

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION MONTHLY STAKEHOLDER CALL

March 25, 2025



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



AGENDA

- 1 SFY 26/27 Budget
- 2 Licensing Integration Update
- 3 Step Up To Quality
- 4 DCY Updates
 - Early Childhood Education Grant
 - Child Care Voucher Program
 - Science of Reading Grant
 - IECMH Program Update



SFY 26/27 BUDGET

Kara Wente, Director



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



DCY BUDGET UPDATE

Feb-April
2025

- Ohio House Reviews -February through mid-to-late April
 - House Substitute Bill
 - House Omnibus Amendment

April-June
2025

- Ohio Senate Reviews – April through June
 - Senate Substitute House Bill
 - Senate Omnibus Amendment

June
2025

- Conference Committee

July 1,
2025

- Executive Budget signed by the Governor

Director's Testimony

February 5, 2025: Ohio House Finance Committee Testimony: [The Ohio Channel](#)

February 11, 2025: Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee Testimony: [The Ohio Channel](#)

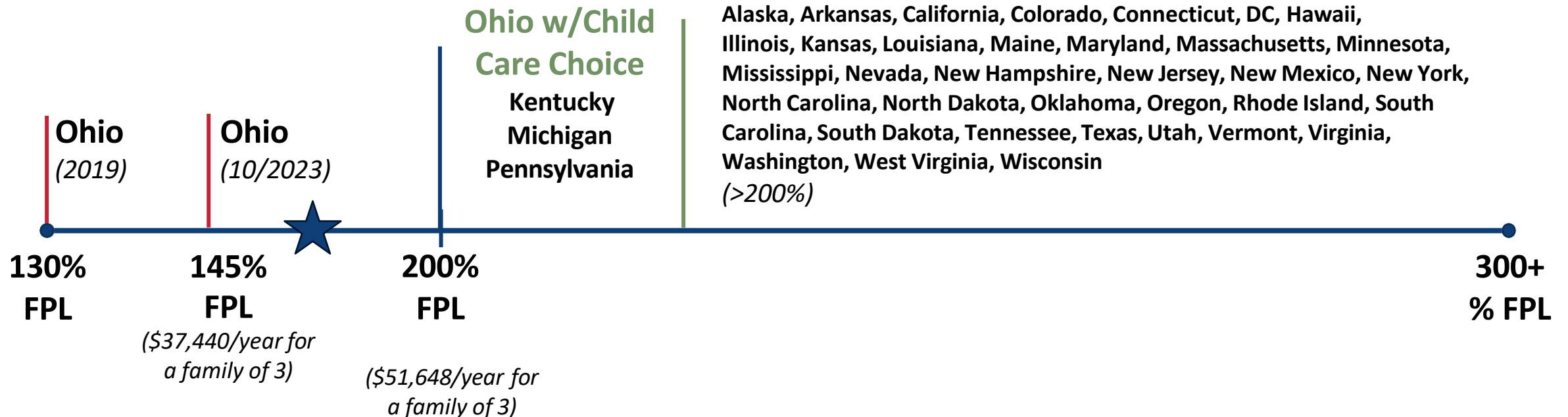
February 25, 2025: Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee Testimony: [The Ohio Channel](#)

FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

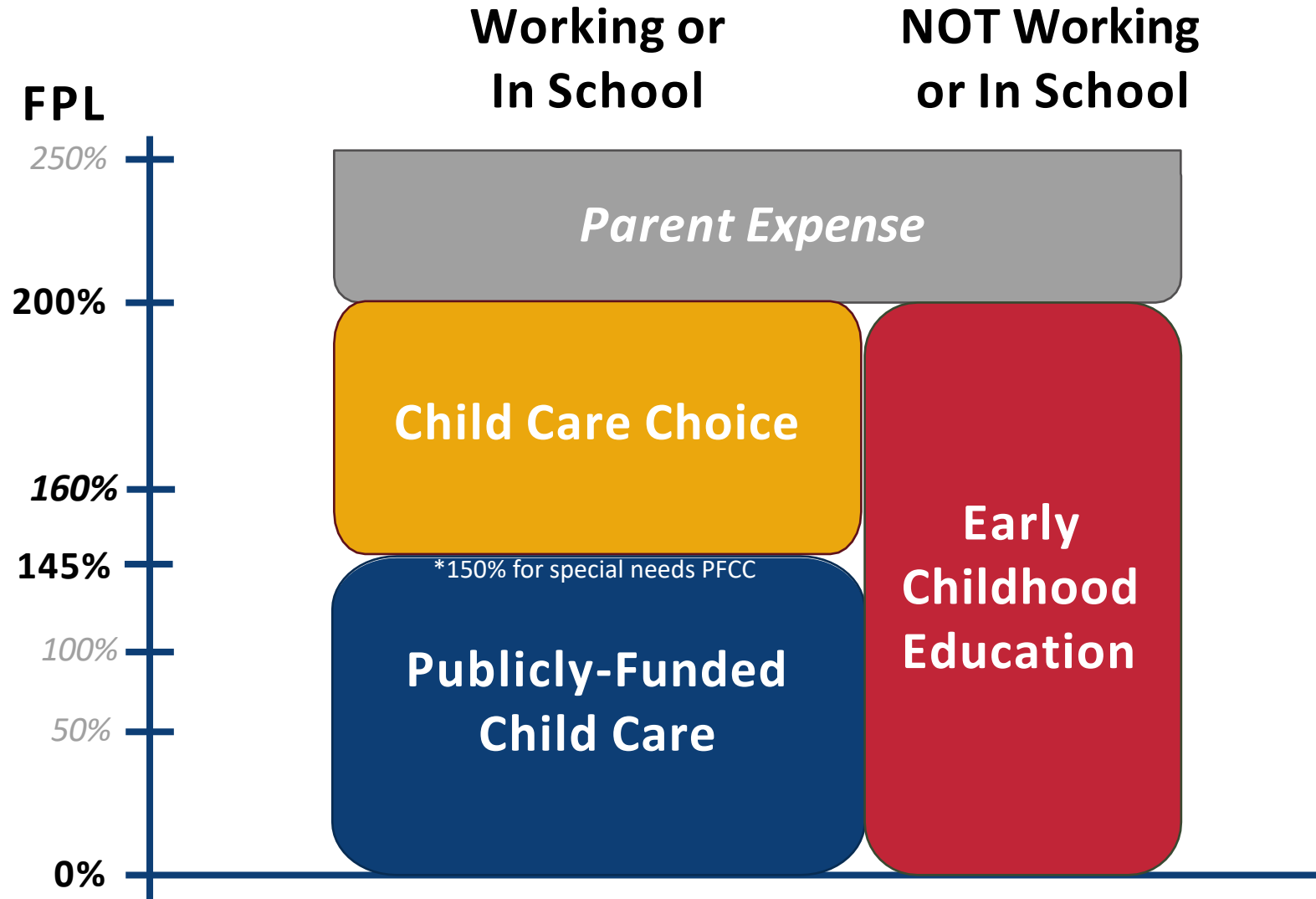
39 states have eligibility at **200% FPL or above**
(including Ohio with Governor DeWine's Child Care Choice Voucher Program)

★ **Ohio - Publicly Funded Child Care: 160%**

- **Ohio - Child Care Choice: 200%**



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION - TODAY



AFFORDABLE CARE

Accessible, affordable child care is necessary to support the workforce to provide economic viability for children, families, and the State of Ohio.

In a recent survey:

44% of parents say they have had to miss work, leave early, or lose focus because of challenges with child care.

49% of parents say they have cut back their work hours to care for their children.

61% of Ohio mothers with children five and younger who do not currently work full time say they would return to the workforce if they had access to high-quality, affordable child care.



CHILD CARE GOALS FOR 2026/2027 BUDGET

1. **Children:** Maintain support for children in families up to 200% of the FPL to make child care accessible and affordable.
2. **Families:** Streamline the application process to one front door through Ohio Benefits easing access.
3. **Providers:** Streamline payments and increase to the 2024 market rate to stabilize the industry.
4. **State:** Meet federal compliance for the Child Care Development Block Grant and support families.

Market Rate Survey (MRS)

Implementation of 2024 MRS at the **50th** Percentile



October 2025

Co-Payments

7% Cap of Co-Payments for Families



July 2026

Payment on Enrollment to Providers



July 2026

Prospective Payments to Providers



July 2026

LICENSING INTEGRATION

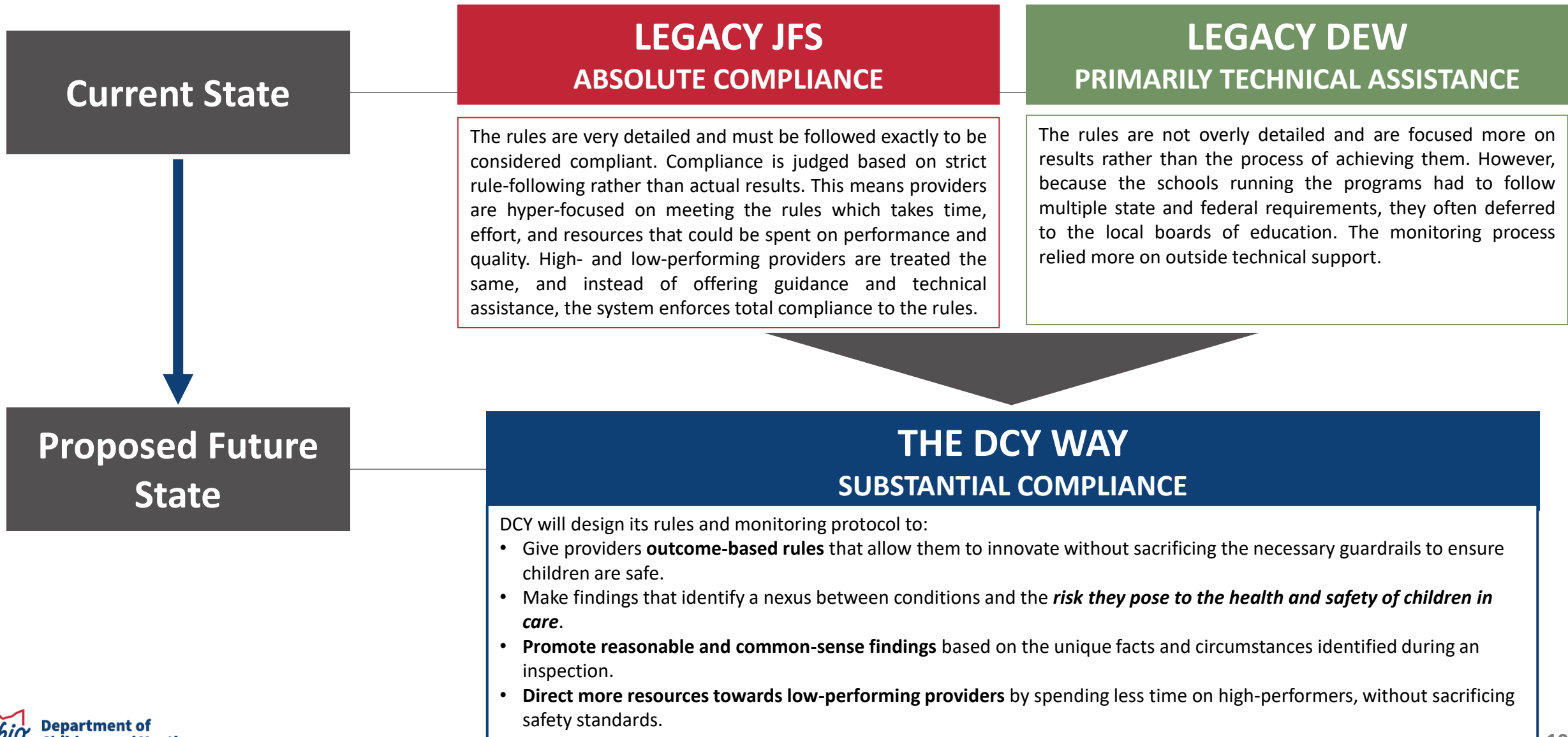
Laura Graf, Deputy Director, Division of Policy
Stevie Romano, Deputy Director, Division of Regulatory Compliance



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



CULTURE RESET PROPOSED APPROACH TO RULES AND MONITORING



HIGH-LEVEL ROADMAP



Policy

- **Rule Organization:** Paragraph Levels and Legacy Rule Mapping; Chapter and Rule Organization.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** ECE External Stakeholder Workgroups
- **Rule Drafting & Reviews:** Policy, Workgroup, Executive Leadership
- **Forms:** Rewrite and consolidate required forms.



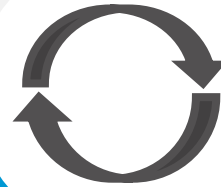
Licensing

- **Strength-based Monitoring:** Develop a system that promotes strength of compliance determines level of reviews .
- **Field Guide:** Develop tool that promotes transparency with all stakeholders in approach to determining compliance.
- **Substantial Compliance Approach:** Record compliance based on threshold of review (many rules substantial; few rules absolute).



Training & TA

- **Rule Integration Workgroups:** Participate in rule integration meetings to understand policy, context, and timeline.
- **Training:** Develop or assist with the development of training materials (Examples: Webinars/Snippets).
- **TA Materials:** Develop learning aids.
- **Ongoing TA:** Develop a plan for the field to access ongoing TA.



Systems

- **Updates to OCLQS:** Facilitate and support software development lifecycle to align system to policy changes.
- **External Systems:** Confirm Necessary Updates to OPR.
- **Training:** Develop and Deliver Systems Training, Job Aids, etc.

STEP UP TO QUALITY UPDATES

Sophie Hubbell, Chief

Bureau of Early Childhood Practice Advancement



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



STEP UP TO QUALITY UPDATE



CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

- 1,299 programs applied to receive Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum and/or the assessments prior to 2/28.
- Programs who submitted by 2/28 should have received a letter from DCY by 3/14.
- Professional Development Supports
 - Subscriptions for every teacher to on-line implementation tools and coaching.
 - Available through September 2027.
- For questions regarding your application, please the Family and Customer Support Center at info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov or 1-844-234-5437, option 2, if you have any questions.
- Family Child Care Curriculum RFP is being re-posted through DCY.

GETTING STARTED WITH CREATIVE CURRICULUM

After Teaching Strategies receives your order from DCY:

1. The program contact will receive an email from implementation@teachingstrategies.com with login credentials. Check your SPAM folder if you can't locate it.
2. **Login** at www.smartteach.com with the provided login credentials to access the SmartTeach™ platform.
3. **Bookmark** the [SmartTeach™ login page](#) for easy access in the future.
4. **Explore and learn** more about your resources including GOLD®, Creative Curriculum Cloud®, and Professional Development Teacher Membership.

A series of short videos about account set-up and getting started are available on the Teaching Strategies website:

<https://teachingstrategies.my.site.com/portal/s/administrator-ready-set-go-videos>

TEACHER ACCELERATION PROGRAM (TAP)



SUTQ APPROVED INFANT & TODDLER CURRICULA

- Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children (AEPS-3), 3rd Edition
- Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos, 3rd Edition
- Experience Early Learning
- Frog Street Infant
- Frog Street Toddler
- HighScope Curriculum Infant-Toddler
- Learning Beyond Paper

SUTQ APPROVED PRESCHOOL CURRICULA

- Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children (AEPS-3), 3rd Edition
- The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 6th Edition
- The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, Guided Edition
- The Creative Curriculum for Pre-K
- Curiosity Corner, 2nd Edition
- Frog Street PreK (2020)
- HighScope Preschool 2nd Edition
- Joyful Discoveries - Project Ready!
- Learning Beyond Paper (PreK)
- Lillio Learning for Preschool Classrooms
- PreK On My Way (2020)
- Ready to Advance (2012; Preschool)
- Tools of the Mind PreK Curriculum, 8.2 Edition
- World of Wonders (2017)

FAMILY CHILD CARE CURRICULUM

- Family Child Care providers may use the following to meet the SUTQ curriculum requirement:
 - The Creative Curriculum Family Child Care, 3rd Edition
 - Any curriculum on the approved list for the age group(s) you are currently serving.
- When a state purchased curriculum is available for Family Child Care providers, there will be a separate online application.

DCY PROGRAM UPDATES



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANT



The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant is designed to provide high quality early learning experiences to preschoolers to enhance their learning and development prior to kindergarten entry. Participating grantee sites must be highly rated through Step Up To Quality and offer at least 12.5 hours of instruction per week.

ECE Grantees

- **546** early childhood education programs (grantees) are participating in the ECE grant.
- These grantees were awarded **29,213** slots/21,432 slots were filled through December 2024.
- 500 unfilled slots were redistributed to programs with more than 85% of their original slots filled.

Final Enrollment Survey

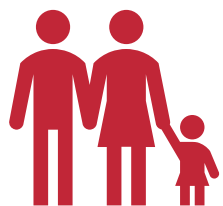
- Programs were asked for final enrollment numbers last week (3/21).
- Numbers will be matched to approved authorizations in Ohio Benefits.
- Final grant awards will be confirmed based on enrollment verification.

SFY 26 Eligibility

- Families **not** eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care, based on not having a qualifying activity, may be eligible for ECE.
 - No qualifying activity for one or both caregivers 0-200% FPL.
- Categorical eligibility includes:
 - Children on an IEP
 - Homeless
 - Foster and kinship
 - **NEW** Children exiting Part C (Early Intervention), not eligible for Part B (Preschool Special Education)
- **NEW** Eligible families 146-200% may chose between CCVP and ECE participation for their preschool child.

CHILD CARE CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Child Care Choice Voucher Program launched April 29th and has authorized child care to families 146- 200% FPL.



5,366

Cases/ Families



8,087

Children

Total Children: 8,087	
1,515 Infants	1,613 Toddlers
2,391 Preschool	2,568 School-age

Data as of March 21, 2025

THE SCIENCE OF READING

Program Type	Payment	Available Awards Per Program
Child Care Center, Private Preschool, Non-Public Preschool (example: Religious School, Charter School), Non-Public District Preschool, Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Preschool	\$750 per staff, up to \$3,000	1,450
Family Child Care Homes	\$750 for FCC provider/owner	1,100
School-Age (SACC) Programs	\$750 per staff, up to \$3,000	25



Grant Opportunity

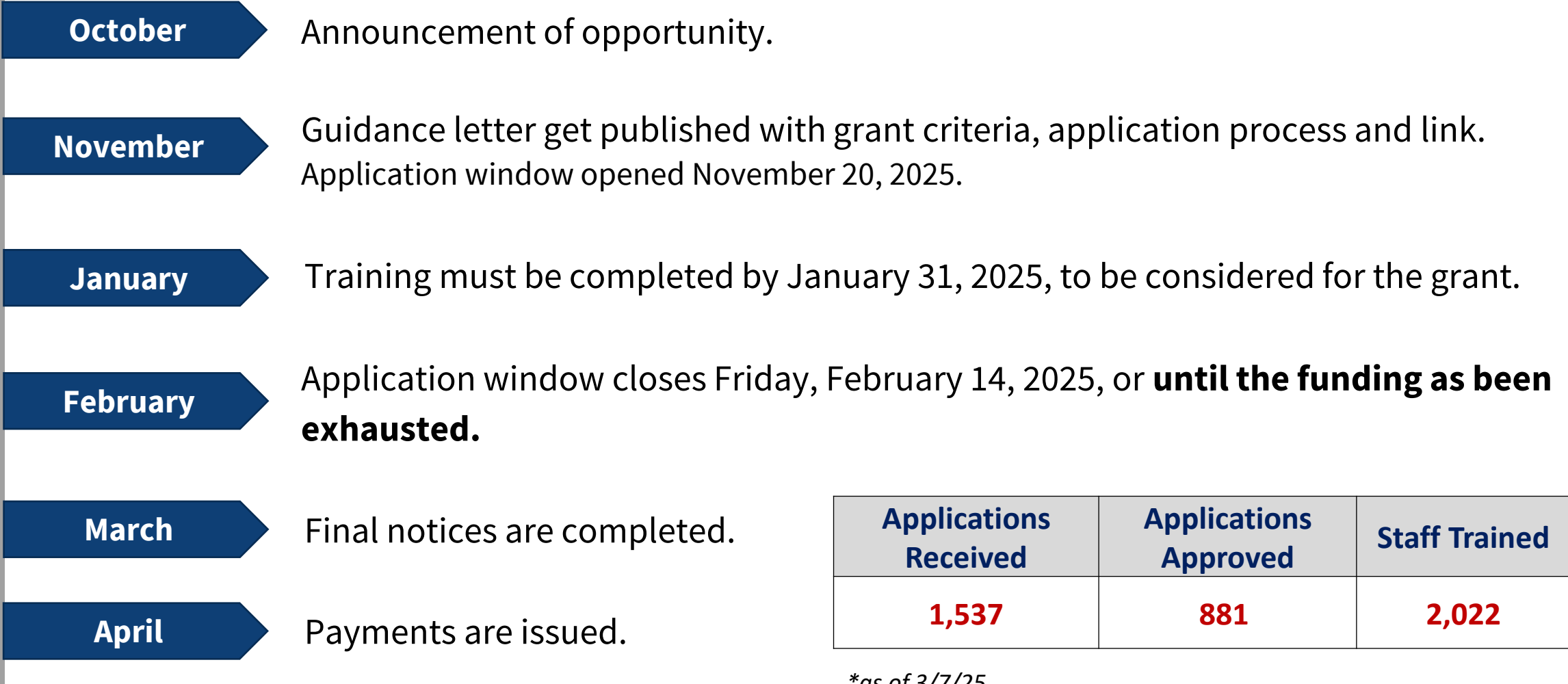
- DCY launched a grant opportunity to support professional development for administrators and teachers in early care and education programs who complete at least 10 hours of training in the Science of Reading from a list of approved courses.
- Approximately **\$5 million dollars** have been made available through the Preschool Development Grant and CCDF Quality.



Eligibility

- Licensed and in good standing.
- Be open and serving children eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) and/or the Child Care Voucher Program (CCVP).
- Have a provider agreement for early care and education services (previously known as PFCC agreement) in place in Ohio Child Care Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS).

SCIENCE OF READING GRANT - TIMELINE



Applications Received	Applications Approved	Staff Trained
1,537	881	2,022

**as of 3/7/25*

IECMH UPDATE



IECMHC is a prevention-based approach that pairs a mental health consultant with adults who work with infants and young children in the different settings where they learn and grow.



1,357
Total Classrooms



36,176
Total Children



10,364
Total Educators
Impacted



12,921
Total Classroom
Visits/Encounters

Visit DCY's website to find your IEMCH partner:

[Ohio's Helping Ohio Preschoolers Excel \(HOPE\) Rapid Response Line](#)

State Fiscal Year Quarter 1 & 2

HELPING OHIO PRESCHOOLERS EXCEL (H.O.P.E.)

Program Overview:

H.O.P.E was developed as an interruption to preschool expulsions.

Services Include:

- Rapid Response Service (48 hours)
- On-site observations, consultations & support
- Utilizing the DECA for assessing children
- Social Emotional Resources

Why it Matters:

In SFY 24, approximately 98% of preschoolers were maintained in early care and education programs.



H.O.P.E.

HELPING OHIO PRESCHOOLERS EXCEL

This **FREE** program provides:

- Rapid Response Consultation
- Social-Emotional Resources
- Professional Development

Available to early learning professionals working with children ages 0 to 8.

To request a **consultation**, contact the HOPE line at **(844) 678-ABCs (2227)**.



MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO



CONNECT WITH DCY



<https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/home>



info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov



<https://www.facebook.com/ohdcy>



<https://twitter.com/OhioDCY>



<https://www.instagram.com/ohiodcy/>



<https://www.youtube.com/@OhioDCY>