

CREC needs support in expanding early childhood

CREC needs support in expanding early childhood seats through Head Start programming with \$15.7M in state bonding for capital improvements to serve over 200 children and families with 17 preschool and infant/toddler classrooms at Roger Wolcott School, located on 4.71 acres at 451 Windsor Avenue, in Windsor.



GOAL 1 Workforce and Quality:

Invest in and support the retention and recruitment of a professional, high-quality ECE workforce, and program supports and standards that increase the number of high quality settings.

GOAL 2 Equitable and Affordable Access:

Increase equitable and affordable access to high-quality programs that meet a range of family needs.

GOAL 3 Systems:

Develop an agile, flexible, and responsive high-quality ECE system that maximizes current resources and supports economically viable programs.

GOAL 4 Funding:

Build a well-funded, sustainable ECE funding system that is poised to efficiently leverage future investment.

**Aligns with the Goals of the *2023 Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care Report*

- One-story, 39,880 square foot structure with three distinct wings, offering a myriad of space utilization
- Classrooms, offices, larger assembly area, cafeteria and full service kitchen compliment the building

CREC has submitted an application for the Community Investment Fund 2030.

17



New classrooms

Formerly an elementary school, CREC plans to repurpose the facility to house a collection of programs that will provide a range of [Head Start](#) services to children and families including:

- Education & Disability Services
- Parent, Family and Community Engagement
- Health & Nutrition Services
- Mental Health Consultation

Staffing structure:

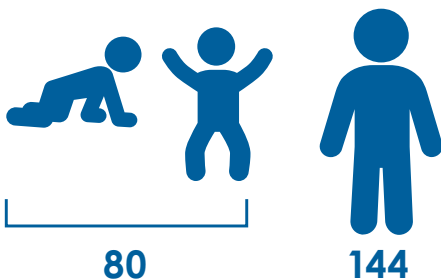
Will create approximately **50 job opportunities** for teachers, assistants, aides, supervisors, management, and comprehensive services.

Renovations Include:

- Three age-appropriate play areas
- New roof, HVAC, fencing, sidewalks, removal of underground fuel tanks, parking lot expansion and paving

224

Children served from
6 weeks to 5 years



Long-Term Benefits:

Early childhood programming is a foundation of a strong and successful school age experience. By developing a facility with these essential services, this project will allow for earlier academic intervention for children in the community and increase the likelihood of positive academic outcomes. Studies have shown that this success frequently cascades into success in secondary education, which in turn promotes higher graduation rates, higher employment rates, and better earnings among recipients of such services.

Early investments for Connecticut's youngest residents bring a 7-13% return on investment. This matters to taxpayers who underwrite additional educational, social services, and health costs – all costs which have been proven to decrease with proactive early investments in children.*

Productivity and workforce issue for businesses, in part reflecting the gender gap in workforce participation for parents of young children. It is estimated that Connecticut loses \$1.5 billion per year due to the lack of infant and toddler care alone.*

50

New jobs

