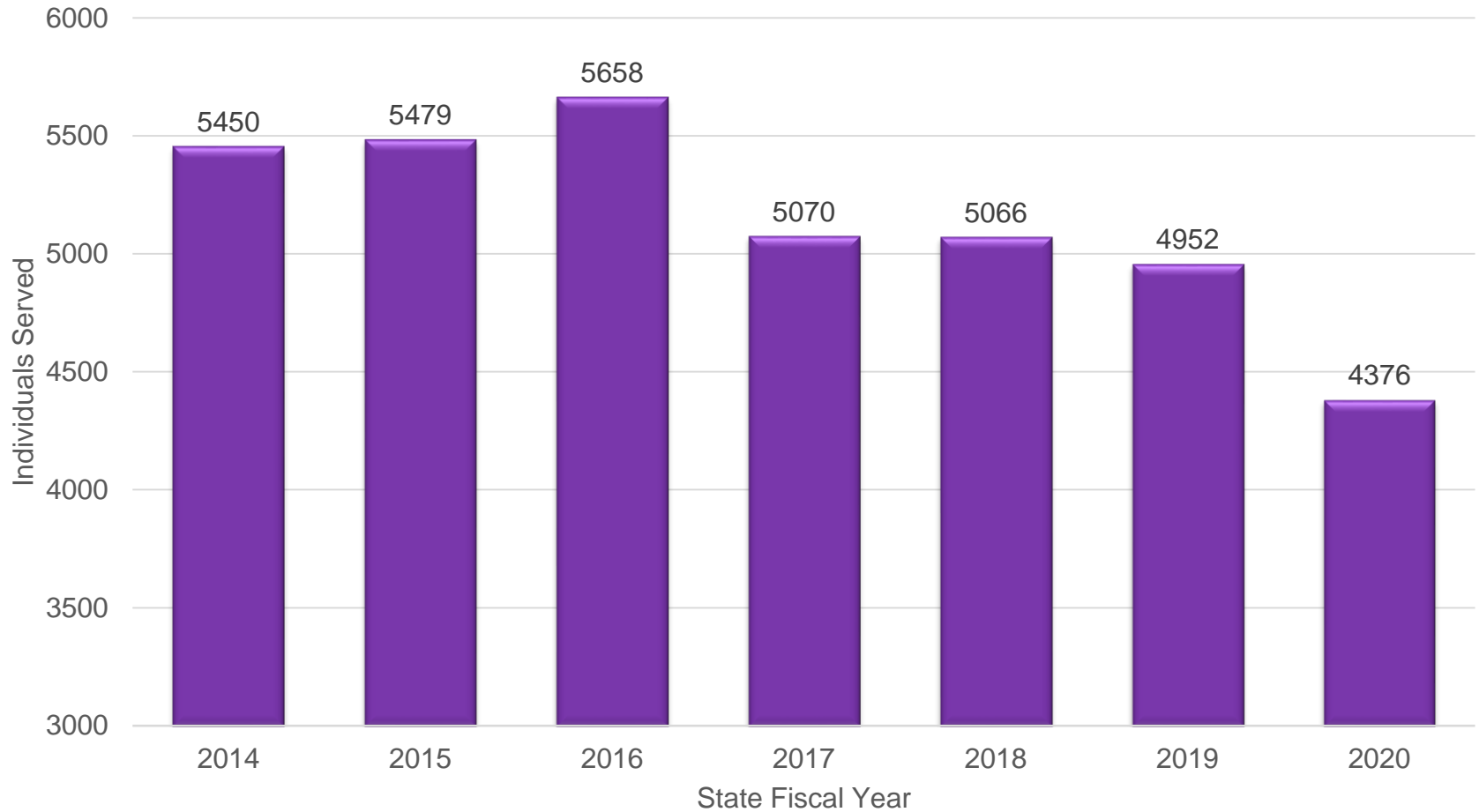
# BCDHSC Overview

- Administers Federal & State general funds for child care (Federal Child Care and Development Fund [CCDF] NH Child Care Scholarship Program [NH CCSP], Protective & Preventive; Mental Health/Substance Misuse).
- Provides NH CCSP funds for eligible families with children up to age 13 years (through 17 years for children with disabilities).
- Recruits, enrolls, trains and supports child care providers for NH CCSP. Ensures NH CCSP program quality and integrity in partnership with DHHS Child Care Licensing Unit.
- Administers CCDF quality initiatives. Develops/revises and administers the Quality Recognition and Improvement System, the Early Childhood & Afterschool Professional Development System/provider credentialing (child care, Head Start, allied professionals), and develops and/or supports quality activities and professional development opportunities, including online training at no cost to participants and coaching/technical assistance via partnerships (e.g., NH DOE, philanthropic organizations) and contracts.
- Offers consumer education and resources. Provides services/support, access to information, referrals/ resources for families, providers and the public regarding early childhood/out of school programs and services (e.g., child care, child development, health and safety indicators and compliance, quality standards, public assistance, etc.) through a comprehensive, easy to access website <[Home - Child Care Aware of NH \(nh-connections.org\)](http://nh-connections.org)>.
- Engages in School Readiness & Early Childhood/Out of School Systems Building/Integration. Works to improve school readiness/continued school success for children in child care, Head Start, preschool and out of school programs. Fosters public/private partnerships to build a strong, collaborative early childhood system in NH, including developmental screening (Watch Me Grow), work force initiatives, Pyramid Model (social emotional development), and Preschool Development Grant projects (e.g., Kindergarten Entry Assessment and Transition). Building NH Connections Information System.



# NH Child Care Scholarship Summary Of Individuals Served

## Monthly Average



# BCDHSC Programs

## CCDF Child Care Scholarship Program

Provides child care funding for eligible families/children in licensed, license-exempt, & Family, Friend & Neighbor settings.

DHHS Child Care Licensing Unit is responsible for licensure and program monitoring. Partners with BCDHS to align policy/monitoring requirements.

## CCDF Quality

Child Care & Development Block grant requires 12% of CCDF award be dedicated to continuous quality improvement for child care services: 9% general; 3% infants & toddlers.

Prioritized needs included quality initiatives: Watch Me Grow; Pyramid Model, Professional Development/ QRIS to comply with requirements

Awarded new, renewed or additional credentials to 331 early childhood/out of school professionals.

Consumer Education/Information: Child Care Aware of NH provided referrals to 1,434 parents; engaged in 1,476 live chats with provider, parents, others; provided 437 training opps. to 5,418 participants; 45,951 hits on website (calendar year 2020)

## Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS)

BCDHSC fosters integration/collaboration between HS/EHS, child care, education, social services, literacy, health, family support and other services concerned with young children and families.

5 HS/3 EHS grantees; 2 EHS/child care partnership programs; operated under Community Action Programs

PY 2020 Enrollment:  
1,563 funded  
2,016: cumulative

3 grantees also operate child care programs

## NH Connections

NH Connections Information System currently includes 3/5 intended modules (child care search, program profiles, prof. registry). To be completed: background checks

Designed to enhance child care search, communication with providers and families, online enrollment/applications (professional registry, grants, credentials, program quality designation, etc.), program marketing, and director tracking of staff training/requirements..




# BCDHSC Service Delivery

- Services are provided to children birth to age 13 in licensed or license-exempt child care settings.
- The Bureau of Child Care Licensing within the Office of Legal and Regulatory Services is responsible for licensure and program monitoring.
- Head Start and Early Head Start is provided by 5 Head Start grantees in 48 sites (including 3 home based), by the Community Action Programs.








- COVID-19 pandemic response:

- Kept Child Care doors open – currently 768 licensed programs and 45,788 allowable spaces.
- Stood up 4 emergency programs (Emergency Child Care Program; Child Care Recovery & Stabilization Program-- Rounds 1 & 2; NH Youth Empowerment Program; E-Collaborative)
- Distributed \$38,298,900 in GOFERR funds and \$6,999,268 in CCDF COVID CARES Act funds to 619 early childhood/out of school and summer programs to support them to remain open/reopen and adhere to pandemic-related health and safety guidelines.
- Implemented 14 emergency CCDF policies in support of families, providers and children.



- Developed new data system.:

- Largely offset data system cost by generating a MOA with the State of Massachusetts to “lift and shift” code from the MASS LEADS system.



- Credentialing/professional development:

- Partnered with NH DOE to expand online access to the national Pyramid Model Consortium modules (social emotional development) at no cost to participants over the next five years, including trauma informed care, anti bias, provider self-care, and infant/toddler and preschooler development; and with UNH and the Preschool Development Grant team to develop coaching competencies and design an integrated system to make coaching available to early childhood/out of school, public preschool and kindergarten programs.
- Renewed, added new or awarded first time credentials to 331 early childhood and out of school providers in 2020.



# CDHSC – Key Challenges



The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted child care/out of school programs, and families seeking safe/affordable care. It has also highlighted the fragility of the child care/out of school system and need for support to adapt/rebuild/sustain services, particularly infant/toddler care and family child care homes.



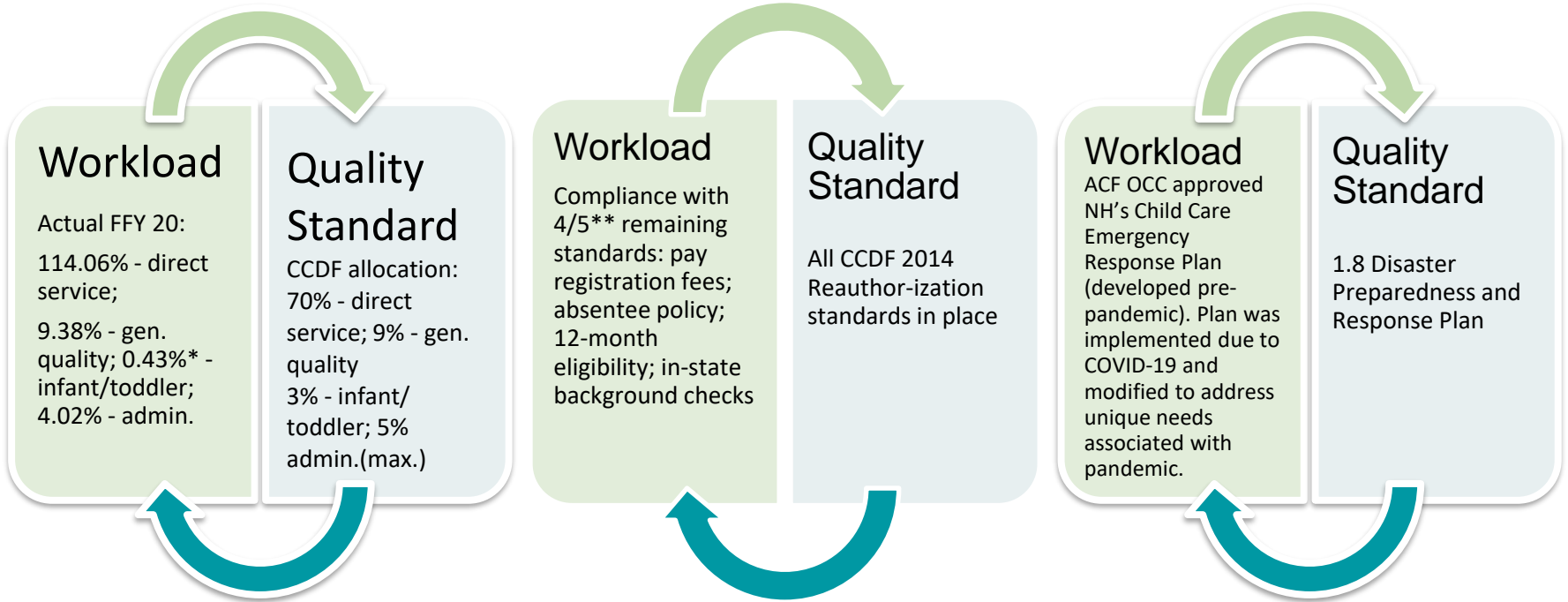
Pre-pandemic, there was a significant shortage of child care/out of school/Head Start teachers in NH and nationally. The pandemic has exacerbated this issue. Low wages are a disincentive for workers to pursue a career in the field.



Supporting CQI (continuous quality improvement). Programs struggle to maintain/enhance quality, given financial and staffing pressures. All children should have access to quality care. Financial/other support is needed to assist programs in their CQI efforts, including participating in the new QRI system after roll-out.

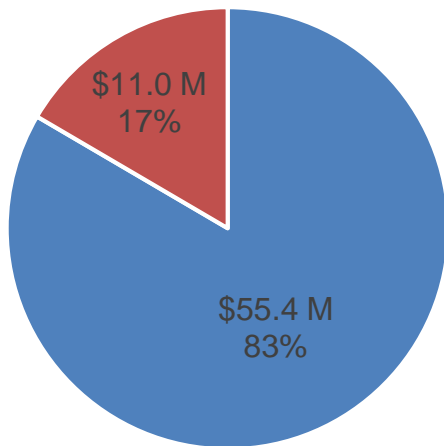


# Workload Benchmarks



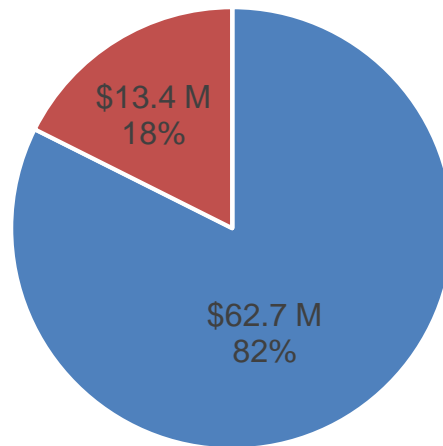
# BCDHSC - Budget

2018 / 2019



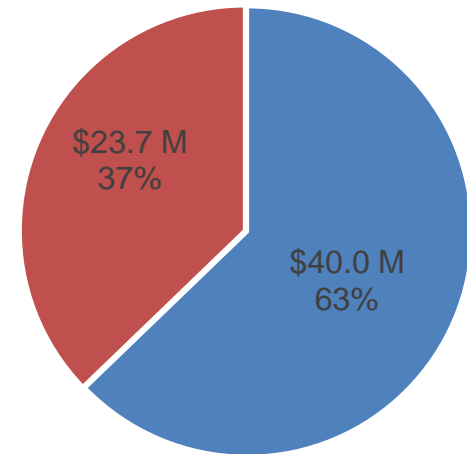
- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other

2020 / 2021



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other

2022 / 2023 Request



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other



# 5% Incremental / decremented Outcome

Increased support to programs for CQI

Increased effort to expand families' access to programs

Increased activities to address work force shortage

Decreased support for CQI

Decreased activities to expand families' access to programs

Decreased activities to address work force shortage



# BCDHSC - Accounting Units

Activity- Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4211-2976	Child Development - Operations	DEHS	BCDHSC	949	-
4211-2977	Child Development Program	DEHS	BCDHSC	950	32
4211-2978	Child Development – Quality Assurance	DEHS	BCDHSC	951	34
4211-2979	Head Start State Collaboration	DEHS	BCDHSC	952	-



# BCDHSC - Staffing

Governor Recommended Positions SFY22	%	4230 – Bureau of Housing Supports Accounting Unit
4	40%	2976 – Child Development-Operations
5	50%	2978 – Child Care Development-Quality Assurance
1	10%	2979 – Head Start State Collaborative

