



Early Care & Education Coaching Program Guidelines

About the Program

For over ten years the Connecticut Community Foundation has funded early care and education in greater Waterbury and Western Connecticut with the goals to improve the quality of local centers and increase access to preschool programs. We have invested over \$1 million in grant support to increase the probability that all children have the opportunity to read on grade level by age eight. After reviewing the impact of our work, we realized that many early care and education centers are working hard with little resources to improve birth-five programs in our region.

As a result, we have invested in a new Early Care and Education Coaching Program, which will provide short-term support to local centers from a team of early care and education consultants. Our coaches can provide on-site consultation tailored to the individual needs of your center on topics, such as:

- Classroom management;
- Challenging behaviors;
- CT's Early Learning and Development Standards;
- Teacher, child & family interactions;
- Curriculum development and assessment;
- Working with families; and,
- Administration and supervision

The consultants can perform classroom observations and provide feedback, assist with coaching and modeling of best practice in the classroom, facilitate group trainings, and can make referrals to other available state and local resources.

Ultimately, CCF and our coaches value engaging with participating programs in a reflective and informative process with the goal of improving the quality of early care and education in our region.

What should I know before I apply?

Because we have invested resources in our coaches, before assigning a coach to your site we will sit down with you to create a *scope of services agreement* that outlines who will be participating, the goals and objectives of the coach's time and yours, the time that the coach will spend at or with your site, and the structure of the coaching support.

In addition, we ask that Coaching Program Participants agree to the following:

1. The Program Administrator or Executive Director is the primary contact for the coaching relationship and has agreed to participate in the program by providing support between coaching sessions.
2. The Center arranges time out of the classroom for teachers to meet one-on-one with the Coach, if needed.
3. A coach is not additional staff, it is important that the program maintains classroom ratios and pledges to use the coach according to the structure outlined in the scope of services agreement.
4. Both the Center and Coach will contact Foundation staff if conflict occurs during a session or follow up appointments.
5. Complete a brief post- project survey to provide feedback about the consulting provided.

How do I apply?

To apply to participate in the ECE Coaching program, please complete the short online application form found [here](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants will be matched with a consultant in the order that their application was received.

More Information

For questions about this program, how to participate, or what a coach may do for your organization, please contact Ellen Carter, Community Leadership Director at ecarter@connct.org or by phone at (203) 753-1315, ext. 114.

For questions about Cradle to Career Early Childhood grant opportunities, please visit the Foundation's website [here](#).