

Integration and Alignment Committee Update

- April Meeting focus areas:
 - ECD Inclusion Update
 - ECBG RFP Overview
 - Kickoff to analysis of regional intermediaries
- Status: analysis of regional intermediaries
 - With support from PDG, Wendy McCullough will facilitate this priority area
 - Recommendations to be complete by December 2023
 - Phased timeline includes:
 - Agree on scope and goals
 - Gather information and perspectives
 - Formulate and prioritize options
 - Form and finalize recommendation



5th Meeting was April 7

Topics covered so far:

- Base-operating contracts overview
- Proposed Workforce Compensation Contracts
- Proposed Quality Support Contracts
- Proposed Targeted Supports

Goals:

- Update on transition year from Strengthen and Grow Child Care to Smart Start Child Care
- Discuss values, priorities, and how to navigate within upcoming budget

Upcoming Meeting Focus Areas

- Begin discussing plan for implementing Smart Start Child Care
 - Who will be eligible?
 - How will award amounts be determined?
 - How will programs apply?
 - What requirements will programs need to meet?
 - What reporting will be required?
 - And more!

Your input influenced Governor's budget to:

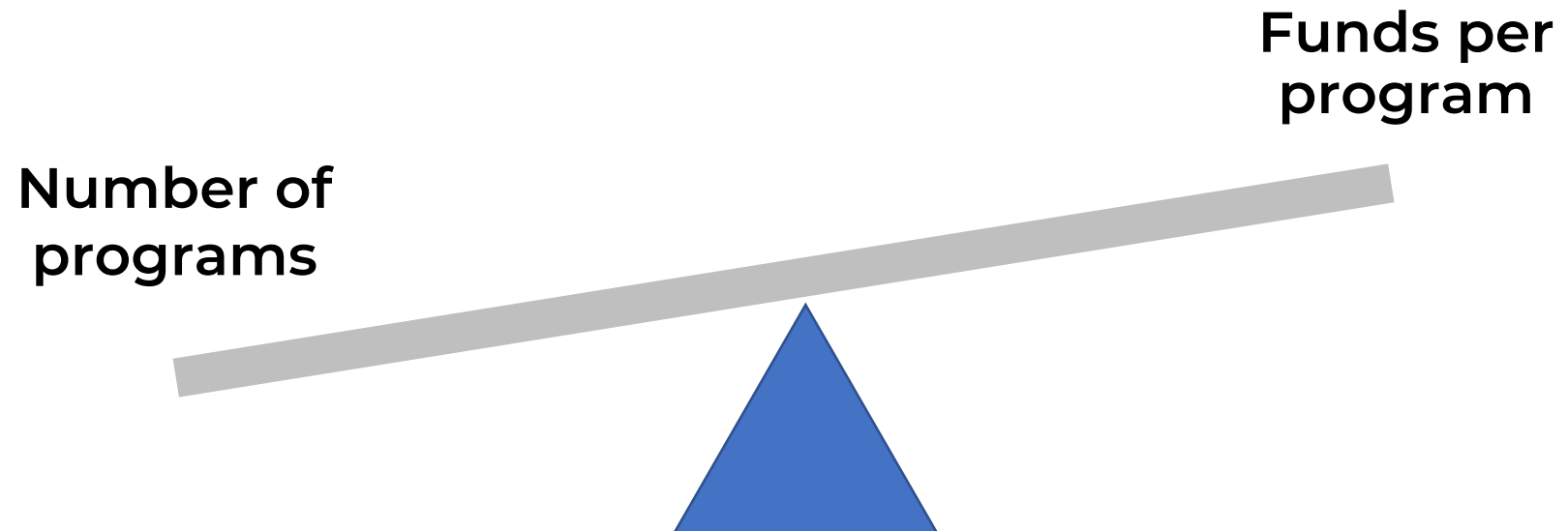
- Fund contracts to provide more stable, up-front revenue for providers
- Increase wages through workforce compensation contracts
- Adjust for inflation and wage increases over time
- Support movement toward system-wide quality

Your input will be needed to address questions like:

- How can we best use SFY24 to prepare for our long-term vision?
- How can we communicate this opportunity with programs and support them in applying?
- How will we meet the clear need to better support children with special needs?
- How will we build toward quality in an equity-led way?
- How will Smart Start Child Care work for providers, from start to finish?

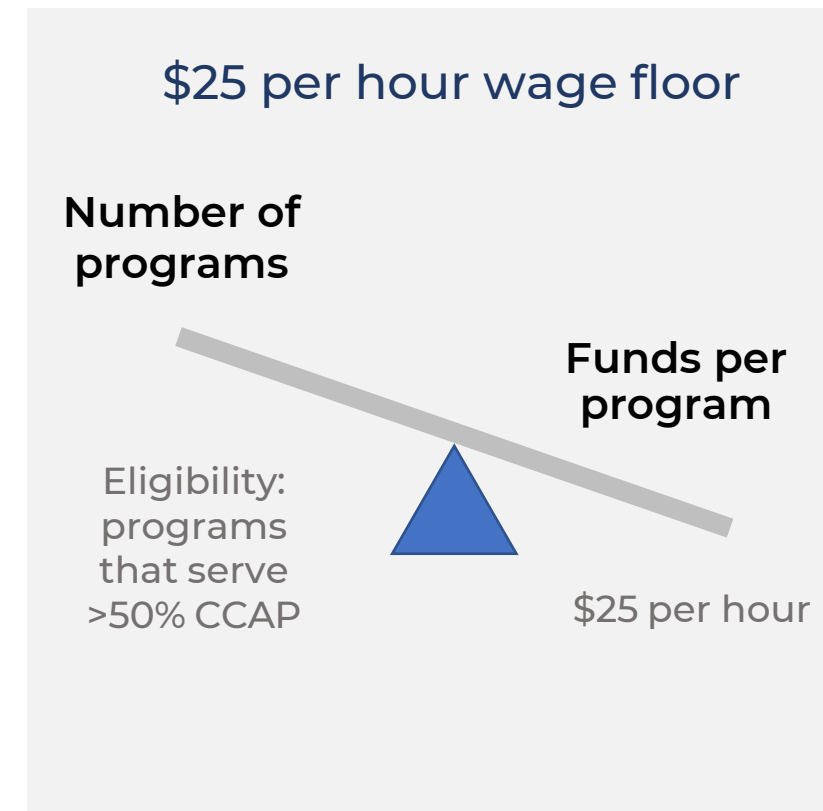
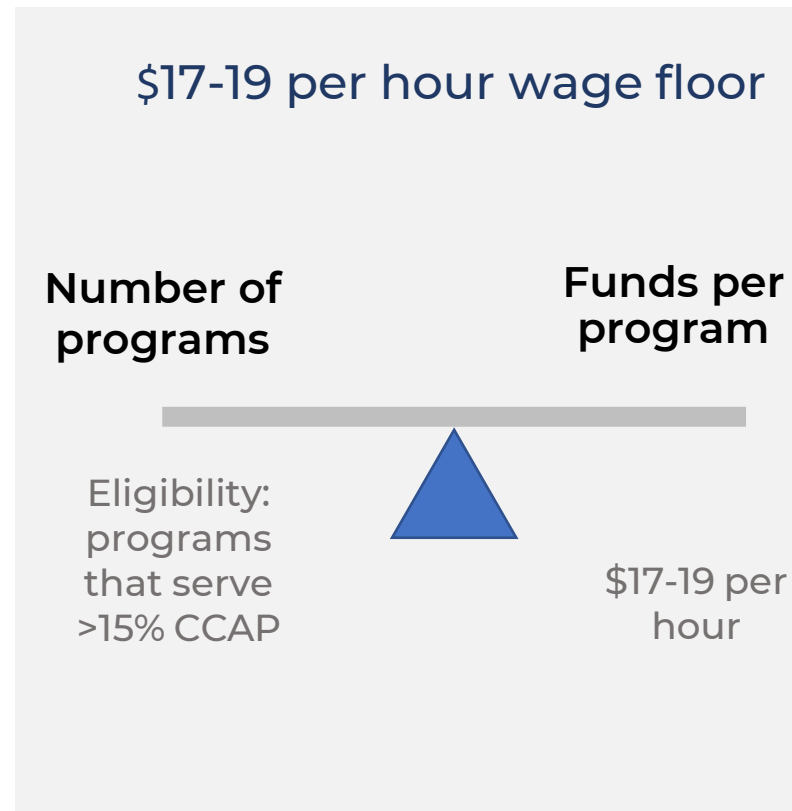
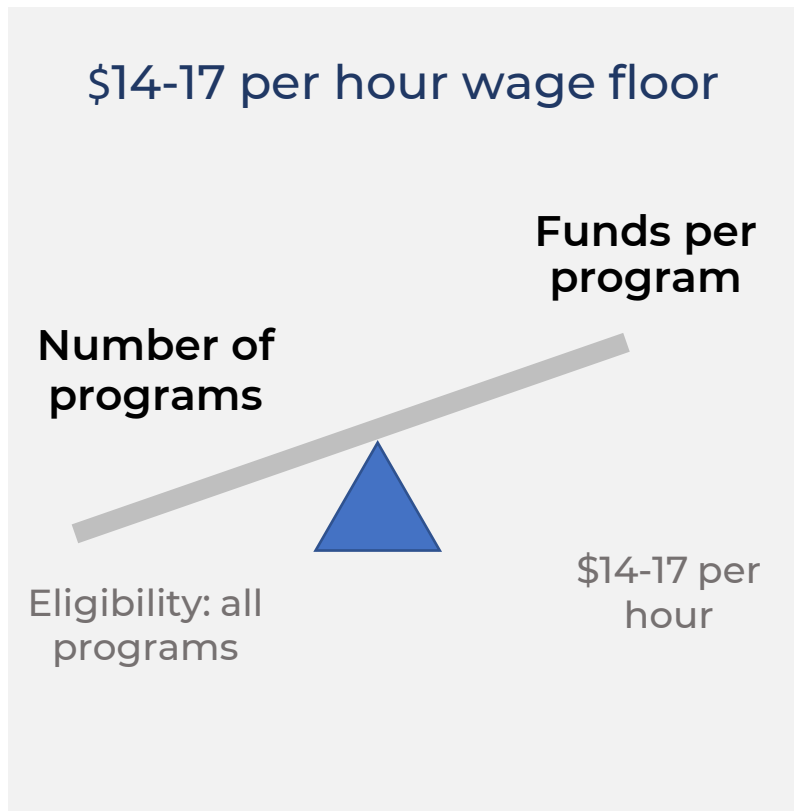
A new initiative requires balancing priorities

- While the Governor has proposed significant investments, SMART START will still require balancing priorities
- Advisory group has raised the importance of compensation to sustain the field
- The higher the per-classroom award amount, the fewer total programs can be funded
- The goal is to increase funding for wages and reach as many providers as possible



Increasing the amount per program decreases the number of programs that can participate.

Increasing the number of programs that can participate decreases the amount available per program.



How can the Early Learning Council continue to be involved?

- Ongoing representation on the Child Care Contracts Ad Hoc Committee
 - Potential for new membership during SFY24
- Ongoing updates shared back with ELC Executive Committee and Quality and Workforce Committee
- What else?