

# Children's Cabinet

March 23, 2023

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on adoption of January and February meeting minutes
- Medicaid Renewals Briefing
- ECCE Strategic Plan Update
- Public Comment
- Adjournment



**BE READY.  
STAY COVERED.**

# Medicaid Renewals Overview

Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), in partnership with Department of Human Services (DHS) and HealthSource RI (HSRI)

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# Content Index

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- What You Need to Know
- How Renewals Will Work
- What to Expect in the Mail and When to Take Action
- What Partners Are Doing to Help Members



# What You Need to Know

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# What Is a Medicaid Renewal or Redetermination?

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid eligibility was reviewed once a year.

- **This process is called a “renewal” or “redetermination.”**

During the public health emergency (PHE), the federal government stopped annual renewals to make sure that people did not lose health coverage. The federal government is now mandating that states restart their annual renewals.

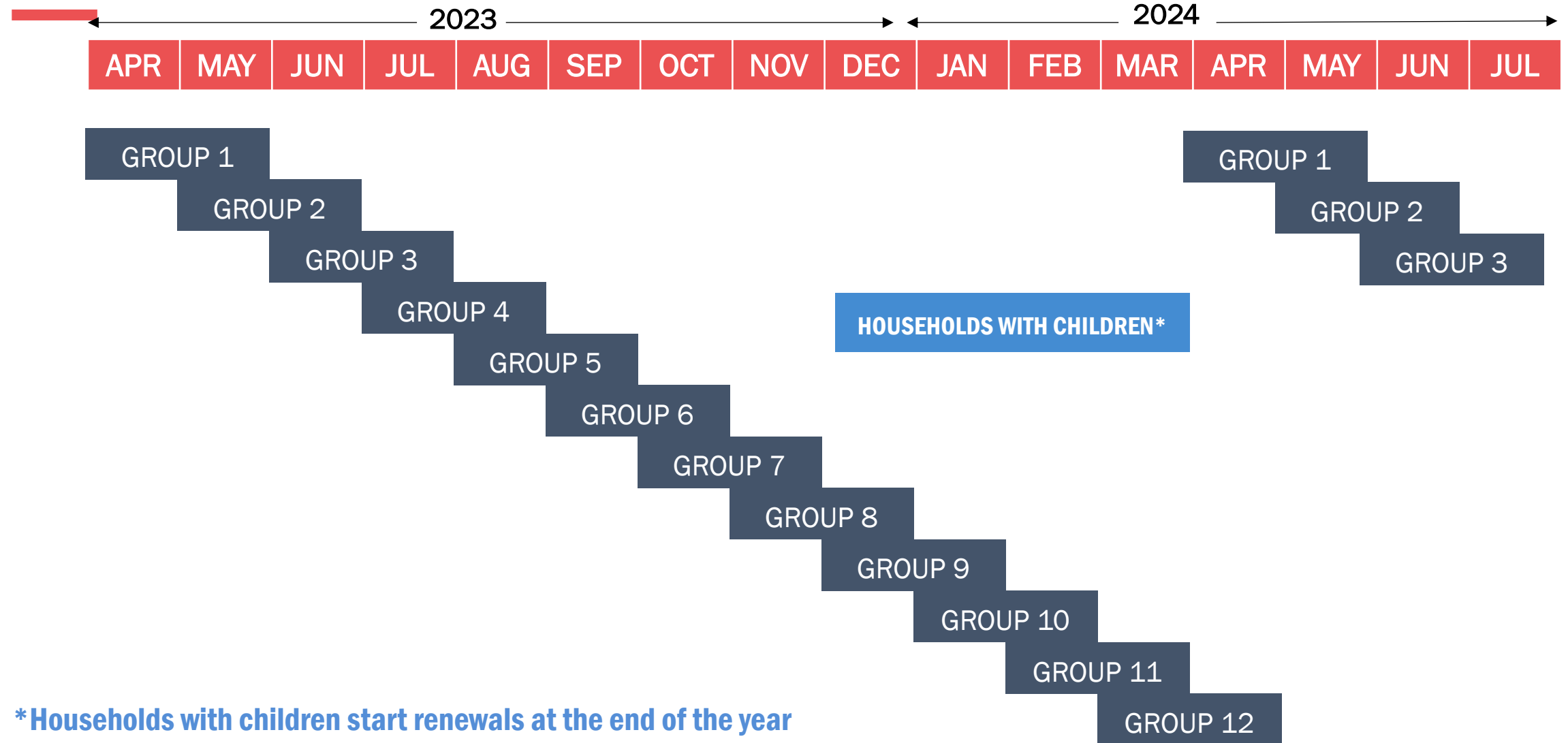
- **On April 1, Medicaid renewals will begin again in Rhode Island. Renewals will take place over 12 months in a staggered approach.**

Your Medicaid renewal/eligibility redetermination will ONLY affect your health insurance coverage. It will not affect your other benefits (ex. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).



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# Renewal Distribution Groups



# How Renewals Will Work

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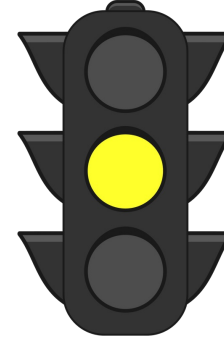
# Passive vs. Full Renewals



## Passive Renewal:

When the State knows about your income and other financial information they need to decide if you are still eligible, then you will not need to take any action.

You will receive a notice from the State that asks you to review the information the State is using and contact the state **only if** information is not correct. Otherwise, you don't need to do anything.



## Full (or "Active") Renewal:

If the State does not have enough information to complete the renewal, then you will receive a notice asking for the information the State needs.

You can provide this information through your customer portal, or by mailing information to DHS or dropping off the renewal form and scanning documents at the DHS office at One Reservoir Avenue, Providence.

**Our goal is to keep as many Rhode Islanders as possible connected to coverage, and in doing so, maintain our historically high rate of insured individuals.**

# Enrolling in Coverage Through HealthSource RI

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HSRI, the State's health insurance marketplace, connects Rhode Islanders with high quality, low or no-cost health coverage.

**For those passive and active renewals who are denied continued Medicaid coverage, HSRI options are available.**

- We are ready to help Rhode Islanders with support if they need to transition from Medicaid to a Qualified Health Plan (QHP).
  - Presently, we connect more than 29,000 individuals and families with quality, affordable health plan options.
  - 6 of 7 customers qualify for federal financial assistance that brings down premium costs.
  - Federal Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) are higher than they've ever been, and will continue to be enhanced through 2025.
  - More than 30% of HSRI customers pay less than \$20 per month for their plans.

# Automatic Enrollment and Premium Supports

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**Everyone who is losing Medicaid coverage will receive information about staying covered through HSRI.**

- Through our shared system, all impacted individuals and families will receive information about their options and what help is available. Language will be customized and included in their Benefit Decision Notice.
- Every Medicaid member transitioning off of Medicaid will be eligible for a 60-day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and there is an ongoing SEP for anyone who loses their Medicaid coverage during the renewal period (12-14 months).
- Some will benefit from additional assistance: HSRI “Auto Enrollment” and premium coverage for first two months
  - ✓ Those at less than 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL), about \$69,000/year for a family of 4, or \$34,000 for an individual, are eligible for federal premium tax credits AND Rhode Island’s two months’ premium assistance, ensuring a zero-cost transition to coverage through HSRI. They will have to pick a plan and enroll through HSRI.
  - ✓ Those at less than 200% of FPL, around \$55,000 for a family of 4, or \$27,000 for an individual, are eligible for the federal premium tax credit AND two months’ premium assistance. They *will be automatically enrolled* into a designated plan through HSRI.



# What to Expect in the Mail and When to Take Action

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# Update Your Contact Information to Receive Notices

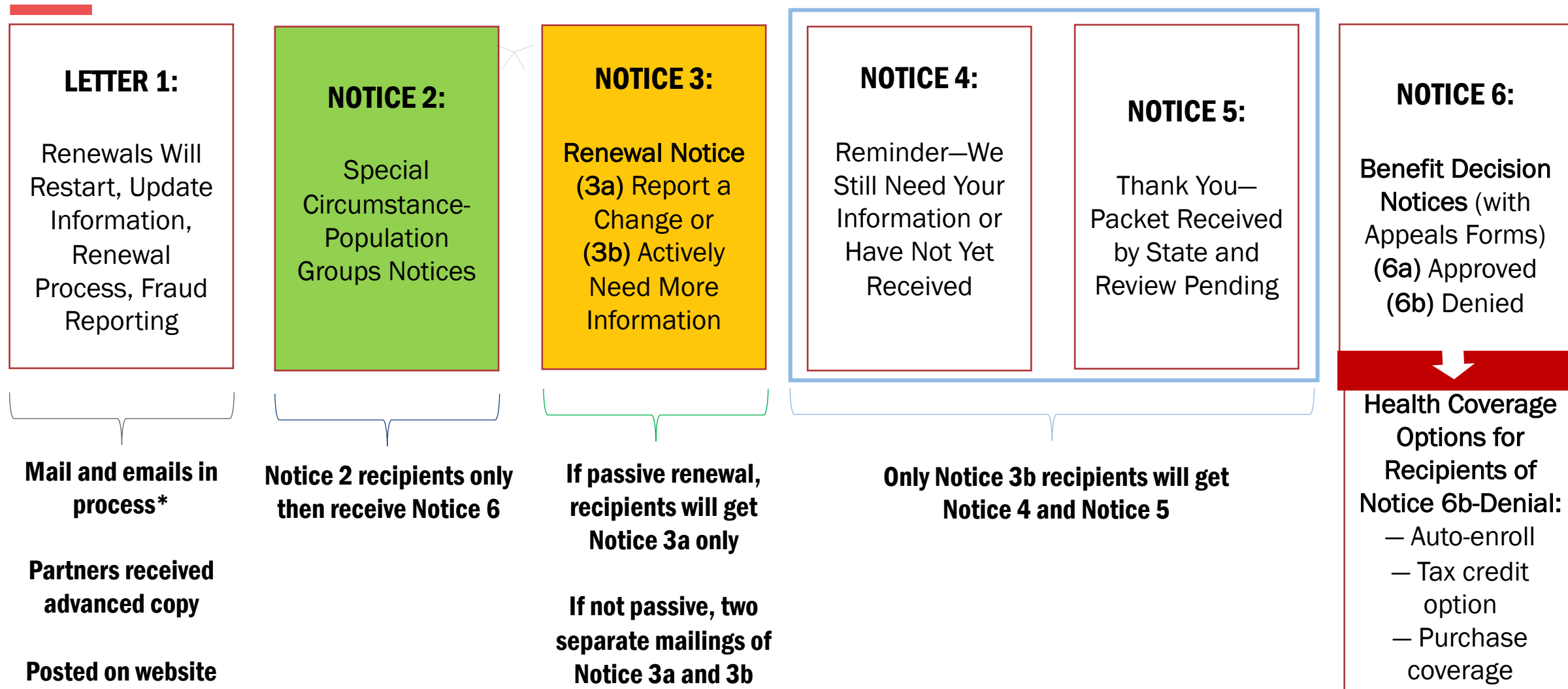
The most important action to take now is to encourage Medicaid recipients to update their contact information. This includes your mailing address, e-mail, phone number. You can also sign-up for text messages. Here's how:

- **Contact your managed care organization (MCO)** – Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Tufts Health Public Plan (RITogether) or United Health Care Community Plan (UHCCP)
- **Online:** Access your account at [healthyrhoderi.gov](http://healthyrhoderi.gov). HSRI also hosts a live web chat, which is staffed during business hours, Visit [healthsourceri.com](http://healthsourceri.com) and tap the bubble that says "Chat With Us."
- **By Phone:** Call HSRI at 1-855-840-4774
- **In Person:** Staff at DHS offices can assist customers in person.

Medicaid members, update your contact information today.



# Letter and Notice Sequence

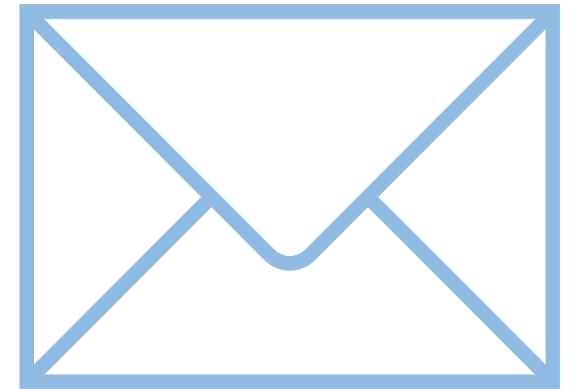


# Letter 1: Be Ready. Stay Covered

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**Letters have been sent to current Medicaid recipients via email and mail in three different languages starting yesterday and will continue into next week.**

- Update your contact information now so that we can make sure to get in touch with you.
- Wait for your yellow or green notice to arrive—this means it is your turn to begin the renewal process.
- Check your [www.healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://www.healthyrhode.ri.gov) account to see your estimated date of renewal.
- Protect yourself against fraud and scams by reporting suspicious calls or letters.
- Read our first letter so you know what to expect about the renewal process.
- Visit [www.staycovered.ri.gov](http://www.staycovered.ri.gov) to learn more about Medicaid renewals.



# Ways to Submit Documents Upon Renewal

Numerous options, as noted below, are available for Medicaid recipients to leverage when their renewal notice is received and if additional documentation is needed/requested.

## HealthyRhode Portal



INGLÉS | PORTUGUÉS  
Cobertura de salud: 1-855-840-4774  
Servicios Humanos y de Salud: 1-855-697-4347  
Empleadores: 1-855-683-6757  
INICIAR SESIÓN | REGISTRARSE  
Anuncios Importantes

**SOLICITAR COBERTURA DE SALUD**  
Las personas y las familias que solicitan cobertura de salud asequible solamente deben comenzar aquí.  
**COMENZAR**

**SOLICITAR PROGRAMAS DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS**  
Empiece aquí para solicitar programas de servicios humanos, entre otros, de Asistencia para la Atención Infantil, SNAP (Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria), Asistencia

**¿ES USTED EMPLEADOR?**  
Adecúe las ofertas según su presupuesto y deles a los empleados una amplia variedad de planes y aseguradoras.  
**COMENZAR**

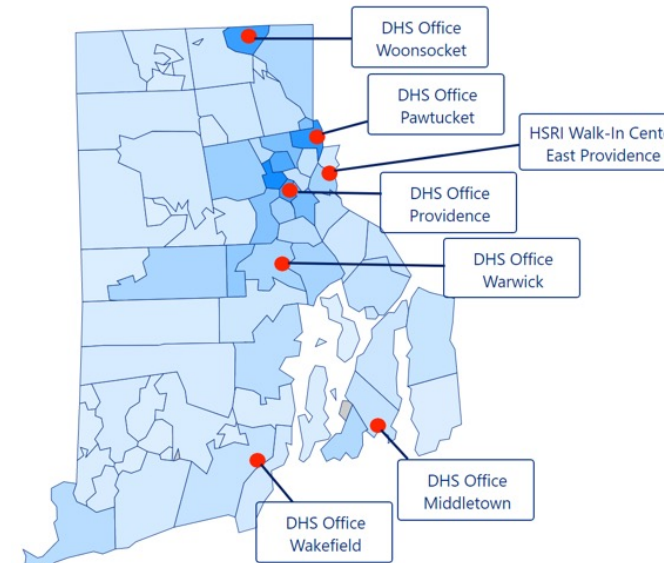
## HealthyRhode App



GET IT ON Google Play  
Download on the App Store



## In-Person Locations



## Mail-In or Scan Options

RI DHS  
Scan Center:  
1 Reservoir Ave. in  
Providence

Mail to:  
P.O. Box 8709,  
Cranston, RI  
02920-8787



# What Partners Are Doing to Help Members

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# Field Supports Already Exist to Help Members

Various agencies, organizations, and stakeholders are supporting outreach and engagement efforts.

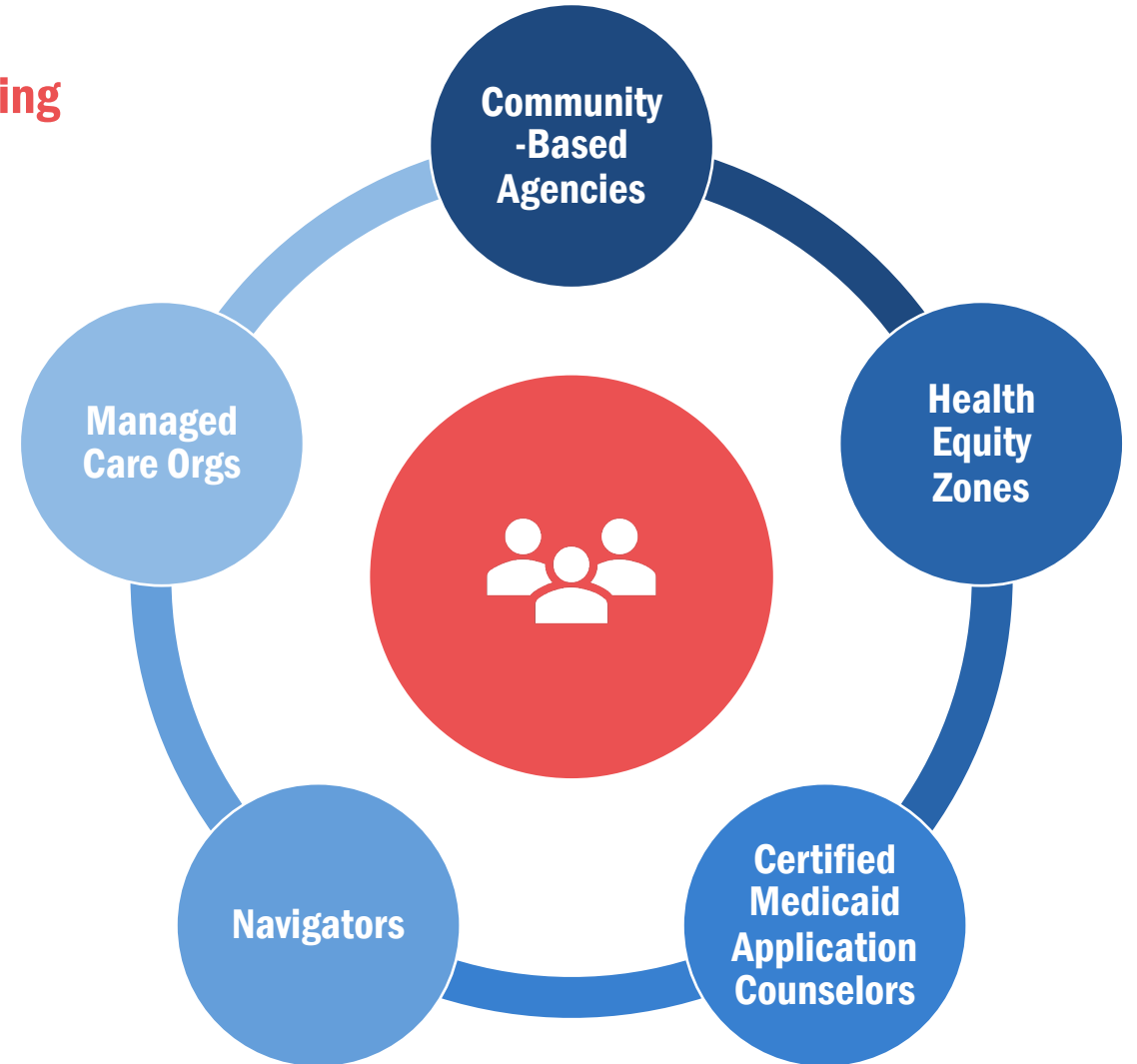
[Navigator agencies](#) provide free and unbiased in-person assistance for health insurance.

[Health Equity Zones \(HEZ\)](#) are some of the trusted messengers in the community who can help you.

[Certified Application Counselors](#) will provide free renewal assistance in agencies such as hospitals and clinics.

[Managed Care Organizations](#) are available to answer questions by calling the number on the back of your insurance card.

[Community-based Organizations](#) such as United Way, 211, and others are always a resource to assist Rhode Islanders.



# Client Support Services for Priority Populations

Mini-grant applications for community partners to provide assistance to those who may need it are due by April 4.

[Medicaid Renewal Client Support Program Mini-Grant Offering | Stay Covered Rhode Island](#)



Confidential Draft

# Spread the Message: Be Ready. Stay Covered.

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Visit [www.staycovered.ri.gov](http://www.staycovered.ri.gov) for resources and more information!

## Key Messages

1. Renewals are happening starting in April
2. Please update your contact information now
3. Make sure to open your mail and sign up for texts
4. Protect yourself against and report fraud
5. These changes affect health insurance only
6. Take action when you receive your yellow notice
7. There are continuous coverage options available
8. Remember, this will happen again each year

# Who Has The First Question?

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**Thank You!**

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# Children's Cabinet key strengths and opportunities to achieve the goals of the Cabinet, as discussed 1/24.

## Summary of Cabinet Feedback on 2023 Goals

- Identify core projects to focus our time and energy to advance goals and use meetings to review strategies and metrics
- Coordinate investments to have a comprehensive, proactive budget strategy
- Hear from community about ideas, projects, and progress
- Focus on implementation to achieve progress and outcomes

## How the Children's Cabinet can support progress

- Unique perspective on cross-agency projects requiring multiple Cabinet agencies to participate and contribute to achieve success
- Opportunity for multi-system feedback and engagement
- Public engagement on key strategies or projects

*Recommendation: Identify existing cross-agency projects that are aligned with the Governor's key goals and elevate to the Children's Cabinet, with the goal of using the Cabinet to advance efforts across agencies, support engagement, and provide Cabinet-level feedback on a regular basis.*

# Recommended approach for discussion: Identify a key interagency, youth-focused project underway for each of the Governor's key goals and leverage the Cabinet as an opportunity for cross-agency elevation, input, and discussion.

## Governor's McKee's Key Goals

### Match MA levels of achievement

**Project:** Early Childhood Care and Education Strategic Plan

**Governance:** Governor's Office, EOHHS, RIDE, RIDOH, and DHS, advised by the Early Learning Council

**Project Manager:** Kayla Rosen (GO)

#### Core Team:

- DHS
- RIDE
- RIDOH
- EOHHS

### Improve health outcomes

**Project:** Rhode Island Behavioral Health System of Care for Children' and Youth

**Governance:** EOHHS, advised by a public Steering Committee

**Project Manager:** Marti Rosenberg and Ellie Rosen (EOHHS)

#### Core Team:

- DCYF
- RIDOH
- BHDDH
- RIDE

### Increase per capita income

**Project:** PrepareRI/RI Reconnect/out of school learning

**Governance:** OPC, RIDE, and DLT, advised by the Governor's Workforce Board and Board of Education

**Project Manager:** Julissa Disu (GWB/DLT), Guerds Jean (RIDE), OPC

#### Core Team:

- OPC
- DLT
- RIDE

**Increased, aligned integrated data capacity to measure impact and evaluate performance:** Led by DOA, aligning and leveraging the EOHHS Data Ecosystem and the State Longitudinal Data System to measure performance across core initiatives.





## Early Childhood Care and Education Strategic Plan Update

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Children's Cabinet

March 23, 2023

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# The ECCE Strategic plan has five core objectives to ensure that all children are on a path to reading proficiently in third grade.

**Vision:** all children on a path to reading proficiently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## **Objective 1:**

Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System

## **Objective 2:**

Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

## **Objective 3:**

All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

**Objective 4:** Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

**Objective 5:** Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

# The ECCE Strategic plan has five core objectives to ensure that all children are on a path to reading proficiently in third grade.

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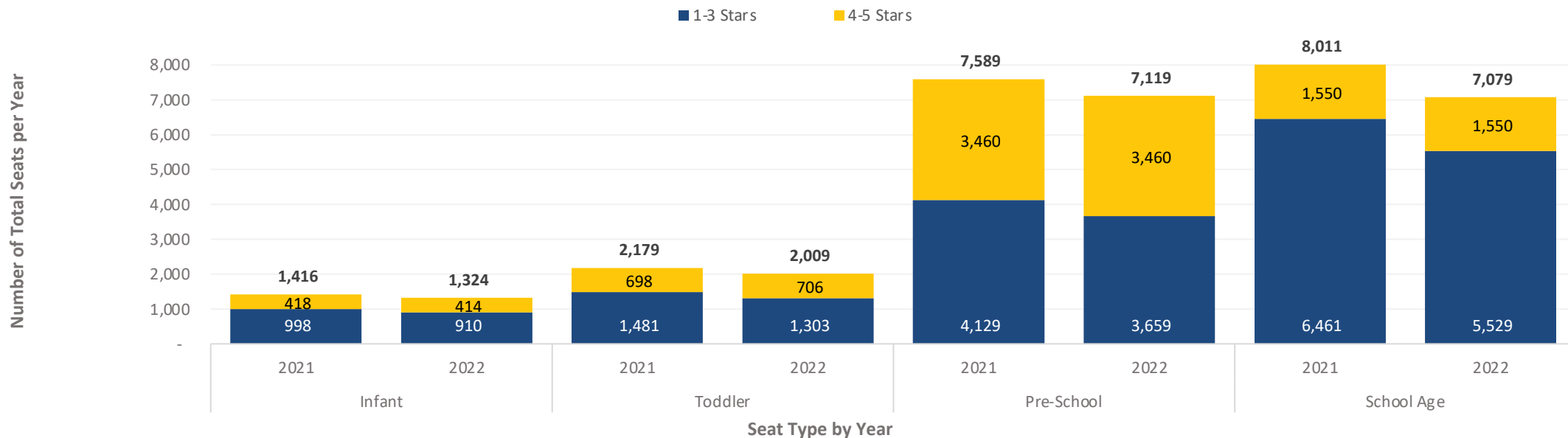
# Objective 1: Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Among CCAP providers, there is a critical lack of infant/toddler capacity to support working families.

Number of CCAP Seats by Age Group and BrightStars Rating and Year

Total Seats\* in 2021: 19,195

Total Seats\* in 2022: 17,531



\* Not all CCAP providers, and no non-CCAP indicate their capacity by age group, Total seats referenced here will be less than actual "Total Capacity" in the Scorecard.

# Objective 1: Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System.

## Strategies & Impact Statements

- **Strategy 1:** Strengthen and streamline foundational quality standards through regular review and robust data collection.
  - *Impact Statement: Clarity and consistency in the definition of quality – based in best practices and evidence – will ensure that all initiatives to improve quality ratings will have a true impact on child development and long-term positive outcomes.*
- **Strategy 2:** Expand high quality programs by providing access to a range of data-informed initiatives, resources and supports that will improve their quality and better support the needs of families in the PN-5 system.
  - *Impact Statement: By investing in the increasing the capacity within the early learning sector and investing in direct quality improvements, there will be more high-quality spots for children utilizing CCAP to access.*
- **Strategy 3:** Ensure the workforce of early childhood educators and care professionals are professionally prepared, fairly compensated and have meaningful pathways towards career advancement.
  - *Impact Statement: The most important element of early childhood education are the educators who support children's development. Early education needs to recruit, retain, and train educators to have classrooms open and lead high quality programs.*

# Objective 1: Rhode Island’s early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System.

## Progress & Key 2023 Activities

Progress since 2020	2023 Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress meeting the equal access standard for CCAP rates, with <b>increasing CCAP rates</b> to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market rate for 1 star programs and up to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for 5 star programs</li> <li><b>Expansion of CCAP eligibility</b> to families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and to income-eligible full time students at public higher education institutions</li> <li>Implementation of the <b>\$15M Early Childhood Care and Education Facilities Bond</b>, passed in 2021, to expand and improve quality early learning spaces across the state As of February 2023, 51 programs applied for bond funds and 15 have received awards.</li> <li>Implementation the <b>Family Child Care start-up grants</b> to support increased capacity in an important part of the mixed-delivery system. As of February 2023, 76 potential FCCs received funding and 30 have become licensed.</li> <li>Expansion of <b>career pathways supports and pipelines</b> for early educators, including funding to double the number of TEACH Scholarships</li> <li>Implementation of the <b>Pandemic Retention Bonus program</b> to address compensation and support retention in the field during the pandemic. As of February 2023, 5152 unique individuals have received a PRB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Quality:</i> Review QRIS alignment to national best practices and identify opportunities for streamlining and improvement to ensure that a high quality rating reflects evidence-based practices for improving child outcomes</li> <li><i>Capacity:</i> Develop a strategic plan for infant/toddler care to address capacity, affordability, and access for children 0-3 years old</li> <li><i>Operations:</i> Implement the RI Start Early System to replace existing Licensing System of Record, develop a workforce registry, and develop other key operational functions</li> <li><i>Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Compensation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot the Step Up to WAGE\$ initiative to provide tiered wage to supplements more than 300 early educators</li> <li>Continued implementation of the Career Pathways work (OPC/DHS/RIDE) to support innovative, accelerated pathways in higher education for incumbent educators</li> <li>Partner on the Governor’s Workforce Board Task Force on ECCE career pathways</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# The ECCE Strategic plan has five core objectives to ensure that all children are on a path to reading proficiently in third grade.

**Vision:** all children on a path to reading proficiently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## **Objective 1:**

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## **Objective 2:**

Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

## **Objective 3:**

All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

**Objective 4:** Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

**Objective 5:** Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.



## **Objective 2: Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.**

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**Under development: The focus of these metrics is to understand the degree to which children are accessing preventative care, which is an research-based key indicator for engaging with the broad set of services and supports.**

Proposed Key Metrics Include:

- Children with at least 6 child well-visits by 18 months old
- Children over 3 years old with a preventative check-up in the last 12 months
- MCHAT for 18 month-olds completed with 6 months
- Completion of immunization requirements for students entering Kindergarten



## **Objective 2: Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.**

### **Strategies & Impact Statements**

**Strategy 1:** Create a system for connecting families PN-5 to appropriate services and programs, and for supporting families' continued engagement in those services.

- *Impact Statement: By ensuring that families are meaningfully engaged in programs and have the supports they need, children will have increased protective factors to support positive development.*

**Strategy 2:** Leverage community-embedded resources to help parents understand, navigate and remain engaged in the comprehensive array of PN-5 opportunities, programs and services.

- *Impact Statement: Families are children's first, best teacher. By ensuring that families have the information needed to navigate the early childhood system, children and families will access available programs and services at higher rates.*

**Strategy 3:** Build on RI's leadership in children's access to healthcare to improve prevention and screening.

- *Impact Statement: Accessing pediatric services is an evidence-based way to prevent negative health and development outcomes for children. By ensuring equitable access to early healthcare, children will experience more positive development.*

**Strategy 4:** Ensure that all families and children under age five who face early adversity equitably access high-quality early childhood programs that provide services through a trauma-informed approach.

- *Impact Statement: Young children exposed to trauma are at higher risk for long-term negative health and academic outcomes. By ensuring children exposed to early adversity are engaged in the highest-quality early learning programs, children will have the protective supports needed to buffer the impact of the trauma they have experienced.*

## Objective 2: Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

### Progress & Key 2023 Activities

Progress since 2020	2023 Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded Parents as Teachers by 300 spots and leveraged Medicaid funding for PAT to support ongoing sustainability</li> <li>Since 2020, implemented 12 Parent Support Programs through the Health Equity Zones</li> <li>Secured \$11M in stabilization funding for Early Intervention and \$15M in stabilization funding for pediatric primary care providers to address health equity gaps and workforce challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>Increased Medicaid rates for Early Intervention and Pediatrics</li> <li>Made perinatal doula services a covered benefit for all insurance beneficiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EOHHS Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Task Force to develop comprehensive recommendations</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive action plan to align developmental supports for young children across Early Intervention, Kids Connect, and Early Childhood Special Education to improve transitions and ensure continued engagement</li> <li>Continued implementation of the Health Equity Zone family navigators and caregiver support programs</li> <li>Additional trainings for perinatal doulas to access new funding through insurance coverage</li> </ul>

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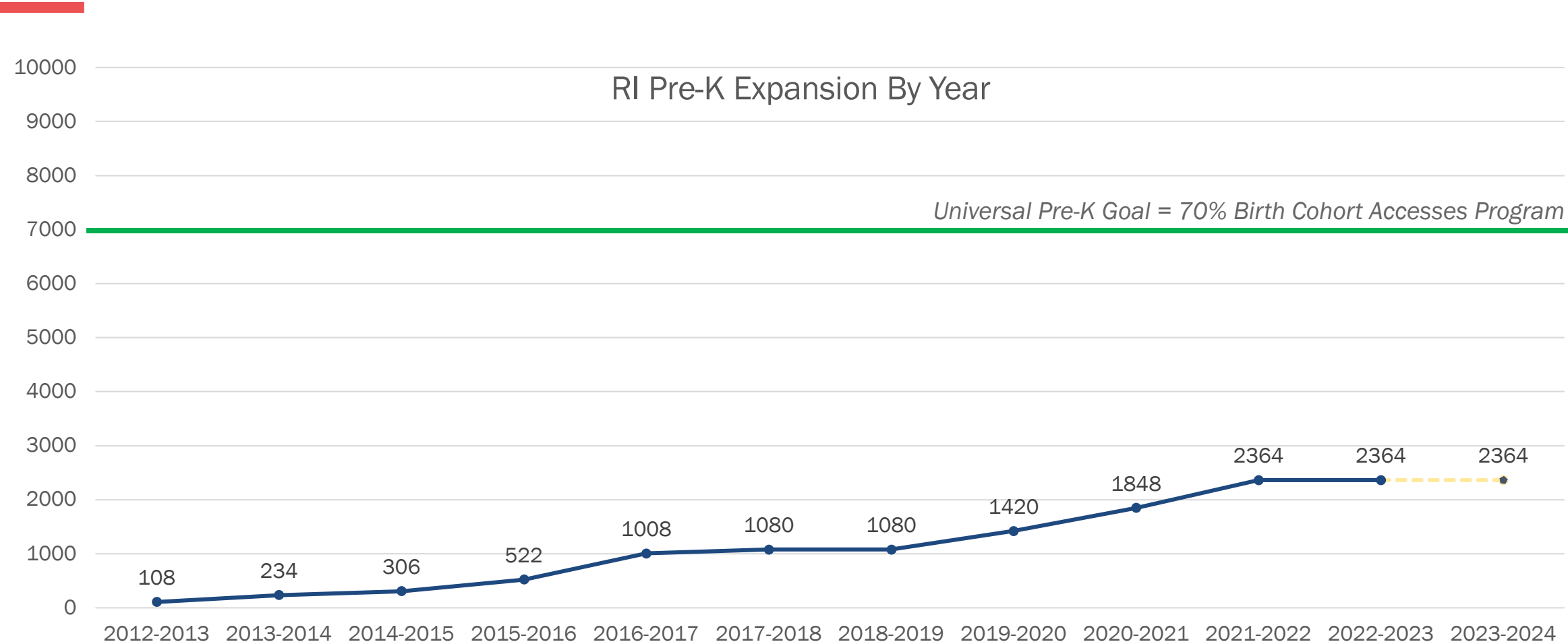
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**Objective 4:** Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

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# Objective 3: All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.



## Objective 3: All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

### Strategies & Impact Statements

**Strategy 1:** Increase the number of classrooms that meet high-quality pre-k standards

- *Impact Statement: RI Pre-K is built within the existing mixed-delivery system. By increasing the number of classrooms meeting high-quality standards, more children will have access to high quality care and more classrooms will be positioned to become part of the RI Pre-K program.*

**Strategy 2:** Establish a diverse and sustainable funding structure across state agencies to support the expansion of high-quality pre-k for all 4-year old children in Rhode Island.

- *Impact Statement: By leveraging resources across the early learning system, RI Pre-K can maximize funds in a way that sustains the program, improves transitions for families, and better supports providers.*

**Strategy 3:** Attract, develop and retain a strong workforce of qualified and well-supported educators to both build a pipeline for future expansion needs and support the current demand.

- *Impact Statement: RI Pre-K depends on highly-qualified educators. If there is a pipeline of educators ready to teach RI Pre-K, RI Pre-K will be able to expand as more funding becomes available.*

**Strategy 4:** Begin a multi-year planning process to expand Pre-K for all children ages 3 and 4 in collaboration with the community

- *Impact Statement: Pre-K expansions in other regions has shown that there can be negative impacts on the system – particularly infant/toddler care – if expansion is not done as part of the birth through five system as a whole. By taking a thoughtful approach and working with the community, RI will have a plan that can deliver RI Pre-K expansion in a way that strengthens all parts of early learning.*

# Objective 3: All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

## Progress & Key 2023 Activities

Progress since 2020	2023 Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since SY 19-20, <b>expanded RI pre-k by 944 seats</b>, up from 1420, a 66% expansion in seats</li> <li>• Developed and piloted <b>four new service delivery models for RI pre-k that equitably strengthened the mixed-delivery system</b>, increase family choice, and allow more providers to become RI Pre-K providers (see models <a href="#">here</a>). These models have been nationally recognized at preschool development grant conferences.</li> <li>• Developed a comprehensive <b>RI Pre-K Expansion plan to reach 5,000 seats by 2028</b>, which includes recommendations for expanding to 3-year olds, ensuring equity, embedding ECSE, supporting transitions, supporting the mixed-delivery system, and sustaining and growing infant/toddler care</li> <li>• Piloted new <b>community-embedded outreach to support families</b> in signing up for the lottery and secured funding to continue and expand the initiative in 2023</li> <li>• Developed <b>new Pre-K to 2 Teacher Certification pathways</b> for incumbent educators to support the workforce pipeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support proposals in the Governor’s FY24 proposed budget to sustain all current RI Pre-K seats, as more than 800 seats are at risk of closure due to expiring federal funding after this school year</li> <li>• Passage of H5339 to implement QRIS across all ECE settings</li> <li>• With PDG planning funds, implement recommendations from the RI Pre-K expansion plan, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs assessment for multilingual learners in early childhood education</li> <li>• Development of a model for family child care to deliver RI Pre-K</li> <li>• Review and make recommendations on the alignment across Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, and Kids Connect to ensure equitable access to high-quality early learning programs for children with disabilities</li> <li>• Develop an infant/toddler strategic plan to address capacity and sustainability as a corollary to the RI Pre-K plan (see objective 1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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**Objective 5:** Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

## Objective 4: Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

### Strategies & Impact Statements

**Strategy 1:** Drive an aligned advocacy effort to accomplish legislative and budgetary priorities, as well as increase community awareness of early childhood priorities and options.

- *Impact Statement: By increasing awareness of the ECCE sector and its connection to other priority goals, there will be greater understanding of the complex needs and investments required to sustain and expand ECCE.*

**Strategy 2:** Increase high-impact investments in the B-5 system through innovative financing levers and proactive sources of funding such as grants.

- *Impact Statement: The goals of this strategic plan require new funding sources. By pursuing creative funding solutions, the ECCE system will maximize resources and have the funding available to achieve goals.*

**Strategy 3:** Support interagency collaboration and coordination to optimize and streamline operations and use of funds.

- *Impact Statement: By coordinating teams, programs, and funding, RI will be able to advance the goals of this strategic plan.*

**Strategy 4:** Develop a sustainable ECCE governance structure that allows for interagency and private-public collaboration and decision-making to achieve the ECCE mission and vision.

- *Impact Statement: By formalizing the interagency governance, more rapid decision-making will be possible and will accelerate progress on ECCE goals.*



# Objective 4: Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

## Progress & Key 2023 Activities

Progress since 2020	2023 Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented innovative financing mechanisms for RI Pre-K and Parents as Teachers to ensure ongoing sustainability of the programs by maximizing available fund sources</li> <li>Secured and implemented several competitive grants to support funding for the ECCE strategic plan priorities, including multiple Preschool Development Grants, Prenatal to 3 Grant, and a Congressional Directed Spending award</li> <li>Secured more than \$50M in stimulus funding to advance goals across all Objective areas</li> <li>Achieved key budget priorities, including covering perinatal doula services, expanding First Connections prenatally, increased CCAP rates, and expanded CCAP eligibility</li> <li>Coordinated ongoing interagency governance to allow for shared oversight of the ECCE strategic plan</li> <li>Implemented public awareness campaigns related to pediatric care, RI Pre-K enrollment, child care access and workforce, and EI access and workforce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passage of the Governor’s FY24 Proposed Budget to sustain all RI Pre-K seats</li> <li>Development of the Governance Systems Analysis by October 1, 2023 to outline recommendations for future ECCE Governance approach, as required in FY23 Enacted Budget</li> <li>Apply for anticipated PDG Renewal Grant in October 2023 to invest in the recommendations emerging from planning efforts across Objective areas</li> </ul>

# The ECCE Strategic plan has five core objectives to ensure that all children are on a path to reading proficiently in third grade.

**Vision:** all children on a path to reading proficiently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## **Objective 1:**

Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System

## **Objective 2:**

Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

## **Objective 3:**

All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

**Objective 4:** Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

**Objective 5:** Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

# Objective 5: Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

## Strategies & Impact Statements

**Strategy 1:** Use data to drive action and updates to the Strategic plan to better meet the objectives. Regularly review progress and performance data on each Objective to measure progress on the Strategic Plan, identify opportunities for improvement, and determine the overall health of the Early Childhood System.

- *Impact Statement: By regularly reviewing data on progress, the plan can be revised to meet emerging needs or refine approaches to address if strategies are not having the intended impact.*

**Strategy 2:** Enhance the capabilities of the data systems that support operations and integrated data to increase efficiency and equity in the ECCE system.

- *Impact Statement: By improving operational data systems, agencies and programs will be able to focus on quality rather than on process.*

**Strategy 3:** Improve and expand the use of state's ECCE data among users, including families and programs.

- *Impact Statement: By increasing awareness of the current state of the ECCE system, families, programs, and agencies will have more choice and access to programs and resources.*

**Strategy 4:** Conduct ongoing research and needs assessments to inform updates to the Strategic Plan.

- *Impact Statement: By engaging in ongoing research, the Strategic Plan can be updated to align with latest best practices to maximize impact.*

# Objective 5: Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

## Progress & Key 2023 Activities

Progress since 2020	2023 Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed the ECCE Data Scorecard through the EOHHS Ecosystem to integrate child level data across ECCE agencies, allowing for longitudinal review of data at the child level</li><li>• Procured a vendor to implement the RI Start Early System (RISES), which includes the child care licensing system of record and the workforce registry</li><li>• Conducted a family survey to gather qualitative information about family experiences navigating and engaging with the early learning system</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of the RI Start Early System across DHS and RIDE, which includes the licensing system of record, the workforce registry, the provider portal, the CECE applications, consumer website, and monitoring and evaluations</li><li>• Continued refinement of the ECCE Data Scorecard to clean data and provide regular updates on progress of the strategic plan</li></ul>

# Public Comment

