



***Senate Bill 2012***

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chairman

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Early Childhood | January 16, 2023



Health & Human Services

What happens during early childhood lays the foundation for school and life success.

# WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE, LIFELONG IMPACT



**95%** OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BEFORE THE AGE OF **FIVE**<sup>1</sup>

**DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF LIFE,**

EMOTIONALLY NOURISHING RELATIONSHIPS LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELL-BEING<sup>2</sup>



0 1 2 3 4 5

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF CENTER-BASED INFANT CHILD CARE IN ND IS MORE THAN THE AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES AT A PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY<sup>3</sup>



CENTER-BASED INFANT CARE **\$9,182**



PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY TUITION **\$8,660**

ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE IS A WORKFORCE ISSUE



**60%** OF THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE IS UNDER **AGE 30**<sup>4</sup>

44,000+ = THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN ND WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE

**73% OF THESE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ALL PARENTS IN WORKFORCE**<sup>5</sup>

MORE THAN HALF OF AMERICAN CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 SPEND MORE THAN



**HOURS PER WEEK,**

ON AVERAGE, IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS OUTSIDE THE HOME<sup>6</sup>



## Who we serve

The Early Childhood section delivers programs and services so kids ages 0 – 5 from all backgrounds and circumstances, their families, and those who support them have the opportunity to realize their potential.

# The Early Childhood Sections provides services to



**Help families access early childhood services so they can go to school or participate in ND's workforce**

- Child care referrals
- Navigating early intervention and early childhood special needs



**Support early childhood experience providers in their day to day work with children**

- Training and Professional Development
- Coaching on health, safety, inclusion
- Quality Improvement



**Support children's optimal development and school readiness**

- Developmental screening and referrals
- Supporting teachers in assessment and planning for child outcomes

# Early Childhood Section Programs and Services



## Licensing

Consumer protection that reduces the risk of children being cared for in an unsafe environment



## Professional Development

Maintain workforce registry and vet trainers and training, offer technical assistance to potential and existing providers



## Quality

Operate quality improvement system, maintain early childhood standards, support inclusive child care



## Best in Class

Support to offer quality experiences in the year before kindergarten focused on child outcomes



## Family Support and Education

Consumer ed, child care assistance and referrals, early intervention and special education, head start collaboration



## EC Operations

CCDBG CCDF state plan, EC technology coordination and support

# In ND early childhood is a mixed delivery system, involving both public and private partners using both federal and state funds

## Human Services Division

### Early Childhood

#### Children & Family Services

- Home Visitation
- Child Protection
- Abuse Prevention

#### Developmental Disabilities

- Early Intervention
- In home supports

#### Economic Assistance

- Child Care Assistance Program

## Training and Early Childhood Supports

### Trainers, coaches, mentors, consultants

- Health and wellness
- Business success
- Quality improvement
- Inclusive child care

### Consumer education resource and referral

## Early Childhood Experience Providers

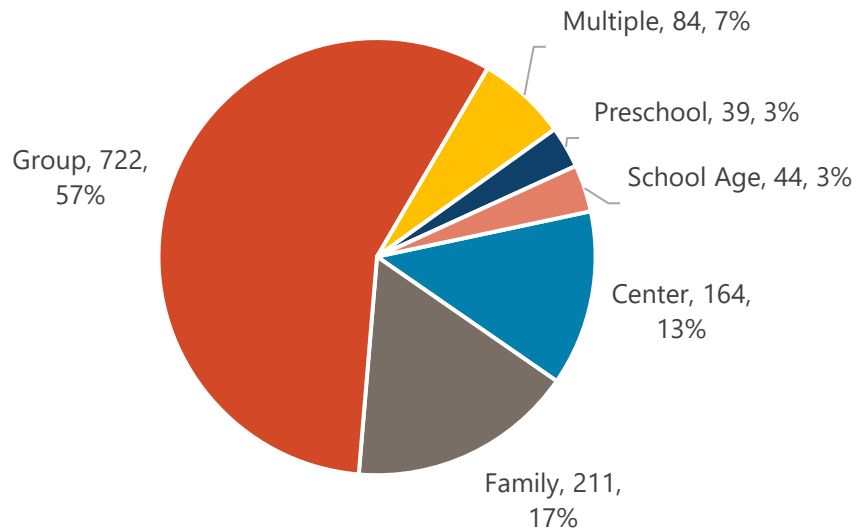
- Early childhood programs including center and home based programs
- Public School PreK
- Early Childhood Special Education services
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Home visiting providers
- Developmental Disabilities and Early Intervention providers

## ND Department of Public Instruction

- Office of Specialized Services
- PK-12 Vision
- K-12 coordinating council
- Comprehensive State Literacy Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Family Engagement Council

# Early Childhood by the Numbers

1,264 Licensed Early Childhood Programs



7,523

Growing Futures members

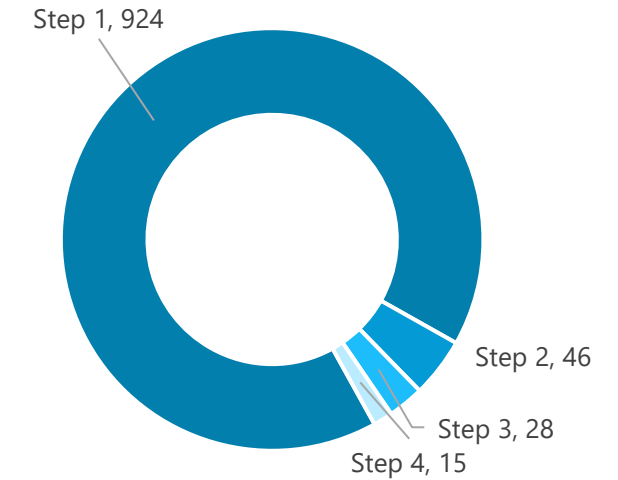
1,000+

Coaching hours delivered by our contracted partners

3,179

Children supported by IDEA Part C Early Intervention

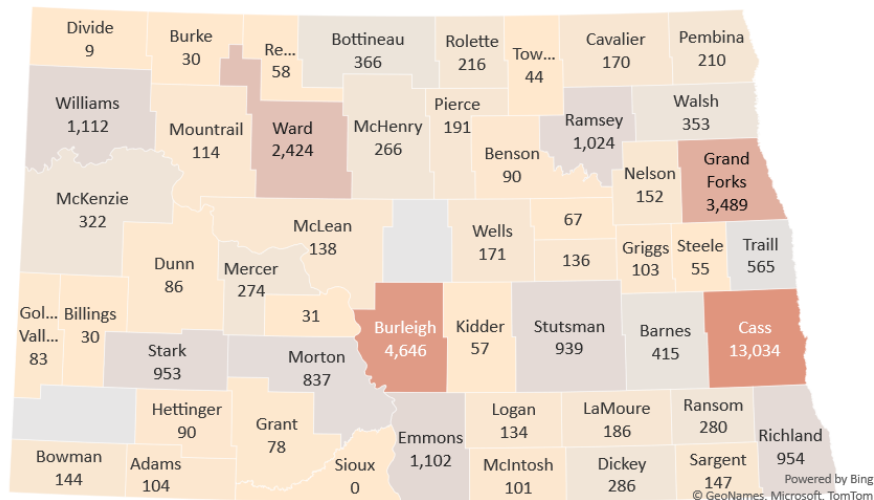
1,013 Quality Rated Programs



33 Best in Class Programs 2022-23



Licensed Child Care Capacity – 36,866



1,653

Children supported by IDEA Part B 619 services

1,117

Waterford Upstart households representing all but two counties

Data current as of December 2022

# Working Better Together

## **Early Childhood Family and School Engagement Unit**

- IDEA Part B 619 Special Ed for 3-5 year olds
- Head Start Collaboration

## **Developmental Disabilities**

- IDEA Part C Early Intervention for Birth through 35 months

## **Healthy and Safe Communities**

- Special Health Services Unit

## **DPI Office of Specialized Services**

## **Benefits to North Dakotans**

Strong collaboration and co-leadership of the Interagency Coordinating Council connect early intervention services and prevention awareness for children with disabilities and at-risk children ages 0 to five at more touchpoints.





# On the Horizon: Working Better Together in 2023-25



**HHS-EC Family & School  
Engagement Unit**

**+**

**HHS-HSC Men's Health Unit**

Working together to explore opportunities to bring fatherhood initiatives to families served by Head Start and early childhood services providers

# 21-23 Budget helped give ND children ages 0 to 5 an opportunity to realize their full potential



## **New early childhood section**

- Coordinated Early Childhood supports and consistency in approach to serve the mixed delivery system



## **Best in Class program**

- Pilot year one: 23 grantees, 28 sections, 371 children
- Pilot year two: 33 grantees, 44 sections, 544 children



## **Support for EC providers**

- Child Care Stabilization
- Workforce Incentives and Stipends
- Child Care Licensing system

**Continued progress requires a bold and comprehensive strategy**



**Affordability**

Connect more working families to child care assistance to keep the cost of child care within 7% of household income



**Availability**

Make it easier for working families to find child care when and where they need it



**Quality**

Help kids realize their potential by supporting quality early childhood experiences



**Infrastructure**

Criminal Background Checks | Licensing Processes | Workforce Registry | Coaching & Professional Development | Child Care Assistance portal

# Continued progress includes an enhanced focus on early childhood access, affordability and quality



## Best in Class

Expanding opportunities in the year before kindergarten ensuring every child whose family is interested has access



## Inclusive Child Care

Business solutions, facility grants and resources to create environments for children with special needs



## Support for Sustainable Child Care

Grants, incentives, training, and shared service resources with focus on infant toddler care and meeting quality standards



## Early Childhood Career Path

Partnerships with CTE, K-12, and Higher Education to offer on-the-job training and certification in early childhood careers



## Support for Working Parents

Partnerships with employers to offer child care benefits and find creative solutions for parents working non-typical hours. Expanding Child Care Assistance Program to more families and increasing parental choice by creating quality-based payment tiers in the Child Care Assistance Program.

# Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,824,550	\$5,905,524	\$9,730,074
Operating	585,522	93,701	679,223
Grants	10,152,967	35,950,000	46,102,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,563,039</b>	<b>\$41,949,225</b>	<b>\$56,512,264</b>

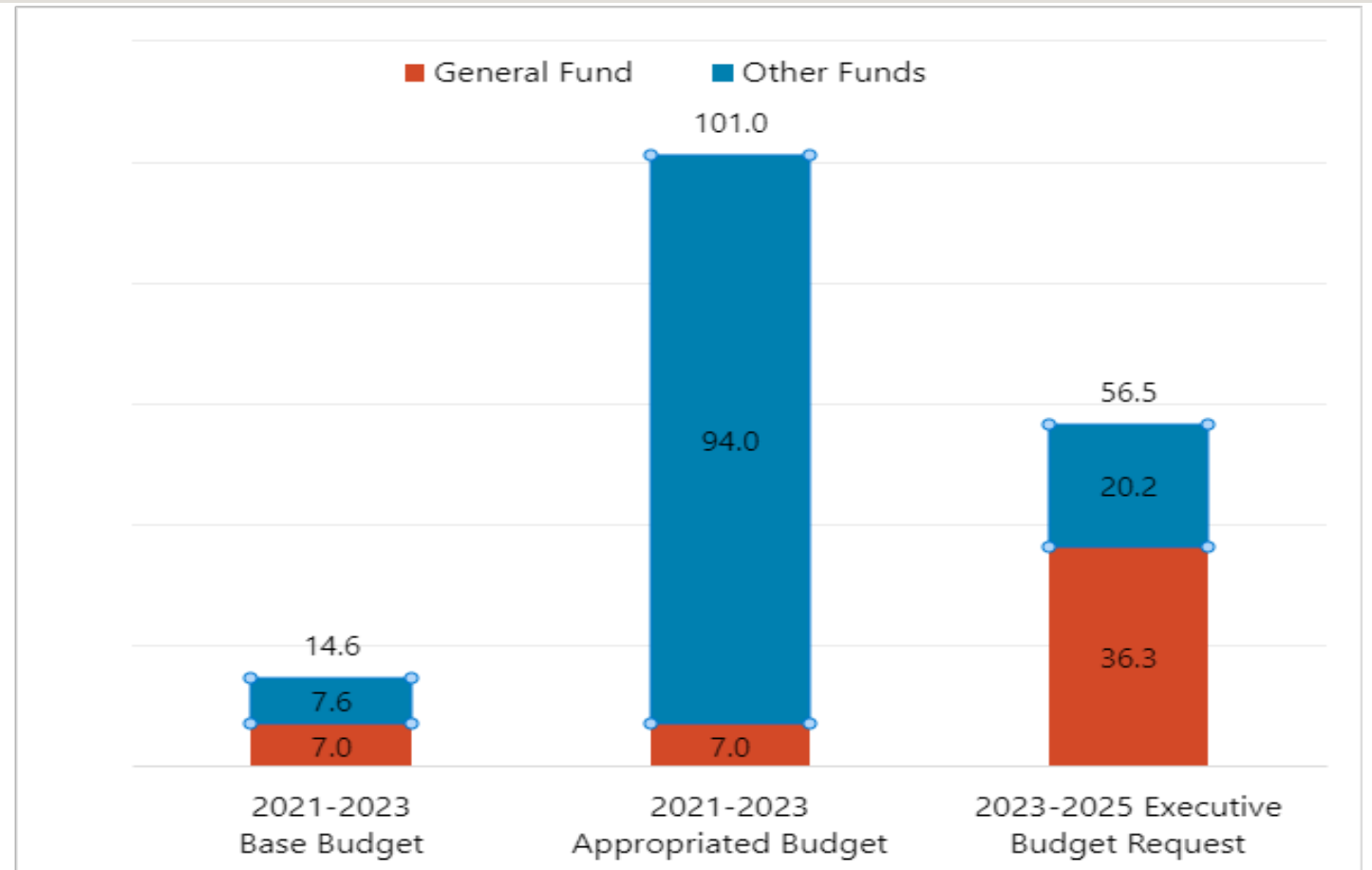
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$6,960,072</b>	<b>\$29,333,422</b>	<b>\$36,293,494</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>7,422,479</b>	<b>(203,709)</b>	<b>7,218,770</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>180,488</b>	<b>12,819,512</b>	<b>13,000,000</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$14,563,039</b>	<b>\$41,949,225</b>	<b>\$56,512,264</b>

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	19.00	28.00	47.00
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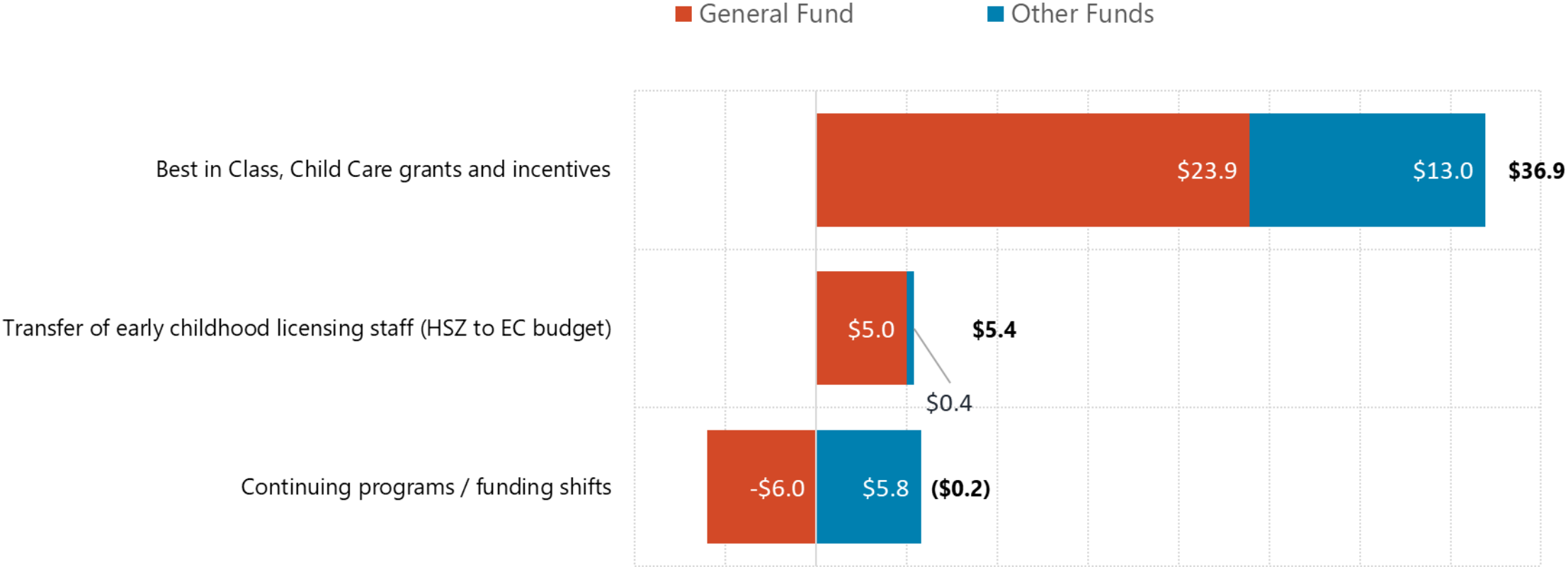
# Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

## INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION \$ 41.9 MILLION

- 2021-2023 base budget reflects funding from CFS and DPI
- 2021- 2023 appropriated budget includes federal COVID funding designated for early childhood (appropriated during both regular and special session)
- 2023 – 2025 executive budget request includes increase in state funds to enhance impact and transfer of licensing staff budget from HSZ to EC



# Early Childhood: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)



# Key Takeaway



Making strategic investments in early childhood will make a difference for North Dakota families and businesses.

- ✓ **Bolster the supply and affordability** of child care
- ✓ **Support quality** early childhood experiences
- ✓ Make **non-standard hour care** available
- ✓ **Allow parents to work**
- ✓ Help local businesses **overcome workforce challenges**





# Contact information

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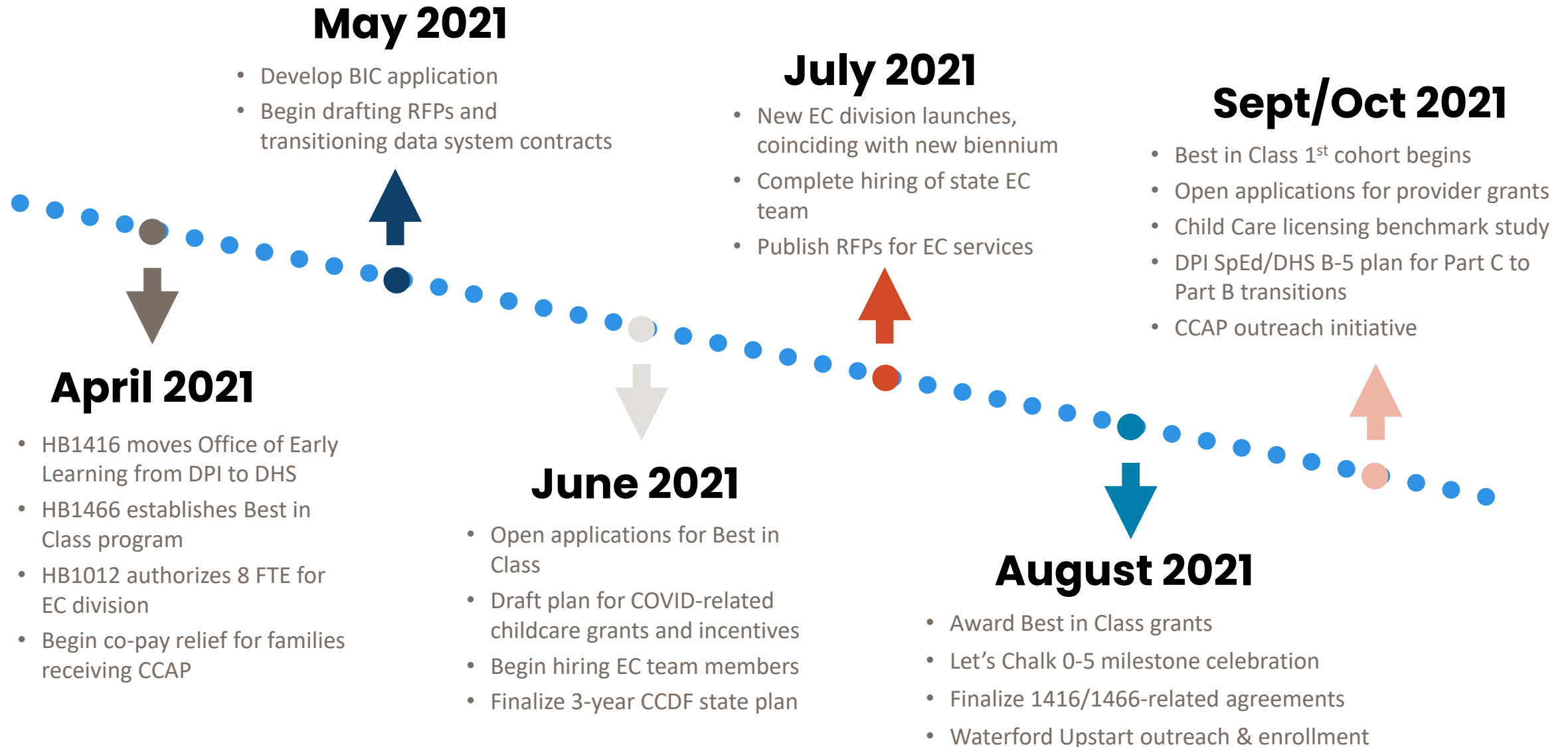
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<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/cfs/early-childhood-services>

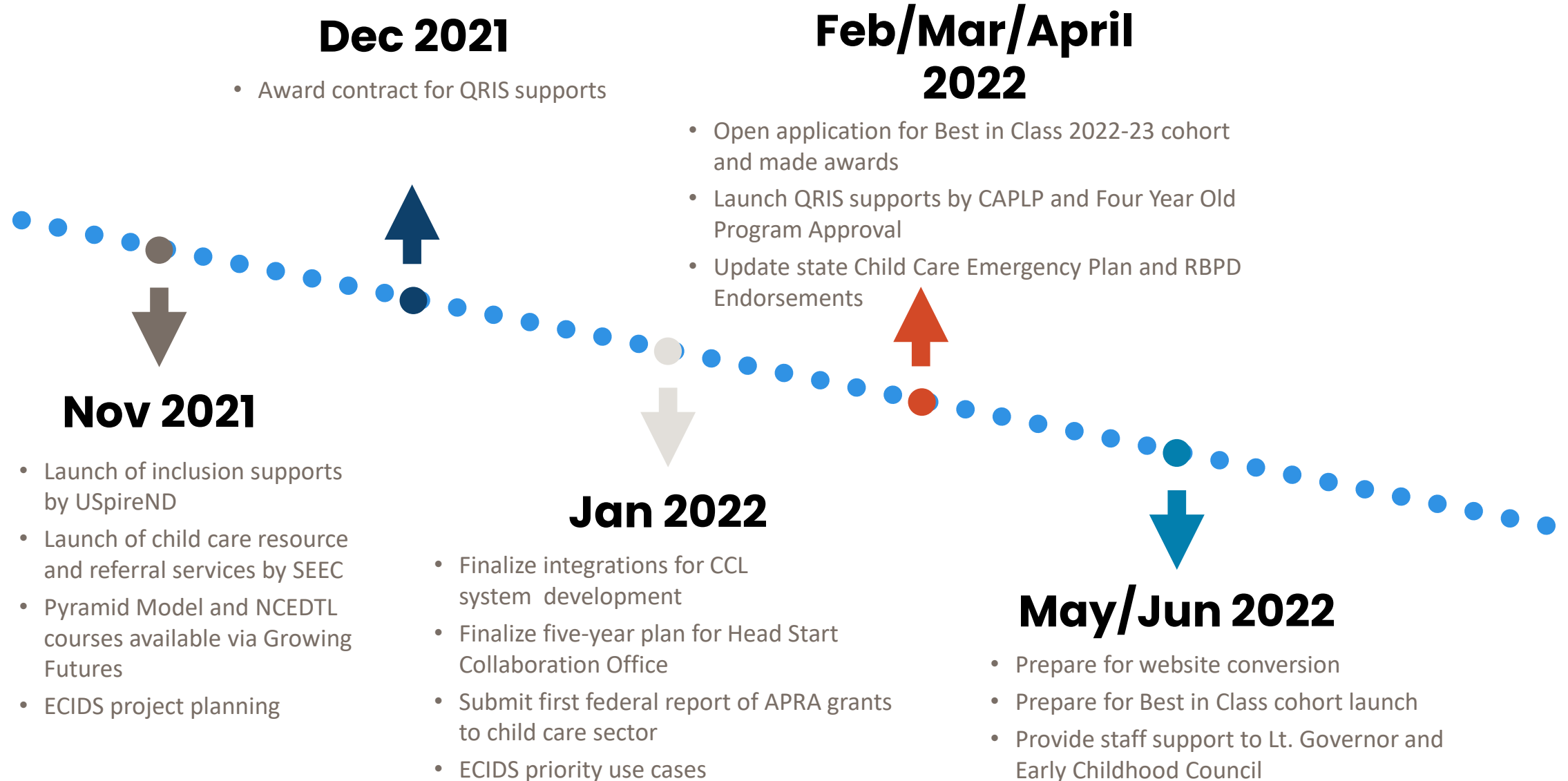
# APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

July 2021 to Oct 2021



# APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

Nov 2021-June 2022



# APPENDIX: EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

July – Dec 2022

## August 2022

- Prepare content for website conversion
- Launch Best in Class 2022-2023 cohort

## October/November 2022

- CCL training for Licensing Specialists
- Promote new self service portal for child care assistance
- Author a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant application

## July 2022

- 2022/23 Best in Class cohort begins
- Research partner assists Best in Class programs to market and recruit their community
- Open grant applications for workforce retention, training and career path incentives
- ECIDS Charter and Executive Steering Committee launch

## September 2022

- Launch September QRIS Bright & Early ND Cohort
- Provide staff support to Lt. Governor and Early Childhood Council
- Convene Early Childhood Special Education Directors for training and networking around IDEA

## December 2022

- Launch CCL
- CCL training for child care providers

