



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 265

LCO No. 1317



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CARE 4
KIDS PROGRAM AND CERTAIN CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
2 sections 3 and 4 of special act 26-1, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
3 2026, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall transfer
4 seventy million dollars from the Federal Cuts Response Fund,
5 established pursuant to section 1 of special act 26-1, to the Office of Early
6 Childhood. The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall expend such
7 seventy million dollars as follows:

8 (1) Sixty-five million dollars to (A) supplement the appropriation for
9 the child care subsidy program, established pursuant to section 17b-749
10 of the general statutes, for the purpose of covering children who are
11 currently on the waiting list described in subdivision (10) of subsection
12 (c) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes, with priority given to those
13 children on such waiting list who (i) are from families with other
14 children who are currently covered under the child care subsidy
15 program, and (ii) have special needs, and (B) if there are any

16 unexpended funds after fulfilling the requirement in subparagraph (A)
17 of this subdivision, be used for provider stabilization, workforce
18 recruitment and retention, expanded access to subsidized child care,
19 increased program capacity and quality improvement efforts; and

20 (2) Five million dollars to be disbursed, at the commissioner's
21 discretion, as a bonus to licensed child care providers located in eastern
22 Connecticut that participate in the child care subsidy program, or any
23 other subsidized program for low-income families, for the purpose of
24 addressing regional disparities in provider capacity, workforce
25 shortages and access to child care services, as described in section 19a-
26 77 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To increase funding to the Care 4 Kids program to assist families in getting children off of the waiting list and to provide additional supports to child care providers in eastern Connecticut.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]