

# Birth to Three in Connecticut

## WHO WE ARE AND THE POPULATION WE SERVE

We are 18 Birth to Three businesses that provide mandated supports and services to the most vulnerable children and their families in homes, childcare settings and communities in all 169 towns across Connecticut. Clinicians holding advanced degrees support families who have children with developmental delays and/or diagnoses such as pre-term infants, autism, genetic and neurological conditions, and deafness/hard of hearing. Our providers support families experiencing homelessness, food and housing insecurity, mental health issues and other critical needs. We collaborate with other state programs and agencies to provide comprehensive support to these children & families.

## FACTS

- \* # of evaluations completed increased **49.5%** since 2017 (**up from 7,459 in 2017 to 11,151** evaluated last fiscal year)
- \* FY23 **13,810** children and families received **474,209** hours of support!
- \* The number of clinicians supporting the Birth to Three system continues to decline due to lack of ability to be competitive salaries and benefits, while the number of children and families needing services continues to rise.

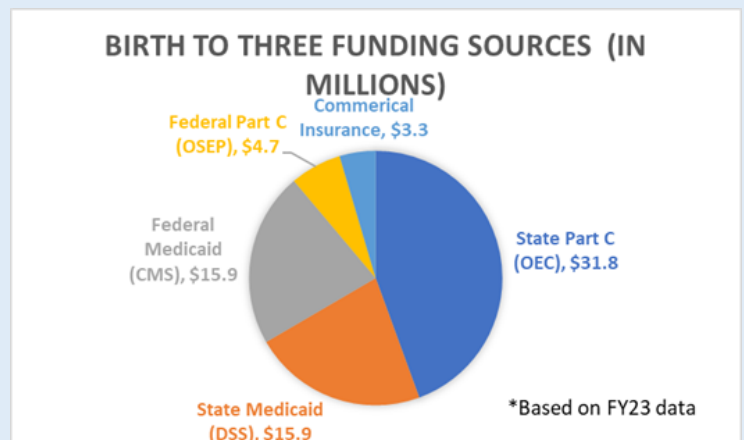
## THE RATE STUDY

During this past year, OEC commissioned a comprehensive cost and rate study (by Public Consulting Group LLC). The **CT Birth to Three Rate Study results show that the cost of providing early intervention services in Connecticut is \$167/professional per hour** (the current rate is **29% BELOW** the calculated rate of an early intervention service.)

## WHAT WE NEED FROM THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### **Appropriate funds in this legislative session to support the recommended calculated rate.**

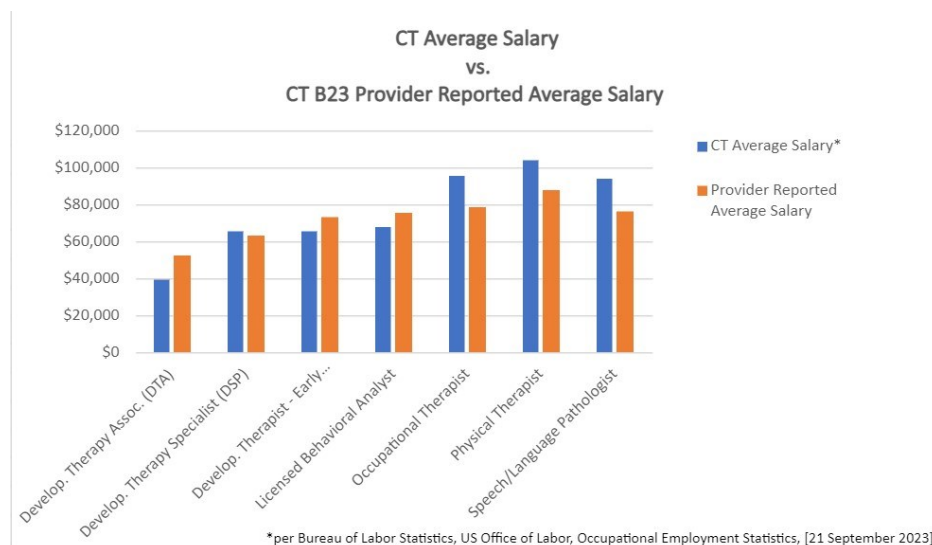
- \* Anticipated cost to the state (OEC & DSS combined) across FY25 is \$19,005,367 (based on moving from current rate of \$120/hour to \$167/hour)
- \* We understand the challenges of funding such a change during a biennial budget year, but this cannot wait until the next budget year as rates have already been stagnant for 7 years.



## WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

- Birth to Three system, through the state and federal regulatory bodies, has significantly increased the procedural requirements since 2017. Extensive training and supervision to enhance the quality of services has been implemented resulting in increased expenses and unbillable time in a "fee for service" model.
- We cannot afford further closings of Birth to Three programs as the number of referrals continues to rise. (In 2023, Easterseals Birth to Three could not financially sustain their program and ended their contract.)
- The \$167/ hour rate will allow programs to offer competitive salaries and thus attract and retain highly educated employees and multi-lingual staff in this highly competitive market.
- Operating expenses have increased along with inflation (the inflation rate has increased 20% cumulatively since 2017).

**By providing high-quality, comprehensive early intervention services during the critical window of brain development, Birth to Three program services positively impact the child and family. Fifty-five percent (55%) of children who participated in Birth to Three do not participate in Part B services, reducing the costs for special education services in every community. Last year 55% of the children enrolled in Birth to Three did not end up transitioning to special ed pre-k, using the data provided by EdSight, the town of Hartford spends an average of \$34,600 per child enrolled in special education. When applying Hartford's costs statewide this could be viewed as a savings to the State of CT of \$138 million dollars. The Birth to Three program continues to be a major cost savings program to the State of CT.**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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