

The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP), established in 1991, improves the quality of early care and education programs by implementing a variety of continuous quality improvement processes; providing an on-going support system for programs as they work through the NAEYC Accreditation process; and assisting programs to achieve NAEYC Accreditation.

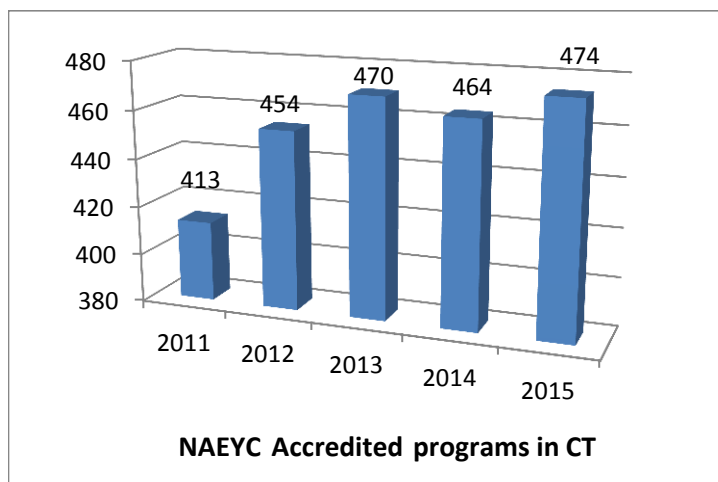
CT Accreditation Facilitation Project Services

Workshops, Study Groups, and Information Services: Any program may access these free workshops, study groups and information services, regardless of their funding status, or geographic location. These supports are marketed through brochures, email announcements, direct mailing to licensed sites, and web available postings.

Individualized Intensive AFP Support: This support includes on-site technical assistance and support by the AFP facilitator to leaders of licensed programs including administrators, lead teachers, and the self-study team. This assistance guides leaders through the four identified steps of the NAEYC process and empowers them to engage their staff in program improvement efforts to achieve NAEYC's Standards and Criteria. Through AFP, staff learn to implement the tools developed by NAEYC, and are guided through the change and improvement process. Priority for this support is provided to programs serving 20% or more enrolled families who earn 75% or less of State Median Income.

Consultative Support: Consultation is available to support programs' implementation of the NAEYC Standards and Criteria. Consultants are matched to programs based on their expertise as identified according to NAEYC's Standards and topic areas. Consultation is provided through the support of public and private funders who target specific communities and programs.

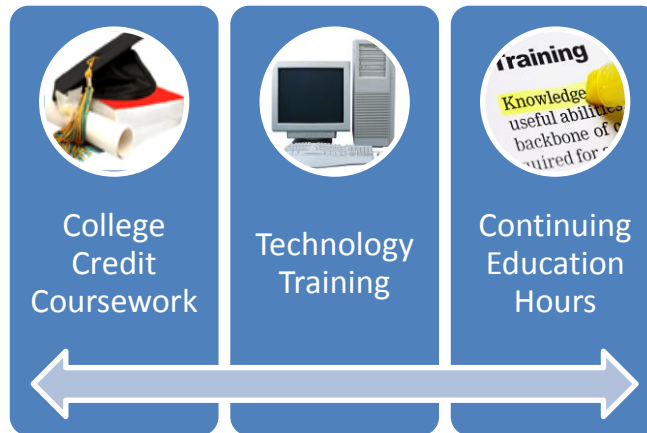
The Impact of CT AFP in the NAEYC Accreditation System



The number of NAEYC Accredited programs continues to grow in CT. The requirement that publicly funded programs achieve this benchmark is a driving force, but the numbers of privately funded programs achieving NAEYC Accreditation also contributes significantly to CT's status as third in the country for accredited programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.ct.gov/oec/cwp/view.asp?a=4541&q=535850>

Connecticut Program Leadership Initiative



Building Strong Leaders through Specialized Professional Development

Director, principal, executive director, site manager, education coordinator, assistant director...
Early childhood program leaders have many different names but they are all leaders.

Recognizing the need for specialized professional development content at the leadership level, CCAC sponsors **coursework and training opportunities** through the Program Leadership Initiative. These are designed to **improve the competency and qualifications** of Connecticut's early care and education program leaders, and meet the education qualifications and best practices established by:

- ❖ the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC),
- ❖ Connecticut Director Credential (CDC) , and
- ❖ the Office of Early Childhood, Division of Licensing.

College Credit Coursework: Any **current leader** in a center or school-based Connecticut program for young children is eligible. There are currently 5 different courses, each a **3-college credit, 40-hour commitment**. Classes are delivered in compact formats (typically 2 days a month over 3 months; 8am – 4pm each day) on a rotating basis. Funding typically covers tuition, registration, textbooks, and resources.

1. **Administration and Supervision of Programs for Young Children*** (Meets the **introductory survey** CDC competency area and the OEC licensing 3-credit requirement for administrators.)
2. **Leadership in Programs for Young Children** (Meets the **leadership** CDC competency area.)
3. **Finance in Programs for Young Children** (Meets the **budget/fiscal** CDC competency area.)
4. **Family and Community Involvement in Early Childhood Programs** (Meets the **community** CDC competency area.)
5. **Business Management / Personnel** (Meets the **personnel** CDC competency area.)

Technology Training: Any current program leader in a center or school-based CT program for young children, or a licensed CT family child care is eligible. Offerings include full-day training and consultation on applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, QuickBooks, Photoshop and Acrobat.

Continuing Education Hours: Eligibility is based upon the content and is announced with each offering. All professional development is linked to quality standards. Continuing Education Hours can be used to support OEC requirements, CDC Renewal, and individual professional development plans.

For more information on each course or training,
and how to apply for program administrator professional development opportunities, visit
<http://www.ctcharts.org/index.cfm?module=20&navID=nav91> or contact Margaret Gustafson
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